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Police might stop and ask you questions in what is known as a 'stop and account'.

During a stop and account, a police officer might ask for.

- \_Your name
- \_What you're doing in the area
- \_What you're carrying
- \_Where you're going

Unless the police have good grounds to suspect that you have committed or are about to commit an offence, they do not have the right to force you to stay or answer any question.

You are free to leave at any time during a stop and account.

If you are stopped by an officer out of uniform, they must show you their warrant card to confirm their identity.

## Rights of trans people in relation to disclosure of identity

Trans persons are obliged to show identification when undergoing an identity check. In Cyprus there is no specific legal framework regulating this. Those who have had or intend to have sex change operations can claim discrimination against them on the grounds of their gender.

#### Can the police check calls/messages from my mobile phone?

Police can only obtain a court order to reveal a person's identity if they're investigating a serious criminal offense punishable by at least 5 years in prison. If police collect data illegally it constitutes illegal testimony violating the Constitution. Such evidence will not be considered by the court in legal proceedings.

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demonstrations & protests







# VIDEO & PICTURES

## STOP & SEARCH

## What is the role of the police in a demonstration?

Police has the legal obligation to respect the right of assembly, it has a duty to ensure that a demonstration is conducted safely.

# Can the state restrict my freedom of speech when I want to criticise a police officer or the police as an institution?

There is no criminal offence for insulting the institution of the police (instead there is a criminal offence for insulting the military).

However, public insult of any person (regardless of their status) is a criminal offence

#### Can the police take photo/video of me?

They can when it is done in the context of the prevention or investigation of a criminal offence. This requires a reasonable connection between you and the commission of a criminal offence.

## Can I take a photo/video of the police?

You're allowed to take photos when the individuals you're capturing aren't identifiable. However, you can also take identifiable photos if it's to defend your rights, for instance, if the police are violating the law.

#### Can I take a photo/video of other citizens?

You are entitled to take a photo/video of another citizen if that person is committing any illegal act or is the recipient of an illegal act.

#### Can I be stopped for a strip search?

They can stop you and search you if there is reasonable suspicion that you have an object on you that is related to the commission of a criminal offence.

Note: a woman's body check is done by a female cop

## Can they pull me over in a car/motorcycle/bicycle and check my vehicle?

They can stop you and check your vehicle if they have reasonable suspicion of explosives, offensive weapons, or illegal drugs being present.

## What material can be used against me in a trial?

Anything (e.g. photographs, videos, telephone conversations, etc.) obtained in violation of your constitutional rights cannot be used against you at trial.