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PRESS RELEASE

ECtHR ruling on religious freedom following the Ombudsman's intervention

The European Court of Human Rights sentenced Greece for violating religious freedom (Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights) by its judgment in "Stavropoulos v. Greece" June 25, 2020.

The Court found that, while for several decades (Articles 25-26 of Law 344/1976), the civil act of naming has been the exclusive process of registering forenames of newborns in the birth record, the registry offices still register baptism (christening) as an alternative process of name acquisition, resulting in the unintentional disclosure of parents' religious beliefs.

In its memorandum dated 23.1.2020, the Ombudsman reiterated its earlier positions and informed the Court in detail about the latest legislation and developments.

Read the full memorandum of the Ombudsman [here](#)

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