Portuguese National Human Rights Committee (PNHRC)

2016 Strategic Work Plan

1. The PNHRC will discuss and identify national priorities regarding:

   1.1. The 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly;
   1.2. The UN Human Rights Council (ordinary and extraordinary sessions convened in 2016);
   1.3. The UN Commission on the Status of Women;
   1.4. The UN Commission for Social Development;
   1.5. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

2. The PNHRC’s Members will continue to implement Portugal’s obligations in accordance with international human rights treaties to which it is a party to, including:

   2.1. Continue to implement the recommendations accepted by Portugal in the framework of the 2nd Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council (September 2014);
   2.2. Start to draft the Intern Report on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Portugal in the framework of the 2nd Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council, to be presented during 2017;
   2.4. Update the list of recommendations made to Portugal by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, the Council of Europe and other human rights mechanisms of universal and regional scope;
   2.5. Organize the visit of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).
3. The PNHRC will:

3.1. Continue to develop national human rights indicators in order to measure and evaluate the implementation of the national policies in this field.

4. The PNHRC will coordinate the timely presentation of reports on the implementation of International Human Rights legal instruments to which Portugal is bound by:

4.1. Prepare the 1st report on the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (to be presented to the CED Committee by the 27th February 2016)

4.2. Prepare for Consideration by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the 1st report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Geneva, during the 15th session of the Committee in March 2016);

4.3. Prepare for Consideration by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the 15th, 16th and 17th reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Geneva, during the 91st session of the Committee, November/December 2016);

4.4. Begin to update the Common Core Document to be presented to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2017

4.5. Distribute the general reviews/recommendations and the guidelines concerning Portugal issued by the UN Treaty Bodies.

5. The PNHRC will work towards the signature and ratification by Portugal of International Human Rights Instruments, in particular:

5.1. Within the scope of the Council of Europe, the ratification of Protocols 12 and 15 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Additional Protocols to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin and concerning Biomedical Research, as well as the European Agreement relating to Persons Participating in Proceedings of the European Court of Human Rights.
6. The PNHRC will share information on its activities, including on national human rights best practices:

6.1. At the international level, share the PNHRC 2016 Strategic Work Plan and the PNHRC 2015 Annual Report;

6.2. Also at the international level, share the work done by the PNHRC as the inter-ministerial human rights coordination entity that aims to promote an integrated approach to human rights policies;

6.3. Regularly update the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on the adoption of Portuguese national human rights indicators.

7. At the national level, the PNHCR will share information on human rights issues, via:

7.1. The PNHRC website and the PNHRC Facebook page;

7.2. Regular contacts with civil society representatives in accordance with the Council of Ministers Resolution 27/2010;

7.3. PNHRC Plenary meetings open to civil society representatives;

7.4. PNHRC Working Group meetings with civil society representatives;

7.5. Specific initiatives by individual PNHRC members on human rights issues;

7.6. Explore the possibility of having sessions on the PNHRC in Universities’ curricula;

7.7. Publish an article on the national human rights protection system, including the PNHRC, in a Portuguese international relations publication.

8. Within the framework of their respective competences, the PNHRC members will undertake the following initiatives:

8.1. Continue to implement the Ministry of Finance Plan for Gender Equality (2014-2017);

8.2. Continue to collect, analyze and share statistical information regarding Public Administration human resources, disaggregated by sex;

8.3. Continue to implement financial support measures for the beneficiaries of Public Administration Social Services regarding education expenses, as well as for urgent and severe situations, according with legislation;
8.4. Enhance the right to security of the most vulnerable citizens through the action of the Security Forces and Services of the Ministry of Internal Administration – National Republican Guard's Program Reach Out, Public Security Police's Program “I do as FALCO says”, and Immigration and Borders Service’s Project “Human rights in the various faces of migration in the 21st century”;
8.5. Develop a risk assessment study to enhance the Security Forces’ interventions;
8.6. Through the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings, continue the implementation of a project for sharing, with the Portuguese-Speaking Countries, the Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners of UNDOC;
8.7. Develop the Lanzarote Convention child-friendly version;
8.8. Host an international conference on the rights of the child - Child's perspective of justice;
8.9. Organize a workshop on Gender Equality for the cooperation focal points;
8.10. Conduct a survey to assess the needs/problems of migrants regarding access and exercise of economic activities in Portugal;
8.11. Continue to develop a guide on best practices in the fight against domestic and gender-based violence, to be distributed to business enterprises;
8.12. Continue to donate property seized as part of criminal proceedings and administrative offenses to social support and welfare institutions;
8.13. Support civil society projects aimed at fighting against discrimination of Roma Communities;
8.14. Continue to organize a National campaign against racial discrimination;
8.15. Raise awareness on the importance of religious diversity and inter-religious dialogue;
8.16. Continue to develop the social renting house market;
8.17. Continue the process of reforming urban house renting and take measures to protect the leaseholders with financial difficulties;
8.18. Continue to assign social housing and provide tailor-made housing solutions to address the housing needs of households with low income and/or other vulnerabilities, as well as in cases of social emergency;
8.19. Continue to promote equitable access to water and sanitation and study alternative mechanisms to avoid suspending these services due to lack of payment;
8.20. Continue to implement the “Portuguese as a Foreign Language” Project, ie. courses for newly arrived migrant students;
8.21. Develop, in collaboration with the Aga Khan Portugal Foundation, the 4th edition of the “Intercultural School Seal”, an initiative that distinguishes the schools that implement strategies and/or measures to promote inter-culturalism;
8.22. Continue to disseminate the guides on “Education, Gender and Citizenship” for pre-schools and primary education;
8.24. Increase the number of Navy personnel trained in fighting human trafficking;
8.25. Hold three conferences on human rights issues at the Portuguese Air Force;
8.26. Develop and implement awareness and training programs on issues relating to cultural heritage, accessibility and inclusion;
8.27. Promote access to culture for all by supporting and enhancing cultural diversity and/or promoting cultural and artistic activities for the most vulnerable social groups, as well as in vulnerable areas;
8.28. Develop a strategic plan to promote equal access to culture and arts.