

Grand Chamber Panel's decisions

At its last meeting on Monday 11 May 2026, the Grand Chamber panel of five judges decided to refer the case **Z and Others v. Finland** (application no. 42758/23) to the Grand Chamber and to reject the requests to refer 10 other cases¹.

A legal summary of this case will be available in the Court's database HUDOC ([link](#)).

Referral accepted

Z and Others v. Finland (no. 42758/23)

The applicants, Mr Z and his two minor sons, X and Y, are Russian nationals who were born in 1983, 2011 and 2013 respectively.

In September 2022 Mr Z took X and Y from Russia to Finland without their mother's consent. The case concerns the Finnish courts' decision to order the return of X and Y, who have been granted asylum in Finland, to Russia under the Hague Child Abduction Convention.

Relying in particular on Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the applicants complain that the Supreme Court's order for the return of the children was in breach of their right to respect for their family life.

In its Chamber [judgment](#) of 16 December 2025, the Court unanimously held that there had been no violation of Article 8 to the European Convention on Human Rights. At the same time, it decided that it was desirable to maintain the interim measure under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court indicating to the Finnish Government not to return X and Y to Russia until the judgment became final or until further notice.

On 11 May 2026 the case was referred to the Grand Chamber at the applicants' request.

Requests for referral rejected

Judgments in the following 10 cases are now final²

Vekua v. Georgia (no. 43537/22), [judgment](#) of 16 December 2025

Ferrieri and Bonassisa v. Italy (nos. 40607/19 and 34583/20), [judgment](#) of 8 January 2026

Isaia and Others v. Italy (no. 36551/22), **Scaletta v. Italy** (no. 36926/22), **Isaia v. Italy** (no. 37907/22), [judgment](#) of 25 September 2025

Magherini and Others v. Italy (nos. 32707/19), [judgment](#) of 15 January 2026

Ortega Ortega v. Spain (no. 36325/22), [judgment](#) of 4 December 2025

¹ Under Article 43 of the European Convention on Human Rights, within three months from the date of a Chamber judgment, any party to the case may, in exceptional cases, request that the case be referred to the 17-judges Grand Chamber of the Court. In that event, a panel of five judges considers whether the case raises a serious question affecting the interpretation or application of the Convention or its protocols, or a serious issue of general importance, in which case the Grand Chamber will deliver a final judgment. If no such question or issue arises, the panel will reject the request, at which point the judgment becomes final. Otherwise, Chamber judgments become final on the expiry of the three-month period or earlier if the parties declare that they do not intend to make a request to refer.

² Under Article 44 § 2 (c) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the judgment of a Chamber becomes final when the panel of the Grand Chamber rejects the request to refer under Article 43.

Tafzi El Hadri and El Idrissi Mouch v. Spain (no. 7557/23), [judgment](#) of 8 January 2026

Aykaç v. Türkiye (no. 31226/09), [judgment](#) of 9 December 2025

İ.Ç. v. Türkiye (no. 48061/19), [judgment](#) of 13 January 2026

Emre v. Türkiye (no. 2412/21), [judgment](#) of 16 December 2025

Yokuşlu v. Türkiye (no. 489/24), [judgment](#) of 6 January 2026

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.