Portuguese National Human Rights Committee (PNHRC)

2015 Strategic Work Plan

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

   1.1. The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly;
   1.2. The UN Human Rights Council (ordinary and extraordinary sessions convened in 2015);
   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 (April/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 the first semester of 2016;
   2.3. Closely monitor the implementation of Second EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015 – 2017), to be approved in 2015;
   2.4. Frequently 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.

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 15th, 16th and 17th reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (to be presented to the CERD Committee by the 23rd September 2015);

4.2. Prepare for Consideration by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of the 8th and 9th reports on the implementation of the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Geneva, during the 62nd session of the CEDAW Committee – between 26th October and 20th November 2015);

4.3. 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/April 2016);

4.4. Distribute the general reviews/recommendations and the guidelines concerning Portugal issued by the 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;

5.2. Within the scope of the Council of Europe, the signature of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes.
6. The PNHRC will share information on its activities, including on national human rights best practice:

6.1. At the international level, share the PNHRC 2015 Strategic Work Plan and the PNHRC 2014 Annual Report;
6.2. Regularly update the Office of the UNHCHR 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 Level meetings with civil society representatives;
7.5. Specific initiatives by individual PNHRC members on human rights issues.

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

8.1. Continue to train army personal on sexual harassment prevention and gender equality, including in initial training programmes and within the framework of the Military-Technical Cooperation with East Timor and the Portuguese-speaking African Countries;
8.3. Organize conferences within the National Defence Course (endorsed by Portugal’s National Defence Institute) on issues relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, namely on “International Tribunals”, “Ethnic Conflicts and Human Security”, “Responsibility to Protect”, “Dimensions of the Globalization Process” and “EU: space for freedom, security and justice”;
8.4. Define and develop a risk assessment study to enhance the Security Forces’ interventions;
8.5. Implement the 2nd phase of the Public Security Police project aimed at protecting mentally disabled persons by signing and implementing local protocols between the Public Security Police and institutions that work in this field and optimize National Republican Guard intervention strategies that target more vulnerable groups;

8.6. In the context of the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service, hold a forum and a seminar on Human Rights and Migrations, with special emphasis on the “new faces of immigration”;

8.7. Through the Observatory on Human Trafficking, continue the implementation of a project for sharing, with the Portuguese-Speaking Countries, of the Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners (UNDOC);

8.8. In the context of the “Agenda on the Protection of Child in the Area of Justice” celebrate the National Day proposed by the Lanzarote Committee on combating sexual assault of children and hold a workshop on the issue of protection of children;

8.9. Continue work on establishing and promoting the international platform on the protection of children in the framework of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Portuguese-Speaking Countries;

8.10. Organize a workshop aimed at business enterprises to share best practice in the area of corporate social responsibility;

8.11. Continue the preparation of a guide on best practice in the fight against domestic and gender-based violence, to be distributed to business enterprises;

8.12. Continue the School Fruit Scheme, aimed at distributing fruit and vegetables to children in primary schools twice a week;

8.13. Continue the School Milk Scheme, aimed at distributing milk and dairy products to kindergartens, primary schools and high schools on a daily basis;


8.15. Continue the process of Reforming the Urban Renting and promote measures to protect the leaseholders with financial difficulties;

8.16. Implement funding for the rehabilitation of private buildings for leasing purposes in order to renovate, repopulate, and economically promote historical centres;
8.17. Publish a handbook on Human Rights for Professionals on the issues of Access to Clean Water and Sanitation, in order to complement the work developed by Dr. Catarina Albuquerque, former Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, and make a recommendation to the Portuguese Water Sector, based on the results of this handbook, adapted to the reality of Portugal;

8.18. Continue to develop the National Human Rights Indicators on the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health;

8.19. Foster the entry into force of the Handbook on Interpersonal Violence for the Health Services;

8.20. Promote the "Intercultural School Seal", an initiative that distinguishes the schools that implement strategies and/or measures to promote interculturalism;

8.21. Encourage projects that address different forms of human trafficking in the scope of the implementation of the 3rd National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (2014 – 2017);

8.22. Develop the project of providing "Portuguese as a Foreign Language" courses, targeted at newly arrived migrant students;

8.23. Continue to disseminate guides on “Education, Gender and Citizenship” for pre-schools and primary education;


8.26. Organize a workshop on Human Rights for the Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security staff;

8.27. Enhance partnerships with regional associations and institutions on the right to culture;

8.28. Promote the exchange of books in alternative formats with Portuguese-Speaking Countries;

8.29. Develop and implement awareness and formative plans on heritage, accessibility and inclusion issues;

8.30. Reinforce the local mediation component as a way to promote social cohesion and the improvement of intercultural coexistence;
8.31. Give continuity to the participation of consultative bodies in the definition and execution of migratory and integration policies of Roma communities;

8.32. Expand the Mentoring Programme for Immigrants as a way of integrate the immigrants;

8.33. Implement the 5th National Plan for Gender Equality, Citizenship and Non-Discrimination (2014 – 2017);

8.34. Implement the 5th National Plan for the Prevention and Fighting Against Domestic and Gender Violence (2014 – 2017);

8.35. Implement the 3rd National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (2014 – 2017);

8.36. Implementing the 3rd Programme of Action for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation;

8.37. Implement the 2nd National Plan on Women, Peace and Security in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2014 – 2018);

8.38. Implement the National Plan on Ethics in Sports and Human Rights;

8.39. Organize a seminar to evaluate the implementation of the Council of Europe Campaign “No Hate Speech” in Portugal;