



POSITION PAPER

Portugal

Committee: United nations Gender assembly
Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Topic: Gender discrimination

Country:

Portugal

History/background of the issue

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Gender discrimination in reality is always discrimination against women. This is almost as old as the modern human civilization. Discrimination and bias against women is universally prevalent in almost all the cultures and manifests in many shades covering the entire spectrum from subtle to blatant and very violent. It is an ongoing struggle across the world to remove the discrimination and bias of various forms against women at work, education, politics, sports, media, courts, police and even at international bodies like this. Humankind as a whole has suffered because of this discrimination. We are collectively poorer for the deprivation and suffering women are going through. This discrimination has affected our children from growing up into healthy adults and half the adults to not realize their full potential. The world has woken up to this fact that this is not just a problem of one gender but of entire human race. On 18 December 1979 the UN

General Assembly has passed, what is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. This bill is the cornerstone of all UN Women programs. 185 countries have signed in agreement. By accepting the bill, states commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms.

Portugal's position/history on topic

Portugal is relatively new to democracy having been liberated only in 1974. This nation tucked away in south Western Europe has a population of 10.5 million. Till 1974 Portugal was ruled by an authoritarian and colonial regime. Due to the extraordinary impact of this patriarchal and conservative authoritarian regime, for many years Portugal lagged behind other Western European countries in

terms of indicators and policies on gender equality, but in recent decades it has witnessed accelerated modernization on many levels, including in relation to gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights.

The Constitution of the Portuguese Republic enshrines the principle of gender equality and the promotion of equality between men and women as a fundamental task of the State.

By – Mahesh Kumar

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