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The rights of minorities are in Cyprus protected by the Constitution itself which contains special provisions designed to protect not only the rights of minority members individually but collectively as well. We have the Turkish community with which certain difficulties have arisen but we remain optimistic that these will in time be resolved. We also have three small groups, the Armenians, the Latins and the Marronites, with no problems in relations ever arising.

The provisions regarding minorities must be taken as intended not as an infringement of the principle of equality but as a means of achieving it in practice and of ensuring the stability of the State. In our case, the legal debate as to rights is now less concerned however with traditional minorities –in respect of which certain political questions remain - than with how to deal with new minorities or groups having special needs in present day society, so as to give them the protection that they may require in order to achieve the necessary equality. We are firmly committed to the principle of equality. We consider that affirmative action in a restricted sense, that is in the sense of economic encouragement and support in order to enable groups under disadvantage to compete with those who are more fortunate, as being consistent with the principle of equality. But we have not adopted positive discrimination.