

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	2021	Cyprus, Commissioner for administration and human rights/Public Statement of the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights regarding the respect for religious freedom and cultural heritage. Ref. AYT. 6/2021	http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/Ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/(All)/A9BD44B628BD6658C22586D0802F8762/\$file/AYT_6_2021_.pdf?OpenElement	Religion	Commissioner for administration and human rights and NHRI (Ombudsperson)	A self-initiated position paper published by the Ombuds institution, following the vandalism of a mosque in the village of Episkopi. The paper refers to a party held in an Armenian Monastery and the theft of doors at a monastery both in the Turkish-controlled north of Cyprus, describing those incidents as similar to the vandalism of the mosque with anti-turkish slogans. The paper underlines the need to respect religious rights and strengthen mutual respect for religious traditions and cultural heritage.	There were no results, sanctions or other consequences. On 26/03/2021 the Turkish Cypriot leader of religious affairs told the media that the the impunity in previous mosque vandalisation had encouraged the Episkopi mosque vandalisation. The case was not tried until the date of writing.	The paper was issued following the attack on the mosque and in light of the fact that the religious holidays of Easter and Ramadan would coincide in the following weeks. It does not set out any specific recommendations.	The freedom to manifest one's religion in specific places of worship is key to the implementation of freedom of religion.	"In this regard, further to the existing inclusive legal framework for the protection of human rights, it is necessary to continue and intensify actions and policies, aimed at promoting and substantially comprehending the above principles and values of mutual respect for the protection of individual rights and society at large, from acts eligible to cultivate hatred. The message that, in any case, should be given by the State, is zero tolerance for such actions that violate human rights and disrupt the harmonious coexistence of people of different nationalities, ethnicities, religions and traditions, but also the indisputable necessity for measures aiming to achieve the respect cultural heritage in all directions." (the report was published in English)

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