

ΑΥΤ 17/2021

**Ex officio Intervention of the
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights,
as a National Human Rights Institution,
on the occasion of World Human Rights Day**

The 10th of December, being the date of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, has been established as the World Human Rights Day.

This year as well as in 2020, December 10th is marked by the ongoing pandemic that still exists and afflicts humanity and the questioning of a multitude of human rights that were previously considered non-negotiable.

People end up being discriminated because of their choices and the need for the State to stand up for the safeguarding and protection of the human rights of all citizens, without discrimination, is emerging now more than ever.

In this regard, the UN Special Rapporteurs, in a joint statement on the occasion of today's World Human Rights Day, reiterate their call on the states and stakeholders to, in view of the questioning of the concept of justice by the measures taken, address and safeguard the universal, indivisible and interdependent rights of all human beings without exception.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights points out today that the principles of equality and non-discrimination "are at the heart of human rights...".

This year, the institution of the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights completed 30 years:

30 years of a journey that began for the protection of the administration and the citizen and has come to be the bulwark in every violation of human rights, in every discrimination, in every humiliating and degrading treatment.

A path that finds the Institution not to stand away from you but next to you, To be your voice!

In this direction and in view of the continuation of the informative campaigns organized by our Office during the current year, in view of its 30 years, we have chosen the path that has been carried out so far by the institution of the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights, imprinted through videos / spots, reminding the need to protect and safeguard all human rights under any circumstances, as the institution of monitoring the observance of legality, but also as the pre-eminently independent body for the protection of human rights without exception.

The mentioned film will be posted on the website (www.ombudsman.gov.cy) and on the social media of our Office, but will also be sent to the television stations for their promotion.

Maria Stylianou-Lottidi

Commissioner for Administration
and the Protection of Human Rights

National Human Rights Institution