

UPR review of Portugal

Statement by Norway

Norway warmly welcomes the delegation of Portugal and their presentation of the national report. We also appreciate their mid-term report and their efforts to implement recommendations from the previous cycle. Norway strongly believes that the active participation of civil society is essential and we commend Portugal for the establishment of the Portuguese National Human Rights Committee and for the inclusion of civil society in its proceedings.

Norway welcomes the 4th and 5th National Plans against Domestic and Gender-based Violence, but remains concerned about the high number of deaths among women due to domestic violence. We share Portugal's belief that training and awareness raising is essential to prevent such acts, and we **recommend** that Portugal continue the efforts to reduce social acceptance of domestic and gender-based violence.

Furthermore attention has been drawn to overcrowding in Portuguese prisons. There have been allegations of ill-treatment of patients in a psychiatric prison hospital and there are concerns over high rates of suicide among inmates. We **recommend** that Portugal consider increasing the use of non-custodial measures to reduce overcrowding. We also **recommend** that Portugal strengthen their efforts to protect basic rights of inmates in vulnerable situations and that they ensure that inmates have access to and knowledge of proper complaint mechanisms.

Portugal has received a relatively large number of judgments from the European Court of Human Rights where execution of judgment is not completed and have been put under enhanced procedure. Most of the cases under enhanced procedure concern a slow justice system and we **recommend** that Portugal intensify efforts to make its justice system more efficient.