



PAIVA NETTO writes: "Combating violence against women and girls".

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GOOD WILL

Women



IN DEFENSE OF WOMEN

Maria da Penha Law

AUTHORITIES AND SPECIALISTS SHOW THE PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES OF THIS IMPORTANT BRAZILIAN LAW THAT WILL COMPLETE SEVEN YEARS IN 2013.

FOR LIFE

EDUCATE FEELINGS IN ORDER TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

GET TO KNOW THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ACTIONS CARRIED OUT FOR DECADES BY THE LBV TOWARDS PROTECTING AND VALUING GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY.

o **Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes:**
The woman who inspired, with her story, the creation of a law to combat gender violence in Brazil.



Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boavontade
63 years

The **Legion of Good Will (LBV)** presents its recommendations to the participants at the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at UN Headquarters in New York (USA), in 2013. The LBV is a Brazilian NGO in general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1999.

| PAIVA NETTO'S MESSAGE



Combating violence *against women and girls*



Partial view of the United Nations General Assembly Hall during the opening ceremony of the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz

João Pires



José de Paiva Netto, writer, journalist, radio broadcaster, composer, and poet, was born on March 2, 1941, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is the President of the Legion of Good Will (LBV), effective member of the Brazilian Press Association (ABI), of the Brazilian International Press Association (ABI-Inter), of the National Federation of Journalists (FENAJ), of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), of the Union of Professional Journalists of the State of Rio de Janeiro, of the Union of Writers of Rio de Janeiro, of the Union of Radio Broadcasters of Rio de Janeiro, and of the Brazilian Union of Composers (UBC). He is also a member of the Academy of Letters of Central Brazil.

We celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8, but nothing keeps us from talking about the subject in other occasions. I have always argued that when we dignify women we value men. It is the duty of the State and a commitment of all of us to provide women with the necessary support and access to quality education, an efficient health system, and security. Respect for women and good material and spiritual guidance enable them to achieve a degree of excellence in the duties they carry out, for example, in their role as generous mothers, duly prepared to form worthy citizens. It is worth repeating here the quote of the North American educator **Charles McIver** (1860-1906): *“When you educate a man, you educate an individual; when you educate a woman, you educate a whole family.”*



Digitalization

Charles McIver

In approaching this theme, which is of general interest to all of us, it is with great pleasure that I bring you extracts from the interview that the eminent **Maria do Rosário Nunes**, Minister of the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic (SDH/PR), gave in the Temple of Good Will, in Brasília/DF, Brazil, on January 22 this year. Just before the interview, she conducted an ecumenical act on behalf of religious tolerance and signed, along with Minister **Gilberto Carvalho** from the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, the ordinance that created the National Committee of Religious Diversity.

In comments she made about March 8 (International Women’s Day), especially for the *GOOD WILL Women* magazine, she declared:

I have always argued that when we dignify women we value men. It is the duty of the State and a commitment of all of us to provide women with the necessary support and access to quality education, an efficient health system, and security.

Paiva Netto

“What’s interesting is that we were talking about tolerance, peace, and non-violence here today. I once read that if women had more effective participation in putting together peace agreements, peace would be achieved more rapidly. Women in wars, in urban situations, in conflicts when faced with the precocious death of boys in our country, in the world, or of girls, of husbands, of partners, women lose and suffer a lot with violence. Whether it’s gender violence or when they also lose their loved ones.

“March 8 is a fundamental date in Brazil and the world, because it has the capacity to mobilize society equally, allowing it to perceive the value of women and overcome its prejudice.

*“In Brazil, we have a woman in the presidency. President **Dilma** represents a lot to all of us. We also have various female ministers. Allow me to pay tribute to Minister **Eleonora Menicucci**, who is responsible for the Secretariat of Policies for Women of the Presidency of the Republic. We work very closely together. (...)*

“But we have a lot of challenges, because regrettably violence still has a gender perspective. In the family environment women experience many situations of violence, which has to be overcome in all ages.”

Status of women in the UN

Journalist **Enaildo Viana** from the Good Will media, who interviewed the minister, remembered that the Maria da Penha Law—internationally praised—is recognized as one of the most advanced pieces of legislation for protecting women. In fact, between March 4 and 15, 2013, in the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York (USA), LBV—which has general consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the UN—will participate in the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which brings together delegations from UN Member States and international civil society representatives. The debates will focus on the “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” and will reaffirm actions in favor of “the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS”.

The Maria da Penha Patrol

Later in the interview, with regard to the efforts for increasing the effectiveness of the Maria da Penha Law, Maria do Rosário explained:

*“If we were to use a figure of speech, the ‘Maria da Penha Law’ is still a child, a new law, but one that has already taken hold in the hearts of our people. This is perhaps because it comes with a real story behind it: that of **Maria da Penha**, who like so many other Marias in Brazil that suffered violence, she suffered two murder attempts by her own husband. (...)*

“Today women know that the Maria da Penha Law exists. They know that they shouldn’t feel they have no protection; they must seek support.



VIDEO:

GUIDING THE NEW GENERATIONS

Watch the video with the students of the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute, from São Paulo (Brazil), who talk about domestic violence and what the Maria da Penha Law determines.



01/22/2013 – In the Temple of Good Will (TGW), a solemn moment formalizes the creation of the National Committee of Religious Diversity. The document was signed by **Gilberto Carvalho**, Chief Minister of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, and **Maria do Rosário Nunes**, Chief Minister of the SDH/PR. Next to them are **Êmerson Damásio** (L), Minister-Preacher of the Religion of God; and **Alziro Paolotti de Paiva** (R), representing the President of the Legion of Good Will (LBV) and founder of the TGW, **José de Paiva Netto**.



Dilma Rousseff – The President has in office the presence of 10 women as top administration officials.

“Even if today we don’t have all the structures that the law foresees already instituted (...), what I notice is that we’re improving in leaps and bounds. (...) In fact, I want to mention an example from the State where I was born, Rio Grande do Sul, which has created the Maria da Penha Patrol. It did so because a serious problem we face is that the woman who reports violence later has to go back home to the aggressor. She has her children and she’s afraid for them, and she has a reason to be. And it’s in this period, between filing a complaint and the complaint not being followed up on, that barbarous acts occur, the most perverse revenge, the pinnacle of that violence, which is the woman’s death;

the mortality. To avoid this, the target is for the authorities to act immediately. (...)

“The Maria da Penha Patrol does the following: the woman goes to the police station. When she returns home the patrol of the Secretariat of Policies for Women

Respect for women and good material and spiritual guidance enable them to achieve a degree of excellence in the duties they carry out, for example, in their role as generous mothers, duly prepared to form worthy citizens.

Paiva Netto



Photos: Gustavo Gargioni/Palácio Piratini

The Maria da Penha Patrol – Created by the Secretariat for Public Security of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), in partnership with the Secretariat of Policies for Women of Rio Grande do Sul, it aims at controlling the execution of protective measures and preventing domestic and intrafamily violence against women. The photos register social and citizenship actions promoted during the launch of this service in Porto Alegre on October 20, 2012.

in Rio Grande do Sul goes right away to her home.”

Questioned about the feasibility of reproducing this model nationwide, the minister pointed out: *“The federal government is studying this and we’re contributing to the debate on this theme in order to constitute this as good practice, because it is a good practice. We also depend on state governments, but I’m certain that we’re increasingly firmer with regard to introducing this policy.”*

Efficient practice

Honorable Minister Maria do Rosário, thank you for your kindness in sharing your thoughts with us. The subject is one that cannot be postponed in the agendas of governments and of the civil society organizations. The Legion of Good Will wishes success in the initiatives that are aimed at protecting and valuing women and girls. In Brazil and in the world,

we not only applaud but we positively support the actions that have been taken to dignify them.

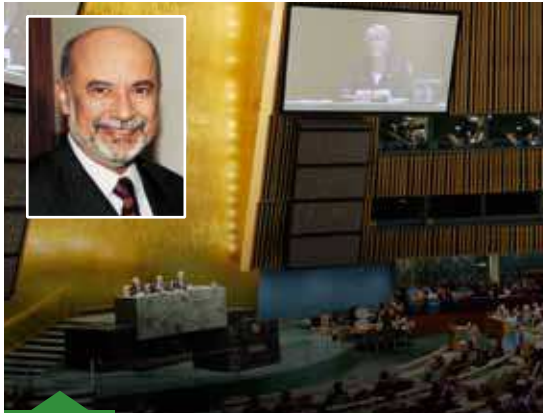
Defending women, girls, and consequently men, boys, and ultimately Life from the maternal womb, is an attitude that is in perfect harmony with the objectives of our work: to experience and propagate the efficiency of the message of Peace that was brought to the world by the Ecumenical Jesus:

A Word of Peace

So said Jesus: *“A New Commandment I give you: Love one another as I have loved you. (...) There is no greater Love than to lay down one’s own Life for one’s friends.”*

The Gospel of Jesus according to John, 13:34 and 15:13.

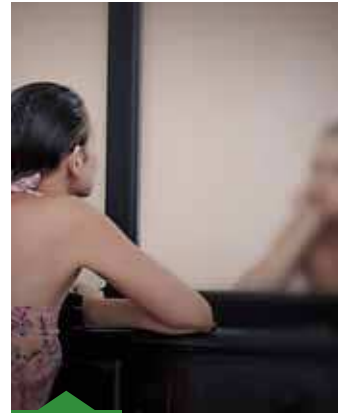
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GOOD WILL Women

Non-political and non-partisan magazine of Ecumenical Spirituality
Commemorative edition of 03/08/2013 in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.



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The LBV on the Internet

www.legionofgoodwill.org

Facebook: Legionofgoodwill

Twitter: @_goodwill

Youtube: Goodwillportal

Written Statement submitted by the LBV to the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

March 4 - 15, 2013 — New York, USA

With the aim of contributing to the 57th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the Legion of Good Will (LBV) presents its main social and educational practices relating to the central theme of the conference: “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”. The subject will be debated between March 4 and 15, 2013, in the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, by Representatives of Member States, UN agencies, and civil society organizations.

Notwithstanding the efforts made by governments, by the UN, and by countless organizations that are dedicated to the cause, we still come across high levels of violence against women. In this worrying scenario, we see more than just isolated episodes of individual brutality in different regions of the world, but violence as a recurring and trivialized practice in many societies. It is estimated that seven out of every ten women in the world have already suffered physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives,

most of the time perpetrated by their own partner. According to the UN, the root of this problem lies in the persistence of the mentality of discrimination against women and in the historical gender inequality.

The recommendations of the LBV are based on three pillars: “Next steps in combatting gender violence”, “Drugs and violence against women”, and “Action at early infancy”.

Next steps in combatting gender violence

The recognition of many forms of prejudice and, consequently, fighting this problem need to guide the debates that aim to prevent manifestations of violence and discrimination of any nature. For more than six decades the Legion of Good Will has been working with valuing Life and promoting the complete health of human beings, in accordance with the Organization’s guidelines. The LBV’s President, José de Paiva Netto, has declared: “*Combatting violence in the world begins in the fight against the indifference to the*



Written Statement
by the LBV
translated by the UN
into its six official
languages:
E/CN.6/2013/
NGO/35



Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boa Vontade



The **LBV's mission**

To promote Education and Culture with Ecumenical Spirituality, so there may be Socio-environmental Awareness, Food, Security, Health, and Work for everyone, in the formation of the Planetary Citizen.

LBV'S RECOMMENDATIONS



Archive GW

LBV'S SIDE EVENT ON CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION HELD AT RIO+20

Starting from the left: **Neilton Fidelis da Silva**, Researcher of the International Virtual Institute of Global Change (IVIG/COPPE-UFRJ) and Technical Advisor to the Executive Secretariat of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change; **Sueli Periotto**, Supervisor of the Legion of Good Will's pedagogical proposal; **Andrei Abramov**, Chief of the NGO Branch of the UN/DESA; **Daniilo Parmegiani**, mediator and LBV's Representative at the UN; Senator **Rodrigo Rollemberg**; **Daniel Nava**, State Secretary of Mining, Geodiversity, and Hydric Resources of Amazonas; and **Fábio Feldmann**, Former Environment Secretary of São Paulo.

► *fate of one's neighbor. To allow the feeling of compassion between individuals to be sacrificed is the same as promoting the collective suicide of nations. We live in times of transformation, of rupture with the past. Is it for the better? It all depends on the sense of humanity we have now."*

In 2013, the urgent global priorities are: to guarantee that the victims of violence have access to support services; to expand primary prevention and, above all, to fight against the impunity of the aggressor; and ensure access to justice and effective reparation. In Brazil, the Maria da Penha Law has been in force for six years. It is considered by the United Nations as one of the three best legislations in the world for women's rights and protection. However, there are still obstacles to making it fully effective, such as the lack of preparation of the professionals who help female victims of aggression, the lack of police equipment, and preparation of judges with the knowledge of gender violence. Even so, progress has been made. In the period between June 2010 and December 2011, for example, the number of legal proceedings to halt domestic violence

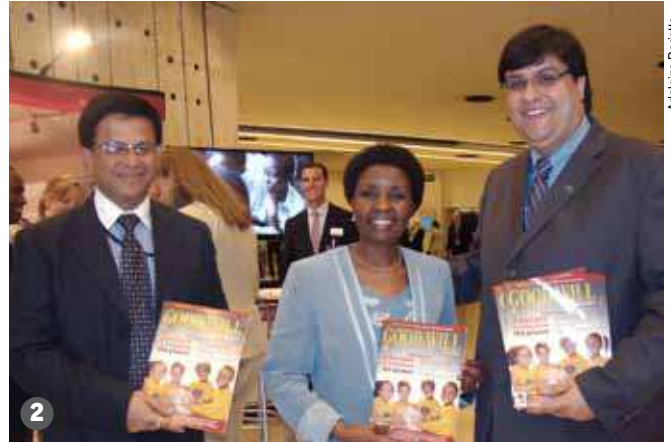
in Brazil increased by 106.7 percent, according to a survey by the Brazilian National Justice Council (CNJ).

By understanding the social role of each citizen the LBV is contributing towards forming girls, boys, men, and women responsible and aware of their own rights and duties, offering them the opportunity and the condition to be able to develop themselves in a complete way. The Organization's strategic axis for promoting a Solidary, Altruistic, and Ecumenical Society is evident in the innovative character of its achievements in the field of formal and informal education. Whether it is in its teaching network, or in its social assistance programs and projects (developed in Brazil and in its autonomous bases in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay), or in the multimedia educational content broadcasted on both national network and the Internet, the LBV always adopts its own educational line, comprising of the Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (as from 11). This teaching proposal works to



Pedro Perinato

1



Adalgiza Perinato

2



Felipe Duarte

3

In Geneva, Switzerland, authorities attending the 2011 High-Level Segment received from the LBV's representatives the Organization's special publication for the event: the GOOD WILL Education magazine. Among those who received it were (1) the Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Ban Ki-moon**; (2) **Nikhil Seth** (L), Director of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; **Asha-Rose Migiro**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; and (3) in New York (USA), **Michelle Bachelet** (R), UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, with the sociologist **Sandra Fernandez**, representative of the LBV at the event.

ally feeling, the potential of the heart, to the cognitive development, the intellect. With its own methodology, this proposal includes a series of effective and replicable strategies for awareness-building and learning.

The Organization's educational proposal was created by Paiva Netto, who sees education as the pivotal point in the fight against the culture of fear, indifference, and violence, and an element that is capable of breaking the cycles of aggression against women that have been perpetuated over the generations. Thus, ethical, moral, and universal values, based on Charity and Solidarity, permeate the social technologies implemented by the LBV, as its president advocates. *"When I refer to Charity in Education I do not see it only in a contemplative way, but with an active spirit of one whose achievements are established in figures, provided that both are equally enlightened by the ideal of compassion. Statistics alone, if devoid of higher feelings in*



Reproduction

LBV'S ORAL STATEMENT BROADCASTED BY THE UN WEB TV

During the debates held on July 6, 2012, the representative of the LBV at the United Nations Danilo Parmegiani (R) talked about the work of the Organization during an intervention broadcast on UN TV and Radio in real time for the whole world. Next to him, the President of the Conference of NGOs with Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), headquartered in Vienna, Austria, Mr. **Cyril Ritchie**.

LBV'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute in São Paulo (Brazil) demonstrates that quality Education, Solidarity, and Ecumenical Spirituality are indispensable to the formation of complete citizens. Such values reflect the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy created by Paiva Netto and successfully applied in the teaching network and socio-educational programs of the Organization. In bold gold letters next to the façade, as indicated by the arrow, LBV's president requested that the following quote by **Aristotle** (384 - 322 B.C.) be put: "All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."



São Paulo (Brazil)



Ananindeua (Brazil)



Cachoeiro de Itapemirim (Brazil)



Poços de Caldas (Brazil)



Aracaju (Brazil)



Vitória (Brazil)



► *its analysis and use, cannot prevent the cunning activity of corruption and its correlations. To undertake Charity is to re-educate creatures. Human beings must respect human beings! And this is not achieved merely with plans and decrees.”*

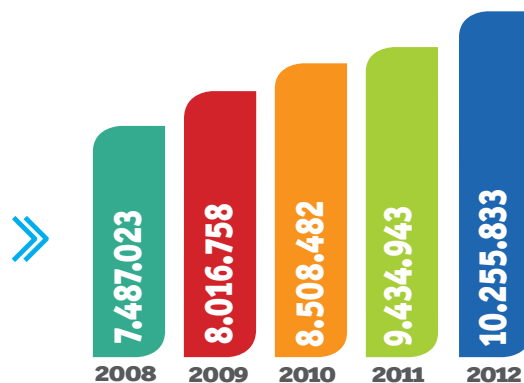
Drugs and violence against women

An aggravating factor that has been of concern to the Brazilian population is the increase in the consumption of crack, which specialists consider to be an epidemic mainly among women. Brazilian authorities recognize that drug addiction is spreading rapidly and it is estimated that approximately 2.3 million people are already affected. In addition to the devastating consequences for the organism, other aspects raise concern. When faced with this reality many female users are subject to sexual exploitation and violence, thus increasing the number of people infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Most of them become mothers under these conditions and consequently lose custody of their child, resulting from unwanted relationships. Research also reveals that treatment for chemical dependence proves to be more difficult for women than for men.

A solution proposed by specialists is the adoption of specific treatment groups for women and the inclusion of the family in the process. The Legion of Good Will has been involved with preventive actions and for decades it has been waging the Campaign *Don't use drugs. To Live is better!*,

Social balance*

Number of services and benefits provided by the Legion of Good Will from 2008 to 2012:



* The Legion of Good Will has its general balance sheet audited by Walter Heuer (External Independent Auditors) by initiative of its President José de Paiva Netto long before the Brazilian legislation required this measure to come into effect.

LBV'S PRESENCE IN BRAZIL AND ABROAD



TYPES OF ASSISTANCE



Homes for the elderly



Community Centers for Social Assistance



Schools



Institutional and Emergency Campaigns

SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL WORK

Today the Legion of Good Will is present in approximately 80 cities in the five Brazilian regions and in six other countries where it has autonomous bases: Argentina, Bolivia, the United States, Paraguay, Portugal, and Uruguay. The LBV is internationally acknowledged for the work developed in its educational and socio-assistance units and in its awareness-building and social mobilization campaigns, carried out with the differential of Education with Ecumenical Spirituality.



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

which consists of promoting educational events and workshops in schools and in several other civil society organizations, in addition to introducing the content as a transversal theme in the Organization's socio-educational programs and projects. A milestone in the history of this work front of the LBV was the holding, 20 years ago, of a major event on the subject in São Paulo, Brazil. According to official data 150,000 people attended the event, which was also heavily supported by artists and the media.

The LBV is also involved with actions directed towards the female gender in its teaching units and social assistance community centers, the highlight being the *Learning and Interaction* program—groups guided by professionals dedicated to socio-cultural inclusion and the strengthening of the socio-affective ties of girls, women, and elderly women. Workshops and educational talks are held with support coming from a technical team

formed by a social worker, a psychologist, educationists, and social educators, in articulation with the Organization's partners and volunteers. These activities provide guidance on how to improve family income, clarifications on women's rights, and notions of citizenship and Culture of Peace. All of these help prevent domestic violence and promote family harmony. Besides this, the interaction groups also encourage an exchange of experience for solving crucial questions relating to the communities that are being helped and that are frequently marked by high indices of social vulnerability. Among the main points highlighted are family planning and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Action at early infancy

Another important LBV social initiative is the *Baby Citizen* program, which assists pregnant women who

Education is the pivotal point in the fight against the culture of fear, indifference, and violence, and an element that is capable of breaking the cycles of aggression against women that have been perpetuated over the generations.

LBV'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Photos: Archive GW



The Charity Round was the pioneer program of the LBV's Permanent Campaign against hunger, both of the body and of the Soul. It was launched at the end of the 1940s with the popular Soup for the Poor, which was also known as Zarur's Soup.

Historical fact – On the detail, Paiva Netto at a young age participating in his first Round on September 1, 1962, in Rio de Janeiro.



find themselves in a socially vulnerable situation. Right from the prenatal phase, the work carried out in this program raises the awareness of the pregnant woman and her companion with regard to strengthening the tie between mother and child. It offers monitoring at all stages of the pregnancy, supplementary nourishment, advice on health and breastfeeding, music-therapy, and nursing and hygiene care. The baby receives help from the maternal womb until it reaches the age of 1, a period that is considered fundamental for its health. In the cities where the LBV has primary education schools, this work benefits children from the age of 4 months. These actions help foster female autonomy and family

cohesion, as well as considerably reduce the risks of violence against children.

The Legion of Good Will, therefore, has joined forces to help in the fulfillment of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially those related to empowering women, putting an end to discrimination and violence against them. In this regard, Paiva Netto states: *“The role of women is so important that, even with all the obstacles offered by a chauvinist male culture, no organization that wishes to survive—whether religious, political, philosophical, scientific, sportive, business, or a family—can dismiss her support. Now, women, when graced by the Divine Breath, are the Soul of everything. They are the Soul of Humanity, the good*



Learn about
LBV's actions for
preventing violence
against women.
Access: www.lbv.org

root, the basis of civilizations, the defense of human existence.”

History

For more than six decades the Legion of Good Will has been developing a coherent platform of socio-educational actions allied to the permanent promotion of a Culture of Peace. In all of its solidary actions, the support provided for girls and women stands out. They benefit directly from a large number of the Organization’s socio-educational programs. In this way, the LBV provides women with the tools they need to defend themselves from violence and the conditions necessary for developing their potential, knowing their rights, and fighting for them. In this manner, women are empowered and the quality of both their lives and the lives of their families are improved.

Founded on January 1, 1950, World Peace Day, by poet and radio broadcaster Alziro Zarur (1914-1979), in the capital city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Legion of Good Will brought to the world an unequalled message of Brotherhood and Union. Right from the outset of its activities it has included actions aimed at those who are most in need. At the same time as acting in emergency situations, it provides low-income communities with material and social support, education, and culture, allied with ecumenical and universal values.

In 1979, journalist, writer, radio broadcaster, and educator José de Paiva Netto took over the presidency of the LBV, with a commitment to expand the Organization’s solidary work. Model schools, community centers for social assistance, and homes for the elderly were inaugurated, and thousands of children, teenagers, young people, and adults who find themselves living in vulnerable



Porto Alegre (Brazil)



Ipatinga (Brazil)



Itabuna (Brazil)

situations are cared for on a daily basis. This action is also extended to students in the public school network.

At the present time, the LBV is operating in approximately 80 cities, in the five Brazilian regions, as well as in autonomous bases in six countries. At these units, the educational line created by its president is applied: the Good Will Pedagogy, comprising of the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, with its own methodology. Using this teaching platform, the Organization goes beyond the content of the curriculum: it seeks to foster a renewed awareness of citizenship capable of spreading the values of Ecumenical Solidarity and the Culture of Peace. ■

Our work

In the following pages you will have the opportunity of getting to know a little more about the work developed in the LBV's socio-educational units: schools, community centers for social assistance, and homes for the elderly. The Organization's activities also extend to educational projects and campaigns on awareness and valuing of Life. All this work—based on the spirit of Solidarity—invests in re-educating human beings through the experience of brotherly values.



Taguatinga (Brazil)

In Curitiba, Brazil, the José de Paiva Netto Educational Center is located at Rua Padre Estanislau Trzebiatowski, 180, Boqueirão. For further information call (+5541) 3386-8430 or access the website www.boavontade.com/english.



Taguatinga (Brazil)



Curitiba (Brazil)

• Schools

These have the mission to educate with Ecumenical Spirituality, forming "Brain and Heart". They aim at promoting in several age groups the harmonious development of the body and the Spirit's intelligence with quality, competence, and effectiveness. The activities conducted in formal education are extended to all stages of primary education.

In Belém, Brazil, the Jesus Nursery School is located at Travessa Padre Eutiquio, 1976, Batista Campos. For further information call (+5591) 3225-0071 or access www.lbv.org/belem or www.boavontade.com/english.

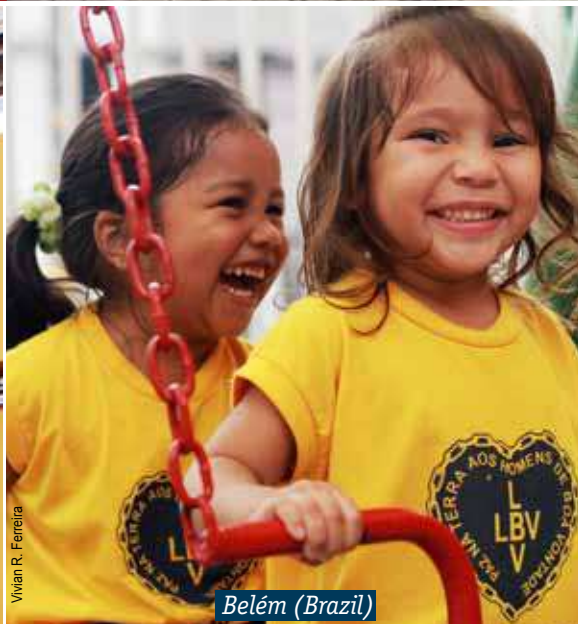


Archive @ Vivian R. Ferreira

Belém (Brazil)



Vivian R. Ferreira



Belém (Brazil)

The LBV was born to love and to be loved!

Paiva Netto



Vivian R. Ferreira

Curitiba (Brazil)

- Nursery school
- Elementary school
- Junior high school
- High school
- Education for Young People and Adults (EJA)

Community Centers for Social Assistance

In these socio-assistance units the care provided to people and families who are in situation of social and/or personal vulnerability helps expand the Solidary Economy. Skills, talents, and values are developed through productive inclusion courses, socio-educative activities, and income generation workshops. The self-esteem of those who are assisted improves and they start exercising their rights as citizens, thus becoming agents for a sustainable development. The LBV's work is carried out by means of the following programs:



Photos: Vivian R. Ferreira

Uberlândia (Brazil)



Porto Alegre (Brazil)



Liliane Cardoso

• Baby Citizen

This program of the LBV helps pregnant women and those with children up to the age of one. It has the aim of improving the quality of life of both mother and child. Activities include guidance and an exchange of experience concerning the stages of pregnancy, as well as monitoring the families. The work developed also aims to ensure the development and equilibrium of family relationship.



Teresina (Brazil)



Cascavel (Brazil)



Paulo Araújo

Maringá (Brazil)



Archive GW

In Cuiabá, Brazil, boys and girls of the program LBV — Children: The Future in the Present! participate in sporting activities.



Nathalia Valério

• Areas for Learning and Interaction

Contribute to socio-cultural insertion and the strengthening of the citizenship of young people, adults, and the elderly. With group activities, sporting events, and therapy, it provides an atmosphere that is favorable for the construction of interpersonal, intergenerational, and family ties.

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



Priscila Petreca

Poços de Caldas (Brazil)



Lella Tonin

Cascavel (Brazil)

• Training and Productive Inclusion

Prepares young people and adults for the labor market through training courses which develop technical and personal competencies and skills.



Aldia Santos

Ipatinga (Brazil)



Tatiane de Oliveira

Salvador (Brazil)

• **LBV — Children: The Future in the Present!**

Boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 12, who are looked after in the Community Centers for Social Assistance during their off-school hours, take part in the program. The initiative contributes towards child protagonism, because it takes into consideration the life stories and singular nature of children, by means of activities that awaken their talents and broaden their skills, enable the experience of values, and strengthen the bonds between family members.



Nathalia Valério

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



Vinícius Calliman

Ribeirão Preto (Brazil)



Alex Lima

Maceió (Brazil)



Xerém (Brazil)



Sumidouro (Brazil)

• **S.O.S. Disaster**

This is a campaign undertaken in partnership with the Civil Defense and other agencies and it counts on the support of volunteers. It performs immediate and urgent actions to help people and/or communities affected by disasters. It delivers relief items (non-perishable and ready-for-consumption food, drinking water, clothing, footwear), personal hygiene items, cleaning products, and mattresses in addition to providing first aid assistance.



Xerém (Brazil)

Campaigns

The successive social mobilization and awareness-building campaigns conducted by the Legion of Good Will nationwide aim to value Life and bring children and families into focus.



São Paulo (Brazil)



São Paulo (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

• LBV's Permanent Christmas — Jesus, our Daily Bread!

The LBV delivers non-perishable food baskets to the families helped all year round in its socio-assistance programs, to the families cared for by the organizations belonging to the Solidary Society Network, and to those supported by the LBV's partner organizations.



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Priscilla Artunes



Porto Alegre (Brazil)

Liliane Cardoso



São Luís (Brazil)

Kásalia Bernade

**• A+ Child —
Without Education
There is no Future!**

This action is of economic benefit to parents who lack the resources to buy school supplies. At the beginning of the school year, more than 14,000 kits with school supplies are given to the children and teenagers who attend the Organization's schools and to participants in the programs LBV — Children: The Future in the Present! and Learning and Interaction for adolescents. This action boosts the self-esteem of those helped and motivates them to continue their studies.



Leila Tonin

Vitória (Brazil)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Fortaleza (Brazil)

***In dozens of Brazilian cities,
the happiness expressed by the
children when receiving their
school supplies is clear for
everyone to see.***



Priscila Pereira

Poços de Caldas (Brazil)



Monica Mendes

Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)



Nathália Valério

Volta Redonda (Brazil)



Monica Mendes

Uberlândia (Brazil)

• **Homes for the elderly**
 For those elderly people who find themselves in social risk situation and/or are removed from their family nucleus, the LBV runs three units located in the cities of Volta Redonda (Rio de Janeiro State), Uberlândia and Teófilo Otoni (Minas Gerais State). The assistance offered includes nutritional monitoring, medical and nursing care as well as physical and occupational therapy.



Leila Tomm

Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)



Archive GW

Volta Redonda (Brazil)

LAW 11.340/06

Legislation
imposes a new
Culture

Brazilian authorities and society work toward improving the *María da Penha Law*, which, since 2006, has been a powerful tool for protecting women from domestic and family violence in Brazil.

International studies, reports, and statistics show that violence against women is the most widely disseminated form of aggression in the world. Female children, adults, and elderly suffer from this regardless of country, ethnicity, social class, or level of schooling.

According to the United Nations (UN), nearly 70 percent of women in the world have already undergone some form of violence during the course of their lives. The problem is not limited to any particular culture, nation, or social group. The UN states that “*the roots of violence against women lie in persistent discrimination against women.*” (Read the article about the subject on p. 36). Therefore, to fight this condemnable practice, it is fundamental to strengthen national laws that protect women, in addition to fostering more and more awareness building campaigns as well as social mobilization regarding this issue.

In Brazil, since the Law 11.340 was passed on August 7, 2006, by the then President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, it has changed the legal process reality of domestic and family violence crimes in terms of punishing the aggressors. Named the *María da Penha Law*, in honor of the pharmaceutical biochemist **María da Penha Maia Fernandes**, whose life story inspired the new law (see the chart on pages 30 and 31), it creates stricter mechanisms to inhibit and prevent violence against women, besides introducing changes in the Penal Code and in the Criminal Enforcement Law. Thanks to this progress, Brazil witnessed the birth of a legal order that also fulfills the desires of the international society and of commitments that were undertaken through treaties and conventions more than 10 years ago. “*Its content, which was widely discussed and debated in all Brazilian states, in state congresses, in the municipal arena, and among experts, was designed in such a way as to leave no loopholes. Today, when I analyze the aspect of the broad protection network that was added in the text of the law, I see that all the effort was worth it,*” recalls Representative **Jandira Feghali**, who was the reporting member of Congress for this law at the Federal House of Representatives.

According to Feghali, the new law assures that “*public authorities will be able to create policies aimed at ensuring the human rights of women within the home and the family bounds, in the sense of protecting them from all forms of negligence, discrimination, exploitation, violence, and oppression.*”

The greatest achievement of the *María da Penha Law*, in the opinion of educator **Schuma Schumacher**, Executive Coordinator of the Human Development Network (REDEH) and co-author of *Dicionário Mulheres do Brasil* [Women of Brazil Dictionary] and of *Mulheres Negras do Brasil* [Black Women of Brazil] was “*the State assuming its responsibility.*”



Educator Schuma Schumacher

Map of violence

The data collected by the “Map of Violence 2012: Homicides of Women in Brazil” are shocking. According to this research—coordinated by sociologist **Julio Jacobo Waiselfisz** with the support of the Brazilian Center for Latin American Studies (CEBELA) and the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO)—, in Brazil there were more than 90 thousand deaths of women victims of aggression in the last 30 years. Currently, Brazil ranks seventh in this type of crime in a list of 84 nations. The study used information from death certificates and data from the World Health Organization (WHO).

This state of affairs, according to experts, does not invalidate the significant progress achieved in making domestic violence a crime. Nevertheless, everybody agrees that investments must be made increasingly in setting up specialized government bodies, in services to report violence and in sentencing, the ratios of which are still small relative to the number of cases registered.

(Continues on page 32)

••••• *Maria da Penha:*

The Law 11.340/06 is today an international landmark when it comes to dealing with domestic and family violence against women. This Brazilian achievement owes a great deal to the strength and courage of the biochemical pharmacist **Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes**. With perseverance, this native of the state of Ceará, born in 1945, changed her own destiny and, through her example, that of thousands of other women who are protected by the law that carries her name. In the city of Fortaleza, where she lives, she received the staff of GOOD WILL magazine to give an interview about her story of struggle and the progress of the pioneering law that fights gender violence.

GOOD WILL — Six years after the Maria da Penha Law was passed, what can we celebrate?

Maria da Penha — Society is taking over this law. It knows that it is here to protect women from domestic violence, to prevent it, and to punish the aggressors. What is needed is a larger number of women’s police stations, reference centers to attend to women in a situation of domestic violence, and shelters for women who are unable to go back home because they might be killed. Besides women’s courts, which we need a larger number of, we also need to speed up lawsuits and to mete out justice, but not like it happened in my case, which took 19 years and 6 months to happen.

GW — This story happened almost 30 years ago...

Maria da Penha — I met my aggressor when I was doing my master’s degree at the University of São Paulo [USP]. He was a Colombian student that came to USP to do a specialization course and he was well regarded in my group of friends (...). When I returned to Fortaleza, after completing my master’s degree, he went along with me. It just so happened that during this time I had a daughter with him; that was when he managed to acquire Brazilian nationality. As soon as he got this guarantee, he showed his true nature.

GW — How did your cry for help come about?

Maria da Penha — In May 1983, I was sleeping when I heard a shot... a very loud noise in the bedroom. I tried to move, but I couldn’t any more. And the version my ex-

an example of courage and perseverance :::::

husband told the police and the neighbors was that four thieves had broken into our house and that he had fought them off. I became paraplegic, and spent four months in the hospital. Then I returned home, because at first I didn't know he had been the shooter. That was when he kept me in forced confinement at home for more than fifteen days. (...) I couldn't continue with that relationship, but I needed legal documentation, something called a legal separation, in order to leave home taking my daughters with me, because otherwise I might lose their custody. With the document I was able to leave with my daughters and I returned to my parents' house.

GW — And after that did it become possible to investigate the case?

Maria da Penha — From May until December [1983] all that happened. In January 1984 the State Security Secretariat resumed the process and called him in unexpectedly for a new testimony. He couldn't remember any more what he had said before, and started contradicting himself. In the end, the police indicted him for attempted murder. That was when my great fight for justice began, and my aggressor was only arrested as a result of international pressure. The first trial only took place eight years after the event. He was convicted, but left the courthouse freely thanks to a legal recourse. He was then submitted to a jury and, having again been convicted, he now got out thanks to procedure delay. When he was finally arrested, there were only six months left before the crime would have become time-barred.

GW — Where did you get support from?

Maria da Penha — I decided to write a book [*Sobrevivi... posso contar* (I survived... I can tell my story)] about this story and all the contradictions in the legal proceedings. This work, thanks to God's will, reached two Brazilian NGOs: CLADEM (The Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights) and CEJIL (Center for Justice and International Law), which invited me to denounce Brazil to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS).



Divulgation

GW — The LBV addresses the subject of violence against women in campaigns and socio-educational programs and in the educational content of its network of schools...

Maria da Penha — I congratulate the LBV because I think that education changes everything. If you educate children, our society becomes much better. I have no doubt about this. I'm happy to record a program*¹ that will reach thousands and thousands of people, and not only women, but men, adolescents, and children as well. We can only have a Culture of Peace in the world and in our city if we develop it within the home. I'm always at your disposal to give information about the Maria da Penha Law. (...) I want to congratulate the LBV's school! The subject Coexistence*² is very interesting.

*¹ Refers to a recent interview granted to the Super Good Will Communication Network (radio, TV, Internet, and publications).

*² The subject Coexistence, created by educator Paiva Netto, invites students to research and discuss important everyday issues, such as domestic violence and what the Maria da Penha Law determines.

WEB CAMPAIGN

Event against gender-violence

In events involving music and dance, women from different countries called everyone's attention to the feminine rights. The goal of the campaign *One Billion Rising* was to mobilize and sensitize people all over the world through the Internet on V-Day (February 14), the day of combatting violence against women, in an act of indignation and calling out for more freedom and safety.



Peciro Reis

Judge Ana Cristina Silva Mendes

“It’s frightening! We are experiencing a tragedy in this country in terms of what happens to women, the so-called domestic violence practiced by people with whom women have ties of affection....,” comments educator Schuma Schumacher. According to Schumacher, society ought to be ashamed of this tragedy, of the figures that put Brazil at a dismal level, *“so that we may invest in schooling, in our children, so they can start learning the importance of peace in inter-personal relations.”*

Gender inequality and violence against women and girls also call for strong social and financial commitment. Senator **Lúcia Vânia** affirms that this situation *“has a face and numbers,”* citing data from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), from September 2011. *“According to the study, one out of every five days of absence at work is caused by the violence experienced by women within their own homes, worldwide. Rape and domestic violence are major causes of incapacity and death during the productive age. A woman that undergoes domestic violence usually earns less than one that doesn’t live in a situation of violence.”*

The same IDB report estimated the total cost of domestic violence for the economy of a country: between 1.6% and 2% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product); in the case of Brazil, something around 160 billion reais.

Consolidation of the law

Judge **Ana Cristina Silva Mendes**, who is in charge of the 1st District Court Specialized in Domestic and Family Violence against Women of the city of Cuiabá, state of Mato Grosso and member of the Parliamentary Commission of the National Forum of Special Courts for Domestic and Family Violence against Women (FONAVID), considers that the country is undergoing changes and bringing down paradigms: *“The law took this problem out of the private sphere (...). That old saying according to which in fights between husband and wife nobody may meddle is not true; now, the government authorities can meddle,”* she commented.

According to the judge, the decision of Brazil’s Federal Supreme Court (STF) in February 2012, which gave the Public Prosecution Service the power to accuse

MARIA DA PENHA INSTITUTE (MPI)
 Founded in 2009, it has the purpose of hindering and preventing domestic and family violence against women—as established in Article 1 of the Law 11.340/06—and redeeming family values back in society. For such, it implements special projects of social protection policies for women, investing in their professional and educational development. More information available at the website www.mariadapenha.org.br

aggressors in domestic violence cases, even if the affected woman gives up on pursuing her accusation, strengthens the applicability of the law. According to the original rule, the aggressor could only be sued if the woman filed a formal complaint. *“It’s a watershed. The arguments that some of the people who are in charge of applying the law used to uphold have now collapsed. The decision causes the penalties to be applied more strictly. The Supreme Court came along and said: ‘a woman in a vulnerable situation needs to be supported, cared for and, therefore, the State will intervene with a public and unconditional criminal lawsuit’.”*

Judge Ana Cristina calls attention to the project to update the Brazilian Penal Code*, which is being discussed in the Senate: *“Our greatest concern is that they might bring down this entire process, (...) because our main line of legal thinking for punishment is the Brazilian Penal Code, which contains all crimes. Therefore, if the issue of violence is treated too subjectively, to the point of no longer being typified, we could find ourselves in a tight spot.”*

The judge also considers that the structure of the care network foreseen in the law is lacking, indicating, inclusively, that there are elements in the judiciary system that are lacking as well. *“We need a larger number of specialized police stations and a better care system. There are some States that are very timid in relation to this issue,”* she affirms.

Portal and campaign

The same concern with the subject

led the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women (SPM) and the Ministry of Justice to launch, in August 2012, the portal *Commitment and Attitude for the Maria da Penha Law*. Directed at the people who implement justice, the website brings together a range of data, doctrines, and jurisprudence about this law.

Besides the portal, the campaign *Commitment and Attitude for the Maria da Penha Law — The Law is Stronger*, also divulged to the public at that time, works towards speeding up rulings, ensuring the correct application of the law, mobilizing society, and fostering the joint action between government and Justice to reduce impunity in the cases of violence against women.

Despite the advances that resulted from the new legislation coming into effect, the challenge is to make agents from the various sectors, the powers that be, and civil society itself to collaborate in an articulated manner. In addition, it is necessary to work strongly towards a change of culture—education being the chief agent for this. In this respect, educator Schuma Schumacher praised the initiative of the Legion of Good Will to work the issue of peace and gender equality in a preventive way (read more about this subject on p. 42), both inside classrooms and in talks held in the Organization’s Community Centers for Social Assistance. *“We are investing as you are in this contribution [to society]. I congratulate the LBV for this commitment! If each person, men and women, could contribute, our children will be grateful in the future.”*

* To update the Brazilian Penal Code, which dates back to 1940, a commission of 15 jurists prepared the text of the bill that was submitted to the Senate. The material proposes changes connected with cybercrimes, the use of drugs and prostitution, among others. The Code reform has given rise to technical, political, moral, and religious divergence. The bill has already received more than one thousand amendments and has gathered almost seven thousand suggestions from the population.

EXCLUSIVE

Violence against women

There was a significant growth in the records of the Call Center for Women (Dial 180) in 2012 compared with the same period in 2011. The increase is of nearly 10 percent according to data divulged first hand to GOOD WILL Women magazine by the Secretariat of Policies for Women:

Number of calls attended

In 2012*
732,468

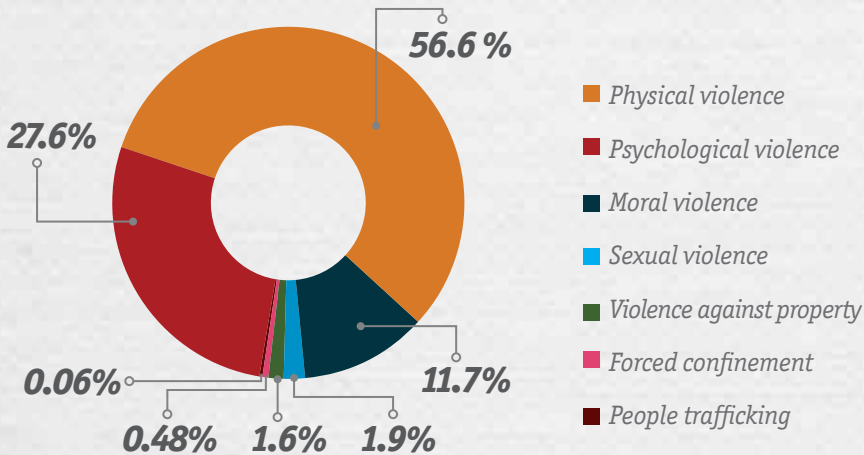
From this total, 88.667 were reports of violence (see graphs below)

In 2011
667,116

*In 2012 there were 430 cases of forced confinement and 58 cases of women trafficking reported.

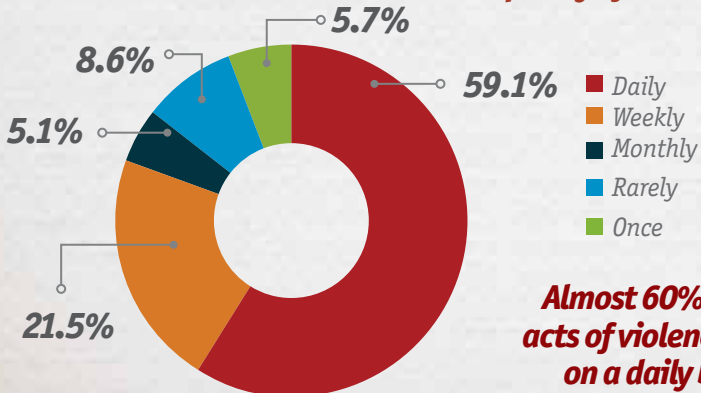


Types of violence reported



Calls to the **Dial 180** number are spontaneous and the number of calls received is not directly related to the incidence of crimes or violence. The demand for the service may reflect how much the population knows about its rights. By the end of 2012, this telephone service provided by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, which in turn is linked to the Presidency of the Republic, had received over 3 million calls.

Frequency of the attacks



Almost 60% of the acts of violence occur on a daily basis

The Call Center for Women is a free nationwide service provided by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women. It receives reports of violence, complaints about the work of the network, and it gives women guidance regarding their rights and about the current legislation, directing them to the appropriate services when necessary.

Source: Call Center for Women — Dial 180/SPM-PR

..... **The creation of the law**

GOOD WILL magazine talked to two members of Congress who played a key role in the development of the bill that resulted in the Maria da Penha Law: Senator Lúcia Vânia and Representative Jandira Feghali.

Having been the reporting member of Congress for the law in the Commission of Constitution and Justice (CCJ), the senator recalls: *“What characterizes the process of the bill in the House of Representatives and in the Senate is that we took into consideration the suggestions of men and women interested in the dignity of people and in gender issues.”* She believes that it was the participation of members of Congress and of outstanding members of society that provided Brazil with a unique legal order. *“We gave the country a law that is considered by the United Nations as one of the three most important ones in the world to protect women, according to the report Progress of the World’s Women 2011-2012: In Pursuit of Justice.”*

Representative Jandira Feghali, reporter of the Maria da Penha Law in the House of Representatives, explained that everything started with the Interministerial Work Group created by Decree No. 5.030 of March 31, 2004, in which several bodies of the Executive branch of the government were also represented. *“The preliminary draft of the bill prepared by the group was submitted to a consortium of feminist non-governmental organizations. (...) We held public hearings and, along with civil*



Representative Jandira Feghali

society, we built the text based on all the arguments, ideas, and suggestions that had been heard.”

She remembers the resistance and pressures that had to be faced at the time: *“When I became the reporter for this, I decided to remove from under the special criminal courts the cases of domestic violence. It was unthinkable to treat this kind of crime as having a minor offensive potential. Pecuniary penalties were common, such as obliging the aggressor to pay for food baskets.”*

Jandira Feghali also commented on the effort of civil society organizations in favor of the empowerment of women, in particular on the work of the LBV. *“It is acknowledged that the Organization has contributed in the struggle to establish a protection network for women. Preventive actions are always the greatest trump in fighting this type of violence. The pursuit of a peaceful society is extremely important, and all direct actions taken to achieve this must be treated with reverence.”*



Senator Lúcia Vânia

In the same way Senator Lúcia Vânia also added: *“I congratulate the LBV on its work. (...) We, as citizens, as representatives of the public authorities and of organizations such as the LBV, cannot close our eyes and choose omission.”*

Despite the quality of the legal text, there are elements that need to be incorporated into it in order to make the application of the Maria da Penha Law more agile. Therefore, the congresswoman herself submitted the Senate Bill (PLS, in Portuguese) No. 37/2010 to amend article 10 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Brazil and article 12 of Law 11.340 to determine the maximum time span for conclusion and submission of police investigations in the cases of domestic and family violence. *“At present, the period for the police to complete an investigation and submit it to the court is 10 days (...). What I intend is to get Justice to be faster, so as to protect women better,”* the senator adds. ■



**BREAKING
THE SILENCE**

*An important step for fighting
violence against women*



Sandra Fernandez,
sociologist, New
York/USA

In any period of history, women have always been exposed to violence. The cinema established the stereotype of pre-historic man who, when wanting to mate, would drag the female to his cave by her hair and beat her around the head to stun her and, then, satiate his biological need. Indeed this being let himself be guided by his reproductive instinct. Despite thousands of years of human evolution, a sense of civility still seems not to exist in the attitudes of many men who claim to be rational. Imagine, dear reader, that while you are reading this paragraph thousands of girls and women all over the world are suffering some type of aggression—physical, sexual, psychological, economic—or are being murdered.

In a resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1993, the United Nations (UN) defined violence against women as: *“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”*

According to studies, most of the crimes against the female gender can occur in secret within the domestic environment itself. Although this type of violence is an ancient practice, the laws or legal acts that regulate the punishment of the perpetrators

of aggression are relatively new in the penal codes of many countries.

Violence in a global scale

Statistics worldwide show that violence against girls and women is still very common in daily life. It results in more victims than armed conflicts. Alongside gender inequality, this type of violence exists in all cultures, in working relationships, in civil wars, in wars between nations, and in love relationships; violence against women is not confined borders. Human trafficking, especially sexual exploitation and the trafficking of women, acquires dramatic dimensions and is becoming one of the most profitable illegal business, after selling weapons and drugs.

Violence is the main concern of the citizens of Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a report entitled “State of Latin American and Caribbean cities”, published in August 2012 by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The region has the highest murder rates in the world, at more than 20 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, while the world average is 7 per 100,000. According to the document, organized crime and domestic violence against women account for a large part of these rates.

In Europe, one in every four women have been assaulted in their home at least once in their lives. In France, delinquency rates have reduced since 2009, while the number of cases of violence against women have increased in the same period. Furthermore, a French woman dies every two days victim of marital violence.

In the United States, one woman is beaten every fifteen seconds, says the FBI, the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation. According to the national

Statistics worldwide show that violence against girls and women is still very common in daily life. It results in more victims than armed conflicts.

report on criminal statistics, called the “Uniform Crime Reports”, less than half of domestic violence incidents are reported to the police and a third of all femicides are committed by intimate partners.

Also in the USA, a report showed that boys who witness their father’s violence are 10 times more likely to engage in spousal abuse in later adulthood than boys from nonviolent homes (Family violence: Interventions for the justice system, 1993).

Besides the physical and moral consequences (which I will approach further on), it is worth highlighting that domestic violence costs the public coffers dear. For North Americans, the costs exceed US\$ 5.8 billion a year: US\$ 4.1 billion in medical services and health care and almost US\$ 1.8 billion in lost productivity from paid work and present value of lifetime earnings (PVLE) (Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, 2003 Report, publication of the Department of Health and Human Services).

In Canada, 34 percent of women who suffer mistreatment and 11 percent of victims of sexual assault affirmed that they could not work the day after the aggression, which generates losses of 7 million Canadian dollars per year (Greaves, 1995).

A 2008 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States showed that grievous bodily harm and homicide are the main causes of death of females aged 15 to 34. This is general information and it does not include the reason for the violence against women. However, when relating it to the data presented by the FBI, it is possible to verify that more women die from these acts of hostility than from cancer or heart disease.

For Swiss journalist **Mona Chollet**, marital violence is one of the main causes of female mortality. “*It degenerates into death when one more blow is fatal to the victim, or when the man prefers to murder her before seeing her escape from his control—the period that follows the decision to separate was identified, as well as the period of pregnancy, as one of the moments when female partners of violent men are in greater danger.*” (Chollet, in her article

Sexual violence

After domestic violence, rape is the second most common form of assault against girls and women. About 73 percent of all sexual abuse was committed by a non-stranger.

48%

▶ a friend or acquaintance of the victim

17%

▶ an intimate partner

8%

▶ another relative

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, United States, 2010.

Child marriage

This widely known practice in patriarchal societies, in the 18th and 19th centuries, still remains in traditionalist cultures and religious communities. In them, girls are promised in marriage by an agreement between families. Among young girls between 20 and 24 years old worldwide, about one in every three—approximately 70 million—had to marry before they reached the age of 18, while 11 percent of them—almost 23 million—entered into marriage or an informal union before they were 15 (according to data released by the UN on October 11, 2012, International Day of the Girl Child). Young girls forced into sexual relations run the risk of developing serious health problems, including exposure to HIV/AIDS.



Machisme sans frontière (de classes), in the French newspaper *Le Monde Diplomatique*, in May 2005.)

Culture and social justice

Culture creates the myth of the idea of men as the main cause of social anomalies. German political philosopher **Hannah Arendt** (1906-1975) in her book *Du Mensonge à la Violence* considers that “Power is never the property of an individual; it belongs to a group (...).”

The philosopher looks in depth at the concept of power in order to distinguish it from the notion of vigor, strength, violence, and authority. But in transposing this definition to the sphere of aggression against women, we can understand that even in the violent action of a single individual motivated by the idea of power over another, he does it believing in a set of representations that are imposed as *truths* that, unfortunately, tell him that such is the natural state of things.

Right from birth, a large number of men share the same concepts that have been fixed for centuries and reproduced on a daily basis. The mentality that feeds the macho culture comes from a strong patriarchal legacy, the same legacy that teaches that men do not cry because this is a sign of weakness; that they need to play sports for men to show their virility and the potential of their male strength; and that they should not help with household chores because this is “women’s work”—after all, he is the man of the house, the provider. These and many other concepts reinforce the idea that to win in the world, in a society that is generous with its privileges and advantages for males, such as a higher salary, men need to be macho.

This is a case of the “eternalization” of culture, a concept emphasized by French



Abuse in armed conflicts

A condemnable action in civil wars and wars among nations is the systematic policy of sexual violence. With the intention of subjecting the foundation of a country or region, this war practice has been perpetrated in various conflict areas both by rebel and military forces who dishonor their own corporation and sexually attack girls, women, and elderly women with the intention of humiliating the opponents. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, at least 1,100 rapes are reported every month. It is estimated that more than 200,000 women have already suffered sexual abuse during the conflicts in this African country (UN – “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” report, November, 2011).



It is estimated that more than
200,000
women have already suffered sexual violence during the conflicts in the country.

The mentality that feeds the macho culture comes from a strong patriarchal legacy, the same one that teaches that men do not cry because this is a sign of weakness.

sociologist **Pierre Bourdieu** (1930-2002) in his book *Masculine Domination* that, in other words, highlights the aspects of history that seem eternal. According to Bourdieu, “eternalization” happens via interconnected institutions that are charged with carrying it out, such as the family, religion, the State, schools, sports, and the media. Therefore, if interconnected institutions produce the effect of eternalizing these concepts, they should be reconsidered within the educational and development context of boys and girls.

The President of the Legion of Good Will, Brazilian journalist, radio broadcaster, and writer Paiva Netto, in a document sent to the UN in several

languages during the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2009, wrote: “*I reaffirm that world stability begins in the hearts of children. That is why at the LBV we have been applying for so many years now what we call the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy. (...) The affection that inspires our pedagogical model, taken in its highest sense, is, besides a lofty feeling of the Soul, a **political strategy**, equally understood in its most elevated nature, in consonance with Social Justice, as a **survival strategy** for individuals, peoples, and nations.*”

For the LBV’s president, children must be treated with total love and respect, because after all, they will be the future political leaders, scientists, and citizens responsible for transforming history and for perpetuating the concepts of social justice. “*The concept of Justice allied with Goodness, but never in connivance with evil. The question is not to transform ourselves into accomplices of what is wrong, but we need to incorporate into the Soul this elevated alliance with the feeling of benevolence that is born from the human heart created by a God who, in the definition of Jesus according to **John the Evangelist**, is Love*” (Paiva Netto, in *Jesus, o Profeta Divino* [Jesus, the Divine Prophet], 2011).

And the writer continues, this time in another one of his books, “*É Urgente Reeducar!*” [It is Urgent to Re-educate!]: “*Education, a theme always on the agenda. It is urgent that it be disseminated and faced by all of us as a safe path that shortens the distance among social classes. Education is also an efficient antidote against violence, criminality, diseases, and everything*

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

This practice, which is totally repudiated in the West, still persists in some countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. It consists in removing the clitoris and, in many cases, in sewing up the vaginal labia, a process called infibulation.

more than
130
million

girls and women alive today have already undergone this form of mutilation, according to the UN.

Dowry murder

This is common in countries where there is a tradition of paying a dowry as part of the marriage agreement. If the fiancée’s family does not have sufficient resources to meet the demands of the future husband, the woman becomes vulnerable to all types of insult and punishment, which might even result in murder—often disguised as suicide, the fiancée being forced to swallow acid or a fire-related “accident”.

that harms the healthy development of the people.”

It is important to observe, as Paiva Netto points out, that the power to shorten distances lies in Education (which plays the role of forming “Brain and Heart”). If such distances exist it is because there was no cohesion between the parts, in other words, spaces were created and were filled with anomalies that generate social disturbances such as violence, multiplied in all degrees and in all sectors of society, and impunity. If these spaces are not filled with the values of “*Truth, Compassion, Morality, Ethics, Honesty, and Brotherly Love, in short, the mathematics that harmonize the equation of human, mental, moral, and spiritual existence (...), it will be difficult to reach a truly Solidary Society,*” writes the author of *It is Urgent to Re-educate!*.

Hope

I once read this phrase: “*God always smiles when a child is born.*” I believe that this saying presents an important message of confidence in the future. It is the Hope that Jesus left us in His Gospel according to John, 10:16: “*I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one Flock and one Shepherd.*” The Sublime Educator bequeathed strong and inspiring messages to us, a constant invitation for reflection and the practice of Good deeds, as in this verse. We can interpret that the Divine Master does not want us to lose our identity, but that we all achieve the voice of understanding, the voice of union, and the voice of brotherhood, guided by a single shepherd, Love.

If walls could talk, they would attest to the immense suffering caused by domestic violence. Even so, pain, like the root of a flower, breaks through the soil in search of

the sun, creating beautiful sweet-scented and colored shapes. Flowers in this context represent the unceasing efforts of civil society organizations, governments, the legal sphere, the media, health professionals, researchers, scientists, teachers, social activists, and above all citizens. Day after day, all these segments and individual initiatives contribute to making the statistics on violence a thing of the past, because they believe in human beings and in their transformation. “*What shapes our Soul are the actions we practice. We are what we think and do,*” says Paiva Netto. ■

Human trafficking

Between **500** thousand and **2 million** people are trafficked every year



This is currently one of the most profitable activities of organized crime alongside the arms and drugs trade. According to the UN, between 500,000 and 2 million people every year are trafficked into situations of prostitution, forced labor, slavery or servitude. Women and girls account for about 80 percent of the victims detected.

Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is considered to be any attempt at obtaining sexual favors by means of reprehensible, undesirable, and rejectable conduct, such as blackmail, involving the use of the hierarchical power of the person practicing it. The crime occurs in working environments, within teaching establishments, and in religious segments, ultimately, in any place where people come together and where the victim is threatened by proposals with a sexual intention. A recent research in Europe showed that 50 percent of the women interviewed declared they had already suffered sexual harassment at least once in the workplace. In another study in the USA, 83 percent of the girls interviewed, between the ages of 12 and 16, said they had been target of harassment (verbal, physical, or sexual) in public schools (UN – “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” report, November, 2011).



Vivian R. Ferreira

Solidary Citizenship

Education as a means of confronting discrimination and violence against women

Vivian R. Ferreira



Sueli Periotto*, Supervisor of the Good Will Pedagogy (comprised of the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy) and Principal of the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute.

Educational actions (formal and informal) play a fundamental role in improving the living conditions of women, both in Brazil and in the world. And this support can be decisive regarding the problem of gender inequality and of violence towards women, from childhood all the way to old age.

It is necessary to encourage all open environments to hold dialogues about the empowerment of women. This way, the subject can be constantly discussed in recreational or pedagogical programs where information, explanation, and proposals can be gathered to eradicate aggression against girls, female teenagers, and women. This is a dramatic and intolerable situation observed worldwide, due to the high number of these incidences.

Initiatives that can make a difference in changing this current reality can and should arise from the school environment—a starting point for the construction of a fairer society where men and women have equal access to work opportunities (wages and professional growth), based on individual effort and on each person's own skills and competence, without gender prejudice.

In Brazil and in the other six countries where it has autonomous units—Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay—the Legion of Good Will strives to provide on a daily basis assistance to thousands of girls and boys. In its teaching units, the Organization offers quality education, adding values of Ecumenical Citizenship to the intellectual development, so that students have the necessary basis to continue their studies and enter university. In its schools and socio-educational programs, the LBV applies its own pedagogical method created by its President, educator José de Paiva Netto. According to this method, reason and feeling (Brain and Heart) guide the learning process, so that the results achieved in basic education can allow the student to build a worthy and satisfactory professional life.

An important element of this pedagogical proposal is to contribute to awaken in students a critical view of things and an attitude that favors competence, always in harmony with feelings. To this end, the LBV applies the Pedagogy of Affection (directed at children up to the age of 10) to reinforce cognitive and emotional aspects. The emphasis on feeling does not lessen anything from the critical sense of the learner. On the contrary, a heart nourished by the practice of Solidarity, Brotherhood, and Friendship can achieve a higher level of understanding. Education that includes ethical, ecumenical, and spiritual values

enhances children's protagonism and accentuates their ability to respect *others* and themselves, without the risk of de-characterizing or weakening their own personality.

A space for dialogue and reflection

The classrooms of the LBV's schools also represent a space open for debate and discussion about topics that are of interest to the students, especially those going through adolescence. The Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy is directed at them. To better prepare them to face the situations that are typical of youth, activities involving research and the exchange of information are carried out. Through this work, the students share their knowledge, clear up doubts and, in this way, increase the level of individual and collective understanding. Thus, the exercise proposed and mediated by the educators promotes the pedagogical content and expands the understanding of the subject that is under discussion.

The LBV's pedagogical proposal has its own methodology, the MAPREI—Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research. This is a facilitating tool that allows a greater participation of students in the subjects proposed by the teacher. The MAPREI comprises of six stages. In the second one, for example, the students conduct a research about the subject that is to be debated in class. The development of the ability to search for knowledge is a factor that favors the student's experience of autonomy. At the same time, it also strengthens the awareness of the rights of citizens and prepares them to face and overcome situations of violence and discrimination, among other challenges.

This kind of orientation in the classroom has made it possible for girls to develop

* Suéli Periotto is an educator with a postgraduate degree in School Management and Human Sciences Methodology, and is currently working on her Master's degree in Education at PUC-SP. She is also a conference speaker and the host of the *Educação em Debate* [Education on Focus] program of the Super Good Will Radio Network (Follow the program at www.boavontade.com – available only in Portuguese).



BELO HORIZONTE (BRAZIL)

*In the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, elderly people assisted by the LBV participate in the talk organized by the coordinator of the Municipal Coordinating Office for Women's Rights (COMDIM), **Lúcia Helena Apolinário**. At this meeting she talked about the Maria da Penha Law, guarantee of rights, and gender violence.*

critical thinking, a responsible behavior, and knowledge on how to turn to women's defense services if necessary. It has also helped boys to provide their mothers and sisters with guidance on defending themselves against occasional partners who might mistreat them, denouncing abuse. At the LBV, children and adolescents learn the value of citizenship and of solidarity, becoming aware that in the future they will have conditions and the duty to treat their spouse with affection and respect.

Students discuss gender equality in the classroom

The active participation of the students in the Coexistence classes is an example of their involvement with current affairs. This subject invites students to research/discuss important day-to-day topics, such as the Maria da Penha Law. In the high school grades of the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute



TAGUATINGA (BRAZIL)

in the capital city of São Paulo, Brazil, this theme was proposed to the adolescents. The students then researched the facts that caused this important law to be passed. Today, it protects not only women but also men, the elderly, homosexuals, the physically impaired, and others who feel vulnerable or victimized by prejudice and/or violence. When sharing the data obtained, it was remarkable the way the students expressed themselves while making their comments, demonstrating confidence in their statements. The girls showed maturity and familiarity with the rights that the law guarantees them. The boys, besides reflecting knowledge of the subject, reasserted the importance of the social role of each individual, regardless of gender.

In the family-school partnership, the Legion of Good Will also creates bonds with the parents or legal guardians of the students, by means of activities that result in benefits for the family nucleus. In this manner, it encourages the participation of the community in meetings to discuss, at the school, issues of interest to the local people and to society in general. Women—mothers, grandmothers or those responsible for the child or adolescent—turn, when necessary,



Archive CVI

“The role of women in today’s society” was the theme of the talk held at the LBV’s Community Center for Social Assistance in the city of São Luís, Brazil. The talk focused on the role of women as the provider and sole person responsible for the family and how this condition can positively influence the education of children.



Oderlândia Galvão

*In the LBV’s Learning and Interaction program, in the capital of Rio Grande do Norte State, the Organization’s social worker, **Diana Karla**, talked about prevention, violence against women, and their rights at the Monte Celeste settlement, in the Planalto district, where 125 families live. For the last two years, the LBV has been offering supplementary Mathematics and Portuguese schooling to the children, as well as guidance regarding personal hygiene, health and sex education to the young people and adults who live in that community.*

to the professionals of the Social Service and Educational Psychology departments. There, they receive guidance, support, and are referred to the appropriate government agencies, according to the situation they describe and the field of the professional appointed to help the family. Women in particular are the ones that get the most support in terms of understanding and solving specific problems: acquiring their institutional rights and improving personal and family development.

The conclusion of this article is neither a finished solution nor a fully solved situation, but one can already see a set of achievements that has decisively transformed the lives of children, young people, and women benefited from the support received from the school.

In the view of the president of the LBV, positive progress towards gender equality is inevitable. In the article “The

Millennium of Women”, forwarded to the UN in several languages, he states: *“There is no way to prevent—as today a simulated some would like—the outstanding and fruitful participation of women in the various sectors of society so that progress may be successful in magnificent crusade for the rescue of citizenship (...). The adherence to this crusade naturally includes those who manage governmental and political actions, in which the existence of the renewing inspiration of Ecumenical Spirituality is essential and without which efficiency will fall short of popular aspirations. (...) The role of women is so important that, even with all the obstacles offered by a chauvinist male culture, no organization that wishes to survive—whether religious, political, philosophical, scientific, sportive, business, or a family—can dismiss her support.”* ■

In the family-school partnership, the Legion of Good Will also creates bonds with the parents or legal guardians of the students, by means of activities that result in benefits for the family nucleus.

Against femicide

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Argentina



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It is expected that the Argentine Senate will approve a bill that proposes extending the country's Penal Code to include crimes of gender-based violence. The proposal establishes harsher sentences for those who commit *femicide*—the killing of women characterized as a crime of passion or as a result of violent emotion, almost always committed by partners or former partners, who see the victim as their property.

LIFE STORY

“Strength to carry on”

Flora Quispe Mita*, 41.

“I was born in Bolivia but I left there because I was suffering a lot. When I was pregnant, the father of my son **Wilson** used to beat me because he didn’t want me to have the baby. So, I decided to leave him. Then, I met the father of my two daughters when my eldest son was 10 years old. I thought we were fine, but when I was seven months pregnant with my daughter **Yoselin**, I found out that he had another wife, who was also pregnant.

“Those were very hard times. He’d leave and then he’d come back, and I didn’t know what to do. So I decided to move on. I didn’t want my children to suffer and for this reason we moved to Argentina. At first I had to put up with a lot of things, because I was misled regarding the salary I would get. I ended up living in a small room in a sewing factory, where I also cooked.

“Then, my daughter’s father came here and I got pregnant again. When he found out that I was going to have another child, he left me. I haven’t heard from him ever since. I asked God to help me. I worked

until I had **Raquel**. I was happy, but I asked myself: *What am I going to do with this child?*

“It was a friend of mine who told me that I would feel welcome at the LBV. I thank God for the Legion of Good Will! The people here understood my situation and shortly afterwards they enrolled my daughter at the Jesus Nursery School. This support has been so important to us! I’m thankful that my daughter is here. The care she receives is complete and this makes me feel in peace. While I work all day long, the LBV takes good care of her, so I don’t worry like I used to. Even when I fell ill, a short while ago, as soon as the people of the Organization found out about it, they also helped me with food, clothes...

“Today, I’m renting a room somewhere else. I continue to work and I always ask God to give me strength to be brave, to not let myself get dejected, and to carry on so that I can take care of my children, so that they can grow up well.”



illustrative photo

“I continue to work and I always ask God to give me strength to be brave, to not let myself get dejected, and to carry on so that I can take care of my children, so that they can grow up well.”

* **Flora Quispe Mita** — In addition to having a daughter enrolled in the LBV’s Nursery School, she counts on the support of an interdisciplinary team (comprising a psychologist, an educational psychologist, and a social worker) that works with the many aspects of family life. Thanks to this support, Flora has transformed poverty and pain into triumph and joy.

Although the Argentine government has not presented any specific statistics regarding domestic and family violence in the country, important initiatives are helping to identify these incidents, such as the work developed by the NGO *La Casa del Encuentro*, which keeps a record of all incidents of femicide reported by the Argentine press. ▶

In Argentina’s House of Representatives, which approved the bill in April 2012, members of Congress commented on the topic and revealed figures in relation to femicide in the country—in 2009 there were 231 cases, in which 68 had been committed by ex-boyfriends, fiancés or husbands, and there had been prior police complaints; in 2010, there were 260 deaths; and in 2011, another 282. Once the final version is approved by the Senate and included into the country’s Penal Code reform, Argentina will join other Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Colombia, which already have tougher prison sentences for femicide.



Photos: Archive GW



Transformation beginning in childhood

The Legion of Good Will believes that through education and the experience of the values of citizenship—with equal opportunities for all—it is possible to strengthen the Culture of Peace. For this reason, it invests in education with Ecumenical Spirituality for children, young people, and adults who live in social risk situation.

Since the very beginning of its socio-assistance work in 1985, the LBV of Argentina has assisted thousands of

low-income families. In Buenos Aires, the Organization runs the Jesus Nursery School, where more than 100 children up to the age of 4 receive free education, meals, and health care on a daily basis. At the school, the following programs are also carried out: *LBV — Children: The Future in the Present!*, *Cooperation Network*, and *Toys Round*. Another important program is the *Education in Action*, which offers a variety of vocational training courses, such as Basic Cooking and Administrative Assistant, for hundreds of Argentineans in situation of social vulnerability. ■






Human rights and women



UN Photo/John Isaac

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations on December 10, 1948 establishes in Article 1 that: *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”* This precept is the indispensable condition for social harmony. However, much still needs to be done for the awareness and experience of such values. ▶

Bolivia

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WOMEN IN THE WORLD

Photos: Leila Tomín



Considered to be a serious violation of human rights, violence against women causes enormous losses in society, besides representing an obstacle to a country's development. What happens in Bolivia is no different from the situation in other parts of the world. The Center for Women's Information and Development (CIDEM) informs that seven out of ten Bolivian women have already been victims of mistreatment, included here the many forms of violence against women that exist: physical, sexual, psychological, and economic.

for combatting violence and gender inequality in the country, there is still a long way to go before all types of conduct that offend the integrity, bodily health, or dignity of women are finally eliminated. Illiteracy and the lack of technical and professional training are examples of the problems faced by the Bolivian society, above all by women.

The Legion of Good Will of Bolivia started its socio-educational work in 1986, the year the Organization opened a day care center for children in vulnerable situations in the capital city of La Paz. It soon faced the urgent need to support hundreds of families living in poverty,



Despite the passing of important laws

LIFE STORY

The best place for a child

Marta*, 30.

"I never met my father. He abandoned my mother when I was little. I stayed with my grandparents and my aunts for some time, but they would beat me a lot... even so, I preferred their aggression to what I subsequently suffered in the hands of my step-father, who used to abuse me.

"When I was 16 I ran away from home, and that's when I met the father of my children. But it was traumatic living with him. I suffered a lot because he used to beat me and I had no help. I had nowhere to leave my children, so I carried them with me to work. But they fired me because of my husband... He used to go there drunk to bother me. Since then I've been selling candies and sweets on the street, among the vehicles.

"When my husband left I thought about putting my children in a children's home. We lived in one room with my mother and

step-father but I didn't want to live in that house... I didn't want my daughter to go through what I went through. If a friend hadn't advised me to ask the LBV for help, I'd still be carrying my children around the streets. Now I have where to leave them so that they don't suffer with the heat or cold or from hunger.

"It's as if the LBV were my home. I've made a lot of friends here and I'm recovering—I talk to the psychologist and that's helped me a lot. It's the best place that exists! My children receive food, education, and they learned how to read. I had no way of teaching them before because I spent all my time selling in order to feed them. Now I'm managing to get a little more income. I'm more at ease because I know they're doing well. The LBV is the best place a mother can find for her child."



Aline Portel

Seven out of ten Bolivian women have already been victims of mistreatment.

* **Marta** (fictitious name) is a street seller in La Paz, capital city of Bolivia. Two of her four children are still enrolled in the LBV's Jesus Nursery School.

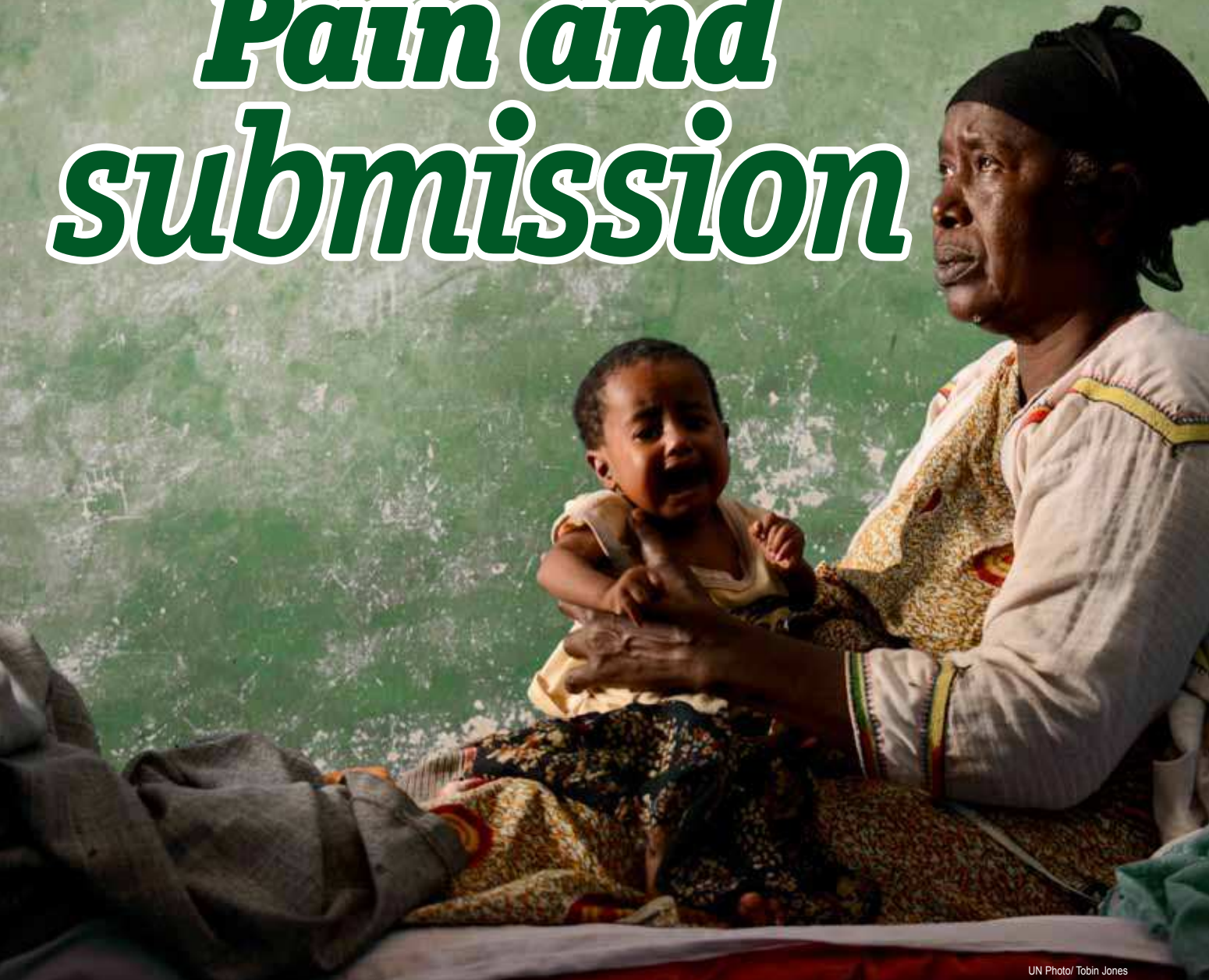
many of them without any access to basic education or job opportunities.

In order to transform for the better the lives of countless families in these communities, the LBV expanded its work with the inauguration in 1994 of the Jesus Nursery School, assisting children from 2 to 5 years old. The parents, meanwhile, are offered vocational courses and literacy classes by the

Technical Training Center and Literacy Center, respectively.

Children, young people, and adults also benefit from the Legion of Good Will's socio-educational programs, the highlights of which are *Education in Action*; *Oral Hygiene: Clean Teeth, Healthy Children*; and the *LBV's Permanent Christmas — Jesus, Our Daily Bread!* campaign. ■

Pain and submission



UN Photo/ Tobin Jones

Brazil



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Gender-based violence is the outcome of historically unequal relations between men and women, resulting in the subordination of the female population. Therefore, in order for this to be eradicated, measures that guarantee equal job opportunities for men and women are required, in addition to campaigns against all and any kind of discrimination and violence.

According to information from UN Women, in Latin America Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, and Argentina (close to having a bill approved by the Senate) have legislation that establishes specific measures

LIFE STORY

“I took a step forward in my life”

Juliana Reis*, 28.

“I spent my childhood on a farm. I couldn’t go to school; I had to work. When I reached the age of 14, my mother left for Feira de Santana, in the state of Bahia. I lived with my aunt, who kicked me out of her house. Then I met the father of my oldest child. Things didn’t work out between us and so I came to Salvador for the first time. I was pregnant but I didn’t know it.

“I lived in the streets for one year, under a marquee of a building, sleeping on newspapers. I decided to go back to Serrinha and I had to ask relatives for help. I stayed there for a year, but my son became ill—he has a heart disease—and I had to go back to Salvador again. At that time, I had gotten back together with my son’s father. When my son came out of the hospital, we moved into my mother-in-law’s house, but once again things didn’t work out and I left. I went to live in the streets with the homeless.

“After a while I met the father of my two youngest children, and we went to live at his mother’s house. (...) We lived there until my daughter was 6 years old, but my husband began to have pains and by the time we found out he had cancer, there was nothing more that could be done.

“I spent two months with him in the hospital, until he died. That was another

and even worse period for me. I was desperate and I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t have a regular job. I had nothing at all. It was at that moment that the Legion of Good Will came into my life. They helped me with my husband’s burial. I’m extremely grateful [to them], because at that moment I had no one.

“Today, my children study at the LBV. I know they’re in a safe place, where there are capable people who can teach things that they wouldn’t learn at home. Here they have meals, access to Internet, singing lessons, dancing, and soccer.

“At the Organization they learned about respect, love, and sharing. Love, respect for others, things that I never had, they have at the LBV. Even now, when I need it, the LBV provides me with rice, soup, because with what I earn there’s not always enough to buy food.

“There are a lot of good-hearted people who contribute to the LBV. Therefore, they help the Legion of Good Will provide assistance for people who need it; feed a child who does not have anything to eat at home; and make it possible for a mother to go out to work while her child is being cared for.”



“Today I’m a different woman. I’ve taken a step forward in my life. I ask God to make me strong in order to raise my children and give them a good future. There are no words to express how grateful I am. The LBV is everything to me!”

* Juliana Reis is a cleaning woman. Her three children are assisted by the program LBV — Children: The Future in the Present!, at the Organization’s Community Center for Social Assistance in Salvador, State of Bahia, Brazil.

for protecting women in situations of gender-based violence.

Important strategies unite to combat this evil. The initiative of the Brazilian federal government in setting up the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women (SPM), in 2003, with its Call Center for Women (Dial 180) and in sanctioning the Maria da Penha Law (11.340/2006) represented progress in relation to women. Such measures

contribute to the identification of cases of violence and a more harsh punishment of acts of aggression against women in the home and family environment.

At present, according to data from the SPM, Brazil has 375 police stations that specialize in attending to women, 115 assistance units, and 207 reference centers, as well as 72 shelters and 51 Specialized Domestic Violence Courts





Leilla Tonin



Vivian R. Ferreira



Anelise de Oliveira

Equal opportunities for men and women in the job market...



that allow access and permanence in the job;



that lead to an increase in women's earnings;



that help reduce poverty among the female population;



and that contribute (along with other actions on behalf of gender equality) to the construction of a balanced, peaceful, and democratic coexistence between the sexes.

(plus 42 adapted courts). The current challenge is to simultaneously expand this structure and improve the service rendered to the victims.

“The LBV’s path is that of Peace”

In its almost 80 socio-educational units, the Legion of Good Will gives priority to the quality of the services offered. Every day its solidary work benefits thousands of children, young people, and adults in social risk situations in dozens of Brazilian cities.

In a safe and well-cared for environment, the Organization educates and instills values of citizenship, thus raising the self-esteem of those assisted. In each of its units, contributors and volunteers receive professional training so they can better assist the people in need. For this reason, all the work developed by the LBV, through its socio-educational programs, campaigns, and projects, is guided by the Good Will Pedagogy (read more about this topic on page 42). Therefore, it enables individuals to experience ethical, ecumenical, and spiritual values that are essential to the creation of a Culture of Peace.

Among the initiatives of national scope, it is worth highlighting the programs *LBV— Children: The Future in the Present!*, *Training and Productive Inclusion*, *Areas for Learning and Interaction*, and *Baby Citizen*; and the campaigns *A+ Child — Without Education There is no Future!*, *LBV’s Permanent Christmas — Jesus, our Daily Bread!* and *I help make a difference!*. ■

Reflections of *violence*



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Gender violence reflects throughout the whole of society. In the United States—where, on average, a woman is beaten by her husband or partner every 15 seconds, according to the Amnesty International Report “It’s in our hands: Stop violence against women”, 2004—gender violence costs the country immensely: 5 to 10 billion dollars a year.

According to figures disclosed by the World Bank (IBRD) and by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), ▶

USA

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Photos - Archive GW



domestic violence is responsible for one in every five absences of women from work. It is also among the main causes of disability and death of women in their productive years.

Transforming for the better

Since 1986, the Legion of Good Will of the USA has been developing its

humanitarian work in the States of New York, where it has a representative office to the United Nations, and New Jersey, through a community center in Newark. Its solidary actions are carried out by means of its socio-assistance programs, including projects that prioritize health care and in the area of education. The work has contributed to improving

LIFE STORY

Forming solidary citizens

Mariana Malaman*, 27.

“As a teacher, I apply the Pedagogy of Affection in the program *Peace and Good Will Garden*, geared for children between 3 and 10 years old. I combine the school’s curriculum with lessons from the Legion of Good Will’s Pedagogy, which works with ethical, moral, and spiritual values. This allows not just the brain but also the heart to be educated, as the president of the Organization always emphasizes.

“The LBV’s teaching methodology helps with the social, emotional, and spiritual development of the students. It contributes towards them being tolerant, respectful, and solidary. The objective is to make students become Ecumenical Citizens, and we make every effort to ensure that the classroom is a mirror of

this solidarity-based society we all want so much.

“With the Pedagogy of Affection, we teach children to work collectively and to collaborate fraternally with one another. This exercise helps fight discriminatory behavior and prejudice, including gender prejudice, and inhibits situations in which one child considers himself/herself to be better or more important than another. They learn that despite their differences, they can all live as friends.

“If a girl or a boy is educated with Ecumenical Spirituality, and is growing up in an environment of peace, tolerance, respect, knowing love for their fellow being, like the children in the LBV, they will naturally be a reflection of their childhood experience.”



Personal Archive

“I combine the school’s curriculum with lessons from the Legion of Good Will’s Pedagogy, which works with ethical, moral, and spiritual values.”

* Mariana Malaman is a volunteer in the LBV’s *Peace and Good Will Garden* program and a teacher at the Orange Early Childhood Center, in Orange district, New Jersey, USA.

significantly the quality of life of low-income families and individuals.

The pedagogical proposal of the LBV (read more on page 42), formed by the Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to the age 10) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (for children 11 years and older) is widely spread in the country. It is applied in classrooms thanks to the

teachers who use the Organization’s innovative educational line, created by educator Paiva Netto, which combines the transmission of universal values to intellectual development. Thus, students learn to be the protagonists of a social model in which respect and love towards fellow beings are the basis of human relations. ■



Different opportunities

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Paraguay

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In this second decade of the 21st century gender inequality and violence against women still present alarming data, regardless of the social layer. A recent study by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) entitled “New Century, Old Disparities”, which compared household surveys in 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries, showed that injustice still persists, for example, in the labor market when the subject is salaries.

LIFE STORY

“I learned to value life”

Maria Dolores*, 43.

“I suffered a lot of repression and limitations at home. My parents even chose my boyfriends. There came a time when I got tired of this and I began to live a double life. I fell in love with an older man, but my parents didn't approve of this relationship. That's why I left home secretly; I was taking antidepressants without medical supervision.

“One day this man offered me a house, hired a maid, and I went to live in Fernando de La Mora, a town far from my family's home. I began to lead a free life. He was loving, and romantic... everything was beautiful. So I stopped taking the medication, but I ended up becoming very depressed.

“That's when the problems with him began. I noticed that I'd left everything to be with someone who was not who I thought he was. Over time came the verbal aggression. I stopped working because he was jealous of me and, as a result, I became economically dependent on him. It was very difficult! My dreams were being mutilated, as were my expectations and aspirations for which I had studied; everything was lost.

“Things [after some time] gradually

improved. [I separated from this man,] I went back to live with my parents and to work. Once again I started having a social life and being useful. That was when I met the father of my son, a wolf in sheep's clothing. I became a single mother. He also verbally abused me...

“When the Legion of Good Will appeared in my life I had nothing. An aunt of mine told me I could enroll my son in the Organization's school. On that day my life changed. God answered my prayers. At the age of 2, my son went to the LBV's nursery school. This support enabled doors to open for me once again, for me to go back to work and to feel that I'm important.

“Here my son is well fed, he plays and receives an education. We, parents, have the opportunity to attend training courses in which they teach us a lot of things. I learned that it's necessary to move on, because there's still a lot to be done. The LBV taught me to value life and helped me understand my son enormously. I no longer feel alone. I've managed to overcome my problems and now I'm happy.”

In analyzing the situation of men and women in the same age group and with the same level of education, the study demonstrated that women earn, on average, 17 percent less than men. And the disparity continues, because they also find more difficulty than men when it comes to being promoted to higher-level positions at work.

In Paraguay, the picture is no different. In 2012 the unemployment rate was greater for women, who also had the lowest levels of income in the country—45.2 percent of them have no earnings of their own. This index is a result of the surveys that were presented during the seminar “From fighting poverty to public equality policies: a pending debate” organized



Alison Beale

“The LBV taught me to value life and helped me understand my son enormously. I no longer feel alone. I've managed to overcome my problems and now I'm happy.”

* Assisted by the Goodwill in Action program, architect Maria Dolores (fictitious name) has been helped by the LBV in Paraguay since 2009. Her son currently attends the Organization's Nursery and Preschool (with full-time education for children from 2 to 6 years old).





by the Centro Feminista de Estudios y Asesoría (CFEMEA) [Feminist Center for Studies and Advisory Services]. This reality is even more expressive in rural areas, where the rate of Paraguayan women without any income is as high as 61.1 percent.

LBV: present where people need it!

The Legion of Good Will has been operating in Paraguay for 28 years. With its socio-educational programs, the LBV assists on a daily basis people in social risk situations in its unit in the capital city of Asuncion, and in various other regions where low-income families live. The objective is to contribute to the sustainable development of these communities.

In addition to offering full-time education for children from 2 to 6 years old, in the José de Paiva Netto Nursery and Preschool, the LBV carries out programs that have an important social reach, such as its *Health for Everyone*, *Goodwill in Action*, and *Education in Action* initiatives.

Moreover, among the activities that comprise the *Education in Action* program are educational talks and professional training courses for the families assisted by the Organization. This initiative, for instance, has already led to improvements in the quality of life of a group of women in the Villa Angelica settlement. With the support of the LBV, they started making colored rugs and other handcrafted products to sell in order to help with the family income. Now, they are ready to start their own business and become financially autonomous. ■

Request for help

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In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (see chart on the following page). The forms and levels of aggression vary from physical to forced marriage and sexual exploitation, for example, as well as psychological, moral, and even property damage.

In Portugal, domestic violence occurs in all social classes. According to the Monitoring Center on Murdered Women of the Women's Union Alternative and Response (*Observatório* ▶

Portugal



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Photos: Eduarda Pereira



The Portuguese TV stations RTP and SIC broadcasted the traditional LBV's Permanent Christmas campaign—Solidarity Without Borders. In December 2012, the Organization distributed 30 tons of food to more than 1,500 low-income families in the cities of Coimbra, Lisbon, Porto, and Braga.

The UN General Assembly adopted in 1979 the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In its 30 articles, the convention clearly defines the referred discrimination and establishes an agenda aimed at its eradication for each country. In 1993, the UN System committed itself to this issue with the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly. In 2007, the theme of International Women's Day (March 8) was "Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls". On February 25, 2008, the United Nations launched the global "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" (Source: ONU Brasil).

de Mulheres Assassinadas da União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta - UMAR), only in 2012, up to November, 36 women died victims of aggression. In the previous year, the National Republican Guard (GNR) and the Public Safety Police (PSP) registered 28,980 incidents of this type of offense, and this figure does not take into account other types of discrimination against women.

Although alarming, the increase in the number of complaints shows that progress is being made in terms of the awareness of the problem and in the combat of this type of crime, given that the majority of the cases are not reported by the victims, according to a research by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

Still in accordance with the EIGE report, the country needs to face up to several challenges, such as the lack of specialized health services for helping those who survive aggression and the absence of socio-assistance support for the victims, so they can enter the job market and as a result support themselves.

Valuing Life

The Legion of Good Will of Portugal has been operating since 1989, promoting

LIFE STORY

“Fight for freedom”

Maria José*, 62.

“My life has already been very harsh. I was married for 43 years and it was one of my children who got me out of the house. The beatings began just eight days after I got married. From that time on it was martyrdom. When I heard my husband’s footsteps, my entire body would shake with fear. I could not open my mouth to say anything. Sometimes he’d arrive from work fine and then all of a sudden there’d just be aggression.

“On one occasion, it took three police cars to manage to get me out of the house so that I could go to the National Legal Medicine Institute. It was really, really painful! We were separated for nine months. (...) He was even put in the dock, but I felt sorry for him because he would get a six-year prison sentence. I forgave my husband and continued living with him.

“But, after this, after seven years of living together, he continued to beat me. And in addition to beating me, I began to suffer painful verbal abuse. He’d use psychological pressure. I couldn’t get dressed up and, very often, he also wouldn’t let me in the house... I suffered a lot.

“Until one day I asked for help, and an institution gave me the name of the Legion of Good Will. I spoke with Ms. Isabel [social

service senior technician of the LBV] and I asked her to sign me up for any volunteer activity, to spend my time, because I was thinking about all the ill-treatment I had suffered. They made me feel very welcome. The LBV also helped me by giving me food, which came in very handy.

“I’m a volunteer for the program *Live Longer!*. We make nice things for babies and, not just that, I feel good here. I’m satisfied and thankful to the LBV for everything they’ve done for me. It’s just happiness. The volunteer work that’s carried out at the Organization makes me feel happy and helps me forget the past and, at the same time, I’m spending my time with impeccable people. Here we talk, work, and spend wonderful afternoons. The work the Legion of Good Will carries out is very good.

“I tell women all over the world to fight for their freedom. They should not let themselves be carried away by sweet words, because a man who loves his wife doesn’t beat her. Now, at the age of 62, I have a wonderful life with my children, my grandchildren, and my daughter-in-law. It’s a happy existence.”

socio-assistance actions and campaigns that value Life. The objective is to encourage people to live according to values based on citizenship and Ecumenical Spirituality as agents of change for the construction of a more just and happier world.

Currently, the LBV has three socio-

assistance units, in the cities of Lisbon, Coimbra, and Porto, where 60,000 assistances are rendered per year. A variety of social programs are developed at these locations, being the most prominent ones *Charity Round*, *One Step Forward*, *Good Will Seed*, *Baby Citizen*, *Happy Smile*, and *Live Longer!*. ■



Eduarda Pereira

“I tell women all over the world to fight for their freedom. They should not let themselves be carried away by sweet words, because a man who loves his wife doesn’t beat her.”

* Maria José (fictitious name) is a seamstress and currently lives with one of her two children in Porto, Portugal. When she first arrived at the LBV she enrolled herself in the program *One Step Forward*, which distributes food baskets to Portuguese families in a vulnerable social situation.



All in favor of gender equality

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Uruguay

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Violence against women is a serious social problem currently being faced by Uruguay. A recent study by the National Women's Institute, which counted on the support of the Uruguayan Ministry of Social Development and the United Nations Population Fund, entitled "Gender Statistics 2011 — Persistent inequalities, an urgent challenge for social reform", showed a lack of public

LIFE STORY

“I was no longer alone”

Carmen Lucia*, 31.

“During my childhood and adolescence I was a victim of violence, but everything got worse at the age of 18, when I got married. While my boyfriend and I were going out, it was like a fairy tale; we never argued. After the wedding, however, all that changed.

“One day, my husband arrived home drunk, beside himself. That was when my suffering began. I remember as if it were yesterday: I asked him where he’d been and he started yelling at me and hit me hard in the face. I was seven months pregnant, but that didn’t seem to matter to him. I cried a lot. Later I convinced myself that it’d be the first and last time I’d be mistreated that way. But that’s not what happened.

“We lived a long time without any problems, until our second child was born. Then he started coming home late every night, without his wedding ring, giving signs that he’d been to parties and gone out with other women. It was always the same thing: fighting and mistreatment. It was sad to see my children witness that situation. They lived in fear.

“I began to seek help. Thanks to an indication of a police officer, I got to know the Legion of Good Will. From then on, many things changed in my life. The Organization gave me the attention I needed. Here I had the support of a psychologist and a social worker. I was able to mature and change my way of thinking, because I used to feel inferior to other people; I had low self-esteem. My children also began going to the Jesus Nursery School in the LBV’s Educational Institute. I was even happier to see them being treated with Love.

“It was hard leaving my husband, but by the simple fact of seeing my children being raised and developing in the LBV, I became strong and overcame my problems. I was no longer alone. Today my children and I are well. We lead a normal life.

“To all the women who are facing a similar situation, I would like to tell them not to be afraid to ask for help. There’s always a friendly hand willing to help us. I believe in God a lot. He’s my guide, because He put the LBV in my path.”



Cynthia Carrategui

“To all the women who are facing a similar situation, I would like to tell them not to be afraid to ask for help. There’s always a friendly hand willing to help us.”

* Carmen Lucia — The fictitious name of a maid, mother of three children, all of them enrolled in the LBV’s Jesus Nursery School in Uruguay.

policies that effectively prevent each and every form of gender discrimination in Uruguay.

In this scenario, domestic violence is one of the main concerns. In 2011 alone, 15,868 complaints were registered regarding this form of violence in the country. This figure is 133 percent greater

than the number of complaints recorded in 2005. Also according to the report, this is the second most commonly reported crime, losing only to theft and robbery.

Given this situation, government and civil society, and by means of companies and non-governmental organizations, have promoted actions in favor of the





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empowerment of women. In this effort, the work developed by the Legion of Good Will in the country stands out. The LBV has been in Montevideo for 28 years and it assists more than 1,500 children, young people, and adults monthly in one of the Organization's model schools, where more than 50 percent of the students are girls and women.

In the Legion of Good Will's Educational Institute, girls and boys aged 6 to 10 take part in the

program *LBV — Children: The Future in the Present!*. The objective is to complement the children's curricular activities during their off-school hours. They have a variety of activities, including music and foreign language workshops, which help pass on the values of citizenship and a Culture of Peace to them.

Health services are also offered there. The LBV's medical office, result of a partnership between the Organization and Uruguay's Ministry of Health, provides the community with free consultations and medical exams, for example, in the areas of pediatrics, psychology, and gynecology. ■

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