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Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Statement by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Our 70-years young convention – protecting the freedom of future generations

On the occasion of Human Rights Day 2019, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recalled the achievements of the European Convention on Human Rights on the eve of its 70th anniversary year, and looked forward to its future role in protecting and promoting human rights, the rule of law and sustainable democratic societies.

Members of the committee stated that “the European Convention on Human Rights remains one of the proudest achievements of European integration, a constitutional instrument whose values and standards unite national and European legal systems, and a source of inspiration around the world. Having evolved to respond to the changes of the past seven decades, the Convention provides a tried and trusted foundation for meeting more recent challenges, such as artificial intelligence, mass surveillance and data protection. It is also a much-needed rampart protecting, among others, the independence of the judiciary, human rights defenders, lawyers and civil society.

The UN Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms became the first binding international instruments in the field of human rights protection.

Our 70-years young convention must remain a foundation for the peaceful coexistence of our ever fragile European democracies. We must listen to the views of today’s young people and involve them in the struggle to preserve our values and our rights, as the United Nations is doing in its Campaign #STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS.

On Human Rights Day, we recognise our duty to keep the flame of democracy and freedom alive for future generations.”

[European Convention on Human Rights](#)