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Nicosia, 28 February 2019

Independent Expert  
on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and  
gender identity  
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
[ie-sogi@ohchr.org](mailto:ie-sogi@ohchr.org)

**Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination  
based on sexual orientation and gender identity regarding data collection and  
management- Call for input**

I refer to the abovementioned matter which came to my attention by your e-mail dated  
7 February 2019.

I would firstly like to express my endorsement to the Independent Expert on the  
submission of the said report which will undoubtedly contribute to the raising of  
awareness about discrimination and violence targeted to LGBT people.

Regarding the situation in the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to bring to your attention  
the following information that might be relevant:

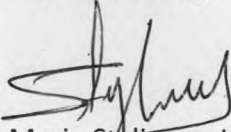
Following recommendations submitted by my Office and respective contribution, the  
Ministry of Education and Culture has issued, in 2014, a "Code of Conduct Against Racism"  
and a "Guide for Managing and Reporting Racist Incidents". The definition of racist and  
discriminatory bullying includes bullying on the basis of sexual orientation and gender  
identity. According to the Ministry of Education and Culture the nature of the bullying  
(racist, homophobic, transphobic or other) is registered. In fact, the systematic and  
coherent recording of the incidences is one of the purposes set in the Guide as this would  
enable the correct evaluation and monitoring of the situation. However, the  
implementation of the Code and Guide remains optional for the schools while it is still not

clear whether the incidents are systematically recorded and how the data are later on processed and evaluated<sup>1</sup>.

One year earlier, the Police, also in cooperation with my Office, initiated the implementation of a new Policy for the handling and combatting racist violence, xenophobia and discrimination. In the Policy Statement, it is clearly mentioned that racist incidents or/and incidents with racist motive are also the ones related with the sexual orientation or the gender identity of the victim. According to the Police, the nature of the motive is recorded and statistical data are kept and managed<sup>2</sup>.

I hope you find the above information useful and remain at your disposal for further clarification.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Stylianou Lottides  
Commissioner for Administration and  
Protection of Human Rights

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<sup>1</sup> For further information you may contact the Ministry of Education and Culture (Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, [kodikas@cyearn.pi.ac.cy](mailto:kodikas@cyearn.pi.ac.cy), [info@cyearn.pi.gov.cy](mailto:info@cyearn.pi.gov.cy))

<sup>2</sup> For further information you may contact the Cyprus Police ([police@police.gov.cy](mailto:police@police.gov.cy), [domviol.childabuse@police.gov.cy](mailto:domviol.childabuse@police.gov.cy)).