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NEWS REPORT

Country:	Cyprus
Title:	Prevention of breastfeeding in public considered a criminal offense
Date:	01 August 2018
Expert:	Lia Georgiades
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Complaint on preventing a mother who was breastfeeding in public. Amended Law Article 99B of the Criminal Code.
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	File Number A.Δ. 3/2018- Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman)
Field:	Maternity
Applicable law:	Amended Criminal Code by Law 24(I)2018 'Prevention of a mother who is breastfeeding in Public'

Content

On 30 March 2018, the Criminal Law was amended by Law 24(I) 2018 so as to include the 'Prevention of a mother who is breastfeeding' as an offense. In particular Article 99B provides that "Any person who in public and in a manner that is of a threatening, abusive or offensive nature, speaks out or makes a gesture or places any object or distributes written or illustrated texts or behaves inappropriately or any other actions that prevent a mother from breastfeeding, is guilty of an offense and if convicted, is subjected to a fine not exceeding EUR 3000.

At the same time a complaint concerning the prevention of breastfeeding was filed to the Commissioner for the Administration and Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman)¹. The complainant was a woman who visited the social Insurances Office, where an employee of the ministry of labor refused to attend her because she was breastfeeding in front of her. The applicant was subsequently attended by another employee who came to the defense of her colleague's attitude.

The Ombudsman requested the Head of the Social Insurance Services to investigate the incident under Article 81 (2) of the Civil Service Law of 1/1990 as amended.

Subsequently on 21 May 2018, the Ombudsman requested all the pertinent ministries including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Ministry of Labour/Welfare and Social Insurance to cooperate in order to take all necessary measure

¹ Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman) File Number A.Δ 3/2018.

to consolidate and promote respect for the right to breastfeed reinforced by the recent legislative changes.

Internet Source:

[http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/All/4340B2B512D8003FC22582960028F673/\\$file/%CE%A4%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%B8_3-18_21052018.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/All/4340B2B512D8003FC22582960028F673/$file/%CE%A4%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%B8_3-18_21052018.pdf?OpenElement).