Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)



Comments submitted by Portugal on GREVIO's final report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report)

Received by GREVIO on 18 January 2019 GREVIO/Inf(2019)1

Published on 21 January 2019

Portugal's comments to GREVIO's Report

• **Paragraph 172:** The intentional conduct set out in Article 37, paragraph 2, of the Istanbul Convention is already foreseen in Article 154.9-C of the Portuguese Criminal Code.

"Article 154- C

Preparatory acts

The preparatory acts of the crime foreseen in the previous article, including that of luring the victim to a territory other than that of his or her residence with the purpose of constrain him or her to contract marriage or union comparable to that of marriage, shall be punished with a prison sentence of up to one year or penalty of fine up to 120 days."

In this sense, we consider that the reference to the need to introduce this conduct in criminal law should be deleted, as it is a factual inaccuracy contrary to the Portuguese legal system.

- Paragraph 186, instead of "In addition, both the GNR and the PSP incorporate Safe School Programme Teams (the EPES).", it should be "In addition, both the GNR and the PSP incorporate Safe School Programme Nuclei/Teams (the NES or the EPES, respectively)".
- The Ministry of National Defence (MoD) is mainly concerned with implementing provisions related to awareness-raising and information activities on gender-based violence, providing regularly to all its personnel, both civilian and military, information on gender issues, in particular on discrimination and gender-based violence and also provides guides on preventing sexual harassment in the workplace.

Student enrolled in military academies and other academic institutions are provided sessions on issues of gender violence. Moreover, all military personnel participating in international missions (under the UN, NATO and the EU) receive adequate and specific training, for deployment, on gender issues, including sexual violence and measures to combat sexual harassment, which are in accordance with the UN's zero tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse.

Within the scope of the MoD, psychological counseling and clinical follow-up is available for cases of domestic violence, for both military and civilian and their families, at the Armed Forces' Hospital.