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My voice, my future with equality: mobilisation against sexism on the International Day of the Girl Child

Lisbon, 8th October 2020



Campaign Sexism: See it, Name it, Stop it! launched in Portugal on the International Day of the Girl – October 11th 2020

The **Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights (PpDM)**ⁱ is proud to introduce the Council of Europe's project, **Mobilize Against Sexism!** which aims to disseminate the [Council of Europe's Recommendation Rec \(2019\)1 Preventing and Combating Sexism](#), through the **campaign Sexism: See it, Name it, Stop it!**

Mobilize Against Sexism! runs in nine European countries. It is coordinated by the **European Women's Lobby (EWL)**ⁱⁱ and in Portugal, by a partnership between the national coordination of EWL in Portugal - the **Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights** - and the **Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG)**, the public body under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, responsible for public policies for equality between women and men.

The **Council of Europe's** landmark recommendation sets the first international legal definition of sexism: **"Any act, gesture, visual representation, spoken or written words, practice or behaviour based upon the idea that a person or a group of persons is inferior because of their sex, which occurs in the public or private sphere"**.

It also establishes the relationship between acts of acts of "everyday" sexism and a continuum of violence against women and girls, comprising a set of recommendations directed at governments: **to disseminate the Recommendation among public and private organizations; to prevent and combat sexism and its manifestations, both in the public and private domains; to urge the different stakeholders to apply the legislation and promote appropriate policies and programs to this end; and to monitor progress in the implementation of the Recommendation.**

In this context, **Mobilize Against Sexism!** aims to promote, in Portugal, the knowledge and operationalization of the Recommendation whilst stimulating public debate on the prevalence of sexism and its current manifestations, as well as the possible responses to this phenomenon, across different contexts and organizations.

In Portugal, besides the dissemination of the Council of Europe's Campaign against sexism, the project also includes [webinars and virtual round tables](#) on the Council of Europe's Recommendation, its dissemination to parliamentary groups and the government, and the drafting of a set of recommendations on its implementation, namely in the context of the National Action Plan and/or the legislation that will be implemented for this purpose.

As stated by Ana Sofia Fernandes, President of the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights:

“Isolated attitudes of sexism may seem harmless, but they create a climate of intimidation, fear and insecurity, generating feelings of feelings of worthlessness and self-blame, leading to the adoption of withdrawal strategies, to changes in behaviour and to the deterioration of health. Sexism is at the root of gender inequality, and disproportionately affects women and girls. The campaign Sexism: See it, Name it, Stop it! intends be a meaningful contribution to the eradication of sexism in Portugal.”

On the International Day of the Girl Child, it must be recalled that:

- In 2019, of ICT graduates, 21.3% were girls and 78.7% boysⁱⁱⁱ. 78% of women have "heard comments and jokes or observed sexist or rude gestures in their workplace at least once"; 72% of women "have been ignored in their opinions and comments, until a man said the same, at least once"; 39% of women have felt a lack of recognition for their achievements just because they are women^{iv}.
- In the past five years, nearly 4000 prosecutions have been brought under the crime of sexual harassment and sexual propositions, but only 470 have resulted in charges, with some judges stating that "we can't identify a criminal conduct in a sexual proposition that is made on the street or in a work environment to a woman."^v
- By 2019, women were 76% of victims in domestic violence crimes^{vi} and men 82% of perpetrators.^{vii}
- In 2015-2016, of those taking courses in Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction, 26.6% were girls and 73.4% were boys.^{viii}
- In 2018, of those playing federated sports, 30.4% were girls and 69.6% were boys.^{ix}
- Girls are the most affected by anorexia nervosa (87%).^x
- In 2015, 2016 and 2017, women were only 15.4% and 15.8% of the sources of news on 4 prime time channels of RTP1, RTP2, SIC and TVI^{xi}, with men representing 84.2%.

Get to know the Portuguese version of the [Campaign Sexism: See it, Name it, Stop it!](#) and share it on social media: #AcabaComOSexismo #StopSexism #MeToo.

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ⁱ The Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights is the largest Portuguese civil society organization in the area of human rights of women and girls with 29 member organizations. <https://plataformamulheres.org.pt/>

ⁱⁱ The European Women's Lobby is the biggest women's organization in the EU, with more than 2000 associations in all Member States and 17 European organizations. <https://womenlobby.org>

ⁱⁱⁱ Source DGEEC/MCTES, Pordata

^{iv} Source: Portuguese Women in Tech and Polar Insight, <https://www.portuguesewomenintech.com/pioneers>

^v Source: TSF de 5.9.2020, <https://www.tsf.pt/portugal/sociedade/cinco-anos-da-lei-do-piropo-deputada-pede-a-juizes-que-facam-o-seu-trabalho-12661145.html>

^{vi} Source: RASI 2019, <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=19cabc8c-e3f1-4cb2-a491-a10c8a3e4bf0>

^{vii} Source: RASI 2019, <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=19cabc8c-e3f1-4cb2-a491-a10c8a3e4bf0>

^{viii} Source: CIG –Statistical Bulletin 2017

^{ix} Source: IPDJ/ME PORDATA

^x Source: Público from 11.12.2018 https://www.publico.pt/2018/12/11/sociedade/noticia/15-anos-morreram-25-pessoas-anorexia-nervosa-portugal-1854104?fbclid=IwAR0hPIyyuD6zh-W2HBehFjL41z4n_PB0zNEKcpico-35DKjar_F7fHieQNC

^{xi} Source: news services analyzed by ERC