

nursing mothers; abrogating the discriminatory provisions of the Social Security legislation; enacting the bill aimed at abolishing discrimination in the acquisition and transmission of nationality;

- ♦ take all necessary steps to improve the understanding of the nature and scope of the problems faced by domestic workers with a view to implement fully existing laws and: initiate campaigns to raise awareness of this issue among trade unions, women's organizations and communities to which the domestic workers belong; to improve the system of complaints of abuses, with a view fully to protect the rights of the complainants;
- ♦ monitor more closely the phenomenon of forced prostitution, with a view to rescuing those victims who are trapped or forced into it and to protect their rights under the Covenant;
- ♦ endeavour to take steps to review the existing minimum wage level in order fully to comply with obligations under article 11 of the Covenant;
- ♦ adopt appropriate policies to prevent and manage the problems associated with domestic violence against women and children and include, in the next report, information on measures adopted; assist financially the "Association for the Prevention of Confrontation of Domestic Violence" (NGO) to establish, as soon as possible, its proposed women's shelter;
- ♦ review thoroughly the health policy towards patients with mental health problems in order best to address all their needs and protect all their human rights;
- ♦ include, in the next periodic report, comprehensive information on the extent of drug-addiction; and
- ♦ submit speedily to Parliament or Cabinet bills and proposed regulations related to: the law on marriage, divorce and family courts; the rights of asylum seekers; the nationality of children born to a Cypriot woman; the right to strike; and the national health system.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The 14th periodic report of Cyprus (CERD/C/299/Add.19, July 1997) was considered by the Committee at its August 1998 session. The report prepared by the government contains information on, *inter alia*: the legislative proposal related to the protection of refugees, including the establishment of a new mechanism, the Refugee Authority; establishment of a multi-sectoral committee, under the chairmanship of the Law Commissioner, to consider the problem of trafficking and exploitation of women and girls and to recommend appropriate legal and other measures for preventing and combatting the problem; obstacles impeding implementation of the Convention in areas of the country controlled by Turkey; citizenship procedures; the employment of foreign housemaids; treatment of foreign pris-

oners; adoption of a more flexible policy regarding the temporary employment of foreign workers — mainly in the sectors of tourism, construction, clothing/shoe manufacturing and agriculture — and rights and protections afforded migrant workers; education, access to education, the education system; religious schools and the situation of religious groups; information, the mass media and the Press Law 1989; and, government assistance to minorities.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CERD/C/304/Add.56) reiterated the Committee's grave concern at the lengthy occupation of 37 per cent of the territory of Cyprus by Turkish forces and the continued division of the country. Reference was made to the fact that the government is still prevented, by the use of force, from implementing the provisions of the Convention in the occupied part of the country and that the continuing artificial division of the country has adversely affected efforts to reduce tension among the various ethnic and religious communities.

The Committee welcomed, *inter alia*: the preparation of a bill for the protection of refugees which would protect the rights of refugees and displaced persons regardless of their ethnic origin; the amendment to the procedure for acquiring Cypriot citizenship, by which Cypriot nationality is now granted to all children regardless of whether the father or the mother is a Cypriot citizen; proposed amendments to laws that will penalize the expression of racist ideas through electronic media; the establishment of language programmes for children of immigrant families and minority groups; the establishment of official subsidies for children belonging to minority communities and the inclusion of human rights in the school curricula; the training programmes for civil servants on the provisions of the Convention; and the intention to establish a National Institution for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: the insufficient information on the demographic composition of the occupied part of Cyprus, due to the fact that the government is still prevented by the Turkish army from undertaking any census or other relevant data collection on the whole of the territory of Cyprus; and that members of the public, judges and lawyers may not be sufficiently aware of the protection against racial discrimination provided by the Convention.

The Committee recommended that the government, *inter alia*:

- ♦ provide information on the enactment of legislation for the protection of refugees (Refugee Bill) and the proposed amendments to penalize the expression of racist ideas through the mass media;
- ♦ provide information in the next report on the implementation of recommendations made by the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) to remedy the procedure for employment of foreign housemaids in Cyprus;