



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
GENEVA

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### NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, dated 11 May and 9 June 2016, has the honour to attach herewith the responses of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction / General Secretariat for Gender Equality.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 23 June 2016

To: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate  
standard of living

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Att.: 1 page

- The General Secretariat for Gender Equality under the National Programme on Prevention and Combating Violence against Women has created a wide network of structures, among which and 21 Shelters for women victims of gender based violence. Women victims of violence and / or multiple discrimination (disabled, unemployed, refugees, migrants, etc), facing housing problems can be accommodated in these structures and receive psychosocial support and counseling.
- The phenomenon of homelessness, which in recent years seems to be in rise, constitutes an extreme form of poverty, which disproportionately affects women. The Report on Living Conditions in Greece (Greek Statistical Authority-May 2016), shows that the risk of poverty and social exclusion in Greece increased from 31% for the total population in 2011, to 36% in 2014 (24.4% average for the EU-28), with a percentage of 42.5% for men and 42.9% for women. These rates are on the rise from 2010 onwards, due to the economic crisis. The fact that women are more vulnerable to the risk of poverty (and possibly to the risk of homelessness) is due to several factors, such as unequal access to paid work, lower incomes, lack of social protection and limited access to assets, including land and real estate.
- The new National Action Plan for Gender Equality, which is in preparation by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, will consider the issue of poverty especially for women and will include policies and actions designed to address it.