

Portuguese Practices /Recommendations concerning Femicide

In order to fulfill its international obligations, to protect Women's Human Rights and preventing the different forms of discrimination against women, Portugal has sought to adopt policies, plans and national strategies to prevent and eliminate the different forms of violence against women and domestic violence.

In 2017, it was created a team of professionals from different areas, entitled:
Retrospective Analysis on Homicide in Domestic Violence.

The Retrospective Analysis team on Homicide in Domestic Violence focuses on the analysis of situations of homicide that occurred in the context of domestic violence in order to draw conclusions that allow the implementation of new preventive methodologies and the production of recommendations to public and private entities that intervene in this area.

The Retrospective Analysis team on Homicide in Domestic Violence, addressed several relevant recommendations to different entities of which we highlight:

Public Prosecutor's Office and Criminal Police Bodies:

*-The capacity to implement the “**Handbook of Functional Action to be adopted by the criminal police bodies, within 72 hours of submission of a complaint of abuse committed in the context of domestic violence**”- it is a relevant instrument in combating abuse committed in family relationship, intimacy and cohabitation, and in protecting the victims of these behaviors.*

Attorney General's Office:

-The responsibility for promoting the necessary initiatives at the beginning of the inquiry, in order to encourage communication and take the leadership of out the criminal action. (It must be consider the collaboration and articulation among services, entities that must intervene in specific cases, and should support and care of the

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victims, family organizations, protection of children, vulnerable adults, treatment of the aggressor)

National Network of Support for Victims of Domestic Violence:

-The urgent need for the expansion, promotion and dissemination in the community of forms of support and early intervention, not dependent on the verification of the assumptions of criminal action- Adoption of a **Guide of Minimum Requirements for Programs and Projects of Primary Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence** (it constitutes a lever for the development of an integrated action of the prevention to be carried out by entities that promote the structures and responses that integrate the National Network)

Government:

-The Government should assign the urgency to the preparation of the **Handbook of Functional Action** that will address the Action of the criminal police bodies in the 72 hours following the submission of the complaint of abuse committed in a context of domestic violence (Resolution of the Council of Ministers n° 139/2019 of 18/07/2019)

Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG):

-The implementation with regard to security forces and magistrates of the **Initial and Ongoing training of professionals for Intervention in Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**. Objective 4.1 of The Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (2018-2021)

Attorney General's Office:

- The adoption of **best practices and standardization of procedures in the Criminal, Family and Children Jurisdictions**

Public Prosecutor's Office and Criminal Police Agencies:

-In situations where are episodes of violence against women and domestic violence, it should be ascertained whether there are children/youth directly or indirectly involved to determinate the risk they run, taking into account their specific needs

(the communication must be send to the Commission for the Protection of Children and Youth- Legal proceedings should be initiated with a view to protecting and promoting their rights)

Health

*-The health care providers should systematically detect the risk of domestic violence- in accordance with a technical reference **“Interpersonal violence- Approach, Diagnosis and Intervention in Health Services”***

-Strengthening the training of health professionals on violence in intimate relationship and violence against women/domestic violence including its detection and subsequent intervention.

Security Forces:

-The training on violence against women and domestic violence, in order to provide a adequate response to the victims and aggressors.

Judicial entities:

-The judicial entities should always prioritize the removal of the aggressor from the residence where the crime was committed or where the victim lives, over the removal of the victim from her residence and placement in temporary shelters.

The Retrospective Analysis team on Homicide in Domestic Violence, also recommends:

*- The need to **prepare professionals from the various sectors for the appreciation, detection and combat of psychological and economic violence** (which is not given the same relevance as physical and sexual violence)*

- The services/ entities that intervene in a situation of domestic violence should establish the coordination of their actions, in articulation with the areas of justice, education, social security, and health.

*Special attention must be given to the **Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality** and its work for promoting women’s human rights and*

fighting against domestic violence and gender-based violence. The Retrospective Analysis team on Homicide in Domestic Violence, considers the importance of this Commission in developing the awareness-raising campaigns, on a national and local level, that promote the destruction of beliefs, myths and stereotypes about violence against women, based on a National Network for Support to Victims of Domestic Violence and municipal plans and strategies to eliminate and eradicate the different forms of gender-based violence and violence against women.

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