

Impact factsheet Portugal

From ratification to
the end of the baseline
evaluation procedure
under the **Council of
Europe Convention
on preventing and
combating violence
against women and
domestic violence**

2013 Ratification

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Portugal on 5 February 2013.

2019 Baseline evaluation report by GREVIO

Findings made by GREVIO on the level of implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Portugal, including on the need for comprehensive policymaking and multi-agency co-operation, data collection an increase in the availability of perpetrator programmes as well as specialist support services for victims, including shelters and a dedicated telephone helpline, more effective prosecution of cases of domestic violence, changes to the legislation regarding ex parte and ex officio prosecution, emergency barring and protection orders, the conceptualisation of rape and greater consideration for a history of violence when deciding on custody and visitation rights after separation. Assessment made on the basis of the Portuguese Government's state report, non-governmental (NGO) shadow reporting and an evaluation visit.

2019 Comments from the Portuguese Government

Comments from the authorities on GREVIO's assessment.



Ratification by Portugal, 5 February 2013

2019 Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties

Adoption of twelve recommendations based on GREVIO's findings for further action regarding comprehensive and co-ordinated policies that address all forms of violence against women, the provision of appropriate resources and greater support to women's rights organisations, the collection of disaggregated data, the alignment of perpetrator programmes with the principles of the convention, the introduction of multi-agency co-operation in responding to cases of violence against women and appropriate specialist support services, the respect of the rights and safety of victims and their children in the determination of custody and visitation rights the alignment of the criminal code with the requirements of the convention and the availability and effective application of protection orders.

2021 Government reporting on progress made

Information on progress made in Portugal between 2018 and 2021 in relation to the recommendations received.

More information on Portugal's ongoing progress in implementing the Istanbul Convention is available at coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/portugal

2022 Committee of the Parties' conclusions

Adoption of conclusions on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, confirming progress made regarding the strengthening of the comprehensiveness of policies, greater involvement of the health sector in identifying and supporting victims, the increased availability of specialist support services, the protection of child victims of domestic violence, the introduction of economic violence in the definition of domestic violence and the simplification of the system to gain victim status. Further measures encouraged in relation to the harmonisation of the level of support and protection for women victims of violence throughout the country, the setup of a dedicated telephone helpline, the alignment of the criminal code with the requirements of the convention and the availability and effective application of restraining and protection orders.

2024 Final implementation report from the Portuguese Government

Report detailing the measures taken in response to the conclusions, especially regarding comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, the telephone helpline, the amendments to the criminal code and the application of protection orders.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS



Over the course of the baseline evaluation procedure, the legal and policy framework in Portugal was enhanced with the inclusion of economic violence in the definition of domestic violence and by extending victim status to children exposed to domestic violence. The latter enables a better assessment of the children's protection needs. In addition, responses to violence against women and domestic violence were reinforced with the adoption of a resolution in 2019, strengthening responses by law enforcement officers to domestic violence, standardising training for professionals from different sectors, introducing a new database covering all forms of violence against women and measures covering female genital mutilation and forced marriage.



As part of a new national programme for the prevention of violence in the lifecycle, Adult Violence Prevention Teams (EPVAs) were introduced in 2016 and have since been deployed in all hospitals and health centres across Portugal, with a view to identifying and supporting victims of different forms of gender-based violence.



The National Support Network for Domestic Violence Victims was expanded and its specialisation enhanced, which increased the range and quality of specialist support services for victims of violence against women. Specific residential support structures for older women victims of domestic violence were set up as well as an emergency shelter for victims of early and forced marriage and shelters for women with physical disabilities and cognitive impairments. Additionally, the number of crisis centres for women victims of sexual violence were increased and three support services for migrant victims of violence against women introduced.