



# PORTUGAL

## ASYLUM

ILGA Portugal, in partnership with Queer Tropical and AMPLOS, carried out [training](#) for LGBTI+ organisations on migration and asylum issues this year and will deliver training on LGBTI+ issues to NGOs working on migration and asylum.

In August, ILGA Portugal [issued](#) a statement urging the government to proactively act and safeguard the security and integrity of Afghan women, activists and LGBTI+ people. Portugal has already received Afghan asylum seekers, and ILGA Portugal and Associação Plano i are cooperating to support one LGBTI family.

## BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

In October, a well-known news commentator made transphobic remarks while addressing [the walkout of Netflix employees](#) demanding better support of its trans and nonbinary employees. This sparked a larger conversation on [‘cancel culture’](#) in Portugal.

## BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Between January and early November this year, ILGA Portugal received a total of 725 requests for contact or immediate support in cases of violence at home, loss of income, and evictions. Of these, 254 came from people who reached out for the first time. 98 cases of domestic violence and assault have been reported this year, of which 50 are cases of gender-based violence.

## EDUCATION

In January, NGO Plano i published the [results](#) of their 2020 survey, finding that 9% of their respondents experienced bullying because of their sexual orientation and 4% because of their gender identity.

AMPLOS, the Parents of LGBTI people organisation, published a [guide](#) for schools on LGBTI issues.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Civil society [expressed](#) serious concern about the appointment of João Caupers as the president of the Constitutional Court in February. Caupers is known for homophobic and anti-human rights positions, including about marriage equality.

## FAMILY

AMPLOS, the Parents of LGBTI people organisation, published three guides to support families of LGBTI people.

## FOREIGN POLICY

Portugal signed the joint statement of 18 EU Member States condemning the Hungarian propaganda law, but [only after](#) its Presidency of the Council of the European Union ended in late June. Initially, Portugal only condemned the law, saying it [needed](#) to be ‘neutral’ holding the Presidency.

In June, ILGA Portugal participated in the [LGBTI Citizenship Seminar](#) organised by the National Commission of Human Rights and Citizenship of Cape Verde. The seminar took place to celebrate Pride and brought together local LGBTI activists and organisations with members of Cape Verde’s government and other stakeholders.

On 2 November, the Portuguese Embassy in Bulgaria signed a [joint statement](#) condemning the anti-LGBTI attacks against the Rainbow Hub community centre in Sofia.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organising committee of Lisbon Pride decided to [cancel](#) the Pride march this year. ILGA Portugal also cancelled Arraial Lisboa Pride, originally planned for June. Instead, in July ILGA Portugal [sent](#) 75,000 postcards to those living in and around Lisbon, to celebrate the estimated number of participants and affirm that every day is Pride Day.

## FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

In October, TransMissão, the trans and non-binary organisation, opened [Espaço TRANS](#), the first trans community centre in the country. The space is located in Almada and provides peer-to-peer support as well as organising activities and events directly related to trans and non-binary issues.

## HEALTH

In March, the General Health Directorate [abolished](#) the deferral period for men who have sex men and want to donate blood, which was [welcomed](#) by civil society who



had lobbied for this change for years. In January still, several gay men reported being barred from donating. In October, the parliament adopted a number of bills that prohibit discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics in the context of blood donations.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

ILGA Portugal celebrated its 25th anniversary this year.

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The government did not take steps to implement that parliament's 2020 recommendations on the need to provide financial support to organisations that serve vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October, the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Gender Equality and the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality formalised a 60,000 euro grant to LGBTI-focused work, which resulted in 10 funded projects.

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

On 29 June, the Constitutional Court ruled on the constitutionality of regulation 7247/2019, which was adopted as an implementing measure of the 2018 legal gender recognition law. The Court ruled that the regulation should have been adopted by the parliament as legislation, and not introduced by the government as an implementing measure. The 2018 law introduced the right to self-determination of the identity of gender and gender expression and the protection of each person's sexual characteristics. Regulation No. 7247/2019 called for "measures in the educational system, at all levels of education and cycles of study, which promote the exercise of the right to self-determination of gender identity and gender expression and the right to protection of the sexual characteristics of people". The Court's ruling was widely misinterpreted as striking down the law and declaring it unconstitutional, which is not the case:

*"[this] decision leaves untouched the guarantee of the right to gender identity and gender expression and the prohibition of discrimination in the education system"* - Constitutional Court

On 1 July, civil society urged the parliament in a joint letter to immediately start the legislative process in order to protect trans and intersex children and youth.

Rede ex aequo created the first peer to peer national support group for trans youth and published a guide for trans people this year about how to access their human rights, including the right to legal gender recognition, trans specific healthcare, and education, and others.

## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

In September, ILGA Portugal organised five online debates with representatives from Faro, Setúbal, Lisboa, Coimbra and Porto, ahead of Portugal's local elections. In Lisboa, and contrary to provisional results, a new right-wing oriented executive was appointed, with Carlos Moedas - former EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science - being elected as mayor. Well-known journalist, Laurinda Alves, who has previously made homophobic and transphobic remarks, was elected City Councilor for Social Rights.

## POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

On 20 November, the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, the Inspectorate-General of Home Affairs, the Secretariat-General of Home Affairs and the three police forces in Portugal (PSP, GNR and SEF) signed a memorandum of understanding on capacity building on LGBTI issues, including preventing hate crimes and improving investigation and support to LGBTI victims.

## SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

A group of organisers started a fundraiser to establish a shelter for trans migrants in Lisbon, called 'Casa T'. They were later formally established and secured funding.



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