



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE**

1400th meeting of the Permanent Council

24 November 2022

**Statement by Portugal on the International Day for the
Elimination of Violence Against Women**

Mr. Chair,

In addition to the EU statement and the joint statement on this topic we would like to make the following comments on our national capacity.

Today's topic remains, unfortunately, of the most urgent attention. Violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence continues to be pervasive all over the world. Preventing these crimes and holding perpetrators responsible to account and supporting the rehabilitation of victims is urgently needed.

There is an increased need to protect women and girls in times of armed conflicts, as explicitly recognized in the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. Moscow Mechanism Reports indicate instances of conflict-related gender-based violence in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, such as rape, sexual violence or sexual harassment, which we deeply condemn and may constitute crimes against humanity or war crimes.

While women and girls are particularly vulnerable in conflict scenarios, violence against them takes many other forms, such as domestic violence, and tarnishes societies of all kinds, including our own.

According to the preliminary data available, in our country, until 15 November, 28 women were killed, 22 of which in the context of intimate relationships. This is 28 more than what is acceptable.



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Preventing and combating all forms of gender-based violence has been a priority for our national authorities and lies at the core of the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination 2018-2030. Within the framework of such efforts, the II Forum “Portugal against Violence – Combatting violence against women and domestic violence” takes place today and tomorrow, focusing on the role of the media.

Mr. Chair,

When discussing, at the OSCE, the interlinks between media and gender issues, a lot of attention, and rightly so, has been directed to the challenges women journalists encounter or the manifestations of violence women face online and that also have offline consequences. Another important aspect is the positive role media can play, conveying a zero-tolerance policy for the aggressors and full support to the victims.

Indeed, the way crimes of violence against women and domestic violence are dealt with by the media is crucial for their understanding by the public. The frequency with which incidents are reported, the prominence given to them, the information included or omitted, the words used to describe what happened. All these factors make a difference in the social understanding of violence.

With this in mind, the Portuguese Government, in close cooperation with media outlets, the Regulatory Authority for the Media and the Journalists Union, developed a Best Practices Guide for the media in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. This is in line with article 17 of the landmark Istanbul Convention, which encourages media, among other actors, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies and to set guidelines and self-regulatory standards to prevent such harmful practices and to enhance respect for their dignity. We also recall in this regard the MC Decision on preventing and combating violence against women that encourages all relevant actors to contribute to that aim.



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We have a legal, political, and moral obligation to address all forms of gender-based violence. We remain committed to eliminate this scourge.

Thank you.