



C.N.O.D.
Confederação Nacional de Organismos de
Deficientes

Pessoa Colectiva de Utilidade Pública – Membro do Conselho Económico e Social
Membro da Comissão de Políticas de Inclusão das Pessoas com Deficiência – Membro do
Fórum Europeu da Deficiência

Women with disability 2024 report

Questions and topics to cover:

1. What is your overall impression of the authorities' involvement with Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women? What do you think of the policies in place?

There has been an effort by governments and the Associations of the area to raise awareness of these issues, however we do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.

2. How do you assess cooperation between NGOs and authorities at national and local level? Is there any form of regular consultation with NGOs?

CNOD is a member of the CIG (Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality) Advisory Board.

When there are proposals for new legislation, the NGOs are consulted. Those at national level or according to disability are usually consulted, unlike local NGOs that are not normally consulted by the Parliament in public consultations on Bills.

The NGDO's are also part of the Economic and Social Council where they present recommendations that can be included in the opinion of this body on State Budgets, although is just a recommendation. The former Secretary of State for Inclusion had meetings of the Commission for Inclusion Policies, which it met at least once a year or more often if any specific legislation was under consideration.

In addition, we participate in the Lisbon Municipal Council for Equality where we contribute to alert and point out solutions to the double discrimination of women with disabilities.

a. Are you consulted on the development and evaluation of policies and programmes, or on the strategy and action plan?

CNOD is a member of CIG Advisory Board. We are consulted in the Committee on Inclusion Policies and, through the Economic and Social Council, we contribute to the recommendations in various social areas and also in relation to equality between men and women. In the Local Social Action Councils to which we belong, we also make our contribution to issues related to equality. The National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (ENIPD) was under public consultation and the NGDO's gave their contributions, but most of the time the contributions of civil society are not incorporated into the



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legislation and there are rare cases in which there are significant changes in the draft laws.

3. NGO funding – sources, procedures for obtaining funding, etc.

The National Institute for Rehabilitation (INR) annually has applications for the funding of national and local NGPDO's, and these are consulted when the application regulation is changed, this funding implies annual application and the money is distributed according to the NGPDO's that apply and the applications approved, so as more NGPDO's emerge the budget for each one is increasingly reduced despite the costs due to inflation having increased substantially to ensure the same services. The INR also has applications for funding projects with a smaller budgets and with a shorter duration, from 6 months to a year for specific areas of action. The NGPDO's are limited to these areas of action and whether or not the project they intended to carry out fits within what is planned to be funded. This year, we applied for funding for INR projects in accordance with the ENIPD Measure on violence against women with an ambitious project to involve people with disabilities and their families to raise awareness in the public opinion, municipalities and technicians working in this area for the various types of violence against girls and women with disabilities but the funding allocated was far below what we intended to do and we have no other sources of funding that would allow us to make up for the remainder, so we had to give up on this project that put into practice one of the measures of ENIPD 2021/2025.

4. We have learned that the provision of services in Portugal has been largely transferred to the municipalities. Has this affected the quality of services?

The impact of the transfer of responsibilities to the municipalities in areas like education, health and others is only now being felt. The government, in recent decades, has invested little in new infrastructure and the Municipalities have been allocating a significant part of their budgets, despite these investments being the government's responsibility. The municipalities, in order to be able to access European community funds, have reached an agreement with the government, in order to share the costs between the government and municipalities, in order to more quickly build essential infrastructures for the population, such as schools, health care units, hospitals, among other sports and cultural infrastructures.

5. How do you assess the authorities' efforts to raise awareness of VAW and DV? Are there enough campaigns and programmes that aim to change mindsets and attitudes around violence against women and reach the target audience?

There are national programmes, promoted by CIG and by various associations working in this area, namely the Women's Democratic Movement (MDM), which has a long and exhaustive work in raising awareness and providing information on rights regarding all types of violence against women. We also worked in partnership with MDM in a Project about women with disabilities.



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- a. **We have learned that women's rights organisations have been systematically participating in the national awareness-raising campaigns led by the CIG since 2016. Is this cooperation ongoing and what form does it take?**

Although CNOD belongs to the CIG Advisory Board, we do not have funding from CIG for this area, but we have been working in partnership with the MDM which has funding from CIG.

- b. **Any campaigns aimed at refugee/migrant women, Roma, LGBTI women?**

MDM has local and national programmes on violence against women and some projects specifically targeting Roma women and migrants.

6. **Situation with gender stereotypes, traditional gender roles and consent – have they been sufficiently addressed in the education system?**

No.

7. **What is your opinion on the level of awareness and training on violence against women among law enforcement and judicial professionals?**

Most are aware, but there are exceptions with shameful rulings that call into question women's rights.

8. **Do NGOs cooperate with the education system? How?**

NGOs, such as MDM, go to schools to raise awareness and produce free teaching materials available *online* for use in public or private schools.

9. **What is your assessment of whether the education systems of the judiciary and law enforcement take sufficient account of the requirements of the Istanbul Convention? Do you think that additional efforts are needed?**

We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.

10. **What can you tell us about the preventative programs available for DV perpetrators? Are there programs available specifically for SV perpetrators?**

We have no knowledge.

11. **What is your assessment of the existing perpetrator programmes in Portugal?**

We do not have statistical data on people with disabilities.

12. **Protection and general services (Articles 18 and 20):**

Until 2022, MDM carried out a survey of services for women who were victims of violence and specific services for women with disabilities did not exist. We are not aware that they have been created since then.

- a. We heard this morning the introduction of a 'family restructuring leave and allowance'. Can all victims have access to this subsidy? Does it cover the needs of the victims?
- b. We have no knowledge.
- c. What other services are available to victims in the area of housing, employment, education, etc.? Are there any obstacles to obtaining these services?



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We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.

- d. Are there services geared towards the needs of women who are victims of addiction problems?

We have no knowledge.

- e. What is the quality of services available to women who are victims of disabilities or cognitive impairments? Are regular shelters accessible for women with physical disabilities?

There are none. Many shelters aren't fully accessible to women with disabilities, and there are no specific services directed to women with disabilities and regular shelters are not equipped for their staff capable of dealing with the specificity of disabled women.

13. What can you tell us about the development of a dedicated helpline for victims of VAW and VD? [there was no during baseline]

- a. Staff and their background?

For women with disabilities who are victims of DV and VAW, it is necessary to provide specific training to technicians and professionals in this field of. There should be specific national programmes for women with disabilities accessible throughout the country.

14. Shelters:

We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.

- a. Do all NGOs that offer shelter places benefit from the financial support of the authorities?
- b. What is the usual referral path for a woman to get a place in a shelter?
- c. Can victims access shelters with their children?
- d. Is there a difference between state or municipality – shelters run and shelters run by NGOs?
1. Difference in access to shelter/referral pathways
 2. Financing
 3. Quality of services
- e. Do women living in shelters receive ongoing support when they leave? Are there intermediate houses or transitional apartments?

15. What services are available for women with cognitive impairment?

We are not aware of any specific programs for women with disabilities.

16. Is nonfatal strangulation covered in any state policy or practice, including education?

We don't have data.

17. Services for victims of sexual violence, including rape (Article 25):

We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.



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- a. What do you think of the services provided to VS victims in Portugal? What else is available to specifically address the needs of this category of victims in terms of services, other than sexual violence centers?
 - i. Is its geographical distribution satisfactory?
- b. Are you satisfied with the availability and quality of forensic services?

18. Custody and visitation (art. 31):

We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.

- a. We have been told that courts do not always take violence cases into account when deciding on custody and visitation. What can you tell us about the practice of the courts in this regard?
- b. Do civil courts track violence or do a risk assessment when deciding on custody and visitation?
- c. In the shadow report submitted by 10 organizations, it is mentioned that there have been cases where violent parents have been allowed to visit their children while residing with their mother in shelters. Although outraged, could you give us more details about this type of event?
- d. Does it often happen that, despite evidence that one parent is violent, the court grants joint custody or allows visitation of that parent to continue, possibly even unsupervised?
- e. Could you provide information on the use of "parental alienation syndrome" by judges and legal professionals? Are there any measures taken to sensitize and train legal professionals about the invalidity of notions such as "parental alienation" or similar concepts?

We have no knowledge.

19. Are NGOs satisfied with the work of law enforcement when it comes to their treatment and work with victims? Do you see any gaps in this regard?

We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.

- a. One of the shadow reports we received mentions the possibility of having "teleassistance" as a measure to protect victims. Can you provide us with more details about this?
- b. Are police trained to respond to non-fatal strangulation incidents?
- c. Do victims need to report the crime in order to obtain a protective or protective order?
- d. How long does it take to obtain a protective or restraining order issued by the court after the complaint? What happens to the victim in the meantime?
- e. What are the main challenges when it comes to law enforcement's response to DV and VAW? Please be as open and specific as possible.

20. Challenges when it comes to court proceedings:

In the case of women with disabilities, proving such a crime becomes even more difficult, and we also do not have specific statistical data in the area of disability.

- a. What is the evidentiary limit for courts to make a conviction for DV?



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- b. At what stage do cases "disappear" from the system?
 - c. What happens if the victim withdraws the statement? Is the investigation or prosecution continuing?
 - d. We learned of a case of femicide that happened a few weeks ago where the victim reported the perpetrator of the crime 7 times. Are cases like this common?
 - e. Is marital rape prosecuted? Have there been convictions?
 - f. How long are criminal proceedings for DV and VCM?
 - g. What kind of sentences are issued when a DV or VAW perpetrator is finally convicted?
 - h. What measures are available in practice to remove an aggressor from the household immediately after the incident is reported?
 - i. What services are available to victims between the time of the complaint and the time a court issues a protective or restraining order?
- 21. According to statistics, the number of femicides in Portugal has been falling in recent years, along with the number of homicides in general. Can you identify the reasons behind this trend?**
- No
- 22. Linked to the previous question, GREVIO is also interested in cases of suicides related to gender-based violence, namely suicides that occur as a consequence of gender-based violence. What is the situation of these cases in Portugal?**
- We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.
- 23. Would you like to share some good practices in the field of VD and VAW in Portugal, by any party – governmental or not, which, in your opinion, have emerged in recent years?**
- We do not have statistical data on women with disabilities.
- 24. Finally, what are the biggest challenges in the area of DV and VAW in Portugal? Please speak openly.**
- The emergence of far-right parties such as CHEGA (CH) and the Liberal Initiative (Iniciativa Liberal - IL) and their great expression in the electoral acts, in addition to the transition of the PS government to PSD/CDS/PPM in the legislative elections in March 2024, marked a turn to the right and a setback in women's rights policies, with the attempt to repeal the law decriminalizing abortion and with the creation of a statute and subsidy for women housewives. These far-right parties promote hatred, discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity, origin, sexual orientation, religion, and encourage racism and violence.