



PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA  
PARA OS DIREITOS  
DAS MULHERES

# (WOMEN'S) HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

*UPR PRE-SESSION  
APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> 2019*

# Situation in Portugal

## Violence against women



### □ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Previous recommendations:** Combatting domestic violence was the topic of numerous recommendations to Portugal in previous years (2009 and 2014).
- **New developments:** Public awareness of domestic violence brought on by failures of the system of prevention, protection of the victims and women's access to justice reflecting a lack of gender analysis and misogynistic judicial decisions.
- **New needs:** A gender perspective that recognizes domestic violence as male violence against women and which allows for proper funding for women's NGOs supporting victims of domestic violence.

# Recommendation



**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.**

# Situation in Portugal

## Violence against women

### □ TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- **Implementation:** Several countries recommended Portugal to improve the identification of victims, legislation, protection systems and prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking (2009 and 2014).
- **New developments:**
  - Failures in the identification of victims, reflected in the absence of reliable official figures;
  - Some member organizations of the national Network of Support and Protection to Trafficking Victims advocate for “sex work” and legalizing pimping, in contradiction with human rights treaties ratified by Portugal.
- **New needs:** Proper identification of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and clear membership requirements for organizations working against trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation.

# Recommendation



- **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.**

# Situation in Portugal

## Women's participation in political and economic life

### □ EQUAL AND DIGNIFIED WORKING CONDITIONS

- **Previous recommendations:** Some countries urged Portugal to combat the gender pay gap and workplace discrimination against women (2014).
- **New developments:**
  - Increasing pay gap in recent years: 8.5% in 2007 to 17.5% in 2017;
  - Women are overburdened with unpaid care work and remain the majority of the working poor;
  - 31% pension gap.
- **New needs:** Promotion of work-life balance and equal pay.

# Recommendation



**The recently adopted law of equal pay for equal work and work of equal value (60/2018 of 21st of August) should be expanded beyond the largest companies, considering that the vast majority of companies in Portugal are micro, small and medium-sized (where most women are working), and include mandatory procedures for work-life balance.**

# Situation in Portugal

## Women's participation in political and economic life

### □ PARITY IN DECISION-MAKING

- **Implementation** : Some countries issued recommendations to promote gender equality in decision-making (2009 and 2014).
- **New developments:**
  - Underrepresentation of women in European, national and local politics;
  - New amendments to the so-called Parity Law still fall short of the Final Observations of the CEDAW Committee and do not apply to the autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira;
  - Growing backlash against temporary special measures to promote parity.
- **New needs:** Real parity (50/50) in lists' composition and outcomes after the elections.



# Recommendation



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

# Thank you



From all the members of our coalition:

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- ❑ Margarida Teixeira