



PAIVA NETTO writes: "Solidarity and human rights in the world".

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GOOD WILL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | 2014



INTERVIEW

Brazilian Minister Marcelo Neri gives his assessment of the country's progress in the fulfillment of the United Nations goals

POST-2015 WORLD

EDUCATION AHEAD OF THE NEW GLOBAL AGENDA

Altruism and Ecumenical Fraternity must guide sustainable attitudes towards a Complete Citizenship



The Legion of Good Will (LBV) presents its recommendations and good practices to the participants at the High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), held at UN Headquarters in New York (USA). The LBV is a Brazilian NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC since 1999.

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GOOD WILL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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United by the same ideal



Solidarity and human rights in the world

João Freixa



José de Paiva Netto is a writer, journalist, radio broadcaster, composer, and poet. He is the President of the Legion of Good Will (LBV), effective member of the Brazilian Press Association (ABI) and of the Brazilian International Press Association (ABI-Inter). Affiliated to the National Federation of Journalists (FENAJ), the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the Union of Professional Journalists of the State of Rio de Janeiro, the Union of Writers of Rio de Janeiro, the Union of Radio Broadcasters of Rio de Janeiro, and the Brazilian Union of Composers (UBC). He is also a member of the Academy of Letters of Central Brazil. He is an author of international reference in the concept and defense of the cause of Ecumenical Citizenship and Spirituality which, according to him, constitute *"the cradle of the most generous values that are born of the Soul, the dwelling of the emotions and of the reasoning enlightened*

by intuition, the atmosphere that embraces everything that transcends the ordinary field of matter and comes from the elevated human sensitivity, such as Truth, Justice, Mercy, Ethics, Honesty, and Fraternal Love."

Over the last few years the United Nations (UN) has held a series of events to assess the progress being made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and, at the same time, to talk with governments and civil society about the new set of post-2015 global goals: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Legion of Good Will (LBV) has actively supported and contributed to these notable international meetings.

In all of these events we were able to see that the participation of women has been predominant. Mainly because the true upholders of all nations have been women,

when they are integrated with God or with the noblest ideals to which a human being can aspire, such as Supreme Goodness, Fraternal Love, Elevated Justice, and True Brotherhood, even if not professing any religious tradition. Nothing is more sensitive than the hearts of spiritually enlightened women. And what more does the world need, especially in difficult times such as the one we are currently living in? We need feelings illuminated by the spirit of peace, harmony, solidarity, charity, dialogue, and dynamic fraternity, which resolves social problems without generating worse consequences.



▼
The United Nations Millennium Summit, the largest gathering of world leaders in history, brought together 149 Heads of State and Government and high-ranking officials from over 40 countries in the year 2000. In the photo, former UN Secretary-General **Kofi Annan** is in the front row (11th from the left).

Our compliments on the triumphs achieved by means of the global development goals proposed by the UN in the year 2000. We know, however, that there is still a lot to be done for our fellow beings. That is why this topic “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining gains in the future” is such an important one to be on the discussion agenda of the representatives of UN Member States, international delegations, authorities, and other participants at the High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2014, in New York, USA.

This is an opportune moment to assess what has been successful and make even greater efforts to achieve the improvements that still have to take place. We must aim for solutions, for example, in the fields of education and health, and in fighting poverty and violence, among which is the repulsive sexual exploitation of women, adolescents, and girls. We can never falter in the struggle for the cause

of human dignity and the eradication of social and gender inequality in the world.

According to an estimate by the World Health Organization (WHO), one in every three women on this planet suffers some type of partner or non-partner violence (either physical or sexual). This is unacceptable.

It is essential that we also make progress towards putting an end to salary differences between the genders, in ensuring a more equitable access to managerial positions in the labor market, and a better share of household chores between men and women. In short, we must always guarantee the principles of citizenship and human rights.

Freedom, duties, and rights

Regarding this issue, I present my contribution expressed in modest speeches that were published, among other places, in *Reflections and Thoughts — The Dialectic of Good Will* (1987) and in *Manifest of Good Will* (October 21, 1991):

Believing that one can have rights without duties is doing the greatest harm

to the cause of freedom. It is important to clarify that when I point to the duties of the citizen over his or her own rights, under no circumstances am I defending a distorted view of labor, where slavery is one of its most abominable facets.

For that reason, we want all human beings to be truly equal in rights and opportunities. Their social, intellectual, cultural, and religious merits, however highly praised and widely recognized, must not be distanced apart from the rights of other citizens. **Freedom without responsibility and fraternity is condemnation to chaos.**

We work, therefore, for a society in which the Creator and His Laws of Love and Justice inspire zeal for individual freedom. That is what the Permanent Christmas of **Jesus** evokes in us, the universal message of the Divine Liberator, the one who by His sacrifice offered Himself for Humanity; all this to guarantee political, social, and legal security under His divine vision. . . .

The French writer, philosopher, and feminist **Simone de Beauvoir** (1908-1986) beautifully expressed the importance of solidarity and dedication towards our fellow being when she said:

“One’s life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, indignation, and compassion.”

The true virtues, in fact, will be those constituted by the actions of people in the honest living of their days, in managing their goods, and in respecting what belongs to others, in the beautiful and exciting adventure of life. A nation that is made up of such elements will always be strong and inviolable.

The desired freedom

Over the ages, the study of Law has been improved in order to provide society with more and more solid guarantees. The 20th century, for example, left us a legacy of immense learning by means of the successive civil triumphs over the great difficulties faced by populations.

Given the countless episodes recorded over time, we can conclude that human beings need the bread of freedom. However, there can be no true freedom if it is not enlightened by the fraternal feeling of solidarity. The rest runs the risk of descending into chaos and History is full of examples to prove this.

Let us, therefore, pay tribute to the many activists who, throughout History, have longed for freedom and worthy living conditions, especially the hardworking women. Every day they commit their very existence to protecting their children, whether they are their own,



Simone de Beauvoir



Jesus, the Ecumenical Christ

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A word of Peace for a sustainable globalization

Jesus has taught: “*A New Commandment I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you. . . . There is no greater Love than to lay down his own Life for his friends.*”

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

“We want all human beings to be truly equal in rights and opportunities. Their social, intellectual, cultural, and religious merits, however highly praised and widely recognized, must not be distanced apart from the rights of other citizens. **Freedom without responsibility and fraternity is condemnation to chaos.**”

Paiva Netto



“Geneva Draft”

Another remarkable example was **Eleanor Roosevelt** (1884-1962), the widow of North American President **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** (1882-1945). She headed the United Nations Human Rights Commission from January 1947 until the 30 articles were adopted in that memorable December of 1948. Considered to be the driving force of the project, Eleanor led a group of 18 members of heterogeneous cultural, political, and religious backgrounds in preparing what became known as the “Geneva Draft”, in September 1948, which was presented to and submitted for the approval of more than 50 member states. It is with great pride that I recall the participation of the illustrious Brazilian journalist, my dear friend, **Austregésilo de Athayde** (1898-1993), one of the most renowned



Austregésilo de Athayde

collaborators of this extraordinary work. He was also the president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters (ABL) for 34 years and chairman of the Honorary Board for the Construction of the World Parliament of Ecumenical Fraternity, the LBV's ParlaMundi,

in Brasília/DF, Brazil.

From Eleanor Roosevelt I bring the following reflection:

*“For freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. **With freedom comes responsibility.** For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect.”* [Emphasis added]

▼
Eleanor Roosevelt spearheaded civil and political rights activists around the world. Together, they were able to transform the dream of a universal declaration into a reality. In the picture taken in 1949, the former First Lady of the USA exhibits the poster in English. She was also photographed with the versions in Spanish and French.

adopted, or, as I am accustomed to saying, children that represent great achievements in benefit of Humanity. All women are mothers.

One of these brilliant women was the Brazilian pediatrician, sanitarian, and founder of the Pastoral of the Child Dr. **Zilda Arns** (1934-2010), who said:

“Social work needs the mobilization of efforts. Each one collaborates with that which they know how to do or with what they have to offer. In this way, the tissue that sustains the action is strengthened and each one feels that they are a cell for transforming the country.”

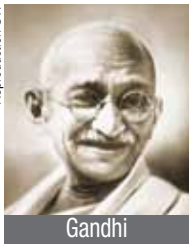


Zilda Arns

The Great Family called Humanity

In this 21st century I long for us to be able to consolidate these noble ideals and expand them to all people of the Earth so that they can be fully experienced. And let us never repeat the previous centuries in what they

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Gandhi

failed.

Very much to the point is this consideration by Mahatma **Gandhi** (1869-1948):

“If we are to make progress, we must not repeat history but make new history.”

In this ECOSOC High-Level Segment, **what is our ambition, if not to ask Humanity to have more humanity towards itself?** We wish to see dawn the day in which at last we recognize each other as brothers and sisters, components of a single family living peacefully together in this

Divuligation



Rosa Parks

global dwelling. This was what seamstress **Rosa Parks** (1913-2005), an African-American civil rights activist, dreamed of. This fearless woman once declared:

“I believe we are here on the planet Earth to live, grow up, and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom.”

I often say that humility is above all courageous. And Rosa Parks became an icon in the struggle for racial equality and for the end to prejudice in the United States. Her apparently small gesture—when on December 1, 1955, she refused to give up her



seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama—meant breaking the shackles of the tyranny of racism. At that time, even though there were separate seats for whites and blacks, the latter were obliged to get up for white people if all the places on the bus were taken.

Examples like this only reinforce what I have been saying for decades: human beings ought to respect human beings! And it cannot be achieved merely with plans and decrees.

May God bless this portentous meeting and may it effectively contribute to the building of this ideal era that we are all longing for. ●

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▼
Haiti (photo) is one of the countries with the greatest social challenges in the American continent. Just like this nation, so many others need our urgent action in order to provide equal opportunities to achieve sustainable and solidary development.



Greenpeace

Brazil's assessment

within the context of the MDGs



Minister Marcelo Neri takes stock of the MDGs and talks about the gains in development for the post-2015 agenda in Brazil

The Minister of the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil (SAE/PR), **Marcelo Cortês Neri**, received the team of the Super Good Will Communications Network (radio, TV, web portal, and publications) for an interview in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Neri holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University and a Master's and Bachelor's degrees also in Economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio). He distinguished himself in his study of the changes which the Brazilian economy has undergone over the last twenty years, with the reduction of poverty and the rise of a new middle class, which was created as a result of economic stability, social programs, and adjustments in the minimum wage. He was the founder of the Center for Social Policies (CPS/FGV) and president of the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), a body linked to the SAE. His main areas of research are social policies, education, and microeconometrics.

In the following conversation with GOOD WILL magazine, the minister talks about the results of the 5th National Monitoring Report on the Millennium Development Goals, which was published on May 23 of this year, with updated information regarding the situation of the MDGs in various Brazilian regions. He also comments on some of the most representative indices in the report, showing that over the last few years the country's social indicators have continued to improve.

GOOD WILL — How have the MDGs helped with government and civil society planning?

Marcelo Neri — The Millennium Development Goals were established by the United Nations in 2000. Brazil is one of the 190 signatory countries. Here in our country, whether from the point of view of society, the population, or governments, these goals had a major effect and were responsible for improvements in social indicators. If we compare the period since the launch of the targets, in the UN Millennium Summit of 2000, in fact it has been a time of accelerated improvement in Brazilian social indicators.



Marcelo Neri holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University. He is a professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) and founder of FGV's Center for Social Policies.

GW — Has civil society become involved in complying with these targets?

Marcelo Neri — I believe so. I think Brazil is a special case because of the path it has assumed, which is both to grow and reduce inequality at the same time. It is one of the few countries doing this. Normally, the choices are for one or the other, but Brazil is doing a little of both. For example, the first millennium goal is to reduce extreme poverty by half, and in ten years Brazil has reduced it by 69 percent. We did more in 10 years than what was supposed to be done in 25. This is explained by our growth and reduction in inequality. More than that, when Brazil assumed the goal to reduce by half it said: *“Let's reduce it by 100 percent.”* This Brazilian movement is being followed by other countries, by the United Nations. . . . So, the population and the government really got involved.

GW — Brazil has also reached the goal of reducing the mortality indicators of children under 5 by two-thirds. In 1990, the rate was 53.7 deaths per 1000 live births, and went down to 17.7 in 2011. What are the new steps?



▼
 Marcelo Neri talks about the importance of the Millennium Development Goals for democracy 2.0, one in which *“the internet and social media have changed the level of interaction among people in the last few months.”*

Marcelo Neri — This used to be a nation known as “the country of the future”, but in which a large proportion of the children died before reaching the age of five. In fact, you had no future. Not dying in the first five years is obviously very little. You have to think of another agenda that not only favors rights—thinking about avoiding negative situations—but that also promotes positive rights, which means the child has the right to play, to develop, to be stimulated, etc. Brazil is on the way to achieving this.

GW — **The same occurs with MDG 7: to ensure environmental sustainability, which includes the target of reducing by half the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, which was**

completely achieved in 2012. What did that mean?

Marcelo Neri — There is a certain relationship between child mortality and sanitation, in particular. I confess that even regarding this goal I was surprised, because Brazil went faster than we were expecting it to. With regard to access to water, we already had good coverage. . . . I see that the Brazilian society is now waking up to the lack of sanitation. I mean, the lack of water and electricity are things that each individual perceives in their own home. What is new is the lack of sewage mains; people do not know correctly if their home is connected or not, or if the sewage is treated or not. This change in mentality is a victory, the result of a new milestone. The Getulio Vargas Foundation has carried out research

on the lack of sanitation. It is just the beginning. Brazil has a long way to go, because sewage has to be treated. But it is natural for you to have some goals and then move on to more ambitious ones.

GW — With regard to the environment, what has the country done to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Marcelo Neri — Brazil began embracing this cause in a more institutional way after the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. We are precisely between the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals, the MDGs, and the preparation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs, which were discussed at Rio+20 and that are a combination of inclusive and sustainable development. So we are on a path that seeks to go beyond the economic and social issues, and considers also the environmental aspect. This is a cause that mobilizes the Brazilian society. Between 2004 and 2010, there was a 75 percent reduction in deforestation. It has to be said that, like the subject of inequality, the environmental aspect is still very bad. The picture today is much better than it was twenty years ago, but we cannot become complacent. New targets will come that are being discussed now and in these new goals Brazil will have an important role to play.

GW — What is the role of income transfer programs in carrying out public policies?

Marcelo Neri — The *Bolsa Família* has an important role to play, but the protagonist in all of this is the labor market, which explains 55 percent of the reduction in inequality and three-quarters of the increase in people's income.

Bolsa Família explains more or less 12 percent of the drop in inequality. It costs very little, only half percent of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product), and benefits almost a quarter of the population. In fact, Brazil has not only grown and reduced inequality, but carried this out based on an increase in income from work, which is important because it is sustainable. It has inherited the educational policy that has been put into practice in the last couple of years with improvements in the quality of teaching. At the same time it counts on programs such as the *Bolsa Família* and the *Previdência Rural*. . . . So Brazil has also diversified and not put all its eggs in the same policy basket.

GW — Offering quality primary education for everyone is one of the most relevant MDGs. The country still has great challenges in this area. . .

Marcelo Neri — In relation to primary education, Brazil has a challenge in terms of quality. As the report shows, 98 percent of the children aged 7 to 14 are already in school. What needs to be done is to improve student learning and [create more] full-time schools, but there are already policies in this direction. We have a great challenge in early childhood education—day care centers and actions alike—and also in secondary education. The good news is that Brazil is making progress. We have increased, for example, direct public investment in education, which went from 3.9 percent of the GDP to 5.5 percent between 2000 and 2012. Congress has just approved the *Plano Nacional de Educação* [National Education Plan]. We already have quality goals, such as *Prova Brasil*, of IDEB, which is the Basic Education Development Index. ■

“The first millennium goal is to reduce extreme poverty by half, and in ten years Brazil has reduced it by 69 percent. We did more in 10 years than what was supposed to be done in 25.”

Education and Complete Citizenship on the Global Agenda

LBV's statement for the United Nations ECOSOC High-Level Segment presents its recommendations for sustainable development



Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boa Vontade



Written statement by the LBV translated by the UN into its six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish): E/2014/NGO/38

The present statement submits the recommendations of the Legião da Boa Vontade / Legion of Good Will (LBV) to the theme of the 2014 High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): “Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”. The LBV advocates education as being central to the global development agenda and its interrelationship with health, gender issues, productive inclusion, sustainability, and social networking. →



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criança Futuro no Presente!

PAZ NA TERRA AOS HOMENS DE BOA VONTADE
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LBV
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Leilla Tonin

Vivian R. Ferreira



The LBV's mission

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

São Paulo (Brazil)

Leilla Tonin



Anápolis (Brazil)

→ These recommendations are the result of more than six decades of work carried out by the LBV and of the debates it promoted during the 10th Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum—a series of events held between November 20 and 29, 2013, in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The meetings were supported by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) and attended by representatives from several local entities of the UN system (UNIC, UNESCO, UNICEF, and the UN Global Compact).



UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

(1) During the ECOSOC High-Level Segment in 2013, in Geneva (Switzerland), the United Nations Secretary-General, **Ban Ki-moon**, was greeted by **Adriana Rocha**, from the LBV, and received the GOOD WILL magazine (in English). He leafed through the publication attentively, and pointed out that he admires the work of the Organization. (2) **Juan Manuel Santos Calderón** (R), the President of the Republic of Colombia, with the LBV's representative at the United Nations, **Danilo Parmegiani**. Mr. Calderón gave a speech at the ECOSOC Substantive Session. (3) The Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, Ms. **Amina J. Mohammed** (C), from Nigeria, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), **Helen Clark** (R), from New Zealand, receive the recommendations of the LBV (in English) from the representative of the Organization at the event, **Noys Rocha**.



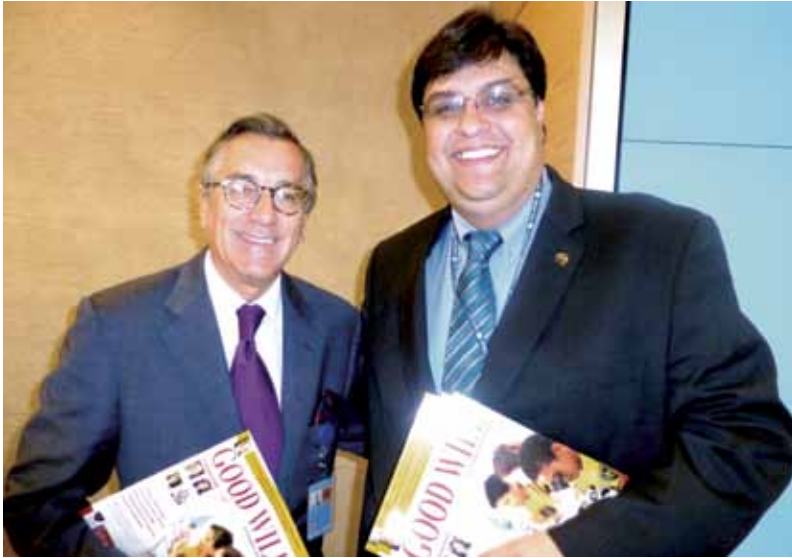
Photos: Archive GW

LBV's lines of action

The Organization has autonomous bases in the four countries mentioned previously, as well as in the United States and in Portugal. It also has 77 assistance units in Brazil. It was founded on January 1, 1950 (World Peace Day) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by journalist, radio broadcaster, and social activist **Alziro Zarur** (1914-1979). He was succeeded as president of the LBV by journalist, radio broadcaster, and writer **José de Paiva Netto**. The Organization operates through

its social service centers, schools, homes for the elderly, campaigns, and emergency actions. In 2013, its social work had an impact on more than 277,000 people in Brazil and in six other countries where it has autonomous bases.

In Brazil alone, from the year 2000 (first year of the Millennium Development Goals - MDGs) to 2013, 90 million services and benefits were provided for people living in a vulnerable or social risk situation, an investment made largely possible by the donations of individuals. Besides this, the Organization also advocates on public policies by participating in councils for



Former President of UN/ECOSOC, **Néstor Osorio** (L), received from Danilo Parmegiani, representative of the LBV, the GOOD WILL *Sustainable Development* magazine, in English. He kindly recalled his participation giving the opening remarks in the Forum on Technology and Education, which the LBV co-organized, at the UN Headquarters in New York, in May 2013.



Director-General of UNESCO, **Irina Bokova** (L), and **Ana Paula de Oliveira**, from the LBV, talk about the Organization's special publication in French.

the defense of rights, a way in which civil society maintains dialogue with Government administrators. Internationally, it has been associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) for more than twenty years and

has had general consultative status with ECOSOC for fifteen years (since 1999).

Communication has been an important part of the work of the Legion of Good Will since its foundation. It has existed as an idea and an all-encompassing ecumenical movement since the beginnings of the radio program *Hora da Boa Vontade* [Good Will Hour], which started months before (on March 4, 1949) on Globo Radio in Rio de Janeiro. Because of this the LBV uses today an extensive network of radio, television, publications, and the Internet in defense of social and environmental causes and to promote education, culture, social development, and citizenship values. Having prepared hundreds of professionals who operate in the communication market with this unique vision, it is currently structuring an audio-visual technical school in São Paulo, Brazil.

Education and the MDGs

Commitment to quality education is the Organization's focus. At a time when nations are defining their common priorities for education for the coming years (within the Sustainable Development Goals), the LBV argues for the need to add to the current progress indicators mechanisms that allow the assessment not only of proficiency in language and exact sciences, but also in the number of cases of intolerance, violence, unhealthy behavior (including the consumption of both legal and illegal drugs), solidary and democratic participation, subjective well-being, and adherence to sustainable habits.

These are just some of the statistics whose improvements are feasible if a preventive approach of public policies is strengthened, especially education

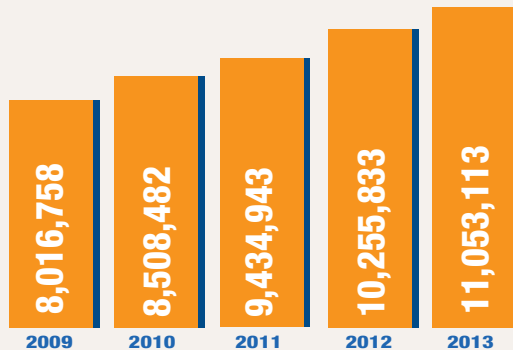




LBV IN THE WORLD

The Legion of Good Will was founded on January 1, 1950 (World Peace Day), in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by the journalist, radio broadcaster, and poet Alziro Zarur (1914-1979), who was succeeded by the also journalist, radio broadcaster, and writer José de Paiva Netto. It is present in six other countries besides Brazil. Since the 1980s, the LBV has autonomous bases in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay.

Number of services and benefits provided by the Legion of Good Will of Brazil from 2009 to 2013*



* For more than two decades, the LBV of Brazil has its general balance sheet audited by external independent auditors, by initiative of its President José de Paiva Netto, long before the Brazilian legislation required this measure to come into effect.



people assisted by the LBV's socio-educational programs and campaigns in its schools, social service centers, and homes for the elderly.



services and benefits to families and individuals in vulnerability or at social risk in the countries where the LBV has autonomous bases.



educational and social service units across seven countries.



In addition to schools, social service centers, and homes for the elderly, the LBV has a broad social communication network (radio, TV, the Internet, and publications) dedicated to fostering education, culture, and citizenship values.



Aracaju (Brazil)



Presidente Prudente (Brazil)

policies. The Legion of Good Will uses several strategies to regularly encourage reflection among students. These strategies include children and youth forums, as well as cultural competitions that involve debate workshops and artistic production. Held during the entire year by means of social and educational activities, the forums are open to the community, in which children and young people are the protagonists, even in terms of running the events.

Another action concerns child and youth safety. Since 60 percent of all the people assisted by the LBV through its social and educational programs are children and adolescents from low-income families, the Organization is engaged in multi-stakeholder initiatives that aim to protect its clients who are vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking.

Its schools receive children starting at 4 months old fulltime, thus allowing their mothers to work and increase the family income. This same path is also followed by the Governments of the countries where the LBV operates. They have challenged themselves to extend this benefit to the greatest number of children possible who are enrolled in the public school system.

The LBV focuses on the poorest families seeking to compensate the social disadvantages to which the children of such families are subject to. Therefore, those assisted and their families—generally just the mother—are monitored by a multidisciplinary team, comprised of social workers, psychologists, nutritionists, and educators. The communities in which they live are included in social inclusion programs and projects that contribute to sustainable development. To meet the demands for food, education, income, health, and environment, this work is aligned with activities of public

bodies, other organizations, and partner professionals.

This full attention given to individuals has achieved significant results, such as zero dropout rates and a consolidated culture of peace environment. Academic results are also higher than the national average. This shows that spaces for reflection and for experiencing citizenship and ecumenical, i.e. universal, values help improve students' school performance.

In the health area, for example, the Organization has been carrying out its educational campaign “*Don't use drugs. To Live is Better!*” for more than two decades. Efforts in this direction are extremely necessary. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 14 percent of the global burden of disease is attributed to mental and neurological disorders and to the abuse of psychoactive substances. The high cost of treatment for these illnesses, to which a minority has access to, can be much reduced in the case of consumption of drugs and unprescribed medication. Data from the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2013 show that for every dollar spent on prevention, as many as ten dollars can be saved in subsequent Government costs.

The LBV has systematized its educational experience by means of the Pedagogy of Affection (directed at children up to the age of 10) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (starting at the age of 11), which are part of the teaching method created by educator Paiva Netto. With its consolidated methodology—the Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research (MAPREI)—and curricular structure that takes into account the parameters of each country, this educational line has increasingly been the



object of scientific studies and training for educators in both public and private education systems in many nations.

When José de Paiva Netto inaugurated the LBV's Educational Center in Rio de Janeiro in 1996, in a speech he addressed to more than 100,000 people, he declared:

“... People complain that children and young people on the streets rob, kill, break into houses, and upset other children and young people who have more privileged lifestyles. However, they are only giving back what they have been offered. If garbage is given to them, what would they give back? So, why complain? ... This issue of children and young people on the streets deserves a serious reflection so that the right measures can be put into practice.”

Multi-stakeholder Forum

The 10th Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum convened



Florianópolis (Brazil)

Leila Tonin



Salvador (Brazil)

Nino Santos

The forum is part of a continuous process of networking between civil society organizations, public bodies, and companies. It aims to boost the results of its social actions. In order to strengthen the network, in several cities it arranges, in partnership with other organizations, skills-building training meetings with social players, mainly community leaders, thus helping them develop more qualified actions that are aligned with public policies and with the international commitments of each country regarding human rights.

Below are some of the recommendations and good practices suggested by the multi-stakeholder forum:

- ✔ Link the educational process to sustainable development agendas at local, regional, and national levels. Implement policies to include young people in decision-making political processes.
- ✔ Prepare social responsibility plans in universities based on successful experiences. Establish mandatory social or community service in their curricula.
- ✔ Reformulate teaching plans and train teachers to encourage greater and effective student protagonism.
- ✔ Set up and carry out, in basic education schools, programs that support parents, teachers, and legal guardians with regard to responsible consumption, providing them with the tools for addressing this theme with children of different ages and from different social backgrounds.
- ✔ Create new global indicators for assessing educational policies as far as

Government representatives, companies, civil society organizations, academia, and ordinary citizens from four South American countries to discuss “Future paths for Education—Education on the post-2015 global development agenda”, in a universal approach, but one that did not fail to consider inequality and the cultural differences of each location.

gender equality is concerned, because, despite the advances in female education, there are still factors that generate inequality, the main one being discrimination against certain ethnic groups.

✔ Formulate, in countries with a history of colonization, affirmative action policies for the original languages within the educational context.

✔ Create within the scope of the United Nations a Consultative All-Encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality Council, which will interact with local Government and with international organisms, and recognize Spirituality as a constitutive right of human dignity. Introduce the subject at all educational levels and encourage it through mass communication.



Ecumenism

The all-encompassing ecumenical cause is defended by the Legion of Good Will as the way to promote a Culture of Peace and ethnic and religious tolerance. This concept “transcends the religious aspect,” since it preaches “the universal reconciliation of all human and spiritual knowledge in a powerful force in the service of all people,” as Paiva Netto defines it.

Conclusion

The LBV is open to cooperate with countries and organizations in expanding the contents presented here and in replicating its social technologies.

In the Organization’s view, the most efficient social technology is the effective investment in education. According to the thesis defended for decades by educator Paiva Netto: “When fighting in favor of

sustainability, we must work together for it to be understood in its deepest sense and not only on economic thinking that survives through greed, which not only liquidates human creatures by dint of unemployment and hunger in various regions of the planet, but equally by a lack of instruction, which denies young people better perspectives. However, everywhere we look there are efforts being made by people who have decided to correct such situations that hinder the growth of many countries. And it is not enough to instruct; we need to educate and re-educate! In various places where the economy has become stronger, after a certain time, because of a lack of investment in ethical and spiritual principles, the violence that had reduced, reappears, coming so many times from arrogance with those on their borders or beyond them who have less than they do. And then it affects international relationships. Why? Because there was lack of education. And much more than that, Re-education, which is Education with all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality.” ■



64 years

Our work



Argentina



Bolivia



Brazil



Paraguay



Portugal



Uruguay



USA



Vivian R. Ferreira



Mônica Mendes



Vivian R. Ferreira

Lucian Fagundes



Leila Tonin





Teresina (Brazil)

Leila Torin



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Priscilla Antunes



Belém (Brazil)

Archive GW



Asuncion (Paraguay)

Raquel Diaz



SCHOOLS

The mission of the LBV's teaching units is to educate with an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality, thus forming "Brain and Heart". The aim is to promote an effective and competent development of intellect and feelings. Activities are extended to all stages of primary and secondary education, as well as to Youth and Adult Education (EJA).



Montevideo (Uruguay)

Archive GW



Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Archive GW



Taguatinga (Brazil)

José Góngalo



La Paz (Bolivia)

Laila Tonin

Vinicius Ramão



Curitiba (Brazil)



Volta Redonda (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

Patrícia Oliveira



Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira



Volta Redonda (Brazil)



HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

The LBV has three units dedicated exclusively to the care of the elderly who find themselves in social risk situation and/or have been separated from their family nucleus. The assistance offered includes social and nutritional monitoring, medical and nursing care, and occupational therapy.



Porto Alegre (Brazil)



SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS

In these social service centers the care provided to people and families living in a social and/or personal vulnerability situation contributes towards Solidary Citizenship. Individuals assisted in the centers develop their skills, talents, and values, in addition to strengthening family and community ties by means of socio-educative activities and Skills-building Training and Productive Inclusion workshops.

This improves the self-esteem of those helped, who can thus better exercise their rights and duties and even become agents of sustainable development. The work of the LBV, which includes programs and social mobilization and awareness-raising campaigns, aims to value Life, focusing on children and the family. Following are some of the main actions:

Jose Corrêa



Brasília (Brazil)

Paulo Araújo



Maringá (Brazil)



Manaus (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

Archive GW



Montevideo (Uruguay)

Tatiane Oliveira



Salvador (Brazil)

Archive GW



Cuiabá (Brazil)

- ▶ **CHILDREN: THE FUTURE IN THE PRESENT!**
- ▶ **YOUTH: THE FUTURE IN THE PRESENT!**

Those participating in these programs are boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18 who are being looked after by the Organization's social service centers 4 hours a day. The initiatives foster children and youth leadership, since it considers the life story and unique characteristics of each child and adolescent. Activities are carried out to help awaken competences and skills in addition to encouraging them to exercise values of citizenship, Culture of Peace, and family union.



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Naahalia Valério



Fabiola Bigas

Florianópolis (Brazil)

► SOLIDARY COEXISTENCE AND FULL LIFE

These programs help foster socio-cultural inclusion and strengthen the citizenship in young people, adults, and the elderly. They are provided with environments that favor the establishment of interpersonal, intergenerational, and family ties through group activities, sports, cultural activities, etc.

EDUCATION IN ACTION ◀

Develops diversified activities in order to fulfill the right to Education. It includes skills-training workshops for teachers with emphasis placed on the strategies and resources needed for facilitating learning and the creation of bonds between educators and students. In addition, parents are encouraged to participate in many of the program's activities.



Laila Tomlin

La Paz (Bolivia)



Archive GW

Asuncion (Paraguay)



Archive GW

Buenos Aires (Argentina)



Cascavel (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

► **BABY CITIZEN**

Prepares pregnant women and mothers with babies up to 3 years of age to improve their quality of life. Activities include: guidance during pregnancy, monitoring baby's health, and family counseling. This program is also aimed at developing and balancing family relationships.



São Gonçalo (Brazil)

Nathalia Valério



La Paz (Bolivia)

Laila Toon

**SKILLS-BUILDING
TRAINING AND
PRODUCTIVE
INCLUSION** ◀

Coach young people and adults for the labor market by way of courses directed at developing technical and personal competences and skills.

Priscila Petreca



Poços de Caldas (Brazil)

2014: LBV OF PORTUGAL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Porto (Portugal)

Archive GW



La Paz (Bolivia)

Archive GW

▶ **HAPPY SMILE** ▶ **CLEAN TEETH, HEALTHY CHILDREN**

Educate children and adults in regards to dental health in underprivileged communities. The action underlines the importance of adopting good hygiene habits that contribute to the health of the teeth. The programs also help overcome the fear many have of going to the dentist. The services provided are free-of-charge and carried out in other organizations, day care centers, and schools. Fully equipped vehicles service underprivileged communities of Lisbon, Porto, and Coimbra (Portugal), and in La Paz and Santa Cruz de La Sierra (Bolivia).

GOOD WILL SEED ◀

Children and adolescents from 5 to 12 years old take part in socio-educational activities and are provided with meals. Thanks to the teaching proposal of the LBV (read more about it on page 40), created by educator Paiva Netto, which allies "Brain and Heart", the young ones learn about citizenship, all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality, and Culture of Peace.



Archive GW

Porto (Portugal)



La Paz (Bolivia)

Leila Tonn

► **CHARITY ROUND**

This emergency program is directed towards people living on the streets. The mobile service takes meals, social support, and spiritual comfort to the assisted. The program also seeks to make citizens aware of their own potential and skills, so they can develop them and thus provide for themselves.



New Jersey (USA)

Sâmara Mateman



Porto (Portugal)

Archive GW



Coimbra (Portugal)

Archive GW



Porto (Portugal)

Archive GW

► **ONE STEP FORWARD**

Hundreds of families in a situation of social vulnerability benefit every month from the Legion of Good Will of Portugal. The Organization works on several fronts to guarantee citizen rights, to fight hunger and the lack of primary needs, and to promote social inclusion. Thousands of families benefit from the program. Every year, the action is responsible for distributing more than 200 tons of food by means of food baskets and meals.



Orange, NJ (USA)

Archive GW

▶ GOOD WILL STUDENTS FOR PEACE

An anti-violence educational program developed in North American schools that aims to instill in students solidary leadership and a Culture of Peace. Therefore, the initiative has guided children and young people to act on behalf of a more peaceful, sustainable, and fairer global society.



Orange, NJ (USA)

Archive GW



Orange, NJ (USA)

Archive GW

GOOD WILL IN ACTION ◀

Provides families in a socially vulnerable situation with food. Through a partnership with agricultural engineers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay, the program helps those who live in poor neighborhoods to grow community vegetable gardens. In addition to meeting the local demand for greens and vegetables the project contributes to generate income from the sale of produce. Every month food boxes are distributed to the needy families to help them with a balanced healthy diet.



Cerro Poty (Paraguay)

Allison Bell



Xerém (Brazil)

Nathália Valério



Xerém (Brazil)

Nathália Valério



CAMPAIGNS

▶ S.O.S. DISASTER

A campaign in partnership with the Civil Defense and other government bodies, as well as private organizations and volunteers. It provides emergency assistance to people and/or communities afflicted by disasters. It delivers relief items (food for immediate consumption, drinking water, clothing, footwear, etc.), personal hygiene items, cleaning products, and mattresses.



Itaoca (Brazil)

Felipe Tonin



New Jersey (USA)

Archive GW



Vivian R. Ferreira

São Paulo (Brazil)



José Gonçalves

Brasília (Brazil)



Verônica Alexandre

Maceió (Brazil)



Vania Bandeira

Aracaju (Brazil)



A + CHILD – TO PROTECT CHILDHOOD IS TO BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE!

This campaign benefits parents who lack financial resources to buy their kid’s school supplies. At the beginning of the school year, more than 14,000 kits with school and learning supplies are distributed to children and teenagers who attend the Organization’s schools and to those helped in the programs *Children: The Future in the Present!* and *Youth: The Future in the Present!*. This helps boost the self-esteem of the students and encourages them to continue with their studies.

► LBV IN THE WORLD

LBV'S PERMANENT CHRISTMAS — JESUS, OUR DAILY BREAD! ◀

The Organization delivers food baskets to the families assisted throughout the year by the LBV's socio-assistance programs, to those helped by the organizations that belong to the LBV's Solidary Society Network, and to those cared for by the Legion of Good Will's partner organizations.



Andrea Varela

La Paz (Bolivia)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Guarulhos (Brazil)



Tatiane Oliveira

Aracaju (Brazil)



Jean Carlos Archive GW

Natal (Brazil)



Asuncion (Paraguay)



Gil Farias

Teresina (Brazil)



Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

Edison Geraldo



São José (Brazil)

Vania Blasse

Fabiola Bigas



Caruaru (Brazil)



Jean Carlos



João Pessoa (Brazil)

Educating planetary citizens

LBV's methodology encourages students to build a better society



Vivian R. Ferreira

Sueli Periotto is the 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 in São Paulo (Brazil). Ms. Periotto holds a Master's degree in Education from PUC-SP and is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree also in Education from the same university. She is a conference speaker and the host of the *Educação em Debate* [Education on Focus] program of the Super Good Will Radio Network.

Sueli Periotto

The teaching method of the Legion of Good Will (LBV), devised by educator José de Paiva Netto, President of the Organization, is comprised of the Pedagogy of Affection (directed at children up to the age of 10) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (starting at the age of 11). Its concept points to an education in which all the subjects on the school curriculum are infused with ethical, ecumenical, and spiritual values.

To apply this unique approach, as proposed decades ago by the creator of this pedagogical line, educators of the LBV's teaching network developed the MAPREI (Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research), a methodology that proposes six action stages in the entire syllabus of basic education. The purpose of this facilitating educational tool is to guarantee greater involvement of children and young people during classes, making them





João Perfeito

In harmony with the youth world

We list below some of the topics that are often discussed in the “*Convivência*” (Living Together) classes in the LBV’s schools. The students have been doing research on these subjects and promoting debates that do not criticize others, but highlight the need to care for the body and Spirit of each one for the development of a healthy youth who are ready to implement changes that will benefit society as a whole:



How to prevent gender violence;



Nature conservation and sustainable development;



Fight against child sex tourism (this theme was chosen due to the upcoming international events that Brazil will host);



The impact of food waste;



A critical analysis of video games;



Diabetes in children and adolescents, anorexia, bulimia, and other health disorders caused by being underweight or by obesity.

coparticipants in their own learning process. This is achieved by way of the attentive mediation of educators and other professionals, whether during formal education or recreational-pedagogical activities.

Students are not mere listeners in the MAPREI. During their academic journey, children and young people are motivated to research, discuss, and carry out effective actions that can bring about positive changes in society.

Because our students live in situation of social vulnerability, they are encouraged to participate in projects that help improve the structure of the places and surroundings where they live. Thus, solutions for the challenging issues of their community come up, which also benefit their families. This becomes even more evident in the final years of basic education when these young people are preparing for an important step in their academic lives: entering higher education. It is at this moment that we notice the result of the education they received at the LBV from a very early age, which is based on values of an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality for their full development. The participative knowledge they acquired during these years prepares them, for example, for facing up to questions relating to drug use.

According to the United Nations (UN), illegal drugs kill more than 500 people per day in the world (men, women, and children). These numbers are found in the World Drug Report 2013 of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and show the seriousness of the problem.

Knowledge and critical thinking

In this particular issue, our experience has shown that outside influence alone, like talks and lectures, is not enough to raise a strong awareness and form the critical thinking of young people. They need to create their own personal defense mechanism. In this article we will show how—by applying the MAPREI—we prepare the students to face common issues of adolescence, as for example, knowing how to say no to drugs when they are offered by so-called friends who might want to influence them to try drugs.

To illustrate this, we chose to explore the “*Convivência*” (Living Together) classes. This school subject, created by the founder of the Good Will Educational Complex, has the purpose of discussing issues linked to sexuality—combining feelings and responsibility—and other current affairs.

MAPREI step by step

The lesson plan we will share with you was used with 12th grade students in this year's trimester.

1st stage: mobilization and identification of the content/theme — we told students the story of an inventor who wanted and managed to *make it rain*. During the debate we asked: “Where do you want to make it rain in your life?” Each one wrote down their objectives for the next few years;



Clayton Ferreira

Students are not mere listeners in the MAPREI. During their academic journey, children and young people are motivated to research, discuss, and carry out effective actions that can bring about positive changes in society.

2nd stage: individual search for knowledge — a research was undertaken on the topic “Drugs and their consequences: sexual dysfunction and sterility”. The students used magazines, newspapers, websites, and medical documentaries. They made a list of

“Know how to say ‘No’ to drugs!” say LBV students.

The theme, debated in the Living Together classes in the LBV’s schools, is discussed in depth by the students themselves who carry out research and come up with information, reports, and scientific data for the debate in order to produce material to make other young people aware of the issues. Check out below some of the opinions of 12th grade high school students from the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo, Brazil.



“Information on drugs is the most alarming. Nowadays even children are being admitted to hospitals because of alcohol abuse. That’s absurd!”

Letícia Lopes, 17 years old.

“Know how to say ‘No’! Don’t be afraid to say ‘No’. That’s essential, simple, and effective.”

Rafael Pacheco, 18 years old.

“I can say categorically that I have childhood friends who are involved with the world of drugs today. I don’t regret not having gone with them, because I knew that wouldn’t do me any good. If I hadn’t had the support from the school, my destiny would have been different.”

Diego Lemos, 17 years old.

main topics they wanted to discuss in the classroom;

3rd stage: socialization of knowledge — students shared with their classmates what they had discovered in their research;

4th stage: conclusion — they were asked to make a group presentation for their younger colleagues and provide an overview of the information they had gathered. They explained the effects of both legal (alcoholic beverages and

tobacco) and illegal (various drugs) substances on the male and female organisms, to the point of causing sterility and sexual dysfunction, which thus prevent them from establishing a family in order to continue with their lineage;

5th stage: presentation of results — the moment when the older students (around 17 years old) shared their research with the younger ones (between 11 and 13 years old) was remarkable. At this stage the results of the MAPREI are more visible, because it is possible to assess what they have learned from the researches and discussions on the theme mediated by the educator. The 12th grade students' project was significant; so much so that they were invited to participate in a special edition of the program *O Assunto é Jesus!* [The Subject is Jesus!], on Boa Vontade TV (Channel 20 on SKY cable TV). There, the students talked about all the steps of their project (which made them very happy because they were able to learn more during their experience with the younger students), and reported the results of their research and their individual conclusions. Also in this stage of the MAPREI, the students presented during the parent teacher conference posters, cartoons, and other artistic activities they had prepared on the topic. The families were pleased to see how the students developed the topic and how much knowledge they acquired on the subject, which guarantees that their children be kept far from these substances that have caused so much damage to children and young people;

6th stage: individual conclusion — by the end of the term, the young

people were assessed and debated the topic, reaching their own conclusions of how the proposal of this research about drugs had contributed to their own lives.

Involvement and dialogue for real learning

All the stages mentioned were devised to make the MAPREI not just a tool for transferring information, but also to enable students to express themselves with regard to topics and to engage them in the teaching processes.

The applicability of this innovative educational concept is marked by the unique approach that allies "*Brain and Heart*", according to the proposal created by Paiva Netto, for it is necessary to invest in the development of the intellect without forgetting that we are all beings with a mind and soul that need spiritual comfort; in the words of the LBV's president, we need to have "*a view beyond the intellect.*"

Teachers from the Legion of Good Will's schools conduct with the students research and hold discussions on topics that are part of an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality curriculum that permeates the Organization's teaching proposal integrating development (feelings) with the necessary information (intellect). The aim is to develop the students' biopsychosocial spirit. The most important thing is that these actions have a great impact and they can be replicated, which makes the learning process even more enriching and participative, yielding good results for society. ■



Orange, NJ (USA)

Photos: Eliana Gonçalves

Seed of Fraternal Love

LBV-USA promotes Culture of Peace and Solidarity in North American schools and receives the support and gratitude from the City of Orange Township

By the Editorial Staff



“I’m happy to be a partner with the Legion of Good Will. It’s such a great Organization for our students to build their character and also to provide community service to show the children how important giving back is to the community.”

Denise White

Principal of Lincoln Avenue School, Orange, NJ, USA.

For more than six decades the Legion of Good Will (LBV) has been investing in quality education. In order to achieve this, it allies its teaching practice with values of an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality for the promotion of a culture of peace. This unique approach of the LBV enables children and young people to have the opportunity to develop themselves and become citizens aware of their social rights and duties. These values are found in the activities the Organization develops all over Brazil and in the six countries where it currently has autonomous bases (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay).

The LBV-USA, for example, carries out an important work through its *Good Will Students for Peace* program. “The action involves a partnership between educators from the Organization and with

schools. Some of the editions of this initiative took place in Lincoln Avenue School in Orange, New Jersey,” affirmed educator **Sâmara Malaman**, LBV’s program coordinator. Over a period of three months, educators and students joined forces for a solidary cause: collecting food items and donating them to those in most need. At the same time, those involved learned more about Fraternal Love, Complete Charity, and Culture of Peace.

The outcome of the first edition of the program, in November 2013, was special for more than nine hundred students from Lincoln Avenue Elementary School. On this day, they watched a video that documented the actions carried out by the students themselves. “Everybody was happy to see their collaboration recognized. Furthermore, they were filled with good feelings,” recalled **Danilo**

Archive GW



Mayor of the city of Orange, Mr. Dwayne Warren (C), pays tribute to the LBV-USA for the services provided to the local community. Next to him, Sâmara Malaman and Danilo Parmegiani, from the Organization.

“I have named June 3rd and this day, June 17th, as the Legion of Good Will Day throughout the City of Orange Township,” said the mayor.

In a new season of the *Good Will Students for Peace* program of the LBV-USA, students and teachers from Lincoln Avenue School in Orange, New Jersey, worked on the theme: “My Home is the Planet Earth—Our Role as Environmentally Aware Citizens”, with the aim of encouraging students into becoming engaged in preserving the environment.

The end of the semester ceremony, which took place on June 17, was attended by the Mayor of Orange, Mr. **Dwayne Warren**, and by members of the city’s education council. Nearly nine hundred students and the school’s Vice Principal, Mr. **Patrick Yearwood**, took part in the event.

On the occasion the mayor talked about the activities undertaken by the children, such as the collective effort they organized to remove litter from the streets surrounding their school—an area of 17 blocks in total. These and other initiatives that were carried out by the program encouraged the mayor to draft a proclamation—a public act conferred by public authorities in the USA to distinguish an event or significant services to the community—honoring the Organization. *“People throughout the city of Orange have recognized your good work. The important thing that it [this proclamation] says is whereas Lincoln Avenue School is working in partnership with the Legion of Good Will in an anti-violence character-building educational program. And so I have named June 3rd and this day, June 17th, as the Legion of Good Will Day throughout the City of Orange Township,”* said the mayor.

Parmegiani, representative of the LBV-USA.

Under the theme “Caring, Sharing, and Giving”, the LBV’s program sought to unite the proposal of solidary actions with the academic curricular content, aiming to encourage students to develop a more sensitive and critical thinking on the social reality that surrounds them and on the quality of interpersonal relationships. Naturally, they reflected on different ways of inspiring people to practice and foster ethical, fraternal, and spiritual values.

The action plan itself was defined by the students, who chose to organize a food drive to collect items for donation. The decision came after a research they conducted on the causes of homelessness and on the underprivileged communities in the region. As a result, they chose to help families living in Essex County, New Jersey.

To achieve the goal established, the students divided themselves into small teams, made a list of basic food items, and with the help of volunteers from the LBV mobilized the local community to support the campaign. Thanks to the initiative, close to 60 food baskets were put together and distributed on November 28, Thanksgiving Day.

Reach and impact

By implementing the program, the LBV boosts the reach of this socio-educational action, which is aligned with at least five of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): eradicating extreme hunger and poverty; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women;





Montevideo (Uruguay)



Porto (Portugal)



La Paz (Bolivia)

“World stability begins in the hearts of children.”
Paiva Netto



Asuncion (Paraguay)



Buenos Aires (Argentina)



→ ensuring environmental sustainability; and working towards a global partnership for development.

For educator **Cindy Varela**, the initiative pleased the students and had a positive influence on their behavior: *“Just watching them working in the community was enough to see that they were so happy to be helping. One of the students even said to you guys that he felt in his heart that he was doing a good job and that it made him feel good. I feel this is excellent for any school.”*

The proposal of a teaching method that takes into account the role of feelings, affection, and compassion was praised by educator **Yashmine Cooper**. *“If you introduce children to these values they’re going to act in accordance, without*

thinking twice. . . . It’s very important to expand this in education so we’re not limited just to the curriculum, but ready to develop [students’] characters, values, and morals,” she said.

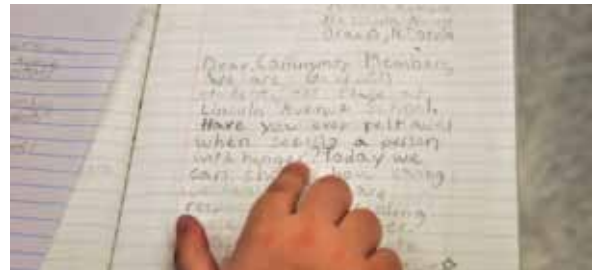
According to kindergarten teacher **Hassan Shaheed**, the work he develops with the students has, in his opinion, shown him the value of charitable feelings. *“This program of the LBV is going to make children more aware of the world, to see what it’s really like, because sometimes in our homes we don’t see the situation of those who have nothing. . . . So I think it teaches children to become mindful of each other and it makes your heart so much bigger. When you give to others, it makes you feel so good inside.”*

Stages of the LBV program

The *Good Will Students for Peace* program is divided into the following phases: 1) mobilization and engagement; 2) group activity development; and 3) results presentation and individual internalization. Its structure is based on the MAPREI (Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research), the methodology of the Pedagogy of Affection (directed at children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (for children starting at 11), which

composes the educational proposal created by educator José de Paiva Netto, President of the LBV (read more about the subject on page 40).

The representative of the LBV-USA, Danilo Parmegiani, summed up the impression of the educators involved in this first stage of the project: *“One thing I know for sure: there’s a fertile field for planting the seed of Fraternal Love and reaping the pedagogical and human development benefits provided by the practice of Goodwill.”*



Photos: Archive GW

Orange, NJ (USA)

“In my classroom we implement the Good Will Students for Peace program every day,” said education specialist and kindergarten teacher **Maria Albuquerque**, who works with children aged 5 to 6 in New Jersey. *“American teachers value the contribution of the LBV. They know that the Organization’s initiative seeks to encourage good attitudes, moral and ethical behavior; and actions in favor of those who are in need. In this way, both the school environment and the community are benefited.”*



In the educator’s opinion, children are always willing to do something dynamic and different and the opportunity of doing good things is exciting for them. As a result, *“they develop a greater understanding, a critical sense, and the conflicts are reduced.”* There is, therefore, an actual change, particularly in the student’s behavior, according to Ms. Albuquerque.

The invitation to carry out a new activity in partnership with the Legion of Good Will, as well as the interest shown

by other schools in New Jersey and New York in applying the program this year, is a recognition of the importance of this LBV’s socio-educational action, in the opinion of educator Sâmara Malaman. And she concluded: *“Teachers, administrators, and psychologists from the school immediately saw the importance of how experiencing students to hands on character-building activities would make them internalize the true message of Fraternal Love while building a conscience of solidarity within the students.”*



Asunción (Paraguay)

Leila Tonin

Solidarity and quality of life

LBV helps women increase their income and
achieve financial empowerment

Leila Marco

The agreed target on the eradication of hunger and poverty (MDG 1) was reached five years ahead of schedule, according to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013 launched by United Nations Secretary-General, **Ban Ki-moon**, on July 1, 2013.

Although the number of people living on less than US\$ 1.25 a day has been falling, a significant proportion of the population of many countries still lives in this condition. In Paraguay, for example, 32.4 percent of the almost 7 million residents live in poverty. Moreover, 1.16 million Paraguayans live in extreme poverty, in other words, 18 percent of the population, according to the 2011 Household Survey by General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC). These people have difficulties in accessing basic services, such as health care, education, basic sanitation, and housing.

The Legion of Good Will of Paraguay has been working for 30 years to help reduce these indicators. Through its socio-educational programs, the LBV assists people in social risk situation on a daily basis in its assistance unit in Asuncion

and in several regions where low-income families live. At the José de Paiva Netto Nursery and Preschool, the LBV offers complete and full-time education to children from 2 to 6 years old.

These actions have transformed the reality of many Paraguayans for the better. In Colonia Thompson, a settlement in Ypané, the story of **Cynthia Fernández**, 23, mother of **Edison**, 3, clearly shows the importance of the support offered by the Organization.

Mother and son live alone in a small wooden house she built with a lot of effort. *“Everything is very difficult when you’re alone, but I’m going to try and overcome a lot of things for my son’s sake,”* she said. Cynthia found out about the Legion of Good Will through her friend **Noêmia**.

It was a moment of great challenge for this mother and her son. The little boy suffers from celiac disease, triggered by the ingestion of gluten, which is found in wheat, oats, barley, and rye. If untreated, it can attack the small intestine, interfering with the absorption of nutrients, vitamins, minerals, and water.



Ban Ki-moon,
United Nations
Secretary-
General.



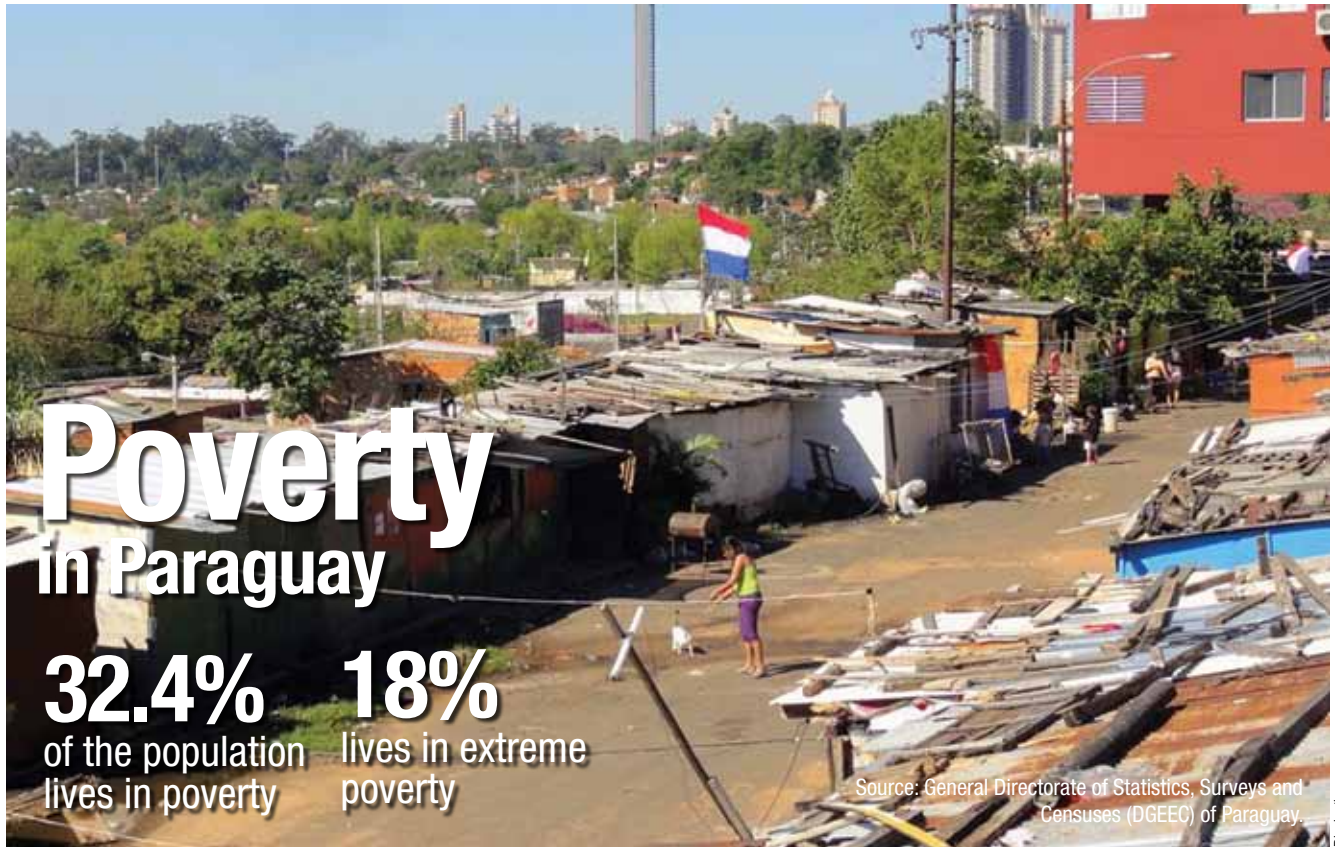
Paraguay



“The LBV always rescues me. I leave my little boy there studying so I can calmly go to work to pay the bills.”

Cynthia Fernández

23, mother of Edison, 3. Assisted by the LBV of Paraguay.



With the help of the Organization’s professionals, the disease was diagnosed and Edison reversed the malnutrition resulting from the disorder. *“Last year, the LBV helped me a lot with all of my son’s medication, because it’s expensive and I didn’t have any money. The LBV really gave me a hand,”* said Cynthia gratefully.

Every morning the young mother walks nearly two kilometers to take little Edison to the Organization’s school, where he spends the day. For almost

a year Edison has been enrolled in the Nursery and Preschool of the Legion of Good Will, and today he is a healthy boy. He has even gained five kilos and started to develop a better relationship with all those around him. *“Edison has learned and changed a lot. I remember that when he used to arrive at the gate of the old nursery he would always start crying . . . In the LBV it’s different; sometimes he even forgets to say goodbye to me,”* she said with a smile.



Overcoming the effects of the **economic crisis**

Aware of the challenges faced by the European bloc, the LBV of Portugal intensifies its activities in support of families at social risk

For many developed countries and/or those with a consolidated economy, such as the ones of the Eurozone, the situation is of recovery after a critical period of financial crisis. The Portuguese economy is one of those that has suffered most from such effects in Europe. Fiscal austerity with deep budget cuts make 2014 an equally difficult year.

Social security reform in Portugal, for example, established stricter conditions regarding entitlement periods and the granting of government support, like unemployment benefits and assistance for people living below the poverty line. The effects

of such economic measures on society are affecting the lives of entire families.

Aware of these issues, the Legion of Good Will of Portugal has intensified the actions of its *One Step Forward* program, which supports families living in a socially vulnerable situation. As a result, the Organization is working on several areas in order to ensure citizen rights, avoid hunger and the shortage of basic need items, and promote social inclusion.

The teams of professionals and collaborators of the LBV's units in Lisbon, Coimbra, and Porto have seen an increase in the number of requests for assistance. In the Social Service Center in Porto, for example, a preliminary

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Poverty among children

- According to a report from UNICEF Portugal addressed to the UN and prepared with the support of the country's civil society organizations, at least 500,000 children and young people lost the right to family benefit between 2009 and 2012.

- The study also showed that the rate of poverty among children increased during this period—to 28.6% in 2011—, which indicates that this number tends to continue rising.



Archive GW

LBV's representatives attending a meeting of Galp Energia (Support—Mobile Unit)

Operating in network

The joint action of the LBV of Portugal gathers more than 100 official and private entities

assessment of each family that requests help is carried out (see the box: “Who seeks help at the LBV of Portugal?” on page 58). The group is then directed to the several services offered by the LBV or by partner organizations. This joint action gathers more than 100 official and private entities.

In addition to handing out food to those who get in touch with the Organization every month, the volunteer professionals regularly arrange workshops and talks on health, hygiene, nutrition, and management of the family budget. Recently, volunteer **Katrina Halahan**, from the Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences of the University of Porto, visited the LBV's Social Service Center to give a talk on food education.

On the occasion, the specialist explained: “*When families have fewer*



Porto (Portugal)



Porto (Portugal)



Coimbra (Portugal)

One Step Forward

Developed in Porto, Lisbon, and Coimbra, the LBV's *One Step Forward* program in Portugal distributes every year more than 200 tons of food items in the form of food baskets and meals. Around 3,000 families benefited from this work, that is, approximately 13,500 people. In addition to the socio-assistance work, which involves distributing hygiene products, footwear, clothes, and toys, the initiative offers guidance on health and family budgets, among other topics.

economic possibilities they think that healthy food is expensive food. That's not true at all." According to Katrina, an improvement is quickly noted after guidance is given: *"Families are able to notice the difference over the long term in the costs they have with food. This type of food training and education is extremely important."*

As part of its socio-educational activities the Organization arranged a talk in the second semester of 2013 with psychologist **Joana Vieira**. The initiative was carried out in partnership with *Banco Montepio* and the Youth National Association for Family Action (ANJAF). *"We addressed the issue of debt and the easy credit that people have taken over the years and that today leads to situations that are complicated to manage."*



Braga (Portugal)



Lisbon (Portugal)

Divulgação



Who seeks help at the LBV of Portugal?

Based on a survey carried out with those assisted at the LBV's units in Europe, it was possible to have an overview of the economic crisis, which has been affecting many Portuguese citizens. See data below:

- 89% of those who seek help depend on different forms of subsistence, besides the help from the community and from civil society organizations;
- Only 11% of those who visit our locations have an income. Out of these families, the living conditions of 30% of them have deteriorated because expenses started being borne by just one of the parents;
- The survey showed a connection between the lack of funds and the appearance of health problems (depression, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, and other degenerative diseases);
- The situation also increases the use of and dependence on psychoactive substances, like alcohol and other drugs.



LBV OF PORTUGAL IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE COUNTRY'S MEDIA

The *Jornal de Notícias* newspaper, the most widely read paper in the North of Portugal, published on April 27 a two-page report on the work done in favor of a large part of the Portuguese population living in the shadow of a severe economic crisis. JN gave special emphasis to the action of the Legion of Good Will carried out through its *Charity Round* program.

Consumerism is also a topic that they like to discuss," she commented.

In an economic scenario of high unemployment rates, the parental home has become an immediate alternative. Pensioner **Aurora de Jesus**, 78, who is assisted by the *One Step Forward* program, knows this situation very well. She used to receive the help she needed for sustenance from her 46-year-old unmarried son, but today he is unemployed. *"Now I live with the little I have for me and for him,"* said the senior woman unburdening her heart, who also has expenses with medication because of her diabetes and irregular heartbeat. Therefore, the support received from the LBV has been fundamental for their living. *"May the Lord God help this Organization and Mr. Paiva Netto! I really enjoy going to the LBV,"* she said expressing her gratitude. ■

OUTCOME OF THE CRISIS

"We're all unemployed. We're four adults and three children. I have a minimum income from social inclusion, but it's not enough to cover the expenses. If it wasn't for the help from outside, like from the Legion of Good Will, . . . we'd have nothing to eat."

Inocência Manuela Oliveira Gonçalves

50, who took in her daughter-in-law and grandchild.

Urgent action is needed!

UN FAO maps out hunger in the world

The recent report “The State of Food Insecurity in the World”, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP), presents the current situation of hunger, indicating the challenges in fighting poverty. See below some of the main data from the report:

842 million

This is the estimated number of people in the world who suffered from chronic hunger between 2011 and 2013. For the period between 2010 and 2012, there were 868 million people who did not get enough food to conduct an active and healthy life.

827 million people in developing countries

The vast majority of hungry people live in developing regions. In developed countries, this figure is 15.7 million.

62 countries

This is the number of countries that have already reached the target of halving the number of people suffering from hunger, among them Brazil. A further six countries are on track to reach this target by 2015.

Asia and Africa

Most of the undernourished people live in regions of these two continents:

- 295 million in Southern Asia;
- 223 million in sub-Saharan Africa;
- 167 million in Eastern Asia.

13.6 million Brazilians

In 20 years the number of hungry people in Brazil has decreased by almost 10 million. Between 1992 and 2013, the total number of undernourished citizens in the country was reduced from 22.8 million to 13.6 million. Proportionally this reduction is one of the biggest in the world.

1 in 4 people are hungry

In sub-Saharan Africa, 24.8% of the population has nothing to eat.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.





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Bettina Lopez

Montevideo, Uruguay — In the Golden Room of the Municipal Intendence, education in the consumerism age was discussed.

Education on the post-2015 global development agenda

LBV's Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum takes place in four South American countries

The Legion of Good Will (LBV) held in November 2013 the 10th Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum — 7th Innovation Fair. The theme of this edition was “Paths for the future of Education — Education on the post-2015 global development agenda”. The outcome of the debates will be presented by the LBV at the 2014 High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN/ECOSOC) this month of July at the



SOLIDARY SOCIETY NETWORK
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM



SPEAKERS FROM URUGUAY

- **Andrés Scagliola**, National Director of Social Policy at the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES).
- **Ariel Gold**, pediatric psychiatrist and Coordinator of the Psychoeducation Program of Teachers and Parents as Agents of Mental Health.
- **Beatriz Vázquez**, School Principal of the LBV's José de Paiva Netto Educational and Cultural Institute in Uruguay.
- **Gerardo Sabaris**, Professor, and **Diana Meerhoff**, from the Prevention Department of the National Drugs Secretariat.
- **Carlos Surroca**, responsible for the environmental education area and delegate of the Environmental Education Network of Uruguay.
- **María Teresa Mira**, President of the National Association of Development-Oriented Non-Governmental Organizations (ANONG).
- **Roberto Balaguer**, clinical and educational psychologist.



UN Headquarters in New York. The series of meetings brought together organizations and social agents from four South American countries—Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay, where the LBV has autonomous bases—and it had the support from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The recommendations and good social and educational practices taken to the multi-stakeholder forum and innovation fair were discussed by managers and professionals from civil society organizations, private and public sectors, as well as professors and university students who were interested in

taking part in the discussions, sharing knowledge, and establishing partnerships.

Uruguay and Argentina: consumerism and sustainability

In Montevideo, Uruguay, the theme of the Solidary Society Network debates was “Education in the consumerism age”, which took place in the Golden Room of the Municipal Intendencia. On November 20, the opening ceremony was

(1) From the left: **Beatriz Vázquez**, School Principal of the LBV's José de Paiva Netto Educational and Cultural Institute of Uruguay; **Maciel Ferreira**, LBV's representative in the country; **María Teresa Mira** (at the microphone), President of ANONG; and **Andrés Scagliola**, from the Ministry of Social Development. (2) Students from the LBV's José de Paiva Netto Educational and Cultural Institute performed for the participants at the opening ceremony. (3) During the event, **Ariel Gold**, a pediatric psychiatrist and Coordinator of the Psychoeducation Program of Teachers and Parents as Agents of Mental Health, talked about “Excessive consumption by children: some contributions from psychiatry”.



(4) When the Regional Director of the United Nations Information Center for Argentina and Uruguay (UNIC), **David Smith**, finished his talk, he commented: “As a UN representative I’m very happy when I see an event like this one, which brings to the country, to the people of the countryside and the city a Goodwill gesture towards their neighborhoods, the places where they live. It’s very important.” (5) **Buenos Aires, Argentina** — Partial view of the audience during the playing of the National Anthem of Argentina.



attended by the President of the National Association of Development-Oriented Non-Governmental Organizations (ANONG), **María Teresa Mira**, who emphasized the importance of the event. “The initiative of the Legion of Good Will is very good, because it lays on the table the problem of education, one which we have left much undone. Consumerism is a theme of citizen education, which is still not being dealt with sufficiently. It’s good that an Organization like the LBV is working on this issue,” she said.

On the following day, the Argentinian capital received the 10th Solidary Society

Network Multi-stakeholder Forum — 7th Innovation Fair, which was held in the auditorium of the Brazilian Embassy in Buenos Aires. In order to approach the theme “The global development agenda: New directions for education and sustainability”, a rich debate was open during the conferences and workshops and in the presence of social technology experts, through an integration of voices from the main sectors involved: government, academia, and civil society.

On the occasion, the former Head of the Human Rights and Social Affairs Division of the Brazilian Embassy in



SPEAKERS FROM ARGENTINA

- **Alejandro Rebossio**, member of “Banquitos Santa Cruz”, Microcredit for Entrepreneurs.
- **Amalia Britos**, Coordinator of the Brahma Kumaris Argentina Headquarters.
- **Ariel Bauducco**, Pastor from the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Buenos Aires.
- **Carlos Caballero**, Educational Coordinator of the LBV.
- **David Smith**, Regional Director of the United Nations Information Center for Argentina and Uruguay.
- **Edson Teixeira**, LBV’s representative in Argentina.
- **Juan Frid**, Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Seminar for Social Urgency (CIUS), Faculty of Architecture of the University of Buenos Aires.
- **Marcela Pompeu Sogocio**, former Head of the Human Rights and Social Affairs Division of the Brazilian Embassy in Argentina.
- **Patricia Perouch**, Director of the Corporate Social Responsibility Department of CAECE University.
- **Silvia Fiore**, General Editor of the *Tercer Sector* magazine.
- Sister **Susana Billordo**, teacher at the María Auxiliadora Institute.



SPEAKERS FROM PARAGUAY

- **César Gonzalez Martínez**, from UNESCO Paraguay.
- **Cecilia Rodríguez**, Director of Paraguay Educa.
- **Elizabeth Barrios**, Director General of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC).
- **Luis Scasso**, Director General of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture — Paraguay (OEI).
- **Marta Denis**, responsible for the Social Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic of Paraguay.
- **Marcelo Rafael**, LBV's representative for the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy.
- **Marlene Heinrich**, Manager of the Global Compact Network Paraguay (connected to UNDP — United Nations Development Programme).
- **Mirian Ginzo**, President of the Asociación Valores para Vivir.
- **Oscar Barrios**, Director of Research and Extra-curricular Studies of the College of Economic Sciences of the National University of Asuncion.
- **Rosa Elcarte**, representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Paraguay.



(1) **Asuncion, Paraguay** — The public following the 10th Solidary Society Network Multi-Stakeholder Forum in the Bicameral Room of the National Congress. (2) Students from the Nihon Gakko University perform typical dances from their country at the event's opening ceremony.

Paraguay and Bolivia close the forum

On November 26, the capital of Paraguay, Asuncion, was also the stage for the current edition of the meeting. The Bicameral Room of the National Congress was crowded during the debates on the theme “Forming alliances for positive changes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”.

The Director General of Cooperation and Permanent Education of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science, and Culture (OEI), **Luis María Scasso**, summed up the forum: “Education commits everybody; we must help. And the LBV is really committed, because it isn't ‘sitting behind a window’ watching the world go by... The

Argentina, **Marcela Pompeu Sogocio**, thanked the LBV's initiative in arranging the forum and promoting a debate on the Millennium Development Goals and the new global agenda. “We have to cooperate so that the reality in 2015 may be different from the one we saw in 2000, when the Millennium Summit launched such an important challenge. The participation of civil society and the initiatives that arise from the needs of each day perhaps are the most important, because they make the real change,” she commented.



SPEAKERS FROM BOLIVIA

- **Carlos Bravo**, Professor at the Gabriel René Moreno Autonomous University.
- **Carlos Hugo Molina**, President of the Center for Participation and Sustainable Human Development (CEPAD).
- **Gustavo Pedraza**, international consultant.
- **Guillermo Dávalos**, Director of the Child and Adolescent Observatory.
- **Hernán Cabrera**, Coordinator of the Public Defender's Office of Santa Cruz de La Sierra.
- **Javier Verástegui**, State Director of the Fe y Alegría Foundation.
- **Lidia Mayzer**, UNICEF consultant.
- **Nelly Balda**, academic and researcher from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés.
- **Marcelo Rafael**, LBV's representative for the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy.
- **Matías Penhos**, specialist in Human Rights in Latin America.
- **Pablo Alpire**, National General Secretary of the Siembra Juventud Organization.
- **Tatyanne Benchaya Yamanouth Uzin**, consultant from the Aflatoun Network of Bolivia.
- **Vanya Roca**, from the Private Technological University of Santa Cruz de La Sierra (UTEPSA).



3 (3) **Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia — Matías Penhos**, from the Universidad de Quilmes, talks on “The situation of Education in Latin America within the context of the Millennium Development Goals from the perspective of Human Rights”.

Organization is involved with Education and shares its experiences with everybody. I'm very pleased with this invitation.”

Three days later, on November 29, the Legion of Good Will of Bolivia closed the cycle of meetings of this 10th Multi-stakeholder Forum and 7th Innovation Fair. The event took place in the Private Technological University of Santa Cruz de La Sierra (UTEPSA). The debates pointed out a set of successful proposals for combating social inequality, and also talked about differences and intercultural dialogue within the context of the Millennium Goals in that country.

With regard to these issues, **Matías Penhos**, specialist in human rights in Latin America, emphasized the recurrent and contemporary nature of the theme on the agenda of countries in the region over the next few years. He also complimented the

“Education commits everybody; we must help. And the LBV is really committed, because it isn't ‘sitting behind a window’ watching the world go by . . . The Organization is involved with Education and shares its experiences with everybody. I'm very pleased with this invitation.”

Luis María Scasso

Director General of Cooperation and Permanent Education of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI).

LBV for the initiative in holding the forum. *“I congratulate [the Organization] for the action. For me, it helps achieve the goals. A Culture of Peace is very important, as is respect for human rights, about which we have talked so much today. If there were more people like you, things would be very different,”* he declared. ■

▶ FOR THE END OF VIOLENCE





Respect and women's integrity

Guaranteeing gender equality and ending violence against women still challenge the global agenda

Mariane de Oliveira Luz

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 1993, was the first international human rights document that focused on addressing gender-based violence and the fundamental aspects of freedom. The manifesto resonates with many studies and reports published in several countries that reveal alarming statistics of this type of violence, which is still so common in the world.

According to the UN, the problem affects a significant proportion of the female population, regardless of country, ethnic group, social class, or level of education. Latin America is indicated as one of the regions with the highest incidence of this crime. Data from a report published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) show that 45 percent of all women say they have already suffered threats from their own

It is estimated that 70% of all women have already suffered some type of violence, whether physical, sexual, psychological, or economic.

Source: United Nations.

According to data from the Women's Information and Development Center (CIDEM, Bolivia), 247,369 reports of gender-based violence were recorded between 2007 and 2011. The aggressors were only brought to justice and sentenced in 51 cases during this period.

partner, boyfriend, or husband. Bolivia has one of the worst rates: 52 percent of all women have already experienced some form of sexual or physical aggression from their partner. This is followed by Colombia (39%), Peru (39%), and Ecuador (31%). (Source: United Nations Development Programme)

The culture of submission

Poor access to information and the absence of effective actions in favor of empowering women are among the factors that help perpetuate this violent practice in the world. The President of the Foundation for the Development of Peaceful Coexistence in Latin America and the Caribbean (FUNDECONP), **Vanessa Castedo**, who has a degree in International Relations with honorable mention in conflict resolution, observed: *“Historically, the role of women in Bolivia has been based on a patriarchal*

culture, in which they are excluded and victimized by men for being considered the weaker sex. This places them in a critical situation.”

Given this scenario, the Legion of Good Will of Bolivia develops actions that value women, and this has helped fight neglect and impunity (see box “Stricter law”, on page 69).

In addition to official information, a survey carried out with the families of children assisted by the LBV's Jesus Nursery School in La Paz identified the difficulties that the female population faces when it comes to entering the labor market, starting with the lack of education (elementary school) or technical and professional knowledge of most women. For this reason, the Organization acts mainly on two fronts: it offers children full-time education so mothers can work; and, since 1999, it has been developing its *Technical Training Center* and *Literacy Center* programs. These offer to the women assisted vocational courses and literacy classes.

Andrea Varela



“When one of my children was 4 years old and the other close to turning 2, they almost suffered burns. I had to leave them alone and they were hungry, so they put a kettle on the stove and the house accidentally caught fire. My children had to put out the fire and this frightened me. Now I can work in peace. . . . I'm very thankful to the LBV. Every day I ask God to always bless them so they can continue working for the people who most need it. I'm very happy.”

Mariana Laura Sullcani

34, a cleaning assistant and mother of four children; three of them were assisted by the LBV's Jesus Nursery School in the capital city of Bolivia.

With this support, the lives of these women are transformed. Professional qualification and a renewed self-esteem result in better social and economic conditions for the entire family. Such is the case of **Estefanía Celia Condori**, 37, a call center agent and mother of

Andrea Varela



Estefanía Condori

3-year-old **Johana Abigail Veles Condori**. She remembers the satisfaction of seeing her daughter being helped by the Organization:

“When I reached the LBV, I was in a very difficult situation. In fact, I wasn’t married, but I decided to have my daughter and raise her by myself, ever since we lost contact with her father. At that moment the LBV opened its doors to me, gave me a hand, and helped me a lot with my daughter’s needs. They didn’t leave me alone. I thank God they accepted Johana in the Jesus Nursery School.”

According to Estefanía, the socio-educational support she found in the LBV helped her change her way of thinking so that she no longer accepted any type of humiliation. *“I didn’t suffer physical abuse, but I suffered psychological abuse. All women must learn to value themselves.”*

Raising awareness from an early age

Girls and boys of school age in Bolivia also receive encouragement from the Legion of Good Will to continue with their studies by way of its *Education in Action* campaign. The initiative comprises three stages and is of benefit to children from communities where families live in

Stricter law

In March 2013 the Bolivian government enacted the General Law on Women’s Access to a Life Free of Violence. In cases of murder because of hatred or contempt, for example, the new legislation provides for a sentence of up to 30 years in prison, without the right to parole. In addition to the rigorous punishment for femicide, the law determines that schools introduce preventive and training policies on gender equality.

a socially vulnerable situation and grade repetition and dropout rates are high.

Young **Noemí Sandra**, who is assisted by the campaign in a rural area close to La Paz, dreams of being a lawyer one day, thanks to the support received from the LBV. *“Education is freedom. Children learn good things in school. The schoolbags, notebooks, pens, and compasses are all very beautiful. They’re motivation for us to be something in life; to help our people move forward,”* she said.

Over the years, the advances of the Maria da Penha Law, which since 2006 has been an important instrument for protecting women from domestic and family violence in Brazil, have been analyzed in several articles published in the GOOD WILL magazine.



Information in the fight against violence

Educational talks and workshops value women
so there may be respect at home

One of the objectives of the socio-educational work carried out in the LBV's schools and Social Service Centers is to strengthen family and social ties. That is why many of the programs and actions developed by the Organization involve the parents of the children and teenagers who are helped.

Among the activities carried out by the LBV of Argentina is providing permanent encouragement to live in harmonious coexistence within the home environment. Every month in its socio-educational units educational talks and workshops are held, and

frequently attended by the mothers. At these times of reflection and learning, educators and specialists from several areas are invited to bring their contribution.

In 2013, violence against women was one of the most debated topics in the meetings, because of cases of children who had to deal with this kind of abuse in the family. According to **Edson Teixeira**, responsible for the LBV of Argentina, the problem of domestic violence affects every member of the family in one way or another. The children and young people, for example, who are already emotionally fragile, end up performing poorly at school. *"This intervention by the LBV is important, because it develops family ties and brings about an exchange of experience and communication between family members. It shows that mother and father, parents and children need to live in peace,"* he said.

Another fundamental point in the work being developed has to do with women empowerment. In the LBV's Jesus Nursery School as well as in the St. Francis of Assisi Nursery School in Buenos Aires, mothers find more than just assistance for their children, because they have the opportunity to become professionally trained. This action contributes to helping them increase their income through employment or entrepreneurship and thus guarantee family harmony. ■

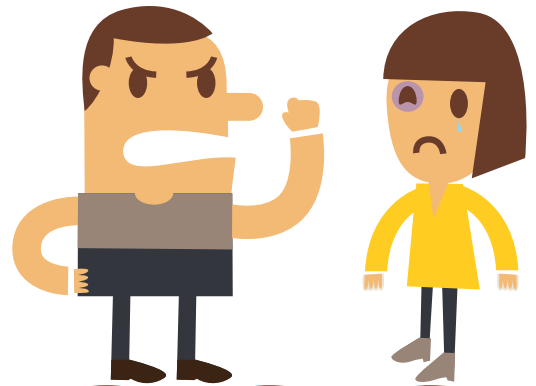
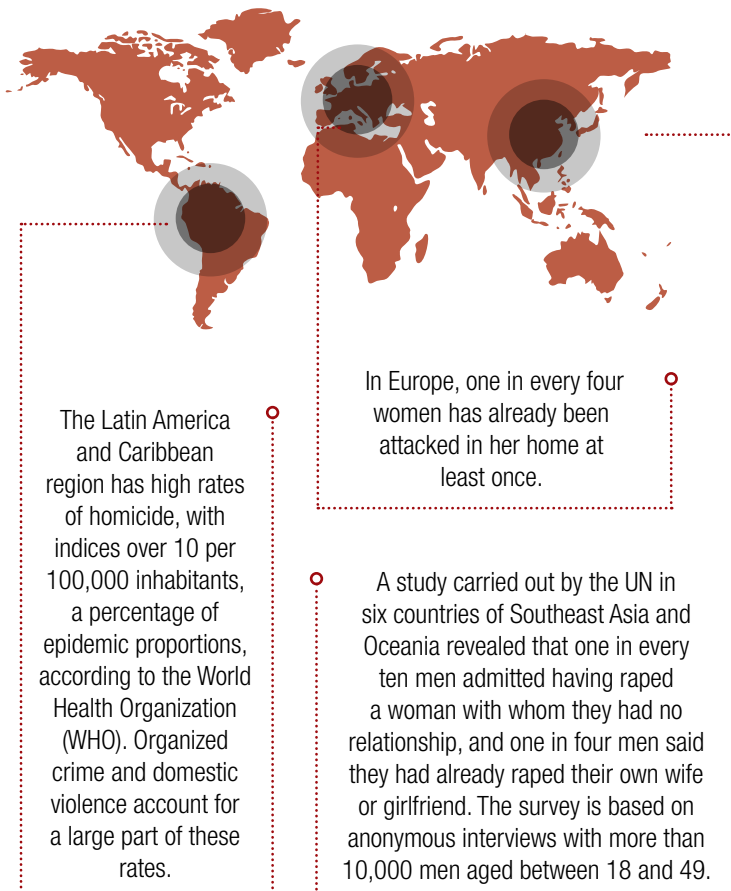
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Franca (Brazil)

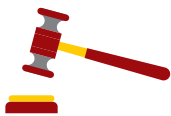
RATES OF THIS SOCIAL TRAGEDY

Violence against women and girls in the world still is a sad reality, as the statistics show. It is found in many forms—physical, psychological, sexual, and economic—and also in different contexts: in the family environment, in work relationships, in civil or world war zones, etc. Along with gender inequality, violence affects women of all ethnicities, cultures, and social classes. Below are some relevant statistics:



603 million

women live in places where gender violence is not recognized as a crime. In more than 35 countries, rape is not a criminal offense.



The legislation of 139 countries and territories already considers gender equality—the number accounts for 72 percent of all UN member countries (193).



Between 500,000 and 2 million people are trafficked every year into prostitution, forced labor, slavery, or bondage. Women and girls account for approximately 80 percent of the victims.

38%

of all murders of women are committed by their intimate partner.

SOURCES:

Report *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence* (WHO 2013).
 Report *Progress of the world's women: In pursuit of justice* (UN Women 2011-2012).
 Study *Why do some men use violence against women and how can we prevent it?* (UN Women 2013).
 Document *State of Latin America and Caribbean cities* (UN-Habitat 2012).



Vivian R. Ferreira

United by the same ideal

LBV's Ecumenical Youth in the fight for human rights

Patricia Maria Nonnemacher

When I was still very young, I read this quote by the President of the Legion of Good Will, José de Paiva Netto, which was in an article published in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and websites in Brazil and abroad. The journalist wrote as follows: “. . . *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, 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 root, the basis of civilizations. Woe to us, men, if it weren't for elucidated, inspired, and enlightened women!” This is an excerpt from the article “Women in the Repair of Nations”, which was forwarded to the UN in several languages in 2005.

I have thought a lot about the meaning of these words and their reach... Another question struck me and got me thinking: why did the president of the LBV need to say that if we already live in a free society where women have their rights guaranteed by law? That was when I began to analyze what was going on around me. I noticed, indeed, how huge the differences were in

the way women were treated and the way they were underestimated in the social and family circles. And, what is worse, most of these occurrences remained hidden. An important detail: one cannot assume people act in such way rationally even if automatically; perhaps they were merely reproducing a sexist culture model.

Re-educating

Given all this, I used to ask myself how we could bring about a truly effective change. Today, we see new laws and treaties being drawn up and the willingness of both public and private bodies striving to guarantee women’s rights on a path towards gender equality. So, why are the transformations so slow even though so many initiatives have been taken? In theory, everybody wants the best, right?

To answer these questions we need to remember that we are talking about customs and cultural heritage. Every individual receives this legacy and learns what is “right” and “wrong”. Children are initially taught the appropriate way of thinking and acting within the social group to which they belong and with which they interact from birth: the family. In this way, the behavior that characterizes gender inequality is multiplied, at least until they become aware of the problem and consequently change their attitude. What may be considered absurd for most families, whether it is an isolated case or not, may last for many years in some homes. An example of this is a child who is mistreated and abused by the father or stepfather and the fact is “neglected” by the mother, who is afraid of what will happen if she denounces the aggressor. This and other similar cases put boys and girls at risk—who are materially, psychologically,

and spiritually defenseless—and leave them at the mercy of the perpetrator of the violence. A research carried out in 2010 by the Center for the Study of Violence (NEV), of the University of São Paulo (USP), showed that people who suffer aggression during childhood tend to adopt violent behavior in resolving conflicts in their adult life.

In addition to what must be done legally and/or morally, there needs to be a complete re-education of human beings, as argued by Paiva Netto in his book *É Urgente Reeducar!* [It is Urgent to Re-educate!]: “*In education lies the great goal to be achieved, now! And we go further: ‘only Re-education, even of educators,’ can guarantee us times of prosperity and harmony, as advocated by Alziro Zarur (1914-1979). It is urgent to be re-educated in order to be able to re-educate.*”

In the same book, under the subtitle “Misery is not the fate of human beings,” the writer continues: “. . . *What the LBV proposes is an extensive Re-education program. This is what we have been doing within our possibilities; seeking to awaken the interest of so many idealists, who, like us, do not believe in the fatality of destinies permanently condemned to misfortune, because of social, political, religious, and ethnic issues . . . Moreover,*



Priscilla Antunes

Patricia Maria Nonnemacher, a Social Sciences undergraduate student and member of the Ecumenical Protagonist Youth of Good Will from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

SALVADOR, BRAZIL

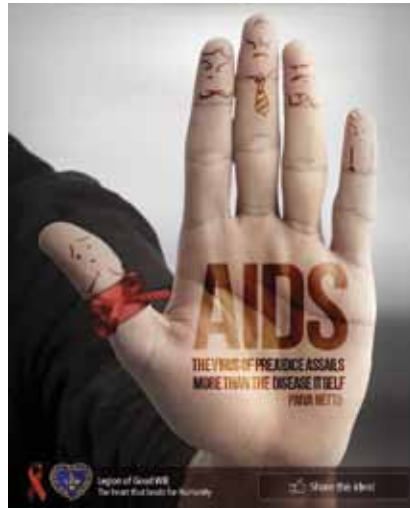
Youth of Good Will organize parades in favor of the preservation of the environment.



Tatiane Oliveira

nothing is firmly built on subsiding ground.”

This transformation empowers the victims to free themselves from the violent environment without feeling guilty. This process has been taking place in Brazil due to the increase in denunciations made by women who bravely assert their rights, protected by the Maria da Penha Law. In the LBV, we learn that a better, fairer, and happier society is built with the participation of all, with zeal for the collective well-being, support for victims of aggression, etc. In short, it is essential to fraternally help those who are spiritually, psychologically, or materially weakened.



LBV's campaign ad, which had great repercussion on the Internet in seven languages, with Paiva Netto's quote: "AIDS—The virus of prejudice assails more than the disease itself".

itself". Second, the series of activities relating to nature conservation, including debates, talks, and parades. In fact, the search for a balance between environmental protection and socio-economic progress also motivated the LBV's youth to organize the 33rd International Forum of the Ecumenical Protagonist Youth of Good Will on this issue, by way of social and educational actions throughout Brazil and abroad, under the permanent banner: "Educate. Conserve. Survive. Humanly we are also Nature".

For all these reasons, I find the dissemination of examples of

27 years ago...

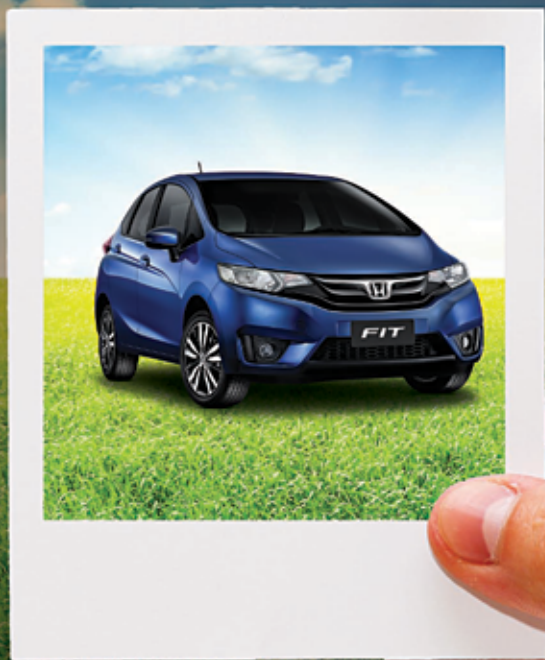
I truly believe in joining efforts in favor of a society that is capable of guaranteeing equal rights for all, without prejudice or sexism. I have the opportunity of being a member of the Ecumenical Protagonist Youth of Good Will, an innovative movement originated in the LBV, which encourages us to be the protagonists of our time. In other words, we learn to play a key role in the social environment in which we live, knowing that we can improve it, and always bearing in mind the universal teachings of **Jesus, the Ecumenical Christ, the Divine Statesman**, who said: "A New Commandment I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you. . . . There is no greater Love than to lay down his own Life for his friends." (The Gospel of Jesus according to **John**, 13:34 and 15:13)

Among the many actions developed by the LBV's youth, I would highlight two that have helped achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). First, the awareness campaigns to put an end to prejudice against those with HIV, including international mobilization on World AIDS Day (December 1). On this date our activities have as reference the LBV's message: "AIDS — The virus of prejudice assails more than the disease

volunteerism relevant for the planet, as it is done in the Legion of Good Will. This is a way of generating enthusiasm in millions of young people, transforming these naturally idealistic youths into an important instrument for fulfilling the next set of global goals: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finally, it is worth mentioning this quote by the president of the LBV, from 27 years ago, regarding the need of abandoning once and for all the sexist barriers that are still hindering the evolution of Humanity:

"In our point of view, women have the right to be the President of a country, a religious leader, a captain of industry, of airplanes, of transatlantic liners; they have the right to be a doctor, an engineer, a teacher.. There is a fair concept of value between men and women at work: their competence. So, in this respect the genders will be in harmony. Let men shine, let women shine, each according to their own competence. This does not mean that men and women are totally equal. Initially, there is at least the anatomy to deny this. What I mean is that old barriers should not be sustained and new ones must not be raised, based on taboos, prejudice, and spurious interests in order to prevent women from having greater influence over the destiny of the world. Men and women depend on one another. They complete each other." (Excerpt taken from the book *Reflections and Thoughts — Dialectic of Good Will*, published in 1987.) ■



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