

### *Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission*

**Contemporary forms of slavery, Working Group on:**  
(E/CN.4/1997/78, paras. 9–10)

The report refers to a submission by Human Rights Watch/Asia which included a copy of a HRW/Asia report published in 1994 and entitled "Organ procurement and judicial execution in China".

**Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10/Add.1, para. 23)

The report simply notes that the Chinese government has made a commitment to undertake appropriate measures against practices such as infanticide and prohibits "prenatal selection for medical purposes".

#### *Other Reports*

**HIV/AIDS, Report of the S-G to the CHR:**  
(E/CN.4/1997/37)

The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva, September 1996) refers to law reform and the fact that in Hong Kong general anti-discrimination legislation has been enacted which defines disability broadly and sensitively enough explicitly to include HIV/AIDS.

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## COOK ISLANDS

**Date of admission to UN:** Cook Islands is not a member of the UN.

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

**Land and People:** Cook Islands has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Acceded: 6 June 1997.

Cook Islands' initial report is due 5 June 1999.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Articles 2, 10 and 37.

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## CYPRUS

**Date of admission to UN:** 20 September 1960.

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

**Land and People:** Cyprus has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.28) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information related to the economy, recent political history and developments, the constitutional structure and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights and those rights that may be suspended during a publicly proclaimed state of emergency.

The legal system in Cyprus is based on common law and the legal framework for the protection of human rights is established in Part II of the Constitution which incorporates and expands on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

and the European Convention on Human Rights. Remedies for violations include right of petition, civil action, state or private criminal prosecution, habeas corpus, *mandamus*, restitution and compensation. Rights are protected and remedies may be sought through various levels of the courts, the Supreme Court, special commissions of enquiry, parliamentary committees, the office of the Attorney-General, the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) and, in cases where all domestic remedies have been exhausted, the relevant procedures of various international human rights instruments. Cyprus has accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice. International human rights treaties are superior in force to domestic law and are generally self-executing. In those cases where an international instrument contains non-self-executing provisions the Legislature has a legal obligation to enact appropriate legislation to harmonize domestic law with the convention and make the latter enforceable.

#### **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Signed: 9 January 1967; ratified: 2 April 1969.

Cyprus has submitted its third periodic report (E/1994/104/Add.12) which is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's April/May 1998 session; the fourth periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

#### **Civil and Political Rights**

Signed: 19 December 1966; ratified: 2 April 1969.

Cyprus' third periodic report (CCPR/C/94/Add.1) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fourth periodic report was due 18 August 1994.

**Optional Protocol:** Signed: 19 December 1966; ratified: 15 April 1992.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Signed: 12 December 1966; ratified: 21 April 1967.

Cyprus' 14<sup>th</sup> periodic report was due 4 January 1996.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Declaration under article 14.

#### **Discrimination against Women**

Acceded: 23 July 1985.

Cyprus' third periodic report was due 22 August 1994.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 2 of article 9.

#### **Torture**

Signed: 9 October 1985; ratified: 18 July 1991.

Cyprus' third periodic report is due 16 August 2000.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Declaration under articles 21 and 22.

The second periodic report of Cyprus (CAT/33/Add.1) was considered by the Committee at its November 1997 session. The report prepared by the government contains information on: mental health and the internment of mental patients; detention or isolation of individuals with contagious diseases; the interpretation and implementation of international treaties; provisions in the Criminal Code related to punishment and jurisdiction; the establishment, work and conclusions of the Commission of Public Inquiry concerning complaints of ill-treatment by police; provisions in law related to the handling and investigation of complaints against police; and, actions taken in response to the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.