

## Forthcoming hearing in April 2026

The European Court of Human Rights will be holding the following hearing in April 2026:

**S.O. v. Spain** (application no. 5742/22), concerning an alleged lack of informed consent by a patient to the removal of her nipple-areola complex during oncological breast-conserving surgery.

*After these hearings the Court will begin its deliberations, which will be held in private. Its ruling in the cases will, however, be made at a later stage. A limited number of seats are available for the press in the hearing room. To be sure of a place, you need to book in advance by contacting the Press Unit at [echrpess@echr.coe.int](mailto:echrpess@echr.coe.int). If you wish to attend a hearing, we recommend reading the document [Public hearings at the European Court of Human Rights](#).*

On 1 April 2026 at 9.15 a.m.: Grand Chamber hearing in the case **S.O. v. Spain** (application no. 5742/22)

The applicant, S.O., is a Spanish national who was born in 1956 and lives in Madrid.

In 2005 the applicant, then a Venezuelan national living in Venezuela, was treated for breast cancer affecting her left breast. In 2016 she was diagnosed with breast cancer affecting her right breast and since October of that year has been treated at the Gómez Ulla Hospital in Madrid.

In January 2017 the hospital's Tumour Committee (a multi-disciplinary team of healthcare professionals who meet regularly to discuss and plan the treatment of cancer patients) suggested that S.O. undergo breast-conserving surgery. She signed an informed-consent form.

In February 2017 S.O. underwent surgery. During the operation, two samples of breast tissue were sent for analysis, and, on receipt of the analysis results, the resection area was extended with its lower margins going beyond the nipple-areola complex, which was also removed.

S.O. complained to the Health Department of the Madrid Autonomous Community in September 2017, arguing, among other things, that she had given informed consent only to the breast-conserving surgery and the removal of lymph nodes.

In the absence of a reply to her administrative complaint, S.O. lodged a civil claim. In September 2020 the Madrid High Court of Justice found that the consent she had given had been adequate, noting, in particular, that "oncological safety" (*seguridad oncológica*) had been the primary objective and that the possibility of varying the surgical technique in the event of something unforeseen occurring during the surgery had been included in the information given to her.

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 21 January 2022.

Relying on Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, Ms S.O. complains that she had not given valid consent to the removal of her nipple-areola complex.

In its [judgment](#) of 26 June 2025, the Court held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

