



European Network of
National Human Rights Institutions

Implementing the Council of Europe Recommendation on National Human Rights Institutions: The State of Play

The situation in Cyprus



Cyprus Country Report

Overview

Name of NHRI and mandate:

- Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (CAHR)
- Multi-mandated NHRI; also: ombuds-institution, Equality body, NMM, NPM and Forced Returns Monitoring Mechanism

Sources:

- NHRI: [ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023](#); [ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, Cyprus Country Report](#)
- Sub-Committee on Accreditation: [SCA Report October 2022](#), [SCA Report June 2021](#)
- CoE independent bodies: [ECRI Country Report on Cyprus \(2019\)](#); [CPT Country report on Cyprus \(2017\)](#); [ECRI Country Report on Cyprus \(2022\)](#)

Good practices and improvements:

- **CM Principle 1:** The CAHR has been re-accredited as an **A-Status institution** in October 2022.
- **CM Principle 7: determination of own staffing profile:** In line with an ECRI recommendation (2019), the CAHR in 2019 succeeded the approval by the Council of Ministers and the Parliament of the exclusion of the Ombudsman Office staff to take the governmental exams and now organizes its own specialised exams, for which organization it receives funding from the state.

- **CM Principle 4:** selection and appointment of NHRI leadership: In line with recommendations from the SCA (2021), and as requested by the NHRI in a 2021 letter addressed to the Ministry of Justice, the enabling law has been amended to limit the term of the Commissioner in order to be renewed only once and not more.
- **CM Principle 6 & 10 : adequate human and financial resources:** The CAHR reports full budgetary management and control, and reports being provided with the necessary financial, technical and human resources to fulfil its broad mandate. The CAHR positively acknowledges that its human resources have been increased after the recruitment of five new Officers during 2020-2021, and with the recruitment of seven more Officers soon in 2023.

Key areas where improvement is needed:

- **CM Principle 3§6:** the NHRI reports its mandate to **contribute to access to justice** could be further strengthened by according the competence to provide legal assistance to individuals.
- **CM Principle 8: authorities are legally obliged to provide access to information** to the NHRI as needed in the context of carrying out its enquiries. Yet, the NHRI's call on state authorities to ensure that those authorities involved in investigations conducted by the NHRI, comply with their legal obligation to respond to questions/enquiries, in a timely manner and with reasoned and analytical responses.

Specific findings per Principle

The tables below include data on the assessment of the implementation of each Principle (i.e. the individual parts) within the Recommendation from three sources: the National Human Rights Institutions, the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of GANHRI and the Council of Europe independent bodies. Overall, the findings are considered in four overall groups: the establishment of NHRIs; the strengthening of NHRIs; a safe and enabling environment for NHRIs; and cooperation with and support for NHRIs.

I. Establishment of NHRIs

Principle 1	Member States should ensure that NHRIs are in place and that they are established, accredited and function in full compliance with the Paris Principles
Assessment of implementation by the NHRI	<i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023.</i> The Cypriot NHRI received its first-time accreditation with A-status by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) in October 2022 , after being deferred in June 2021.
Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI	<i>SCA Report October 2022, p. 14</i> The SCA recommends that CAHR be re-accredited with A status.

<p>Principle 2</p>	<p>Member States should provide a firm legal basis for NHRIs, preferably at the constitutional level, and/or in a law which defines the mandates and functions of such institutions, guarantees their independence and provides them with the means necessary to accomplish their functions effectively, both at national and international levels, bearing in mind existing standards and recommendations on NHRIs, in particular the Paris Principles and their interpretation developed by GANHRI's Sub-Committee on Accreditation.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 9</i></p> <p>The NHRI does not have a constitutional basis. But has been established in accordance to Law.</p> <p>Specifically, the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman) was established in 1991 by virtue of Law no. 3(I)/1991 (the Law on the Commissioner for Administration), as an independent Incumbent, responsible to deal with individual complaints concerning maladministration, misbehaviour and human rights violations by state authorities or officers.</p> <p>The basic law has since been amended seven times, with the latest in 2022.</p> <p>With the amendment of 2011, the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) was renamed "Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights" and vested with broader functions in the area of protecting, promoting and guaranteeing human rights as National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in line with the Paris Principles.</p> <p>Specifically, according to article 5(1)(d) of the Law (amendment of 2011), the Commissioner is, amongst others, specifically mandated to act accordingly, for the promotion and protection of</p>

	human rights, their preservation or expansion in the Republic of Cyprus and the observance of these rights and fundamental freedoms by the administration.
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II. Strengthening of NHRIs

<p>Principle 3.1</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor and analyse the human rights situation in the country, publish reports on these findings and address recommendations to public authorities at national, regional and local levels and, when applicable, to private entities, and present an annual report to the relevant authorities, including before parliament, for its consideration.
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023.</i></p> <p>The CAHR has a broad mandate to monitor and analyse the human rights situation in the country and to publish reports and recommendations to public authorities.</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p. 5-6:</i></p> <p>The CAHR flags various reports with recommendations on key human rights issues, including a report on reception conditions of asylum seekers; a report on a victim of a homophobic assault; or a report on racially motivated physical attack and the way in which state authorities followed up on these reports with recommendations.</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 9</i></p> <p>The NHRI also has competence to launch own initiative investigations on systemic issues of human rights violations and to call and engage in consultations between implicated parties, for the</p>

	implementation of the Institution's recommendations and the finding of practical solutions to problems that individuals face.
Principle 3.2	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - freely address public opinion, raise public awareness on human rights and carry out education and training programmes;
Assessment of implementation by the NHRI	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023.</i></p> <p>The CAHR has a mandate to freely address public opinion and carries out awareness-raising activities.</p>
Principle 3.3	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fully address all alleged human rights violations by all administrative authorities, other relevant State entities and, when applicable, private entities
Assessment of implementation by the NHRI	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023.</i></p> <p>The NHRI reports that the limitation in article 2 in the enabling Law is related only to actions of the President of the Republic, the House of Representatives, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court</p>

	<p>and any other Court of Law concerning the exercise of functions which are prescribed by the Constitution.</p> <p>As regards to the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Governor of the Central Bank and the Public Service Commission, the exception is only in relation to actions concerning the exercise of their functions which are prescribed by the Constitution. For all other cases, in relation to human rights violations or discrimination or anything else that falls within Commissioner’s jurisdiction, may be investigated.</p> <p>This is also confirmed by article 5 of the Law and was also confirmed by the Attorney General of the Republic in his opinion in July 2015, who emphasized that the powers and mandates of the Commissioner allow him to intervene in relation to the actions of these bodies/officials concerning violation of the law, misconduct and human rights violations, related equality, racism, discrimination, disability etc..</p> <p>An example, is the report dated 25 April 2019, against the Auditor General, in relation to the process of hiring fixed-term employees in the Audit Service.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report June 2021, p. 36</i></p> <p>Article 2 of the enabling law limits CAHR power to investigate complaints against a number of public officials, such as the President, Attorney General, Auditor General, Central Bank Governor, Public Service Commission as well as minister in relation to actions of general governmental policy.</p> <p><i>Please note additional information provided by the NHRI regarding the implementation of the SCA recommendation.</i></p>

<p>Principle 3.4</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have unfettered access to all relevant premises, including places of deprivation of liberty, and to all relevant individuals, in order to be able to carry out a credible examination of all issues covered by their mandate and to all relevant information, subject to possible restrictions stemming from the protection of other rights and legitimate interests and with due respect for the confidentiality of information obtained;
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report June 2021, p. 34</i></p> <p>The SCA notes the amendment to the NPM law authorizing the CAHR conduct unannounced visits to places of deprivation of liberty.</p>
<p>Principle 3.5</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor existing and draft policies and legislation with human rights implications before, during and after their adoption in order to advise the State about the impact of such policies and legislation on human rights and on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations.

<p><i>No information</i></p>	
<p>Principle 3.6</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contribute to an effective justice system for all, through awareness-raising measures and facilitating access to rights and remedies and, as applicable, by providing legal assistance, being a party before the courts or, when applicable, receiving individual complaints;
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 9</i></p> <p>The NHRI has the mandate to contribute to access to justice for individuals, including through complaints handling and legal advice and awareness raising.</p> <p>Furthermore, the NHRI may participate in Court procedures as amicus curiae.</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 10</i></p> <p>While the existing regulatory framework provides a satisfactory basis for the Cyprus NHRI to function, it could be further strengthened in terms of the capacity of the NHRI to provide legal assistance to individuals whose human rights are violated.</p>

<p>Principle 3.7</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <p>- encourage the signature, ratification of and accession to international human rights treaties and contribute to the effective implementation of such treaties, as well as related judgments, decisions and recommendations as well as to monitor States' compliance with them.</p>
<p><i>No information</i></p>	
<p>Principle 4</p>	<p>The process of selection and appointment of the leadership of a NHRI should be competence based, transparent and participatory, in order to guarantee the independence and pluralist representation of these institutions. It should also be based on clear, predetermined, objective and publicly accessible criteria.</p> <p>The duration of the appointment should be clearly set out in the founding legislation, so that the leadership posts of the NHRI do not stay vacant for any significant period of time.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p.14:</i></p> <p>With another Decision by the Council of Ministers in June 2022 (Decision No 93.298), the selection and appointment procedure of the Commissioner was formalized and specific binding rules took place. Specifically, it is provided that for the appointment of the Commissioner: a public call by the Council of Ministers needs to be initiated for expression of interest for the position prior to the expiry</p>

of the term of the Commissioner, the evaluation of all the candidates by the Council of Ministers (to recommend the most suitable one to the President of the Republic), the approval of the nominated person by the majority of the House of Representatives, and, then, the appointment of the Commissioner by the President. The formalisation of the selection and appointment process of the Commissioner, including and the above decision of the Council of Ministers, was assessed and approved by the SCA during the reaccreditation process in 2022, as fully in line with Paris Principles and contributed to our accreditation as an A status NHRI.

ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p. 14:

The Commissioner underlines that the Law which determines its functioning was amended in July 2022. The amendment indicates that the Commissioner can be reappointed only once – i.e. serve a maximum of two 6-year terms. The specific amendment of the NHRI's regulatory framework was promoted in view of SCA's remark in 2021 that Law was silent on the number of times the Ombudsman could be re-appointed and for this reason, SCA was of the view that it would be preferable for the term of office to be limited to one (1) re-appointment, to ensure full compliance with the UN Paris Principles.

ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 10

According to the applicable legislation (article 3), the Commissioner is appointed by the President, based on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers and with the prior consent of the majority of the House of Representatives, a citizen of the Republic (...), with a high level of education and experience and with the highest integrity, as Commissioner. [...]from the proposal of the Council of Ministers till the final decision of the Parliament, NGO's and other civil society representatives bring their views before the Parliament members, related to the candidate who has been selected by the Council of Ministries or for any other person whom may thing could be more eligible for the position. [...]

	<p>It is worth be noted that when the term of the Commissioner ends and the position becomes vacant, it is made publicly known. [...]This procedure, ensures the full independence of the Commissioner, since the Commissioner is the only Incumbent in Cyprus whose selection must be approved prior by the majority of the Parliament and not directly appointed by the President.</p>
<p>Principle 5</p>	<p>To ensure independence, the enabling legislation of a NHRI should contain an objective dismissal process for the NHRI leadership, with clearly defined terms in a constitutional or legislative text. The dismissal process should be fair and ensure objectivity and impartiality and should be confined to only those actions which impact adversely on the capacity of the leaders of NHRIs to fulfil their mandate.</p>
<p><i>No information</i></p>	
<p>Principle 6</p>	<p>Member States should provide NHRIs with adequate, sufficient and sustainable resources to allow them to carry out their mandate, including to engage with all relevant stakeholders in a fully independent manner and freely determine their priorities and activities.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p.15</i></p> <p>The Commissioner has management and control over its allocated budget and have effectively undertaken activities within its existing budget.</p>

	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>Every year, Commissioner's budget is prepared by his/her Institution upon their needs and also upon its strategic plan. The proposed budget is approved as a whole by the Parliament via its submission by the Ministry of Finance. This way, the Commissioner is provided with the necessary financial, technical and human resources to fulfil his/her broad mandate. Following the approval of its budget, the Institution has absolute management and control of the appropriated funds."</p> <p>The CAHR positively acknowledges that its human resources have been increased after the recruitment of five new Officers during 2020-2021, and with the recruitment of seven more Officers soon in 2023.</p> <p>With the increase in the number of staff members dealing with the issues of the NPM specifically, it has become possible to carry out systematic and continuous visits to all places where people are deprived or likely to be deprived of their liberty, such as Central Prisons, Police Detention Centres, Homes for the Elderly, Psychiatric Hospitals, Immigrant Centers, etc.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report October 2022, p.14</i></p> <p>The CAHR has management and control over its allocated budget and has effectively undertaken activities within its existing budget. The SCA notes that the CAHR requires additional funding, including to allow recruitment of staff at senior level, in view of its expanded mandates of National Preventive Mechanism under OPCAT and National Monitoring Mechanism under CRPD.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by CoE independent bodies</p>	<p><i>ECRI Country Report on Cyprus 2019, p.5 (para.1)</i></p> <p>As concerns the budget, the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights has its own separate budget which is controlled and managed by the Commissioner. ECRI was informed by</p>

	<p>the authorities that the Council of Ministers has approved the establishment of four additional posts in the Office of the Commissioner for Administration for 2019.</p> <p><i>ECRI Country Report on Cyprus, 2022, p. 8:</i></p> <p>ECRI notes that, according to the data provided by the Commissioner's Office, its operational budget has remained relatively stable, with a slight annual increase in absolute terms, except in 2021".</p> <p><i>See also further the information reported by the NHRI on its budgetary status.</i></p> <p><i>CPT Country Report on Cyprus 2017, p. 10 (Para.9)</i></p> <p>The NPM-related tasks are carried out essentially by one staff member of the Ombudsperson's Office, who could only dedicate half her time to NPM duties. As a result, the NPM cannot cover all places of deprivation of liberty regularly and is seriously hampered in the proper fulfilment of its OPCAT obligations. [...], p. 75: That said, social care homes were not visited on a regular basis by independent outside bodies; although the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudsman) had recently carried out a number of visits to social care institutions, it did not have the capacity to visit all social care institutions on a regular basis. [...]</p> <p><i>Note the updated information from the NHRI that with the increase in staffing, it now has sufficient staff to carry out systematic and continuous visits within its NPM mandate.</i></p>
<p>Principle 7</p>	<p>NHRIs should have the authority to determine their staffing profile and recruit their own staff, as well as sufficient resources available, in order to fulfil their mandate, so as to permit the employment and retention of staff and to ensure that they receive adequate training.</p>

<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 12</i></p> <p>in 2019 the Commissioner succeeded the approval by the Council of Ministers and the Parliament of the exclusion of the Ombudsman Office staff to take the governmental exams. The Institution now organizes specialised exams by the Advisory Committee set up by the Commissioner. Those who succeed in the examination are brought before the Public Service Commission and their recruitment is in accordance with the Commissioner’s recommendation, based on a relevant assessment of their specific knowledge and experience. Although, at a later stage, the above decision was mistakenly revoked, the Council of Ministers, by a new decision dated February 17, 2021, reverted back to its original decision and confirmed the exclusion of the Ombudsman Office staff (Officers) to take the general governmental exams. To that purpose, in the Annual Budget , an amount of 18,000 EUR was included for the preparation of specialized exams for the recruitment of new staff.</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p. 16:</i></p> <p>Furthermore, in September 2022, the NHRI organized special exams for the recruitment of new staff members and with this procedure, 7 additional officers are expected to be recruited during the next few weeks. It should be noted that the vacant positions pending to be filled after the said examinations, were initially three and in 2022 the House of Representatives approved our request to fill 4 more vacancies and in total the vacancies to be filled are 7.</p> <p>[...] : The NHRI’s recommendations to national authorities on how to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of our institution is to take measures and actions that [include]: strengthening further the NHRI’s financial and human resources to enable the exercise of its mandate effectively and timely, in line with SCA’s recommendations.</p>
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Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI	<i>See above under CM Principle 6.</i>
Assessment of implementation by CoE independent bodies	<p><i>ECRI, Country report on Cyprus 2022, p.8</i></p> <p>"ECRI welcomes the fact that in 2019 the Cypriot Council of Ministers and Parliament authorised the Ombudsman institution to organise the recruitment of its staff. Selection competitions are thus organised by an Advisory Committee set up by the Commissioner".</p>
Principle 8	<p>Member States should ensure that NHRIs enjoy adequate access to information and to policy makers and legislators, including timely consultations on the human rights implications of draft legislation and policy strategies.</p>
Assessment of implementation by the NHRI	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p. 16:</i></p> <p>The NHRI's recommendations to national authorities on how to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of our institution is to take measures and actions that [include]: ensuring that state authorities involved in investigations conducted by NHRIs, comply with their legal obligation to respond to questions/enquiries, in a timely manner and with reasoned and analytical responses.</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 13</i></p> <p>The NHRI also has adequate access to information and to policy makers, and is often involved in the preparation of legislation and policy making with human rights implications.</p>

	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 13</i></p> <p>The bodies and authorities which are affected by investigations conducted by our NHRI, have a legal obligation to respond to questions/enquiries that we address to them, as well as to present to us relevant documents/evidence.</p>
<p>Principle 9</p>	<p>Member States should implement the recommendations of NHRIs and are encouraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to make it a legal obligation for all addressees of NHRI recommendations to provide a reasoned reply within an appropriate time frame, - to develop processes to facilitate effective follow-up of NHRI recommendations, in a timely fashion and - include information thereon in their relevant documents and reports.
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p.15</i></p> <p>The NHRI informs that the relevant state authorities have a legal obligation to respond to questions/enquiries, as well as to present relevant documents/evidence following the NHRI's investigation. In most cases, the authorities respond within a reasonable timeframe and provide reasoned responses. However, there are exceptions, and in some cases, the NHRI is obliged to send reminder letters or follow-up letters requesting additional information or clarifications.</p> <p>The Cypriot NHRI also reports that the compliance with its recommendations has increased in recent years. Moreover, in all the cases where binding decisions were issued by the Commissioner under its</p>

	<p>mandate as Equality Body, the involved authorities/bodies complied and took steps to implement them.</p> <p>According to Article 6 of the Law, when the Commissioner submits a Report with a recommendation or suggestion to the competent authority to remedy a damage or injustice, he/she may, at his/her discretion, also specify the time within which such damage or injustice must be remedied.</p> <p>After the submission of the report, the Commissioner may consult with the authority concerned on the implementation of the recommendations and on the resolution of the issue and, when the competent authority fails to inform the Commissioner within the prescribed period of time of its action to comply with the recommendations/remarks, or does not agree to implement them, the Commissioner may inform the Council of Ministers and the House of Representatives of the outcome of the consultations, as, well as to make public the refusal or failure of the competent authority to comply with his/her recommendations.</p>
<p>Principle 10</p>	<p>When member States grant NHRIs additional competences to perform functions foreseen by international conventions in the field of human rights, such as the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the NHRI should have access to sufficient resources to develop the capacity to effectively discharge its functions, including having appropriately qualified and trained staff.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>See above CM Principle 6 on adequate resources.</i></p>

III. Safe and Enabling Environment

<p>Principle 11</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that NHRIs can operate independently, in an environment which is conducive to them carrying out their mandate in an effective manner and in a climate of impartiality, integrity, transparency and fairness.</p>
<p><i>No information</i></p>	
<p>Principle 12</p>	<p>Member States should foster awareness and the co-operation of all relevant public authorities in relation to the mandate, independence and role of NHRIs, including through training and awareness-raising activities.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p. 13</i></p> <p>State authorities have good awareness of the NHRIs' mandate, independence and role.</p>
<p>Principle 13</p>	<p>Member States should take all measures necessary to protect and support NHRIs against threats and harassment and any other forms of intimidation, including through ensuring functional immunity. Any cases of alleged reprisals or intimidation against NHRIs, their membership and staff, or against those who co-operate or seek to co-operate with them, should be promptly and thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.</p>

<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 13</i></p> <p>Protection of the head and staff of NHRI against threats and harassment, is provided in the Law which regulates the NHRI's operation [...] Specifically, according to Commissioner for Administration Laws 1991-2014: No legal proceedings may be brought against the Commissioner in relation to any act done by him/her or any opinion expressed by him/her or report submitted by him/her in the exercise of his/her functions, provided that he/she has exercised his functions and powers under the Law, in good faith and within their limits [article 12(1)].</p>
<p>Principle 14</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that confidential information collected by NHRIs in the context of their mandate is privileged and is not unduly made public.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of law in Europe in 2022, p. 1</i></p> <p>The Commissioner or any other member of the staff of his/her Office may not be called to testify before a Court or in any proceedings of a legal nature in respect of any matter that has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his/her duties [article 12(2)].</p>

IV. Co-operation and Support

<p>Principle 15</p>	<p>Member States should take effective measures to enable NHRIs to communicate and co-operate with, in addition to the various levels of administration in the member States, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. counterpart institutions, where appropriate through networking and exchange of information and practices, as well as through regular meetings such as those taking place within the framework of ENNHRI and GANHRI; b. civil society stakeholders, in particular non-governmental organisations and human rights defenders, who should enjoy easy and safe access to NHRIs as part of an enabling environment; c. other human rights structures, including regional, local and/or specialised institutions, notably Ombudsman institutions and equality bodies and their respective networks, where appropriate through jointly organised activities; d. international and regional organisations working in related or similar fields.
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in the European Union in 2023, p. 13:</i></p> <p>During its last review, the Cypriot NHRI informed the SCA of several steps it had taken to implement previous SCA recommendations, including the establishment of a Human Rights Advisory Committee aimed at promoting stronger and formal cooperation with civil society and enhancing the institution’s visibility. At the time, it was in the process of appointing members to the Committee,</p>

	<p>which would include civil society organizations working on the promotion and protection of the rights of the LGBTI community, persons with disabilities, women, and other groups.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report October 2022, p.14</i></p> <p><i>Cooperation with Civil Society</i></p> <p>The CAHR informed the SCA about the establishment of a Human Rights Advisory Committee to promote formal cooperation with civil society and to enhance the visibility of the CAHR. [...] The SCA therefore recommends the CAHR to ensure that the Human Rights Advisory Committee is functional and urges the CAHR to continue to enhance and formalize its working relationships and cooperation with a wide range of civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including those working on the rights of vulnerable groups.</p>