



## **Contribution to the third session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) working group by the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe**

*Final observations and recommendations from the report of the Commissioner's visit to the Principality of Liechtenstein* [CommDH\(2005\)5](#)

### **Final Observations and Recommendations**

34. Liechtenstein can be considered as a country committed to guaranteeing a high level of respect for human rights. This is demonstrated by the importance attached to the role of courts in defending fundamental rights. In order to assist the Liechtenstein authorities in their efforts to further promote the respect of fundamental rights, and in accordance with Article 8 of Resolution (99) 50, I would recommend the following measures:

- 1) prepare a national action plan for the integration of foreign residents, strengthen their possibilities for participating in public life and improve their opportunities for learning German;
- 2) take steps to ensure that the practice of requiring financial and material guarantees as part of the procedure for granting the right to family reunification does not lead to the discrimination of women wishing to exercise this right;
- 3) reconsider the length of residence requirements of the naturalisation procedures and review the discretionary procedure of granting citizenship by a vote of the local community in the light of its possible discriminatory effects;
- 4) ensure the presence of an NGO representative during all hearings with asylum seekers and, as far as possible, during forced removals from the country;
- 5) provide adequate resources for the implementation of the National Action Plan against Racism and, especially, as regards awareness raising among young people;
- 6) persevere in efforts to improve equality between women and men as well as responses to violence against women; consider recruiting more women police officers and step up awareness raising among the police about the available means of dealing with domestic violence;
- 7) give the force of law to the Government decision enabling foreign spouses, who have been victims of proven domestic violence, to continue their residence in Liechtenstein even after separation from their partners when their residence permits have been dependent on their marital relationship;

8) ensure that minority religious communities are not discriminated against on procedural or other grounds when state subsidies are allocated to religious communities;

9) review the system of temporary residence permits for cabaret dancers in order to prevent any risk of its being used for facilitating trafficking in human beings;

10) verify that the current and planned measures for the protection and support of victims and witnesses of crime can be effectively applied in cases of trafficking in human beings;

11) grant people who have been detained the right to access a lawyer at the outset of their detention including during police interrogations and appearances before an investigating judge;

12) ensure that foreigners can, always when necessary, access interpreters and translations during court proceedings and detention;

13) give serious consideration for establishing the institution of ombudsperson;

14) ratify the European Social Charter and Protocol 12 to the ECHR.

35. In accordance with Article 3 f) of Resolution (99) 50, this report is addressed to the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.