



Country report 2024 on anti-discrimination: highlights



Greece



Constitutional framework:

The Greek Constitution enshrines fundamental rights, such as human dignity, religious freedom, and protection against discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and gender identity, among others.



Anti-Discrimination Legislation:

The main anti-discrimination law is Equal Treatment Law 4443/2016, which addresses discrimination on various grounds including race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity. It replaced Law 3304/2005 and expanded protections.



Hate Speech and Criminal Law:

Hate speech and hate crimes are penalised under Greek law, specifically Law 927/1979 and Article 82A of the Criminal Code, which impose stricter penalties for offenses motivated by bias.



Material Scope of the Law:

The Equal Treatment Law applies to both public and private sectors, covering areas like employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services. Recent legal updates have enhanced protections, particularly for persons with disabilities and same-sex civil partnerships.



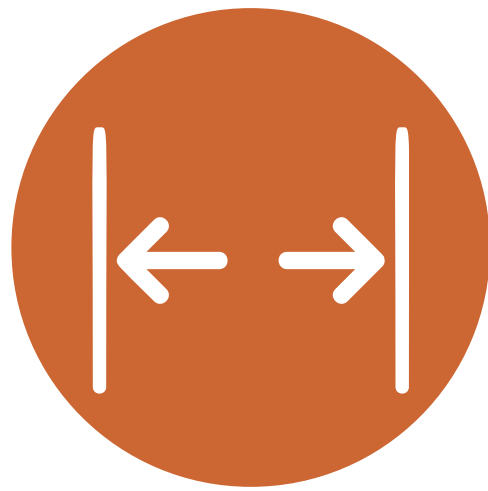
Enforcement Mechanisms:

Victims of discrimination can pursue remedies through judicial, administrative, and alternative dispute resolution processes. The law allows associations and organisations to represent victims in court and shifts the burden of proof to the respondent in discrimination cases.



Equality Body:

The Greek Ombudsman serves as the primary equality body, tasked with monitoring and promoting equal treatment across sectors. Other bodies like the Social Protection Directorate and the General Secretariat for Transparency and Human Rights also contribute to enforcing anti-discrimination laws.



Key Legislative Gaps:

Current anti-discrimination laws lack effective sanctions and comprehensive protection, particularly in public employment. The law also does not fully empower the Ombudsman to intervene in court cases on behalf of victims.



Recommendations for Improvement:

Enhancements suggested include expanding the Ombudsman's role, easing NGO legal standing requirements, introducing legal aid for victims, and establishing a permanent consultative body for social dialogue on equal treatment.



Need for Legislative Amendments:

To strengthen the anti-discrimination framework, Greece needs legislative amendments to address existing gaps, ensure more consistent protection, and improve the effectiveness of legal remedies.