

PREVENTING AND COMBATING SEXISM: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PARLIAMENT

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, whether online or offline, with the purpose or effect of:

- violating the inherent dignity or rights of a person or a group of persons; or
- resulting in physical, sexual, psychological or socio-economic harm or suffering to a person or a group of persons; or
- creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment; or
- constituting a barrier to the autonomy and full realisation of human rights by a person or a group of persons;
- maintaining and reinforcing gender stereotype.

Check the Recommendation here:
<https://bit.ly/3xXIH9z>

The Council of Europe's landmark recommendation sets the first international legal definition of sexism

The Recommendation recognizes the existence of a continuum between sexist stereotypes, inequality between women and men, sexism, and male violence against women and girls, and links acts of “everyday” sexism to male violence against women and girls, also considering the multiple discriminations that affect them. A particular emphasis is given to:

- legislation and policies
- awareness-raising measures
- monitoring and evaluation
- language and communications
- internet, social media and online sexist hate speech
- media, advertising, and other communication products and services
- workplace
- public sector
- justice sector
- educational institutions
- culture and sports
- private sphere

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Extensive dissemination of the Council of Europe (CoE) Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)1 "Preventing and Combating Sexism"
- Consider discrimination against women and girls in light of the universal, structural and cross-cutting nature of discrimination based on sex, in all Parliament initiatives
- Elevate the Subcommittee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to the status of Parliamentary Committee for Equality between Women and Men* in the next legislature
- Code of conduct on preventing and combating sexism
- Monitor the implementation of the CoE Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)1 "Preventing and Combating Sexism"

* "The fundamental tasks of the State are: (...) h) To promote equality between men and women." Art. 9(h) of the CRP



Sexism: See it. Name it. Stop it.

#StopSexism #MeToo

- The women's rights associations should be invited to participate in regular meetings and hearings in the Parliament
- In order to support a gender mainstreaming approach to all legislative activity, namely carried out in the remaining Commissions, the following measures must be implemented:
- Onboarding information package - relevant articles of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic and statistical indicators of inequality between women and men
- Information and training package, among others, on international, regional and European commitments on equality between women and men - including the CoE Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)1 "Preventing and Combating Sexism", Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its General Recommendations, gender impact assessment tools and gender mainstreaming namely at the budget level, through gender sensitive budgeting
- Create and maintain accessible on the Parliament's website, a database with the results of the ex-ante Gender Impact Assessment
- Conduct an external evaluation on the results of the implementation of the Legal Regime of Gender Impact Assessment of Normative Acts
- Issue an opinion on the completion of the ex-ante Gender Impact Assessment
- Adopt a guide on communications and language, taking into particular consideration the Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)1 as well as the Recommendation No. R (90) 4 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Elimination of Sexism from Language and Recommendation Rec (2007) 17 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Gender Equality Standards and Mechanisms
- To mark significant dates for women and girls: March 8, Gender Pay Gap Day and November 25
- Recognize, encourage and support women's associations that combat sexism in all sectors (Law no. 107/2015 of August 25)

Recommendations developed within the project "Mobilize Against Sexism!" with the support of the Council of Europe, implemented in Portugal by the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights. More information at:
<https://plataformamulheres.org.pt/artigos/projetos/mobiliza-te-contr-o-sexismo/>

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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. National coordination of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). Organization with Special Consultative Status in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. Declared a Public Utility Entity by Dispatch n° 6166/2020, of 2.6.2020, published in the D.R. n° 112, II Series, of 9.6.2020.