



**Comments submitted by Portugal
on GREVIO's first thematic evaluation:**

**Building trust by delivering support, protection and
justice**

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Following GREVIO's first thematic evaluation report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) in Portugal, please find below the final comments of portuguese authorities:

- Recommendation 106 a) - **set up or support the functioning of a dedicated telephone helpline for women victims of different forms of violence, operated by qualified staff trained in all forms of violence covered under the Istanbul Convention** – Although there is a national helpline for victims of domestic violence in Portugal (provided by CIG), it does not fully correspond to what is required by the Istanbul Convention, namely because it is dedicated to cases of domestic violence and not to all forms of violence against women, and is therefore a recurring recommendation (in this report it is typified as urgent), which has successively been included in successive National Plans, and which is currently included in the Action Plan for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence 2023-2026, which is an integral part of the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (Measure 223), and which due to budgetary and organic unavailability has not yet been possible to implement. It is hoped that in the coming years the conditions for its full implementation can be met.
- Recommendation 106 b) - **increase the number and capacity of women-only shelters providing safe accommodation to victims of all forms of violence against women, in line with the standards set by the Istanbul Convention and with an adequate geographical distribution, with the aim of achieving the standard set in the Explanatory Report to the Istanbul Convention of one family place per 10 000 inhabitants** – this recommendation is unfounded, and may be the result of incomplete information, given that Portugal has 1048 shelter places (in shelters and in

emergency shelters), thus exceeding the ratio recommended by the Council of Europe of one vacancy per 10,000 inhabitants.

- Recommendation 106 c) - **ensure the availability of immediate, medium and long-term specialist support services, including psychological support to victims of all forms of violence against women, with an appropriate geographical distribution, while catering to the specific needs of vulnerable women subject to intersectional discrimination** – Portugal has made great efforts to create specific responses for Victims in situations of special vulnerability. Furthermore, in line with the PAVMVD, it should be ensured that all 308 municipalities have a specialized service team (even if on an itinerant basis).
- Recommendation 106 d) - **remove the requirement for women victims to report a crime in order to gain access to a shelter** – this recommendation is not achieved, as the prior submission of a complaint or complaint is **NOT** a requirement for shelter in a Shelter or Emergency Shelter.
- Regarding paragraph 154 of the GREVIO final report, stating that for sexual violence no data on persecution or sentencing seems to be available and concluding on high attrition rates and lenient sentencing, Portugal would like to share the official data available for crimes of sexual violence, mostly committed against women, from 2016 to 2023, namely:
 - Defendants in criminal cases in the final stage of trial in the courts of 1st instance for certain crimes, for the years 2016 to 2023;
 - Convicts in criminal cases in the final stage of trial in the courts of first instance, for certain crimes, in the years 2016 to 2023;
 - Convicts in criminal cases in the final stage of trial in the courts of first instance, according to the final conviction, in the years 2016 to 2023;

For data on crimes registered by the police, please check the table available in the justice statistics website, also in English:

https://estatisticas.justica.gov.pt/sites/siej/en-us/pages/crimes_registados_autoridades_policiais.aspx

The number of defendants represents the number of people accused by the Public Prosecution Service that reach trial stage, bearing in mind that in Portugal there are 3 stages of criminal proceedings – Investigation (Public Prosecutors Service), Instruction (Investigating Judge) and Trial (Judge). The Instruction is an optional stage of the ordinary criminal proceedings, led by the investigating judge (assisted by the criminal police), through which it is decided whether the investigation should be closed or whether it should be put on trial (article 286 of the Code of Criminal Procedure - CPP).

Accordingly, some accusations are confirmed or closed by an Investigation Judge before the trial stage.

Finally, data on convicts according to conviction, do not reflect the protection measures applied to defendants that lack the capacity to be criminally liable.

The information hereunder was last updated in April 2025.

For rape, in 2020 out of 130 defendants in trial stage, 91 were convicted and 60 were imprisoned. In 2021, out of 166 defendants, 98 were convicted and 66 were imprisoned.