



Country report 2024 on anti-discrimination: highlights



Portugal



Cultural Diversity and Immigration:

Portugal has a long history of contact with other cultures and peoples due to emigration and immigration. In 2021, foreign citizens made up 5% of the population, with a majority being non-EU nationals. The country's tradition of tolerance is being challenged by the recent rise of the extreme right-wing party CHEGA.



Religious Tolerance with Challenges:

While there is no conflict between religious groups, the Catholic majority leads to practical challenges for other religions, such as inadequate provisions for religious needs in hospitals, prisons, and schools.



Emerging Awareness of Age Discrimination:

Portuguese society is slowly becoming aware of age discrimination. Legal cases and political discourse are beginning to address age-related issues, highlighting the need for greater sensitivity and action.



Disability Statistics and Challenges:

The 2021 Census revealed that 11% of the population aged five or over has at least one disability, underscoring the ongoing challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Portugal.



Lack of Data on Racial, Ethnic, and Sexual Orientation:

The 2021 Census did not include questions on race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Despite demands from civil society, the National Statistics Institute opted for a separate survey (ICOT) conducted in 2023 to gather information on race and ethnicity.



Constitutional and Legislative Framework:

The Portuguese Constitution includes a broad anti-discrimination clause covering various grounds. National legislation, including Law 93/2017, provides a legal framework to combat discrimination, with specific laws addressing issues like disability and employment discrimination.



Institutional Reorganisation:

The High Commission for Migrations (HCM) was the primary equality body until October 2023, when it was replaced by the Agency for Integration, Migrations, and Asylum (AIMA). The creation of CEARD as a separate, independent equality body was legislated in November 2023, but its establishment was still pending as of the cut-off date for this report.



Enforcement and Legal Action:

The effectiveness of legal enforcement is hindered by practical challenges, including the complexity of judicial procedures, lack of legal support, and limited NGO involvement.



Increasing Awareness of Discrimination:

Despite legislative efforts, discrimination persists, particularly on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin. Reports indicate an increase in complaints, but the culture of taking judicial action remains weak, with few cases reaching the courts.

Administrative complaints are becoming more frequent, signaling a slow shift towards greater accountability.