



# Portugal

## BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

In March, two trans women, including a minor, were attacked in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores. Two attackers chased the women by car, hurling transphobic insults and threats. When the older woman, 18, defended herself, the assailants stopped the car and beat her with punches and kicks resulting in severe injuries. The younger woman, 16, was also endangered when the attackers threatened her with a car and brandished razors.

In early June, a trans woman was assaulted while returning home in Portimão. The attack was sudden and unprovoked, with the perpetrators targeting her immediately upon recognising her as a trans person. She sustained significant injuries to her face and hands.

## EDUCATION

In July, the Minister of Education and Science announced that content on "sexuality" and "sexual and reproductive health" would be removed from the Citizenship and Development curriculum. The decision, which replaces the existing 2017 scripts and references, drew sharp criticism for leaving the topic of sexuality absent from all years of schooling. This shift follows the Prime Minister's promise last October to "free [the Citizenship discipline] from the ties of ideological projects," appeasing more conservative sectors.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

In June, in response to the announcement of the "1st Heterosexual Pride March" in Porto, organised by the neo-Nazi group 1143, over 20 LGBTI collectives in Portugal issued an open letter condemning the event. The signatory collectives, comprising organisers of LGBTI Pride marches and queer activist groups emphasised that the demonstration represents an attack on freedom.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

In June, around 60 organisations, including LGBTI, feminist, human rights and Palestinian collectives, issued a joint statement raising concerns that EuroPride Lisbon 2025 risked prioritising commercial interests over genuine activism. They

cited a lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the organisation of the event, questioned its representativeness, and criticised what they described as an excessive focus on tourism and branding over grassroots advocacy. The signatories cautioned that the event's promotion could amount to pinkwashing, using the LGBTI cause for marketing or political purposes rather than advancing substantive social change.

In March, the far-right group Habeas Corpus (HC) disrupted an LGBTI rights conference at the Bar Association (OA) in Lisbon. The event had barely begun when HC members attempted to interrupt it. Similarly, in May, the group targeted and disrupted a reading club organised by the Lisbon Libraries in partnership with ILGA Portugal.

## BODILY INTEGRITY

In March, Pedro Alexandre Costa, Professor of Psychology and Educational Sciences at the University of Porto, noted that limited progress had been made one year after Portugal's ban on conversion practices entered into force. He highlighted that the law required the completion, within one year, of a study assessing the prevalence of such practices and their impact on the physical and mental health of victims. The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG) responded that procurement procedures were still being prepared, in cooperation with the Directorate-General for Health (DGS), in order to launch a market consultation.

## FOREIGN POLICY

In May, Portugal joined 15 other EU member states in a declaration urging Hungary to revise legislative and constitutional amendments adopted in March and April 2025, which could impose fines on participants and organisers of LGBTI events, authorise the use of facial recognition software at such gatherings, and potentially allow bans on them. The declaration was initiated by the Netherlands and co-signed by Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, and Sweden.