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**DIVERSITY AND NORM EVOLUTION:
AT THE CROSSROADS OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY**



Graphics by Jože Ciuha

Master Thesis by Staša Tkalec

Supervised by Assist. Professor Dr. Iphigenia Kamtsidou

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Abstract

The topic of the present dissertation is the management of diversity of ideas and identities that prove to be social reality not only in the international community but also at the national level. The author therefore takes on the challenge of identifying the means of incorporating the aforementioned diversity in the framework of a state that would at the same time strengthen the unbreakable link between human rights and democracy. In the search of such a model, which would also suit the selected case study of the treatment of members of minorities, and immigrants in Greece, the author turns to the lessons that can be learnt from social constructivism, more specifically from the so called theory on the life cycle of norms. The author namely claims that it is precisely the process of norm evolution that, if it is carried out in accordance with the principles derived from this theory, can serve as a tool for turning the challenges posed by diversity of ideas and identities into advantages for the state and individuals, sharing both majority and non-majority ideas and identities.

Key words: *diversity, human rights, democracy, norms, norm evolution, identity, ideas, minorities, immigrants, Greece*

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List of abbreviations

CHRCoE – Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

CoE – Council of Europe

CSCE – Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

ECHR – European Convention on Human Rights

ECRML – European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

ECtHR – European Court of Human Rights

EU – European Union

FCPNM – Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

FIC – First Instance Court

GCC – Greek Citizenship Code

GCoC – Greek Court of Cassation

GMFA – Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GO – Greek Ombudsman

HCNM – High Commissioner on National Minorities

HRC – Human Rights Committee

IBM – International Business Machines

ICCPR – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICPRMWMF – International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

LCN – life cycle of norms

NCHR – National Commission for Human Rights

OPICCPR – Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

ToL – Treaty of Lausanne

ToW – Treaty of Westphalia

UN – United Nations

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNIEMI – United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues

WW I – World War I

WW II – World War II

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