**Study on the solutions to promote digital education for young people and to ensure their protection from online threats – Human Rights Council Resolution 51/17**

**Input from Portugal**

1. **What are the main Challenges that young people in your country face in accessing digital education? Please consider the specific situation of marginalized young people and those in vulnerable situations in your response.**
2. **What steps is the Government taking to ensure that digital education is accessible and promoted among young people? Please, provide examples of specific laws and regulations, measures, policies, and programmes directed at ensuring young people’s universal access to digital education.**

The Portuguese Charter of Human Rights in the Digital Age, approved on 17 November 2021 (Law No. º 27/2021, 17 May) establishes a set of rights such as the right to access the digital environment and the right to develop digital skills as follows:

* Everyone has the right to education to acquire and develop digital skills.
* The State should promote and implement programmes to encourage and facilitate access, to digital and technological means and instruments for the different age groups of the population, in particular to ensure, education via the Internet.
* The public audiovisual media service shall contribute to the digital education of users of different age groups and shall promote the dissemination of this law and other applicable legislation.
1. **What steps is the Government taking to ensure that young people can realize their human rights online in a safe, empowering, and inclusive way?**
* Through the Charter referred to in Q2, Portugal commits itself to participating in the global effort to transform the Internet into an instrument for achieving freedom, equality and social justice, as well as to become a space for the promotion, protection and free exercise of human rights, with a view to achieving social inclusion in the digital environment. The Charter states that the standards applicable to rights, freedoms and safeguards are also applicable online.
* On n September 8, 2021, the Government launched a website called *“LEME - Literacia e Educação para os Media Em Linha”*, dedicated to media literacy resources, which the aim is helping educators and teachers in pre-school education, basic and secondary education to promote, in a more sustainable and comprehensive way, their pedagogical mission of developing in their students, consumers and content producers, the knowledge, skills and critical sense that are essential for an informed and responsible action when using digital media. These resources are available free of charge to the general public.
* This website is the result of the work of a Working Group promoted by the Government whose aim was to inventory, select and systematise the resources available in the field of media literacy, as well as to propose innovations that would contribute to enrich the offer and fill the gaps identified.
* The working group brought together researchers, professors, trainers, journalists and representatives of public institutions.
* The Informal Group on Media Literacy, created in 2009 and bringing together representatives from public institutions, academia, the public media entities, journalists and civil society, has contributed to raising the level of media literacy in Portugal, by organizing initiatives such as the annual Congress on Literacy, Media and Citizenship and the Media Literacy Week (*“Operação 7 dias com os Media”.* This year's theme is *"Peace/Hate Speeche in Times of War"*).
* The General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (SGPCM), in collaboration with the national network of school libraries organizes every year the *“Media@ção 24”* competition, which is aimed at schools and brings together various public organisations, also has the theme: Media, Human Rights and Peace. The aim is to encourage reflection on the role of the media (including digitalmedia) in the current context of threats to peace and human rights.
* SGPCM participates in the European Commission's Safer Internet Working Group and plays a leading role in disseminating best practices, information, projects and legislation to Portuguese institutions with a mission in these areas.
* On 2nd November, the Government approved a set of Guidelines for a National Plan for Media Literacy, which will be developed and implemented by an inter-ministerial commission (Council of Ministers Resolution No.º 142/2023, published on 17 November. Available here).

The guidelines are as follows:

1. To create a large social commitment to the promotion of media literacy, encouraging the development of decentralised initiatives and cooperation between relevant actors;
2. To promote the effective integration of media literacy into school curricula at all teaching levels and cycles, as well as the aggregation or creation of educational programmes and resources in non-formal and informal lifelong learning contexts;
3. Strengthening the involvement of the educational community in promotion of media literacy, in particular through training programmes for teaching and non-teaching staff of school clusters and non-grouped schools;
4. Encourage initiatives for population groups with lower levels of media literacy;
5. Strengthening citizens' trust in the media, in particular through initiatives that encourage direct contact with media organisations and their professionals;
6. Value media literacy initiatives that are practical, local and participatory;
7. To promote the availability of content in accessible formats adapted to people with special needs;
8. Establishing good media literacy practices in different sectors of society, with a special focus on media operators.
9. Promote critical and hate speech-free participation in different public forums, in especially in relation to the national sports panorama, in particular through specific awareness campaigns.
10. **What are the main gaps and challenges to young people’s protection from online threats in law, policy, and practice in your country and the impacts on young people’s human rights? Please consider the specific situation of marginalized young people and those in vulnerable situations in your response.**
11. **What steps is the Government taking to ensure that young people are protected from online threats? Please provide examples of specific laws and regulations, measures, policies, and programmes.**

The Charter referred in Q1 establishes the right to cybersecurity as follows:

* Everyone has the right to security in the cyberspace, with the State being responsible for defining public policies that guarantee the protection of citizens and information networks and systems, and that create mechanisms that increase security in the use of the Internet, especially by children and young people.
* The Portuguese Cyber Security Centre promotes, in conjunction with other competent public entities and private partners, promotes the training of citizens and companies to acquire practical training and benefit from online services for the prevention and neutralization of security threats in cyberspace.