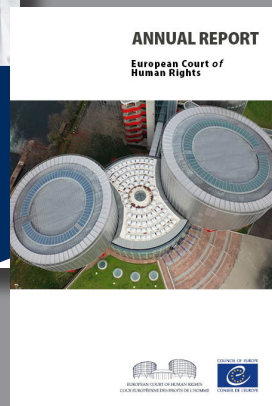
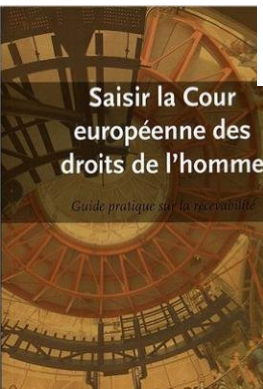


# EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Finding and understanding  
the case-law



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For publication updates, please follow the Court’s Twitter account at [https://twitter.com/ECHR\\_CEDH](https://twitter.com/ECHR_CEDH)

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## 1. Introduction

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The case-law of the European Court of Human Rights covers a wide range of subjects arising out of the application of the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols.

The Registry of the Court publishes a number of materials to assist in understanding the Court's case-law and the official texts.

This guide provides information about the Court's case-law database [HUDOC](#) and the various publications available on the [gateway](#) of the ECHR Knowledge Sharing platform (ECHR-KS) and the [Court's website](#).

It ends with suggestions on how to make the best use of the available research materials.

The most recent PDF version of this guide is available at:

[www.echr.coe.int/Documents/CLIP\\_Finding\\_understanding\\_case\\_law\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/CLIP_Finding_understanding_case_law_ENG.pdf)

It contains hyperlinks to the different materials available on the Court's website.

### a. Translations

To find a translation of an individual case or legal summary, use the language filter in the [HUDOC](#) database.

The [table of pending translations](#) lists all translations of analytical case-law materials currently pending in a language other than English and French (the official languages of the Council of Europe).

Publishers or organisations wishing to reproduce the Court's documents (or a translation thereof) in print or online are asked to contact [publishing@echr.coe.int](mailto:publishing@echr.coe.int) for further instructions.

### b. ECHR\_CEDH Twitter account



The Twitter account ECHR\_CEDH ([https://twitter.com/ECHR\\_CEDH](https://twitter.com/ECHR_CEDH)) allows you to follow the Court's activities in English and French (the two official languages of the Council of Europe) and to stay informed of the Court's latest publications in various languages.

In particular, the account tweets case-law guides and legal summaries of noteworthy cases.

### c. Official texts

Information on the European Convention on Human Rights is available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Official texts → [European Convention](#).

This page gives access, *inter alia*, to the official versions in [English](#) and [French](#) of the Convention, various translations into non-official languages, the [Travaux préparatoires to the Convention](#) and the [Council of Europe's Treaty Office](#).

The Rules of Court are available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Official texts → [Rules of Court](#).

### d. Other sources

Through its **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**[catalogue](#) and [advanced search](#) (available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → [Library](#)), the Court's Library provides information on human rights publications from around the world.


You can find a selection of free Council of Europe publications on various subjects related to human rights at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → [Publications](#) → Publications of the Council of Europe.

## 2. HUDOC database

Available at <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng>



- The HUDOC database provides access to
  - ✓ Grand Chamber, Chamber and Committee judgments and decisions, communicated cases, advisory opinions and legal summaries of the European Court of Human Rights
  - ✓ decisions and reports of the European Commission of Human Rights
  - ✓ resolutions of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
- Characteristics:
  - ✓ Interface in English, French, Armenian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Ukrainian
  - ✓ Search filters
  - ✓ Advanced Search option
  - ✓ Keywords enabling to find a group of documents with similar legal content
  - ✓ Conclusions linked to Articles and keywords
  - ✓ Unlimited results, possibility to save and print them
  - ✓ Results linked up to the legal summary of the case if it was selected for its legal interest
  - ✓ Translations of judgments, decisions, advisory opinions and legal summaries into non-official languages (NOL) of the Council of Europe
- **List of keywords, user manual** and **tutorials** available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → Judgments and Decisions → **HUDOC database**

You can subscribe to **HUDOC judgments and decisions RSS feeds**  to know the new documents published on the HUDOC database. A **tutorial** helps you subscribe to these feeds.

### 3. Legal summaries

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Available under [Legal Summaries](#) in HUDOC, and at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int), in the homepage (at the bottom of the page)

- Legal summaries of cases (judgments, decisions and communicated cases) considered to be of particular interest:
  - ✓ concise presentation of facts and law with emphasis on the legal reasoning of the Court
- Classified by Articles and keywords with descriptive headnotes
- Online the day of the delivery of the cases
- Available in English and French
- Legal summaries in non-official languages are available in HUDOC in the tab “[NOL Legal Summaries](#)” under the “Document collections”

#### Monthly Case-Law Information Notes (1998-2022)

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → [ECHR-KS](#) → [Gateway](#) → Useful Materials → [Monthly Case-Law Information Notes](#)



- Monthly publication containing all legal summaries of cases of the Court from November 1998 to September 2022 (further to the launching of [ECHR-KS](#)<sup>1</sup>, the Case-Law Information Note will no longer be published by the Court).
- Annual index
- Content in English and French

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<sup>1</sup> On 18 October 2022

## 4. ECHR Knowledge Sharing platform (ECHR-KS)

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → [ECHR-KS](#) → [Gateway](#)

The ECHR-KS's mission is to share Convention case-law knowledge, complementing the existing information tools such as [HUDOC](#).

- The point of entry is the [KS Gateway](#) (homepage).
  - The platform presents the latest analysis of case-law developments in a thematic and contextualised manner through Convention Articles and Transversal Themes. The materials produced by the Registry are supplemented by documents and links of more general case-law relevance.
- A [video tutorial](#) explains how to navigate ECHR-KS.
- The platform's content in English and French is updated weekly.

### ECHR-KS

ECHR-KS > Gateway

#### Introduction

Welcome to the ECHR Knowledge Sharing platform (ECHR-KS). Its mission is to share Convention case-law knowledge, complementing the existing information tools such as HUDOC.

The ECHR-KS is maintained by the Registry and its content does not bind the Court. This tutorial will assist your navigation on the platform.

This page is the Gateway to the platform, providing case-law knowledge through a particular Article/Transversal Theme as well as through materials and links of more general case-law relevance.

#### Articles

<a href="#">Art. 1</a>	<a href="#">Art. 2</a>	<a href="#">Art. 3</a>	<a href="#">Art. 4</a>	<a href="#">Art. 5</a>	<a href="#">Art. 6 Civ.</a>
<a href="#">Art. 6 Crim.</a>	<a href="#">Art. 7</a>	<a href="#">Art. 8</a>	<a href="#">Art. 9</a>	<a href="#">Art. 10</a>	<a href="#">Art. 11</a>
<a href="#">Art. 12</a>	<a href="#">Art. 13</a>	<a href="#">Art. 14</a>	<a href="#">Art. 15</a>	<a href="#">Art. 17</a>	<a href="#">Art. 18</a>
<a href="#">Art. 34/35</a>	<a href="#">Art. 46</a>	<a href="#">Art. P. 1-1</a>	<a href="#">Art. P. 2-1</a>	<a href="#">Art. P. 3-1</a>	<a href="#">Art. P. 2-4</a>
<a href="#">Art. P. 3-4</a>	<a href="#">Art. P. 4-4</a>	<a href="#">Art. P. 1-7</a>	<a href="#">Art. P. 4-7</a>		

[View all Case-Law Guides](#) | [View all Key Themes](#)

#### Transversal Themes

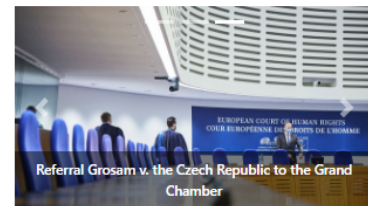


[View all Case-Law Guides](#) | [View all Key Themes](#)

Search...

#### News

Developments of relevance to the case-law.



#### Case-Law Updating

Selected case-law updating tools.

- Grand Chamber judgments and decisions
- Pending Grand Chamber cases
- Pending inter-State cases
- Requests for advisory opinion under Protocol No. 16
- Overview of the case-law
- Monthly Case-Law Information Notes
- Selection of key cases

#### Useful Materials

Selected case-law materials of general Convention relevance.

Travaux Préparatoires to the Convention	+
Selection of Books and Articles	+
Press Factsheets	+

#### Useful Links

Links to selected websites of general Convention relevance.

Council of Europe	+
United Nations	+
European Union	+
Other	+




## Finding and understanding the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights

- On each Article or Transversal Theme pages, you will find:
  - ✓ The **Case-Law Guide** which provides an overview of Convention case-law on the Article / Transversal Theme.
  - ✓ The **Article / Transversal Theme Updates** which are cases considered of jurisprudential relevance selected for updating the Case-Law Guide. The updates provide for each case: case name linked to HUDOC; brief description; link to case-law update, if any; link to legal summary, if any.
  - ✓ The **Key Themes** which are annotated case-lists on a subject of relevance to this Article / Transversal Theme.
  - ✓ The **Useful Materials** and the **Useful links**.

### ECHR-KS

ECHR-KS > Article 3

Search... 

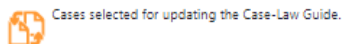
## Article 3 - Prohibition of torture

### Case-Law Guide

The Case-Law Guide provides an overview of Convention case-law on this Article.



### Article Updates



#### G.M. and Others v. the Republic of Moldova, no. 44394/15

22/11/22

Forced abortions and birth-control measures carried out on intellectually disabled women residents in a psychiatric asylum.  
Judgment | Legal Summary

#### Sanchez-Sanchez v. the United Kingdom [GC], no. 22854/20

03/11/22

Assessing life sentences in an extradition context and the inapplicability of procedural safeguards under the *Vinter and Others* standard.  
Judgment | Legal Summary

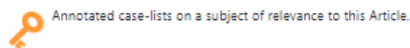
#### S.F.K. v. Russia, no. 5578/12

11/10/22

Abortion performed at public hospital against the will of a vulnerable young adult coerced by her parents. Applicability and merits.  
Judgment | Legal Summary

[View all Article 3 Updates](#)

### Key Themes

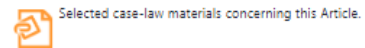


- The minimum level of severity test in light of *Bouyid v. Belgium* (21/09/22)

Related Key Theme(s) from other Article / Transversal Theme pages

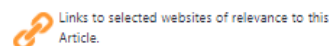
- Discrimination through violence (Article 14) (24/08/22)
- Domestic violence (Article 2) (16/06/22)
- Summary returns of migrants and/or asylum-seekers ("push-backs") (Immigration) (17/06/22)

### Useful Materials



Travaux Préparatoires to the Convention	+
Selection of Books and Articles	+
Press Factsheets	+

### Useful Links



Council of Europe	+
United Nations	+
European Union	+

## a. Case-Law Guides

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → [ECHR-KS](#) → [Gateway](#) → [View all Case-Law Guides](#)

- Case-Law Guides provide a comprehensive overview of the Convention case-law on a particular Article / Transversal Theme. They contextualise case-law developments.
- Examples of cases with references to HUDOC
- Available in English, French and [various non-official languages](#) of the Council of Europe
- English and French versions updated every six months

### i. Guides by Article of the Convention and its Protocols

- ✓ [Article 1](#) – Obligation to respect human rights
- ✓ [Article 2](#) – Right to life
- ✓ [Article 3](#) – Prohibition of torture
- ✓ [Article 4](#) – Prohibition of slavery and forced labour
- ✓ [Article 5](#) – Right to liberty and security
- ✓ [Article 6](#) (civil limb) and [Article 6](#) (criminal limb) – Right to a fair trial
- ✓ [Article 7](#) – No punishment without law
- ✓ [Article 8](#) – Right to respect for private and family life
- ✓ [Article 9](#) – Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- ✓ [Article 10](#) – Freedom of expression
- ✓ [Article 11](#) – Freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ [Article 12](#) – Right to marry
- ✓ [Article 13](#) – Right to an effective remedy
- ✓ [Article 14](#) and [Article 1 of Protocol No. 12](#) – Prohibition of discrimination
- ✓ [Article 15](#) – Derogation in time of emergency
- ✓ [Article 17](#) – Prohibition of abuse of rights
- ✓ [Article 18](#) – Limitation on use of restrictions on rights
- ✓ [Article 34/35](#) – Individual applications and Admissibility criteria
- ✓ [Article 46](#) – Binding force and execution of judgments
- ✓ [Article 1 of Protocol No. 1](#) – Protection of property
- ✓ [Article 2 of Protocol No. 1](#) – Right to education
- ✓ [Article 3 of Protocol No. 1](#) – Right to free elections
- ✓ [Article 2 of Protocol No. 4](#) – Freedom of movement
- ✓ [Article 3 of Protocol No. 4](#) – Prohibition of expulsion of nationals
- ✓ [Article 4 of Protocol No. 4](#) – Prohibition of collective expulsions of aliens
- ✓ [Article 1 of Protocol No. 7](#) – Procedural safeguards relating to expulsion of aliens
- ✓ [Article 4 of Protocol No. 7](#) – Right not to be tried or punished twice

### ii. Guides on transversal themes

- ✓ [Data protection](#)
- ✓ [Environment](#)
- ✓ [Immigration](#)
- ✓ [Mass protest](#)
- ✓ [Prisoners' rights](#)
- ✓ [Rights of LGBTI persons](#)
- ✓ [Social rights](#)
- ✓ [Terrorism](#)

## b. Key Themes

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → ECHR-KS → Gateway → View all Key Themes

- Annotated case-lists on a subject of relevance to a particular Article/Transversal Theme or on a discrete issue within the scope of a given Article / Transversal Theme
  - Supplements the Guide
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ Absent witnesses and other restrictions on the right to examine witnesses | ✓ Positive obligations of the State to protect journalists and journalistic activities     |
| ✓ Access to a lawyer  | ✓ Presence at the appeal hearing after the first instance acquittal                        |
| ✓ Administration of (unlawfully obtained) evidence                          | ✓ Presumption of innocence   |
| ✓ Admission criteria and entrance examinations                              | ✓ Prisoners and discrimination   |
| ✓ Arbitration   | ✓ Protection against hate speech   |
| ✓ Autonomy of religious organisations                                       | ✓ Protection of the judiciary  |
| ✓ <i>Bona fide</i> / Good faith purchasers of property                      | ✓ Representation of the child before the ECHR  |
| ✓ Confiscation / Seizure of assets  | ✓ Right of the child to be heard in domestic proceedings on family matters                 |
| ✓ Constitutional Court proceedings  | ✓ Short-term detentions  |
| ✓ Contributions to public debate: Journalists and other actors              | ✓ Suicide  |
| ✓ Detention of migrant children   | ✓ Summary returns of migrants and/or asylum-seekers (“push-backs”)                         |
| ✓ Discrimination and immigration  | ✓ Surrogacy  |
| ✓ Discrimination in access to education                                     | ✓ Surveillance measures  |
| ✓ Discrimination through violence   | ✓ The <i>locus standi</i> of relatives (indirect victims)                                  |
| ✓ Domestic servitude  | ✓ The <i>locus standi</i> of representatives   |
| ✓ Domestic violence   | ✓ The minimum level of severity test in light of <i>Bouyid v. Belgium</i>                  |
| ✓ Filiation   | ✓ The notion of deprivation of liberty   |
| ✓ Gender equality   | ✓ The obligation to give reasons for a refusal to make a preliminary reference to the CJEU |
| ✓ Hate speech   | ✓ The right to private life protecting or limiting the role of public watchdogs            |
| ✓ Health and immigration  | ✓ The rights of lawyers in the Court's case-law  |
| ✓ Health care in prison   | ✓ Victim status as regards Article 5 (domestic redress)                                    |
| ✓ Hearings via video link   | ✓ Waiver of the guarantees of a fair trial   |
| ✓ International crimes  | ✓ Wearing of religious symbols in public areas   |
| ✓ Mass protests and the right to a fair trial                               |  |
| ✓ Medical negligence  |  |
| ✓ Nationality   |  |

## c. Case-Law Updating

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → ECHR-KS → Gateway → Case-Law Updating

### i. Grand Chamber judgments and decisions

- The [table](#) provides a list of all Grand Chamber judgments and decisions from 1994.
  - It highlights the subject and the conclusion of each Grand Chamber judgment.
- Available in English, French and regularly updated

### ii. Pending Grand Chamber cases

- The [table](#) provides a list of all pending Grand Chamber cases.

## Finding and understanding the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights

- It highlights if it is a referral or a relinquishment to the Grand Chamber, the date of the referral or the relinquishment, the date of the hearing, the description of the case and the relevant Convention Articles.
- Available in English, French and regularly updated

### iii. Pending inter-State cases

- The [table](#) provides a list of all pending inter-States cases.
- It highlights the date of introduction, the date of hearing, the date of decision on admissibility (with a link to the decision), the description of the case and the Convention Articles.
- Available in English, French and regularly updated

### iv. Requests for advisory opinion under Protocol No. 16

- The [table](#) provides a list of all requests for advisory opinion under Protocol No. 16.
- It highlights the requesting court, if the request is accepted or rejected, the description of the request, the relevant Convention Articles, the date of the opinion, and the Court's opinion.
- Available in English, French and regularly updated

### v. Overview of the Court's case-law

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → [ECHR-KS](#) → [Gateway](#) → Case-Law Updating → [Overview of the case-law](#)



- The Jurisconsult's chapter in the Court's Annual Report, highlighting judgments and decisions which raise new issues or important matters of general interest, establish new principles or develop or clarify the Court's case-law.
- Available in English, French and other non-official languages of the Council of Europe
- Annual Report available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → The Court → [Annual reports](#)



## vi. Official selection of key cases (judgments, decisions and advisory opinions)

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → ECHR-KS → Gateway → Case-Law Updating → Selection of key cases

- Official selection of judgments, decisions and advisory opinions (approximately 30 cases per year) which make a significant contribution to the development, clarification or modification of the case-law.
- Until 2015, cases published in the *Reports of judgments and decisions* in full text or extracts, classified by Article, keyword and key notions and preceded by a headnote and a summary, annual index
  - ✓ Bilingual publication in English and French
  - ✓ e-Reports can be downloaded in PDF version
- Since 2016, cases published in the annual list of key cases, classified by articles, alphabetically by applicant and by respondent State, links to legal summaries



- In HUDOC, key cases, either represented by **Key Case** or by **Published in Case Reports**, are listed in the importance level “Key cases”.

## d. Useful Materials

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → ECHR-KS → Gateway → Useful Materials

### i. Travaux Préparatoires to the Convention

- [Travaux Préparatoires to the Convention](#)

### ii. Monthly Case-Law Information Notes

- [Monthly Case-Law Information Notes](#) (from November 1998 to September 2022)

### iii. Selection of books and articles

- [Selection of Books](#) / [Selection of Articles](#) in general or for a particular Article / Transversal Theme

#### iv. Press Factsheets

- [Factsheets](#) summarising the case law of the Court and the pending cases on a wide range of subjects: Detention, Health, Taxation, Internet, etc.
- About 80 factsheets
- Links to the press releases
- Available in English, French and various non-official languages of the Council of Europe

#### e. Useful Links

Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → [ECHR-KS](#) → [Gateway](#) → Useful Links

- Links to selected websites of general Convention relevance including links to Council of Europe, United Nations, European Union and others

## 5. European law handbooks

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Available at [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int) → Case-Law → [Publications](#) → Joint publications by the ECHR and FRA



- Handbooks on various subjects:
  - ✓ [non-discrimination](#)
  - ✓ [data protection](#)
  - ✓ [access to justice](#)
  - ✓ [asylum, borders and immigration](#)
  - ✓ [rights of the child](#)
- Published jointly by the [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#), the Council of Europe and the Court
- Available in many languages

## 6. Suggestions on how to make the best use of the available materials

---

### a. Search for a precise case

- ❖ [HUDOC database](#), using Case Title or Application Number

### b. Search for cases by Article, keyword or theme

- ❖ [HUDOC database](#)
- ❖ [ECHR-KS](#)
- ❖ [Case-law guides](#)
- ❖ [Key Themes](#)
- ❖ [Legal summaries](#)
- ❖ [Monthly Case-law Information Notes](#) and its annual Index (from November 1998 to September 2022)
- ❖ [Factsheets](#)
- ❖ [European law handbooks](#)

### c. Know the most important cases delivered for each year

- ❖ [ECHR-KS](#)
- ❖ [Selection of key cases](#)
- ❖ [Overview of the Court's case-law](#)
- ❖ [Annual Index of the Case-law Information Notes](#) (from 1998 to 2022)

### d. Know the admissibility criteria

- ❖ [ECHR- KS / Article 34/35 – Individual applications and Admissibility criteria](#)