KEY CASES 2026

January - June 2026

European Court of Human Rights

October 2026

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

NOTE

A selection of the most important cases dealt with by the Court (also referred to as "key cases") is made quarterly by the Bureau. This list contains the selection of key cases for 2026 as far as completed.

Cases are listed by reference to the relevant Convention Articles and keywords, then alphabetically by respondent State and by applicant. They are also listed under the importance level "Key cases" in the HUDOC case-law database.

By default, all references are to Chamber judgments. Grand Chamber cases are indicated by "[GC]". Decisions are indicated by "(dec.)".

Chamber judgments that are not yet "final" within the meaning of Article 44 of the Convention are marked "(not final)". In the event that any such judgment is accepted for referral to the Grand Chamber in accordance with Article 43, it will no longer be included in the present list.

For information on the manner of citing the Court's case-law, please see here.

Article 43 – Referral to the Grand Chamber

1. Within a period of three months from the date of the judgment of the Chamber, any party to the case may, in exceptional cases, request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber.

2. A panel of five judges of the Grand Chamber shall accept the request if the case raises a serious question affecting the interpretation or application of the Convention or the Protocols thereto, or a serious issue of general importance.

3. If the panel accepts the request, the Grand Chamber shall decide the case by means of a judgment.

Article 44 – Final judgments

1. The judgment of the Grand Chamber shall be final.

2. The judgment of a Chamber shall become final

(a) when the parties declare that they will not request that the case be referred to the Grand Chamber; or

(b) three months after the date of the judgment, if reference of the case to the Grand Chamber has not been requested; or

(c) when the panel of the Grand Chamber rejects the request to refer under Article 43.

3. The final judgment shall be published.

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