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*Suicide as a human right issue in the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights*

**Summary**

Suicide - seen from a legal perspective - has undergone an important evolution, from penalization as a serious crime, to an absolute depenalisation that covered not only acts of successful suicide, but also of attempted suicide. Nevertheless, incitement, aiding and abetting to suicide have not been depenalised. From a human rights perspective, suicide constitutes a serious problem for a State, since within a framework of positive obligations concerning a right to life, a State is responsible for protecting life, which embraces obligation to undertake specific preventive measures, that would avert an act of suicide. The aforementioned obligation is even stronger, when a State controls and supervises a potential victim of a suicide. This situation occurs, when a person is deprived of liberty or serves a draft military service. A State's obligation is fulfilled by creating a legal and institutional framework, that would serve to protect life, especially in the army or in prison, as well as by enforcing specific obligations and duties on persons dealing with potential suicide victims. Victims families have a right to vindication of a claim and to participate in an investigation, to an extent necessary to protect their legitimate interests.

**Keywords:** suicide; suicide in prison; suicide in the army; responsibility.