

Cases and rulings

Country Code	Year	Reference details title	Reference details URL	Hate Bias motivation	Court / Body	Key facts of the case	Results (sanctions, outcome) and key consequences or implications of the case	Main reasoning / argumentation	Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case	Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details
Cyprus	2019	Cyprus / Complaint No. 13/26/3/2019	https://cmec.com.cy/el/rulings/?page=7#id-458	Migrant status	Cyprus Media Complaints Committee (Επιτροπή Δημοσιογραφικής Δεοντολογίας)	The Cyprus Media Complaints Committee (CMCC) received complaints from five Paphos residents regarding an article published in two internet papers who had published the letter of the president of an association which used derogatory and racist language against groups of persons and contained incitement for reversing a decision of the city's municipal council through an undemocratic process. The letter published by these sites referred to a citizens' protest outside the municipal hall when the municipal council was considering a proposal to build a church inside the city's main municipal park. The crowd of protesters had gathered outside the town hall in order to express their disagreement with the proposal to build the church inside the park. The letter published, which formed the subject matter of this complaint, suggested that the protesters, described as communists, Muslims, Brotins, Germans and other foreigners, were violent and frightened the members of the municipal council and alleged that the park had become a point of gathering for foreign prostitutes, adding that the protesters would presumably have no objection if a mosque was built in the garden instead. One of the media outlets that had published this letter argued that it was their policy to publish letters from members of the public even if they disagreed with their content and that the letter, in their view did not contain insults or libel.	This body does not have the power to impose sanctions. The decision however establishes that media outlets cannot publish letters from members of the public if their content is problematic and that derogatory references to persons on the ground of their race/ethnicity or political belief are not acceptable.	The CMCC found that the publication of the letter infringed the Journalistic Ethics Code which prohibits language that discriminates against persons on the ground of their racial origin, religion or belief.	The monitoring body clarified that media outlets are not at liberty to publish letters from members of the public which use derogatory language against persons on the ground of their racial origin, religion or belief, even if the content falls short from amounting to libel. The language used by the author was derogatory with references to the protesters' national origin, muslim religion and political belief and singled them out as enemies of christianity because they objected to the construction of a church in the municipal park. From the responses of the media outlets it emerged that they had little awareness of the requirements regarding hate speech either in the legislation or in the Journalistic Ethics Code.	"Η Επιτροπή αποφάσισε ότι οι αναφορές στην επιστολή σε οπαδούς κόμματος και άτομα διαφόρων εθνικοτήτων καταφανώς συνιστούσαν ρητορική μισαλλοδοξίας, ξενοφοβίας και ρατσισμού, κατά παράβαση των προνοιών του του άρθρου 12 του Κώδικα Δημοσιογραφικής Δεοντολογίας περί αποφυγής δυσμενών διακρίσεων λόγω εθνικής καταγωγής ή φυλετικής προέλευσης." "The Committee decided that the references in the letter to supporters of a political party and to persons of different ethnicities amount to intolerant, xenophobic and racist rhetoric, in violation of the provision of article 12 of the Journalistic Ethics Code concerning discrimination on the ground of belief or ethnic origin or racial descent. "

DISCLAIMER The information presented here is collected under contract by the FRA's research network FRANET. The information and views contained do not necessarily reflect the views or the

official position of the FRA.

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/databases/anti-muslim-hatred/>

Copyright © 2026 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights