

## **The Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus (1960) (excerpts)**

(...)

### **Article 18**

- 1.** Every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- 2.** All religions whose doctrines or rites are not secret are free.
- 3.** All religions are equal before the law. Without prejudice to the competence of the Communal Chambers under this Constitution, no legislative, executive or administrative act of the Republic shall discriminate against any religious institution or religion.
- 4.** Every person is free and has the right to profess his faith and to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice or observance, either individually or collectively, in private or in public, and to change his religion or belief.
- 5.** The use of physical or moral compulsion for the purpose of making a person change or preventing him from changing his religion is prohibited.
- 6.** Freedom to manifest one's religion or belief shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in the interests of the security of the Republic or the constitutional order or the public safety or the public order or the public health or the public morals or for the protection of the rights and liberties guaranteed by this Constitution to any person.
- 7.** Until a person attains the age of sixteen the decision as to the religion to be professed by him shall be taken by the person having the lawful guardianship of such person.
- 8.** No person shall be compelled to pay any tax or duty the proceeds of which are specially allocated in whole or in part for the purposes of a religion other than his own.

(...)