

Vallianatos & Mylonas v. Greece, C.S. & Others v. Greece

[Case Law](#), [Legal Protection](#), [Civil Partnership](#), [European Court of Human Rights](#), [Family](#), [Greece](#), [Strategic Litigation](#)

Civil unions

(Applications Nos. 29381/09 & 32684/09), 20 June 2011

[Find Court's judgement here.](#) (Violation of Article 14)

[Vallianatos & Others v. Greece](#) [Download](#)

- The applicants alleged that the fact that the **civil unions** were designed only for couples composed of different-sex adults infringed their right to respect for their private and family life and amounted to **unjustified discrimination** between different-sex and same-sex couples.
- ILGA-Europe, together with the International Commission of Jurists, the International Federation for Human Rights and the AIRE Centre submitted the following:
 - According to the case-law of the ECtHR and national constitutional courts, a strong justification is required when the ground for a distinction is sex or sexual orientation. A growing number of national courts, both in Europe and elsewhere, also required that unmarried different-sex and same-sex couples be treated in the same way and a large number of Council of Europe member States have enacted **legislation recognising same-sex relationships**.
 - The case of Greece was unique, as it was the only European country to have introduced civil unions while excluding same-sex couples from their scope of application.
- The European Court of Human Rights delivered its [judgement on 7 November 2013](#).
- The Court referred to the interveners' analysis of its own case-law and of national constitutional courts (para 69). The Court considered that the Government had not offered convincing and weighty reasons capable of justifying the exclusion of same-sex couples from civil unions. Accordingly, it found a **violation of Article 14 of the Convention taken in conjunction with Article 8**.