



### COMPULSORY VACCINATION AND RIGHT TO RESPECT FOR PRIVATE LIFE: A LAWFUL INTERFERENCE? ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS JUDGMENT *VAVŘIČKA AND OTHERS V. THE CZECH REPUBLIC*

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the question regarding the legitimacy of compulsory vaccination has been the subject of an interesting judgment issued by the European Court of Human Rights, the analysis of which allows to address several issues related to the balance between the competing interests of the individual and the community, in the framework of public health protection. In *Vavříčka and Others v. Czech Republic*, the Grand Chamber of the ECHR Court addressed whether compulsory childhood vaccination could be qualified as a lawful interference with the right to respect for private and family life, as granted by the European Convention on Human Rights. Although this judgment does not directly address the issue of Covid-19 vaccinations, the relevance of the principles of law contained therein is evident in the context of a critical analysis regarding the potential legitimacy of the decision of some States to impose mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations.

The paper aims to examine the conceptual categories and principles recalled by the EDU Court in its judgment, in order to assess their impact on the current socio-cultural framework, marked by an increasingly widespread disillusionment with national vaccination policy choices, especially in relation to Covid-19. A final consideration concerns the potential effects of the principles of law enunciated by the Court on the pandemic context: could the introduction of compulsory vaccination, as a means of coping with the Covid-19 pandemic emergency, be qualified as a lawful interference in the individual's sphere of freedom and self-determination?