



## Fact Sheet Briefing – Afrophobia in Portugal

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This factsheet is based on ENAR's Shadow Report questionnaire 2014/2015, answered by Ana Stela Cunha and Beatriz Noronha, freelance researchers from AKAZ, including qualitative and quantitative data.

Defining 'People of African Descent (PAD)/Black Europeans (BE) population' is no easy task and indeed various definitions and descriptions exist for the group. The UN Working Group on people of African descent proposed that: "People of African descent may be defined as descendants of the African victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade (...) Africans and their descendants who, after their countries' independence, emigrated to or went to work in Europe, Canada and the Middle East."<sup>1</sup> The term 'Black Europeans' is used here to refer to Black people born or raised in Europe or with an EU citizenship. In some places the term 'Black people' is used to refer more broadly to all those individuals, groups and communities that define themselves as 'Black'. Accordingly, 'Black' does not necessarily refer to a skin colour so much as a sociologically constructed identity.

According to the latest census conducted by the National Institute of Statistics in 2011, around 37% of migrants living in Portugal were African, originating primarily from the Portuguese-speaking African countries, in particular Cape Verde, Angola and Guinea. The majority of this group reside in the metropolitan area of Lisbon.

### Key findings and examples

#### Political climate and legislative developments

- There are provisions in various laws that favour positive action. For example, Article 27 of the Labour Code (law 7/2009) states that the measures taken in respect to certain disadvantaged groups, including those defined by reference to their nationality or ethnic origin, will not be considered discriminatory because the law should provide for the possibility to adopt temporary special measures to prevent or compensate for disadvantages suffered by people differentiated by their 'race', their colour, their language, their religion, their nationality or their national or ethnic origin or to facilitate their full participation in all areas of life.
- In 2007, changes to the criminal code resulted in the motivation of certain crimes (racial, religious, political hatred or based on colour, ethnic or national origin, sex or sexual orientation of the victim) being considered as an aggravating circumstance, thus qualifying for aggravated penalties.

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<sup>1</sup>UN Working Group on People of African Descent, Identification and Definition of People of African Descent and How Racial Discrimination Against them is Manifested in Various Regions, E/CN.4/2003/WG.20/WP.3

- Political representation of people of African descent is very low, due in part to the alienation of African communities and/or their migration status.
- In 2015, Angolan-born Francisca Van Dunem was appointed justice minister.
- In 2014, the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination (CICDR) received 60 complaints (considered to be a very low number and not reflecting the actual level of discrimination), of which 38% were complaints from Black people.

### **Policing and the criminal justice system**

- There is a disproportionately large proportion of Black people in prison: 19% of the total prison population are foreigners, 58% among them are Africans. The African prison population originates mainly from Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Angola. Drug trafficking, theft and robbery have been identified as common offences.<sup>2</sup>
- People of African descent report that they are victims of violence – physical and/or psychological – when stopped and searched by the police.
- NGOs report that police violence towards PAD/BE has intensified in recent years whilst police officials are rarely prosecuted for racist violent acts.
- Interviews have revealed that some Black people have been denied a fair trial with defendants claiming that the police are able to present their version of events during court proceedings, however defendants are not always heard.
- There is a lack of diversity within the criminal justice workforce, for example, approximately 10 PAD/BE hold the positions of attorney.<sup>3</sup>

### **Employment**

- There is significant labour market segmentation in Portugal and PAD/BE are over-represented in sectors such as construction, catering, cleaning, administrative activities and other support services.
- Women, in particular from Guinea, Angola and Cape Verde, are more exposed to unemployment compared to their White peers.
- The President of the Portuguese Industrial Association has reported, during an interview, that there is not a single Black CEO among the 100 largest companies in Portugal.
- Immigrants, as a whole, have higher rates of self-employment; however for Black people the roles are reversed and there is a larger number of Black employees.

### **Education**

- Some migrant groups from Africa have lower educational attainment levels than other European migrants residing in Portugal.
- Due to Portugal's colonial past, Portuguese is the official language in some African countries, however there remains differences and linguistic varieties. Migrants from these countries have been labelled by teachers as “degenerate”, “unclean” and “not correct” due to differences such as the use of the Portuguese language.

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<sup>2</sup> General Directorate of the Prison Service

<sup>3</sup> CORDEIRO, Ana Lucia – “Being black in Portugal: the battle of the statement.” In daily newspaper Público. 24/06/2002. Available at: [www.publico.pt/noticias/jornal/ser-negro-em-portugal-a-batalha-da-afirmacao-172032](http://www.publico.pt/noticias/jornal/ser-negro-em-portugal-a-batalha-da-afirmacao-172032)

- Secondary school education does not address Africa's role in the economic and cultural construction of Portugal.
- The Entreculturas Secretariat has developed a module on the history of Gypsy culture, however the Secretariat is yet to develop an equivalent on Black history or information on Portugal's former African colonies.

*Youth Mill, SOS Racism, Imigrarte Association and other groups promote intercultural dialogue between teachers and students through debates, meetings, seminars; and organise cultural events to enhance multicultural understanding.*

### **Migration and health**

- It is reported that Portugal faces numerous problems with regard to access to health care for migrants from outside of the EU, in particular undocumented migrants and refugees.

### **Recommendations:**

- In partnership with civil society organisations, and according to data protection principles, collect equality data and monitor the outcomes of people of African descent/Black Europeans' in key social indicators in employment, health, education and housing and develop policies in response to persistent racial inequalities.
- Develop ethnic and racial categories in the census, in consultation with civil society organisations and other stakeholders, and allow for self-identification.
- Ensure that national legislation and police guidelines prohibit ethnic profiling and establish a requirement for reasonable suspicion for all police stops.
- Ensure regular training of law-enforcement agents on unconscious bias.
- Ensure that performance appraisal systems for law enforcement sanction the use of ethnic profiling.
- Develop outreach programmes to encourage PAD/BE to be engaged and participate in elections and in decision making processes.
- Establish public duties to promote equality and develop special measures and traineeships for PAD/BE within all public institutions.
- Develop factsheets on Portugal's history of colonialism and its involvement in the slave trade; and raise awareness of Black history within the education curriculum.