

**TOGETHER! Empowering civil society and  
Law Enforcement Agencies to make hate crimes visible**

**LET'S END  
HATE CRIME**

**Country Report: Cyprus**

**Together**   
fighting **AGAINST** hate crimes



With financial support from the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Part I

- A. Legal background..... 4.
- B. Monitoring and Reporting..... 5.

### PART II

- A. LEAs..... 7.
- B. CSOs..... 9.
- C. Vulnerable Groups/Potential victims/victims of hate crimes 11.

### PART III

- A. Methodology..... 13.
- B. Case Studies..... 14.

## PART I

### A. Legal background

#### Legislation on hate crimes

There is no legislation on hate crimes as such. Hate crime is not specifically addressed, defined or provided in the penal code or in any other law, as a crime per se. The main legislation relevant to hate crime is the Combating of Certain Forms and Expression of Racism and Xenophobia by means of Criminal Law, Law of 2011 (Law 134(I)/2011) which was introduced to transpose Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, which criminalises only the specific conduct provided in the Council Framework Decision. In addition, in 2015, the Penal Code was amended to criminalise conduct which publicly and intentionally incites to violence or hatred against any group of persons or any member of such a group on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### Aggravating factor on the imposition of the penalty

In accordance with the Combating of Certain Forms and Expression of Racism and Xenophobia by means of Criminal Law racist or xenophobic motive is taken into account as an aggravating factor on the imposition of the penalty. No other protected characteristic however is provided as aggravating circumstances, such as sexual orientation, despite the recent amendment of the Penal Code. The problem with the wording of the law however is that it is not clear that aggravating circumstances apply as regards any crime committed as provided in the penal code or any other legislation establishing a crime or only, as regards the crimes covered under the Combating of Certain Forms and Expression of Racism and Xenophobia by means of Criminal Law, Law of 2011. As those provisions have never been invoked in any criminal proceedings up to date, it is not known how these will be interpreted by the Courts.

#### “Protected characteristics” to justify the enhancement of the penalty

No specific protected characteristics are provided such as colour, national or ethnic origin, language e.t.c., however it could be interpreted in the context of the law that protected characteristics are race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin.

#### Provision on incitement to hate

According to the above mentioned legislation, namely both the Penal Code and the Combating of Certain Forms and Expression of Racism and Xenophobia by means of Criminal Law any person who intentionally and publicly incites to violence or hatred in any manner against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation or gender identity, commits a criminal offence;



#### Provisions for criminalizing specific forms of speech

There is not specific reference to the denial of the holocaust, but certain forms or speech are specifically criminalized in the Combating of Certain Forms and Expression of Racism and Xenophobia by means of Criminal Law, such as-

i. intentionally publicly condoning, denying or grossly trivialising crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes as defined in Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, directed against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin when the

conduct is carried out in a manner likely to incite to violence or hatred against such a group or a member of such a group

ii. intentionally publicly condoning, denying or grossly trivialising the crimes defined in Article 6 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal appended to the London Agreement of 8 August 1945, directed against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin when the conduct is carried out in a manner likely to incite to violence or hatred against such a group or a member of such a group only when the above mentioned crimes have been established by a final decision of an international court.

In addition, the Criminal Codes criminalizes any speech or any type of publication which offends any religion.

### **Discrimination as a criminal offence**

Discrimination on grounds of race and ethnic origin in the fields of employment, social assistance, access to health care and education, housing and access to goods and services is also a criminal offence, apart from having a right to compensation under the civil law rules. The same applies with discrimination on grounds of gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief in the area of employment. Such conduct is punishable with a maximum penalty of 4,000 or to imprisonment of up to 4 months or with both penalties. The only cases where persons discriminating have been prosecuted are sexual harassment cases in employment as sexual harassment is within the meaning of discrimination.



Monitoring  
Reporting

## **B. Monitoring and Reporting**

### **Collection of “official” data on hate crimes**

The recording authority that collects official data on hate crimes is the Office for Combating Discrimination of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Cyprus Police. The Office for Combating Discrimination has been operating since 2005 and is responsible for monitoring the investigation of complaints or reports that relate to cases and/or incidents of discrimination, racism, or xenophobia.

The information provided below in this section is the one provided by the above mentioned Police Office in an interview with them.

The Office cooperates with police investigators for better handling of such incidents and for more effective enforcement of the relevant legislation. It also cooperates with other relevant Agencies (Governmental or NGOs) and maintaining a registry of offences / incidents which are of a racist nature or have a racist motive.

According to Police Order 3/38, issued by the Chief of the Police under the Police Law, any offence shall be defined and recorded as racially motivated if it is reported or perceived as such by

1. the victim, or
2. a person acting on behalf of the victim, or an NGO
3. a person who was present and witnessed the incident, or
4. a member of the Police, or





## 5. the Ombudsman

The Official Data records the number of: a) incidents b) cases based on the nature of the crime i.e if against the person or against the property or Verbal Assaults, hate speech/acts/threats

Data shows the number of complainants and the number of persons accused in relation to crimes committed with a racial bias or motive as well as the nationality /ethnic origin of both the complainants and the perpetrators.

Data records the motive of the perpetrators and in particular the cases of racial nature /racial motive

Bias motivation recorded, is based on: a) language b) special needs c) nationality/ethnic origin d) Age e) Religion f) Community g) Political views h)sexual orientation i)Race j) Gender k) Color l) unspecified

The official data are collected by the police stations using a standard form and are submitted at the end of the year to the Office for Combating Discrimination for further analysis.

The standardized form includes the above bias motivations.



### “Protected characteristics”

According to the Police, protected characteristics that are taken into account, in practice, to determine bias motivation include any act or omission in relation to any of the following:

1. Language
2. Special needs

3. Nationality/ethnic origin.
4. Age
5. Religion
6. Community
7. Political views
8. Sexual orientation
9. Race
10. Gender
11. Colour
12. Unspecified

### Multiple bias

Multiple bias is recorded based on the above indicators.

In addition to the police, the following institutions may be considered as facilitating recording of racially motivated crimes or offences through their work, even though they do not maintain a specific recording mechanism for such offences.

- The Independent Authority for the Investigation of Allegations and Complaints Against the Police which was established in 2006 according to the Law, [L.9(l)/2006 investigates complaints made by any person against members of the police, in the context of which, racially motivated acts or omissions of the Police may be reported and eventually recorded.

No information is available on how many complaints involve allegations of racism or racial discrimination from members of the police when exercising their duties.

The online Complaint form focuses mainly on the complaint in a very general way. It does not even refer to the word racial discrimination/crime.

- The Anti-Discrimination Body (2004) is an independent authority for the combating of discrimination and the promotion of the principle of equal treatment and operates within the framework of the Office of the Commissioner for Administration.

The main statutory competence of the Body involves the investigation of individual complaints from and the provision of independent aid to victims of discrimination (individual aid includes submission of the report to the competent authorities). The antidiscrimination body has the power to impose minimal penalties in case of discriminatory conduct and to issue reports of its findings in relation to a complaint after which it can also mediate, either by writing or orally towards the public authority concerned or the private person, trying to achieve the settlement of pending issues or the satisfaction of specific requests of the complainants

Complaints can be made by completing the online complaint form or they can be submitted to the office of the Ombudsman for the Administration or by post or by fax.

Data are published every year as part of the annual report.

- The Commissioner for children's rights has also an online mechanism that facilitates children up to 18 years to submit complains for violations of human rights . The complaint form can be sent by mail, or by fax or through email or take it personally to the commissioner's office. There are no recorded data on racially motivated crimes or bullying in schools.

### **Civil Society Organizations and hate crime**

KISA - Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism is the only NGO which has set up in November 2014 an online mechanism that facilitates the reporting and recording of the racist,

discriminatory and hate speech incidents,(Radialert) while also supporting victims in pursuing their rights by referring them to independent authorities and other relevant agencies.

Moreover, RADIAAlert monitors and collects reliable and objective data on racist and hate speech crime, as well as institutional discrimination in order to strengthen the voice of civil society and other stakeholders in Cyprus to advocate for the adoption of effective measures by the state that counter such acts.



## **PART II**

### **A. LEAs**

#### **Assessment on the level of familiarity with Hate Crimes characteristics by LEAs field staff/front line**

According the Office of Combating Discrimination of the Police, there have been efforts to educate and train police officers of all positions on hate crime and how to recognize and deal with hate crime in the form of seminars as part of the in-service training, as well as through lectures and speeches by some NGOs (i.e. ACCEPT LGBT Cyprus). However, there seems to be a number of gaps in the understanding of their role as police force. One of the main issues is the fact that a number of policemen might allow their own attitudes and prejudices to interfere with their professional conduct, something that results in a

number of incidents being unresolved or even unrecognized.

### **The procedure for a victim to report to the police a suspect hate crime**

When a victim of hate crime decides to report a complaint he/she has to go to the local police station to report the incident. The Police have an obligation to investigate the complaint, take the necessary statements from the victims and the suspects, if any and prepares a report. After the investigation the report will be submitted to the District Police Director and then to the Office for Combatting Discrimination, while at the same time, if they think that there is enough evidence to pursue the case, they will send also the report to the Attorney General. The Attorney General will eventually decide about the prosecution of perpetrators on the basis of the evidence provided as well as on public interest considerations.

The Police will not pursue the investigation of the complaint, if the victim withdraws the complaint or otherwise fails to follow up.

Every police station has to fill a standardized form that includes the potential bias indicators that are used for recording the data. The policemen are all obliged, according to police orders and their training to ask questions that will help in unmasking bias motivations. They use questions like “Do you know the person?” or “what exactly did he/she tell you”



Policemen in general are confined to their duty of investigating the complaints. There are no information leaflets available for the victims in relation to the procedure a victim has to follow in submitting a complaint or where a victim can get support. Obviously it depends very much on the attitudes of the individual policeman.

Reporting of an incident may also be initiated through an NGO, at least at the initial stage via written communication. However the victims may eventually have to go to the Police station to give a statement, if they would like to pursue their claims



### **LEAs training on hate crimes**

The National Police Academy has introduced a mandatory special training on xenophobia and racism as part of the -training of the Police recruits and as part of the in-service training of the cadets and members of the criminal investigation unit.

### **Community partnership/community policing used in Cyprus**

There are two examples of community partnership/policing. One example is the neighborhood watch and the other is the police community support officer.

Community Policing (CP) began in Cyprus in 2003. The mission of Community Policing is the close co-operation between the Police and the public, the building of relationships of mutual trust, and the fight against crime. Community Police officers are concerned about the safety and wellbeing of the people in the community and are therefore ready to help them solve any security / safety issue they may have. Community Policing was initiated in 3 communities with 27 policemen. Now CP covers 115 communities with 74 policemen.



Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary crime prevention group. It is based on the idea of communities coming together to reduce crime. The program started in 2011 with the initiative of a local authority. To date, it covers 122 local authorities/communities with 47000 registered volunteers. The police undertakes the responsibility to inform /train the volunteers on what they have to observe. The community watch volunteers are in close contact with the community policemen.

There is no published evaluation of the impact of the two programs. However, the expansion numbers indicate that the programs have been accepted by the communities and the general public. It is not known however if hate crime forms part of the crime prevention mechanism of these schemes or whether police officers or community volunteers are trained also on how to identify and report hate crime.

## **B. CSOs**

### **The level of cooperation between CSOs and minority groups**



There are a number of organisations that are involved with the wellbeing of minority groups in Cyprus.

KISA is one of the main organisations that work on racism and racial, ethnic origin and religious discrimination as well multiple forms of discrimination against migrant and other minority communities in Cyprus. KISA works from the grass root level with direct communication with communities to the level of advocacy, campaigning, provision of services, try to influence legislation and policies and through the years of its work is well connected and trusted by migrant communities.

Very often KISA supports the reporting of hate crimes that would otherwise go unreported or unrecognized, such as for example, the reporting of and attack against a homosexual couple of a

migrant background, has been a target for several years and has been attacked outside of their own house because of their sexual orientation. KISA mainly provides general advice to victims of hate crimes and acts as an advocate of the rights of the victims when needed, i.e. with the police or other authorities. KISA uses social media such as Facebook and press releases to voice out instances of hate crime or any other racial discrimination act. Moreover, KISA as mentioned above established the RADIALERT reporting and monitoring mechanism for hate and racist crime and discrimination.

Caritas association in Cyprus plays a major role for migrant groups working in Cyprus. It is a grass root association and mainly deals with workers who have been mistreated in their workplace and work closely with the Social welfare, the Labour Office and the immigration police. Caritas is an organisation that provides all basic needs like accommodation, food and shelter for immigrants in Cyprus in cases where they have been unfairly

treated in their workplace and had to leave and in cases of sex trafficking. Speaking with the representative of the association, it was pointed out that there are no formal policies on hate crimes. This is because it is very difficult to distinguish between hate crime and a racial discrimination acts against the immigrant. Having said that, the representative has not heard of anyone reporting a hate crime but in the case that someone does report a hate crime the association will treat the incident as an act of violence or discrimination and not as a hate crime as such, because according to the organization it is not clear, legally and practically, how to deal with hate crimes. In future reference, the representative pointed out that in a situation of a hate crime, the victim would be provided with all basic needs, if available, and will be referred to all related organisations that can assist.

The Cameroonian Association is a grass root association in Cyprus that has as a main role to provide moral support to the people in need. The representative has spoken of a lot of situations where victims have been unfairly treated by their

employers but also by people in the streets. She particularly spoke of situations whereby victims have been kicked out of shops because they are of different colour complexion but also spat on and in some cases beaten by people on the streets. She said that none of these instances have been reported because victims have a sense of fear, intimidation and helplessness when turning for help to the police because the police itself is racially discriminating them.

For the rights of LGBT the organisation ACCEPT supports victims that have been victims of hate crime due to their sexual orientation but they also support any victim of hate crime because they advocate for all human rights. The support provided is more of a psychosocial nature in that they help victims understand what a hate crime is and discuss their possibilities of reporting it to the police. They will advise the victims and refer them to different other organisations that can help, for example for basic needs like accommodation and food and/or expert legal advice.

What is more, the African Diaspora and the Recognised Refugees in Cyprus also provide social support to the victims of hate crime. The representative of both grass-root organisations explained that the main issue of providing extra support is the funding, therefore they are cautious of not promising anything to the victims.

Turkish Cypriots have been attacked by groups of Greek Cypriots because of their national origin. They also face racial discrimination especially in their workplace (i.e. unemployment benefits being refused or employer refusing to pay on time). The Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO), which is one of the biggest trade unions in the country, deals with incidents of racist acts against Turkish Cypriots on a frequent basis but no one has reported a hate crime to the knowledge of PEO. Even if the victims of such incidents know that it might or could be a hate crime they are scared to report it as such. Instead PEO interferes on a legal basis to deal with equality within the workplace. PEO also provides health services to Turkish Cypriots who need it and acts as a mediator between employers and Turkish Cypriots (i.e. to translate forms into Turkish).

All in all, the cooperation of the CSOs with the victims of each target group seems to be excellent in regards to utilizing every possible service of each organisation. There are times whereby the victim will contact more than one organisations to get the help needed. However, having said that, victims will not outspokenly declare the incident as a hate crime, even though they might think it is.



### **Civil Society work in support of hate crimes victims.**

Taking into account the interviews that took place with the representatives of the grass root organisations but also established NGOs it appears that the most common service they provide is social support and general advice. The main aim of such organisations is to provide moral support, empowerment and reduce the risk of helplessness of victims. However, some organisations like KISA also provide general and sometimes legal advice and services to victims of hate crime and will get involved with the police if necessary. As the representative has mentioned, there were a number of cases of hate crime or discrimination whereby the organisation has stepped forward in matters of dealing with the police, either by contacting the police and discussing the situation or by publishing various press release articles whereby they inform the general public of the situation. ACCEPT LGBT Cyprus also provides social and counselling support due to the fact that they cannot afford to provide support for basic needs, such as

accommodation and food. The Caritas Association Cyprus mentioned that they provide temporary accommodation and food to victims of discrimination. At this point, the representative was talking about discrimination since as an association they have no policy on hate crimes. As I mentioned elsewhere, a number of CSOs have no policy on hate crimes but instead treat the incident of a hate crime as an act of discrimination.

The Police have contacts of very few organisations that are able to deal with hate crime. For example, the representative of the Caritas Association mentioned that even though they deal with the police regularly for other issues of the migrant community, the police have never contacted them and they have not initiated to provide their contact details to the police. This is due to the fact that many associations, like Caritas, have had negative experiences with the police and the way policemen treat the association and the victims. Nevertheless, the representative expressed utmost respect to few specific policemen within the police force who are more willing to help and cooperate with them and mentioned that those policemen have their contact details. KISA on the other hand, is known by the police force and the police are aware of their contact details. The police know the association of ACCEPT LGBT Cyprus due to the fact that representatives have visited the Police Academy to discuss about difference and diversity to the trainees of the police.

### **Joint project CS/LEAs to monitor HC, gather information, support victims etc**

To this date, there haven't been any joint projects of the Civil Society organisations and the Police to monitor hate crime or gather information regarding the instances of hate crime.

In the recent years, the Cyprus Police within the framework of European programs works in partnership with the CS to raise awareness on racism and xenophobia.

For example in 2010 the police (through the Ministry of Justice and Public Order) implemented an EU Progress program called "Cyprus Police

against discrimination, for diversity" in which training programs were provided to members of the police on policing and diversity. CSOs were asked to give lectures i.e. Accept LGBT, KISA.

According to a report by the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, in 2007 they supported a project proposed by the Cyprus Labour Institute under title "Awareness raising activities in Cyprus against discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity and age". One of the activities included a "Stop Discrimination" campaign which concentrated on raising and addressing discrimination issues with the general public. In addition, Cyprus Police in cooperation with associations of various Ethnic Communities residing in Cyprus on occasion organize open public social events in an attempt to bring closer the Ethnic Communities and the Police.

### **C. Vulnerable Groups/Potential victims/victims of hate crimes**

#### **Overview of the groups more often target of hate crimes**

According to the official data /statistics, the most frequently reported cases are based on the ethnicity and nationality of the group, followed by the racial background and political views.

When breaking the official data of the Police on nationality/ethnicity it seems that the complaints come from the Greek Cypriots followed by the Turkish Cypriots and Greek citizens.

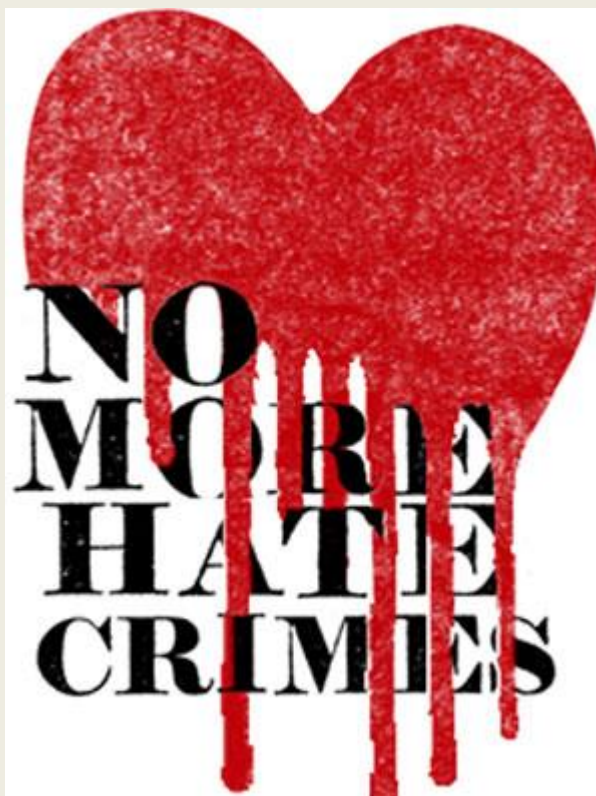
However, the above raises a concern over the methodology these data are collected because reports from civil society organisations and migrant communities show that the most vulnerable groups to hate crime are migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and Turkish Cypriots.





## Individuals belonging to vulnerable groups' perception of their situation with regard to HC

Interviews and research have been conducted on the perception of the vulnerable or target groups regarding hate crime. The interviews were conducted with the representatives of the different organisations that deal with the vulnerable groups. At this point, it has to be pointed out, as mentioned elsewhere, that formal reports on hate crime are very limited, almost non-existent. This is due to the fact that victims of hate crime will not report it as a hate crime but instead as a racial discrimination act against them. The police will also report it under different titles because there is no means to prove that, in fact, the incident was a hate crime and a formal policy on hate crime fails to exist. In addition, another issue that has come out after talking to the organisations was that many of the incidents go unreported due to the fact that a number of the victims are undocumented immigrants in the country. Therefore, even though they have been beaten up by a group of people because of their ethnicity, race, or colour they will not report it and will only rely on the services of the organisation. One example was when one of the victims was attacked in the old town on Nicosia at night and injured his leg. He refused to go to the hospital or the police in fear that if he did go they would deport him immediately. In theory, undocumented immigrants can have access to the emergency services of the hospital, as it is against the code of conduct of not to treat any person in need i.e. undocumented migrants. However, undocumented migrants usually avoid contact with the health services because of the fear of being deported or arrested. This is due to the fact that in practice identification



and visa documentation is asked at the registry office before a medical doctor can see them (National Needs Analysis Report, 2013 Cyprus). In particular, there have been instances whereby doctors, nurses and/or hospital staff reported the undocumented status of their patients resulting in mistrust between hospital staff and undocumented migrants.

Having that in mind, the victims of an incident might well be aware that what they experienced was a hate crime and their perception of their situation is in fact that of a hate crime. For example, migrant communities are well informed of what a hate crime is. According to the grass root organisations mentioned above, they are aware that hate crime exists and that they are the targets of hate crime. In the words of the representative of the Cameroonian Association "We are the targets of Greek Cypriots because we are black and poor". Such statements provide a deeper understanding of the perception of the migrant communities towards the majority population in Cyprus but also their attitudes towards the country they reside in. They are afraid, intimidated and helpless as a whole, but more specifically they are afraid to walk the streets of the town without being verbally or physically attacked by someone. There seems to be a widespread fear within the migrant communities that they will be definitely attacked one day.

The LGBT community is more accepted within the majority of the Greek Cypriots due to the fact that it is more frequent to have a neighbour, a friend, a relative or an acquaintance that belongs in the group of LGBT. However, some incidents were reported as hate crimes and the victims have experienced such situations of hate crime. For example, the homosexual couple that has been attacked outside their home is well aware that the attack occurred because of their sexual orientation and feel that the actions of the group

that attacked them were motivated by hatred towards their sexual orientation.

### **Challenges for LEAs in providing appropriate support to victims of hate crimes**

The biggest challenge of LEAs is the lack of a more trusting relationship/cooperation with the CSOs and an agreed protocol between the two in order to provide the most appropriate support for the victims. One example of this challenge is the fact that the police have no contact list of a number of CSOs whereby the victims can be referred to. This is due to a general mistrust over a number of years

### **Challenge for CSOs in providing appropriate support to victims of hate crimes**

One of the biggest challenge for CSOs is the recognition and acknowledgement of their role in the society as watch dogs and providing and advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups. For this reason, there is a difficulty in getting funding from the state and CSOs purely work on a charity level. This, in turn, raises another big challenge which is funding. Most of the grass-root associations have no funding to provide even for the basic needs for victims of hate crimes. For example, the Association of Recognised Refugees in Cyprus and the African Diaspora mostly provide social support and services because they are able to do that without the need of funding from sponsors. As a result, in many situations a lot of victims are referred to different other organisations that can provide them with the necessary support (legal advice, or basic accommodation and food in some cases). For example, KISA deals with all the legalities and interactions with the police when the victim is being referred to them by other associations or in cases where the victim contacts KISA. One of the representatives of the Caritas Association in Cyprus has spoken that even if they have in place accommodation for people in need (for any situation, not just hate crime) it is already overcrowded and there is not enough space for everyone who seeks help.



## **PART III**

### **A. Methodology**

#### **Preferred Methodological approaches by LEAs in a training session in Cyprus**

The appropriate methodological approach would be to have a) a guest speaker with police experience and status and well respected and b) to analyse cases in small groups

Role-playing is generally not acceptable as they feel it does not offer them the necessary practice for their role as law enforcement agents.

#### **Preferred Methodological approaches by CSOs in a training session in Cyprus**

The methodological approach that is suitable for CSOs would be to have role play and analysis of cases. CSOs are more open to express their feeling and be exposed in order to show how victims feel .



## B. Case Studies

### How LEAs handle hate crimes in Cyprus

From our experience, hate crimes are either not identified or recorded properly, or even if properly recorded they are not prosecuted most of the times because of lack of necessary evidence, always according to the authorities. The only case that was brought before the Court and which was related not to hate crime but incitement to hatred, was the case against persons belonging to far rights groups who attacked the multicultural Rainbow Festival KISA organizes every year in a parallel demonstration against “illegal immigrants”. These persons were accused, amongst other for incitement to hatred, as one of their slogans was “axe and fire against KISA dogs”. The Court concluded that the prosecution did not prove their case and that the slogans above were not related to any protected characteristic under the law i.e. ethnic or national origin or colour and therefore they could not be considered as inciting hatred again a specific group.

### An example of positive role played by Civil Society in a hate crime case

An example of the role played by a CSO in a hate crime case was when a homosexual couple was attacked outside their home by a group of Greek Cypriot neighbours. The couple were firstly verbally abused and attacked and being called rude names because of their sexual orientation. The couple had been verbally harassed for some time but for the first time the neighbours attacked them and physically assaulted the couple. When KISA found out about the incident, they contacted the couple to immediately give advice on how to deal with this incident. The couple reported it to the police and KISA was still in touch with them to advise them on how the criminal investigation would occur within the police force. KISA took the initiative to contact the police and give advice to the police on how to deal with such a racially discriminating act and/or even a hate crime. KISA also reported the incident to the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudswoman). KISA provided the police with

all the information regarding the victims' position but was also in close contact with ACCEPT LGBT Cyprus that socially and psychologically supported the victim. KISA's experience of other incidents of racial discrimination and other violations of the human rights was proven to be an important reference for the couple that was feeling lost and hopeless.

