

Civil Cohabitation Law in Cyprus



July 26, 2015

Cyprus's Parliament passed a law on July 26, 2015, recognizing civil cohabitation for same-sex and opposite-sex couples with marriage-like rights, marking a key step toward LGBT equality.

On July 26, 2015, Cyprus recognized civil cohabitation agreements for both same-sex and opposite-sex couples, providing marriage-like rights in social security, pensions, inheritance, and medical decisions. Sponsored by DISY MP Christos Stavrou during heated debates on equality, the law established a Registrar for these partnerships, offering vital protections against discrimination and aligning Cyprus with EU human rights standards years after decriminalizing homosexuality. This progressive step boosted LGBT visibility, with over 200 registrations by 2023, spurred further advances like surrogacy rights in 2022, and challenged conservative Church opposition, empowering couples to build secure futures together. On December 2015, the Civil Cohabitation Law comes into effect.

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