

On combatting racism and discrimination

- The Portuguese Government is preparing a national plan to combat racism and discrimination 2021-2025, also in line with the recent EU antiracism action plan which calls on Member States to adopt national plans until 2022. The process of elaboration of the plan is built on a multisectoral effort:
 - The Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality has set up a working group to present a report with concrete proposals for the plan (<https://dre.pt/home/-/dre/153341296/details/maximized>). Coordinated by the Deputy Director of High Commission for Migration, this group includes experts from different areas as well as representatives from antiracist associations and representatives of Roma and migrant communities, as well as representatives from the Commission for Equality and against Racial Discrimination (CICDR). Since November 2020, this group has developed intense work and organized 9 meetings and 10 hearings with more than 60 public and private entities, including several civil society organizations. The preliminary report was presented on 16 March 2021.
 - This work builds on the articulated efforts of different government departments to draft measures that mainstream this objective, under the coordination of the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality.
 - And this week, the Government is initiating different public discussions in different fora to be followed by the launch of a public consultation on the national plan to enable the participation of the entire Portuguese society.

The national plan will set the Government's comprehensive strategy in this area, following an intersectional approach and combining transversal and specific approaches to combat various expressions of racism and discrimination, from afrophobia to antigypsyism. It will cover several strategic areas, such as governance, information and knowledge; education; higher education and research; employment; housing; health and social protection; justice, security and rights; participation and representation; sports; media and the digital. This initiative has already been widely disseminated in the media (examples):

- <https://www.publico.pt/2021/03/21/politica/noticia/proposta-plano-combate-racismo-vai-discussao-publica-proxima-semana-1955314>
- <https://sicnoticias.pt/pais/2021-03-21-O-racismo-continua-a-ser-um-problema-a01fd763?fbclid=IwAR1QnkSNnJh45WfI92YeJNhVJei0mkJFKpYQkJWsP5EHwRddiYUBb2aKNtw>

- Moreover, the Government is invested in producing robust knowledge that can support targeted policies. This past January, the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology launched a tender for new research projects on the impact of the pandemic on the crime of incitement to hatred and violence, and on hate speech. Fifty applications were received to research on three aspects: online hate speech, exposure of children and youth to online hate speech, and legal framework on hate speech. Applications are currently being assessed.
- The National Statistics Institute is developing a pilot survey on the conditions, origins and trajectories of resident population.
- Also, this year, as committed under the 2021 State Budget and the Government's programme:
 - An independent observatory on hate speech, racism and xenophobia will be created.
 - The Commission for Equality and against Racial Discrimination will be institutionally autonomised, materializing the separation of discrimination from migration issues
- On several occasions regarding hate speech and situations of discrimination, the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality publicly condemned these practices on social media and through interviews:
 - 25jan20 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rosa.monteiro.10/posts/10215048523037495>
 - 16feb20 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rosa.monteiro.10/posts/10215219004579427>
 - 17Feb20: <https://observador.pt/programas/direto-ao-assunto/rosa-monteiro-em-entrevista/>
 - 11jun20 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rosa.monteiro.10/posts/10216173579883213>
 - 26JUL20 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rosa.monteiro.10/posts/10216511110041256>
 - 13aug20 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rosa.monteiro.10/posts/10216629571082708>
 - 14aug20 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rosa.monteiro.10/posts/10216635972762746>
 - 14aug20 (interview on the need for an antiracist national policy): <https://www.sabado.pt/portugal/detalhe/governo-quer-politica-afirmativamente-antirracista?fbclid=IwAR1SHSti7v523She3zOzoesMFAT5ZvBVNo4TzpZHxgUPJrJBM63He0ItFvo>
 - 30oct20
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rosa.monteiro.10/posts/10217089033088971>
- Also, CICDR publicly condemned these practices on different occasions: <https://www.cicdr.pt/-/comunicados-cicdr>

- The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU coorganised with the European Commission the first ever EU Antiracist summit, on 19 March 2021.
- Regarding CICDR, following the legal change, CICDR registered an increase in the number of complaints, having received, in 2020, 655 complaints (+50,2% than 2019).
- In order to make the antidiscrimination legislation (Law 93/2017, 23 August) known to all, CICDR has participated and carried out training activities and actions, some of which were specifically targeted at the Roma community. Also, in 2020 CICDR started a digital information campaign through information cards disseminated online to promote more knowledge about rights under this legislation. These cards contain simple, direct and accessible information about what CICDR is, what it does, types of discrimination, and how complaints can be submitted. Dissemination was launched in 1 September 2020 and again on 21 March 2021 (national and international day against racism). Links to the digital information campaign:
 - SECI: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CMrVr0aM6Kw/>
 - ACM: <https://www.facebook.com/ACMigracoes/posts/3791664430919234>
 - Redes GOV: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CMr2uPfMWFS/>
- On the 21st march this campaign was also launched in the press, as follows:



- Also, CICDR conducts regular training actions for security forces, prison guards, social reintegration officers, police inspectors. In 2020, despite the pandemic, it conducted training for 268 participants, of about 700 training hours.
- Moreover, the Government is preparing a wide campaign against racism and discrimination to be launched this year.
- In 2018, the Authority to Prevent and Combat Violence in Sport was created and Strategy for the inclusion of Roma people was reviewed.
- In 2020, Law 40/2020, 18 August was passed which, among others, establishes a duty of electronic platforms to report to the Public Prosecutor's Office online content that can constitute a crime of discrimination and incitement to hatred and violence.

On combatting preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence

- The Government has been firm in developing national policies to combat violence against women and domestic violence over the years.
- To challenge biases and raise awareness, several national campaigns have been launched to inform, prevent and fight domestic violence. In March 2020, with the outbreak of the covid19 pandemic, the Campaign #SegurançaEIsolamento was launched on social networks, local authorities and the media. These information and alert materials are also available in 8 languages and in Portuguese sign language. This campaign has been updated and adapted, with its republication on social networks and the media - television, press and radio being almost monthly. Disclosure moments are scheduled until May 2021. Also, on the 25th of November, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a new nationwide campaign #EuSobrevivi was launched, which reinforces surveillance against domestic violence and warns of the challenges imposed by the pandemic. In 2 months, this campaign was broadcast 300 times on television channels and 400 times on national and local radio stations, with 6 million interactions on social networks. Last February, the #NamorarSemViolência campaign was launched, preventing and fighting dating violence, which reached more than 4 million people on social networks (Facebook, instagram and TikTok)
- Noteworthy is the Resolution of the Council of Ministers 139/2019, 19 August, approving measures to prevent and combat domestic violence. It identifies priority intervention axes that include data collection, procedures for the 72h ensuing the complaint (police forces and public prosecutors) and training to all public servants regarding VAWDV, as well as several actions were undertaken aiming to improve intervention at prevention level.

In this context, on June 2020 the Portuguese Government launched four new guides which, for the first time, establish harmonized action lines and procedures on violence against women and domestic violence to be followed by all relevant professionals, in line with GREVIO recommendations:

- 1) Action manual for the criminal police forces in the 72 hours ensuing a domestic violence complaint (including on urgent collection and preservation of evidence, containment and procedural position of the perpetrator, judiciary and social intervention);
- 2) Guide for an integrated intervention with children who are victims of domestic violence (including on detection, protection and referral procedures);
- 3) Common training plan on violence against women and domestic violence (including harmonized concepts, training contents and methodologies based on concrete cases);
- 4) Standards for primary prevention programs and projects on violence against women and domestic violence. Since this guide, specific sectoral

guidelines will be created for each professional group (education, health, security, justice, social security, at risk children and youth, national network).

These were the result of a one-year intensive unprecedented work bringing together professionals from all sectors, from police forces, to magistrates, equality bodies, education, health and social security professionals.

The implementation of the Common training plan on violence against women and domestic violence was launched on 18 February 2021. In a first phase, it will involve more than 12 thousand trainees from five sectors – internal affairs, justice, education, employment and social security, and health. This plan will implement more than seven thousand hours of certified training, in a total of 14 courses. A pool of 50 trainers was already established. The implementation will take place until 2023.

Moreover, to strengthen coordination of the national network of support services, the following actions are being carried out:

- implementation of an information management system within the network to improve interinstitutional coordination, sharing of information, and real time management of vacancies in shelters. The project is expected to be concluded by July 2022.
 - implementation of national certification system of all support structures. The project is expected to be concluded by December 2021.
- The Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG) manages specific programmes under ESF, most of which are directed at or include civil society organizations, notably women’s organizations due to their scope of action. In the MFF 2014-2020, the following can be highlighted, also as a direct contribution to the execution of National Equality and Non-Discrimination Strategy: 117 approved projects on the technical and financial support to civil society organizations (in the amount of around €9.5millions) working on promoting equality between women and men, preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, and combatting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

Also, annually, CIG launches a funding line (120,000€ in 2020) for the technical and financial support of women’s associations that contribute to national policies of equality between women and men. Also, under EEAGrants 2014-2021, several funds are used to support projects by civil society organizations (in this programme, 900.000 euros have so far been allocated to projects to combat violence against women and domestic violence. Finally, CIG recently launched a funding line for the technical and financial support (50.000€) of projects on the ground to prevent and combat traditional harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation. Finally, CIG recently launched a funding line for the technical and financial support (50.000€) of projects on the ground to prevent and combat traditional harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, as well as a funding line for the technical and financial support (50.000€) of projects developed by LGBTI civil society organizations.

On 5 February 2021, The Government created the first national working group with the task of preparing and presenting to the State Secretary, until 31st December 2021, a

report on traditional harmful practices, with contributions and recommendations on preventing and combatting child, early and forced marriages. It gathers several experts and sectors, such as the National Institute for Legal Medicine, the criminal police, the Foreigners and Border Service, the Attorney-General's Office, UNICEF Portugal, as well as civil society organizations providing services in the areas of violence and trafficking in human beings. In 2020 and 2021, the Government opened the first victim support service, in two of the National Immigration Support Centres (Lisbon and Porto) to support migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and traditional harmful practice. This service will be extended to the other support centre, in Faro.

- CIG develops cooperation protocols with local authorities aimed at promoting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating measures and actions contributing to the territorialization of National Equality and Non-Discrimination Strategy, at municipal level, namely promoting equality between women and men, preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, and preventing, combating and eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex, as well as discrimination resulting from the intersection of various discrimination factors such as racial and ethnic origin, age, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics, among others.

To reinforce their effectiveness, these protocols were revised in 2019. Under the new revised protocol model, municipalities undertake to establish a Local Equality Team, composed of 5 to 10 people, appointed by the Mayor, and which must include a representative of a civil society organization with work that contributes to the National Equality and Non-Discrimination Strategy and which has its office or develops its activities in the municipality, as well as a representative of a civil society organization with seat in CIG's Advisory Council or an expert from CIG's expert list. Currently, 222 municipalities have a protocol with CIG, 135 of which already under the revised version. 97 municipalities already have a local equality plan.

Under these protocols, municipalities also undertake to develop and implement local equality plans. In this regard, under ESF, CIG launched several tenders and approved in 2020 a total of 177 projects for the development of local equality plans, in an amount of 6M€. In the execution of this financial support, municipalities are obliged to involve social partners, civil society organizations or public services with local interventions, at all stages of the plan.

Moreover, and specifically to foster prevention and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, CIG establishes protocols with municipalities to ensure articulated intervention support services at local level. In total, 95% of the Portuguese continental territory is already covered by these protocols ensuring increased coverage of the national network for the support of victims of domestic violence.

- On January 2021, the State Secretary for Citizenship and Equality launched an innovative psychological support service for children and youth victims of domestic violence, following a trauma based psychotherapeutic approach, within the national network for the support of victims of domestic violence. For this purpose, a funding line was launched to support the hiring of specialized psychologists by the support structures of the national network (2.7million €). At the same time, a protocol was

established between CIG and the Portuguese Psychologists' Association to ensure training and supervision of these services.