

**Presentation by the Portuguese Ombudsman  
Pre-session of the 47th Working Group  
Universal Periodic Review of Portugal (4<sup>th</sup> Cycle)**

30<sup>th</sup> of August 2024

*Ravi Afonso Pereira, Deputy Ombudsman*



## Ombudsman's role & mandate

- Independent constitutional body elected by Parliament
- Protect citizens' rights and ensure justice in the exercise of public powers
- A-status NHRI since 1999
- National Preventive Mechanism under OPCAT

## Ombudsman's UPR Engagement 2024

**April:** Parallel report

**August:** Pre-session

**November:** UPR WG 47th session



## **Focus on four areas of concern:**

1. Adequate housing
2. Persons with disabilities
3. Older persons
4. Migrants and asylum seekers

## 1. Adequate Housing

### ***Main challenges***



Rising housing prices outpace incomes

Increase in homelessness and housing deprivation



Insufficient and deteriorated public housing

Vulnerable groups particularly affected

## 1. Adequate Housing

### ***Recommendations***



***Implement mechanisms to raise awareness***

***Simplify access to housing programs***

## 2. Persons with disabilities

### ***Main challenges***



Lack of sense of urgency



Many public spaces do not meet accessibility standards



Delays in providing assistive products (such as wheelchairs and elevating platforms)

Delays in issuing disability certificates

## 2. Persons with disabilities

### ***Recommendations***



***Reduce unnecessary bureaucracy & streamline processes:***

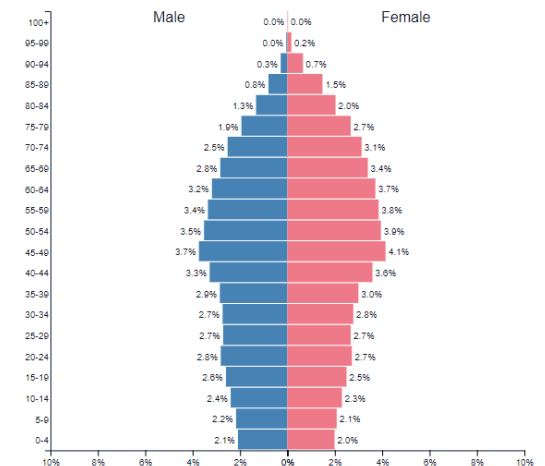
- ***for the allocation of assistive products***
- ***to ensure timely responses to requests for disability certificates***



### 3. Older persons

#### ***Main challenges***

- Ageing population with inadequate healthcare services
- Delays in pension processing
- Digital services present accessibility issues
- Palliative care coverage



### 3. Older persons

#### ***Recommendations***



***Guarantee digital channels remain optional***

***Simplify pension calculation & render it more transparent***

***Effective access to the National Palliative Care Network as  
a national human rights priority***

## 4. Migrants and asylum seekers

### ***Main challenges***



Significant delays in processing residence permits



Poor conditions in temporary detention centers



Detention of minors for immigration purposes

## 4. Migrants and asylum seekers

### ***Recommendations***



***Prioritize effective mechanisms for identifying and protecting vulnerable applicants***

***Ensure adequate detention conditions***

*Parallel report*



*Pre-session full statement*



# Thank you!

<https://www.provedor-jus.pt/>  
[provedor@provedor-jus.pt](mailto:provedor@provedor-jus.pt)