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Presentation

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are just some of the tools that AHDR uses in order to advance critical thinking and historical understanding in our society: two elements which we believe are necessary and crucial for any democratic society, especially for a conflict driven one like ours.

In our proposal on the reform of history education in Cyprus, we state that historical understanding not only enables us to understand the people distant in the past, but also contemporary people living next to or far away from us. In other words, by learning to think historically, we also learn to understand one another, accept and cooperate with each other. In this respect, we promote a history education that aspires to transform students' understanding of the world through the teaching of how to study the past and think historically. In our understanding of history education, political and ideological agendas should not distort history teaching, nor should history be used as a tool to consolidate division.

AHDR activities and projects, create the context within which individuals from across the existing divide interact in a meaningful way and cooperate with respect to or even despite their differences. A major achievement of AHDR is the establishment of The Home for Cooperation (H4C), a unique institution in the buffer zone in Nicosia, which is geographically and symbolically accessible to all people leaving in Cyprus. The H4C not only stands as one of the best concrete examples of what people in Cyprus can achieve through cooperation, but also operates as an incubator of future ideas and initiatives of individuals and groups from across the divide working together with a common vision for a re-united and peaceful country.

AHDR strongly believes and promotes, through its Policy Paper on Rethinking Education in Cyprus that this common



vision can be better served by an education that prepares children and youth to live in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-faith society built on the values of human rights, trust, partnership and equality.

We follow and support the efforts of the current political leaders in Cyprus, under the aegis of the United Nations, to reach a just, comprehensive and sustainable solution to the Cyprus problem. We take this opportunity to congratulate our UN friends on UN Day. We believe that our political leaders have the determination to respond positively to the call of history and the need of our people for a re-united Cyprus. Following their example, we also believe that along with the political and geographical division, the division in the minds of people will be addressed. Trust and mutual respect should be consolidated. AHDR is proud of the work it has been doing over the years in this direction.

As we are all aware, recognition brings about motivation. Becoming a member of the community of organisations which have been honoured with the Max van der Stoel Award is highly encouraging for the Board, staff, members, friends and volunteers of the AHDR. Having received this prominent award, we are determined to work harder for the empowerment of the people of Cyprus to build bridges to defy hatred and fear and to move towards mutual understanding, forgiveness and reconciliation.

## Current View of Displaced Persons on Return and Property Restitution

This research was done by Djordje Stefanovic of St Mary's University, Canada, Neophytos Loizides of the University of Kent, UK and Charis Psaltis, the University of Cyprus with support of their institutions and from the Leverhulme Trust.

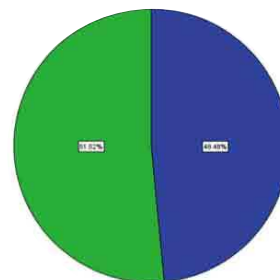
The research data was collected among Greek Cypriots by the University Centre for Field Studies between 29 February and 22 March 2016 on the telephone using a structured questionnaire the three of them designed. Results have a margin of error of three per cent.

### Key Questions and Findings:

**Q What percentage of the Greek Cypriot electorate are displaced or affected by displacement and with what criteria?**

Our survey has shown that a 51.52 per cent of the Greek Cypriot electorate could be either displaced themselves or through origin (parents or grandparents) or through property ownership. Provisions on properties/displaced status are therefore important for more than half of the Greek Cypriot electorate although as we demonstrate only a smaller sub-group will return to their pre-1974 communities.

**Overall Percentage of displaced through descent or property or spouse or originally displaced**

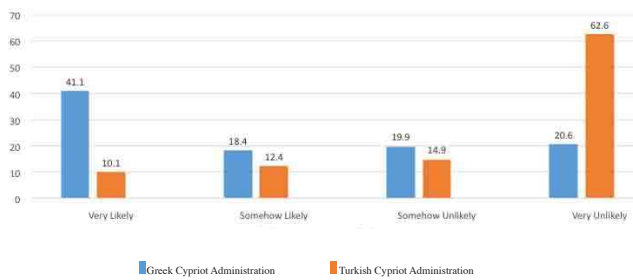


51,52% of Greek Cypriot electorate (in green) are either displaced themselves or through origin or through property ownership.

**Q What percentage wishes to return under future Greek Cypriot or Turkish Cypriot administration?**

About a fifth of Greek Cypriot originally displaced (and descendants) intend to return under Turkish Cypriot administration. The percentage is about three times higher under Greek Cypriot administration but even in the villages and cities to fall under territorial readjustment about 4 out of 10 will not return. This figure suggests enough space left for Turkish Cypriots to choose not to move north or keep their current business in the Greek Cypriot federal unit.

## How many displaced will return?

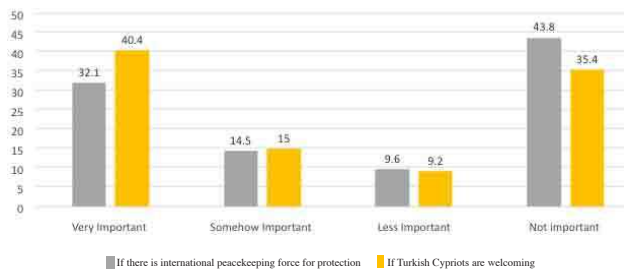


## What is the key finding of the survey?

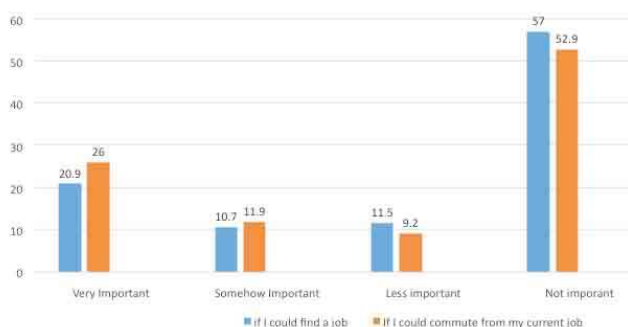
The key finding is that numbers will work well with intentions of having two small but viable minorities in both parts of the federation. For instance, if we look at the Turkish Cypriot administration our survey has shown that only 22.5 per cent say that they will return (likely or somewhat likely). International experience suggests that initial intentions might not match outcomes therefore the maximum number of returnees should be expected around 21, 484 (based on current electoral rolls for those above 18).

**There are three factors in deciding to return under Turkish Cypriot administration:**

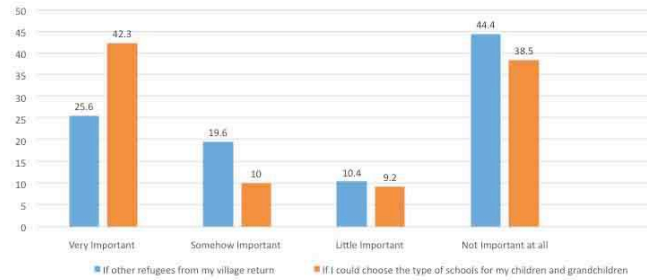
## Security Concerns for Greek Cypriots to return under Turkish Cypriot administration



## Work-related factors encouraging return under Turkish Cypriot administration



## Community Return and Schools



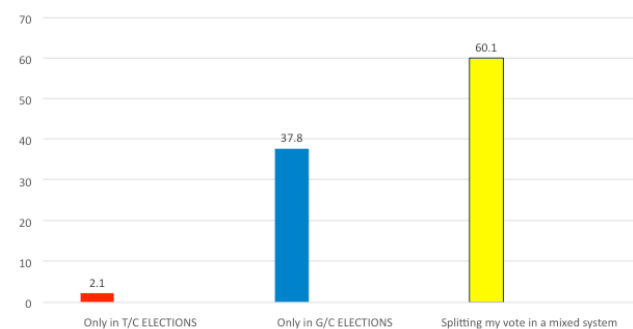
## Q What is the average age of currently displaced persons opting to be potential returnees under Turkish Cypriot administration?

The average age of potential returnee is 63 (for the very likely) and 51 (for the somewhat likely) categories. The average age of returnees was 52 in the 2009 survey of Sozen and Lordos suggesting that potential returnees are aging.

## Q If this group decides to live under Turkish Cypriot administration how would they prefer to vote?

37.8 per cent would prefer to maintain their voting rights in Greek Cypriot elections while only 2.1 per cent would prefer to vote only in Turkish Cypriot elections. The overwhelming majority 60.1 would opt for a mixed electoral system splitting their vote across the two communities. Various methods/criteria could be used to ensure fair representation but keep the impact on Turkish Cypriot elections minimal.

## If you decide to live under Turkish Cypriot administration how would you vote?



## Q How do potential returnees think about Turkish Cypriots?

Potential returnees have generally more contact with Turkish Cypriots than average. While schools, financial assistance and security are important among the factors encouraging them to return, potential returnees rank "Turkish Cypriots being welcoming very high" (higher than having for instance an international peacekeeping force protecting them). This shows that they prioritise having a positive relationship with Turkish Cypriots.