



PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA
PARA OS DIREITOS
DAS MULHERES

Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights

33rd UPR Pre-Session

Women's Human Rights in Portugal



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

Violence against women	Domestic violence
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- Women are 80% of domestic violence victims and men are 84% of perpetrators, but domestic violence is not considered to be a gendered crime;
- 2 out of 3 homicide victims in Portugal are women;
- 85% of domestic violence complaints are dismissed without any charges;
- Of those cases, less than 7% result in convictions and the sentences are usually suspended - in fact, only 10% of convicted domestic abusers ever see the inside of a jail cell;
- In the last 15 years, over a thousand children were orphaned due to domestic violence (yet children are not considered as victims);
- There is a lack of coordination between Family Courts and Criminal Courts, which leads to contradictory decisions (including visitation rights granted to offending fathers whose children are in shelters with their mothers);
- Women's NGOs supporting victims of domestic violence are chronically underfunded and struggle to provide long-term, specialized and sustainable support to victims.



Violence against women	Trafficking for sexual exploitation
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- Between 2009 and 2016, only 111 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation were confirmed, contradicting the experience of women's NGOs on the ground;
- Each year, the number of confirmed victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation is much lower than other kinds of trafficking, contradicting international patterns of criminality (which suggest problems in proper identification of trafficking victims);
- Some member organizations of the national Network of Support and Protection to Trafficking Victims advocate for sex work, which goes against international treaties ratified by Portugal and represents a serious obstacle to the identification, follow-up and support to women and girls victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Domestic Violence

RECOMMENDATIONS

Trafficking for sexual exploitation

Stop considering domestic violence as a gender-neutral crime and frame the laws, policies and system practices keeping in mind that this is male violence against women and girls and ensure funding in State budget for fighting male violence against women and girls.

To consider sex trafficking and exploitation in prostitution as a form of male violence against women and girls and frame the laws, policies and system practices as such, including defining clear membership requirements for the Network of Support and Protection To Trafficking Victims in line with international human rights treaties.



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Women's participation in
political and economic life

Equal and dignified
working conditions



- Portugal's high gender pay gap has been increasing in recent years - from 8.5% in 2007 to 17.5% in 2017;
- Women in Portugal mostly have a full time job, yet they are overburdened with unpaid care work;
- Women make up the majority of the working poor (54%);
- The gender pensions gap in Portugal is 31%.



Parity in decision making

Women's participation in
political and economic life

- Women are only 36,4% of parliamentarians in Portugal;
- Only 10,3% of mayors are women;
- The new parity law (40% representation of the underrepresented sex) still **does not apply to the autonomous regions** of Azores and Madeira (which goes against CEDAW Committee's 2015 Final Observations);
- The new parity law does not apply to results, but only to lists - therefore, **it still does not guarantee equality in election outcomes**;
- There is a growing **backlash** from certain political actors and sectors of society **against any temporary special measures** promoting the participation of the underrepresented sex.

Equal and dignified working
conditions

RECOMMENDATIONS

Parity in decision making

The recently adopted law of equal pay for equal work and work of equal value should be expanded beyond the largest companies, considering that the vast majority of companies in Portugal are micro, small and medium-sized (most women work in such companies), and include mandatory procedures for work-life balance.

A real parity law (50/50) which should apply equally to lists, outcomes and all national territory.