

Paiva Netto writes: "Solidarity and human rights".

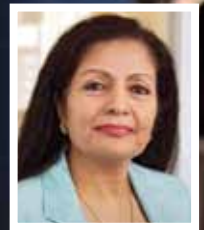
GOOD WILL

Women

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ELEVACAO

INTERVIEW



Deputy Executive Director
of UN Women,
Ms. Lakshmi Puri.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Achievements and
commitments to
ensure gender equality
in the next set of
global goals.

HELP FROM THE LBV
transforms the lives of
thousands of women and
girls, like Tabata and her
three daughters, from Natal
(Brazil). They receive complete
assistance that includes
guidance, skills-building training,
food, layette, and affection.



The **Legion of Good Will (LBV)** presents its recommendations of good practices to the participants at the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at UN Headquarters in New York, USA. The **LBV** is a Brazilian civil society organization in general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1999.



Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boa-Vontade
64 years

SUSTENTABILIDADE.

Este é um dos nossos valores.



A Celpe, empresa do Grupo Neoenergia, trabalha para fornecer energia elétrica com qualidade e confiabilidade. É por isso que a concessionária investe cada vez mais em tecnologias inovadoras e sustentáveis.

A construção de usinas solares, em São Lourenço da Mata e na Ilha de Fernando de Noronha, o desenvolvimento do Projeto de Redes Elétricas Inteligentes e dos programas Vale Luz, Nova Geladeira e Energia Verde são apenas alguns exemplos de uma gestão orientada para a sustentabilidade em todos os seus processos.

Iniciativas como essas contribuem para o crescimento econômico do Estado, gerando desenvolvimento com qualidade de vida e preservação do meio ambiente para as futuras gerações.





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FOR THE END OF VIOLENCE
Respect and women's integrity

GOOD WILL *Women*

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Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Lakshmi Puri.

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United by the same ideal



Solidarity and human rights

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.”

The session of the Commission on the Status of Women is held annually by the United Nations (UN). For several years the Legion of Good Will (LBV) has had the honor and privilege of participating in and contributing to this notable international meeting.

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? We need feelings illuminated by the spirit of peace, harmony, solidarity, charity, dialogue, and dynamic fraternity, which resolves social problems without generating worse consequences.

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 “Challenges and achievements in the implementation



UN Photo/Terry O'Leary

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).

of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls” is such an important one to be on the discussion agenda of the representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations, UN entities, and other participants at this conference 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, adopted, or, as I am accustomed to saying, children that represent great achievements in benefit of Humanity. All women are mothers.



Reproduction GW



Reproduction GW

“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



UNI PHOTO

▼
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.

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



Tora Martens

Zilda Arns

“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.”

“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,



Archive BV

Austregésilo de Athayde

Austregésilo de Athayde (1898-1993), one of the most renowned collaborators of this extraordinary work. He was also the president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters (ABL) during 34 years and chairman of the Honorary Board for the Construction of the LBV’s World Parliament of Ecumenical Fraternity (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]

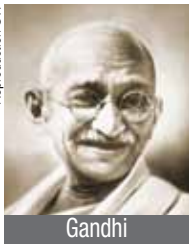
The Great Family called Humanity

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 failed.

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

Reproduction GW



Gandhi

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

In the 58th edition of this prominent event, having women as the core of its propositions—with whom we learn to look after one another with precise care and resignation—, **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 global dwelling.

Divulgation



Rosa Parks

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

“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



Angélica Periato

We congratulate H.E. Ms. **Michelle Bachelet** for the presidential elections in Chile. In the photo, the former executive director of UN Women is greeted by **Rosana Bertolin**, representative of the Legion of Good Will. We praise the Head of State for the work accomplished ahead of this organism, which has the mission of promoting gender equality and women’s full participation in global affairs. With her endeavors, she helped establish new measures to protect women and girls from violence, as well as advances in women’s health and empowerment.

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: when we value women we dignify men. And vice-versa.

May God bless this portentous meeting and may women achieve their deserved place in society, because all good things that they support turn into victory! ●

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www.paivanetto.com



Empowerment of women is a global goal

Deputy executive director of UN Women
highlights progress and challenges to
achieve gender equality and economic
empowerment of women

Deputy Executive Director of UN Women and responsible for managing the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau of the United Nations, Ms. **Lakshmi Puri**, believes in increasing awareness on the situation of women across the world and, above all, on the challenges that need to be overcome.

After almost three decades of important services in Indian diplomacy, she joined the United Nations in 2002. In March 2011, she joined UN Women right after it was created as the main global organization dedicated to fostering gender equality and women's empowerment. She also played a leading role in the entity's institutional development and consolidation. This work gave her the opportunity of travelling to several parts of the world and getting to know firsthand the difficult reality of millions of women.

A few weeks before the 58th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)—to be held in New York, United States, from March 10 to 21—the GOOD WILL *Women* magazine talked to Ms. Lakshmi Puri about the event and the expectations for the new set of post-2015 global goals: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

GOOD WILL Women — “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls” is the theme of this year’s session of the CSW. What is your assessment of this moment in time?

Lakshmi Puri — It is at once taking stock of how the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have failed for women and girls. What are



Evan Schneider/UN Photos

Next to United Nations Secretary-General, **Ban Ki-moon**, the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, during her oath of office, in August 2013.

“Our new executive director has emphasized the game changing role of education in all of our priority areas including ending violence against women. (...) The education sector in the context of gender responsive planning and budgeting also needs to be addressed.”

the challenges, gaps, and opportunities arising from that experience and record? At the same time, there is a historic opportunity to link up this review with two other very historic processes that are going on. One is the post-2015 development framework where sustainable development goals



LBV's special publication is handed to the Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, **Lakshmi Puri** (L), by **Adriana Rocha**, representative of the Organization at CSW 57 (2013).

“We feel that the LBV’s emphasis on education is a key prevention strategy to bring about a mindset change, to change the culture of machismo and of inequality. Therefore, we applaud you in choosing this theme as a strategy.”

were conceptualized and in a way launched at the Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro, in 2012, that is going to be negotiated inter-governmentally. It is already being negotiated in the open working group. At the same time we are going to have 20 years of a debating platform for action for women. Also we know that the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing (China) in 1995, and next year marks the 20th anniversary. So

that commemoration, that review, and appraisal is another historic process. Therefore, there is a conjunction and confluence of these three historic processes taking place.

GW — Do women still represent the majority of the world’s poor?

Lakshmi Puri — In developing countries, 70 percent of the poor are women, particularly the extreme poor. There has been a reduction of poverty but the feminization of poverty continues and accentuates. The enrollment in primary education in developing regions reached 90 percent in 2011, and gender priority in schooling worldwide is almost achieved at the primary level. However, only 2 out of 130 countries have achieved that target at all levels of education, and girls are still more likely to be out of school than boys. Also women are predominantly present in informal and insecure jobs, and the gender gap in employment persists with 24.8 percentage point difference between men and women in the employment to population ratio. The maternal mortality ratio, which is goal 5, declined by 47 percent over the past two decades, but every day almost 800 women die in pregnancy or child birth, although we have the means to save them. Then if we look at the average share of women members in parliament which is addressed as an indicator in the gender goal 3, MDG 3 is a dedicated goal on promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. At the pace witnessed during the last 15 years, for example, it will take 40 years to reach the parity zone in parliament.

GW — To what extent should questions of gender equality and women’s empowerment and rights influence the SDGs?

Lakshmi Puri — In the process going forward and in defining a new development framework from 2015 to 2030, we need to make sure that we take forward a specific stand-alone goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment. And UN Women is proposing such a goal before the member

states. We are looking for Brazil’s leadership in ensuring this specific goal, with three broad targets. One, the target on security, safety, bodily integrity, personal integrity, and dignity of women is encapsulated in ending violence against women. Second target is economic and social empowerment in terms of access to productive resources, jobs, skill building, capabilities building, natural resource management, and access to essential services. (...) The third target relates to voice participation and leadership at the household level, in the private sector, and in public institutions, not only in parliament.

GW — How do you see the work of civil society organizations in the UN, like the LBV, which proposes education as a strategy on preventing and combatting every form of gender inequality and violence?

Lakshmi Puri — We really value our partnership with civil society, and you may say that we will not have existed if the kind of compelling force of women’s organizations and civil societies were not behind our creation. And civil society organizations such as the Legion of Good Will, which dedicates a large part of its social and educational actions to help women and children, having education as its main strategy for preventing and combatting every form of inequality and gender violence is something that really speaks to us and our mission. You take a very important part of our mission forward in wherever you work. Ending violence against women is really a priority area for UN Women. (...) We feel that the LBV’s emphasis on education is a key prevention strategy to bring about a mindset change, to change the culture of machismo and of inequality. Therefore, we applaud you in choosing this theme as a strategy.

GW — Is this also a concern on the UN Women agenda?

Lakshmi Puri — Our new executive director has also emphasized the game changing role of education in all of our priority areas including



Ms. **Lakshmi Puri** (L), next to the actress and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, **Nicole Kidman**.

ending violence against women. For economic empowerment you need education; for political participation and leadership you need education; enabling women to play a part in conflict and post-conflict situations and enhancing their roles there needs education. The education sector in the context of gender responsive planning and budgeting also needs to be addressed. Working with civil society is a fundamental strategy for UN Women. And we very much hope to engage with you in the context of our *Beijing +20* campaign which is going to be focused on, including education of course, empowering women, empowering Humanity. ●



MY WORLD.
THE UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL SURVEY
FOR A BETTER WORLD.

The LBV supports the UN campaign to identify the population's priorities in the construction of the SDGs. Participate!

LBV's statement for the

58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

March 10-21, 2014
New York, USA



Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boa Vontade

This statement presents to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) the recommendations and good practices of the Legion of Good Will / Legião da Boa Vontade (LBV), a Brazilian NGO in general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1999.

The LBV defends the emphasis on education and re-education as a highly effective strategy for preventing and combatting all forms of violence against women and girls. The purpose of the success stories shared in this document is to contribute to the action plan that will be decided for the post-2015

period, a subject that is to be debated at this 58th session of the CSW.

The Legion of Good Will was founded on January 1, 1950 (World Peace and Universal Brotherhood Day), in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by the journalist, radio broadcaster, and poet **Alzira Zarur** (1914-1979), who was succeeded by the also journalist, radio broadcaster, and writer **José de Paiva Netto** that now presides the Organization. The LBV maintains 87 educational and social service centers across Brazil and in other six countries where it has autonomous bases (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and →



Written statement by the LBV translated by the UN into its six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish):
E/CN.6/2014/NGO/109



Download the QR Code reader to your smartphone, take a photo of the code, and read the document in English.

Yviken R. Ferreira

Photos: Leila Tonin



Sorocaba (Brazil)

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.



Anápolis (Brazil)

→ Uruguay). In 2013, the LBV provided more than 11 million services and benefits to those in vulnerability or at social risk (73% of them directed at women) benefiting 221.872 people. In addition to its 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.

Violence against women

The first topic addressed by the LBV in this statement is the global challenge to



reduce the number of female deaths known as femicide. It is the cruelest aspect of a problem that in itself is frightening because it silently turns women and children into its victims. The Maria da Penha Law has led to considerable progress in terms of legal protection offered to women in Brazil. Today, in addition to strengthening mechanisms for the application of this law, the search for complementary strategies is also being discussed. In this context, the LBV highlights two particular aspects relating to gender conflict: the low levels of education of many of the victims and, above all, the “cultural acceptance” of violence against women.

In an article of great repercussion entitled “Patrimonial Violence”, the President of the LBV, journalist José de Paiva Netto, warned about this form of violence, that is, when women want to work but are prevented from doing so by their partners who reach the point of destroying personal documents, the couple’s property, working tools, and even expel wives and children from the home as means of suppressing their will to work. Such cases are recurrent in the Brazilian courts. Given this situation,



(1) **Alzira de Paiva**, representative of the LBV; the former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women and President-elect of Chile, **Michelle Bachelet** (C); and H.E. Ambassador **Marjon V. Kamara**, from Liberia, President of the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. (2) **Aisa Kirabo Kacyira** (L), Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, learns about the recommendations of the Legion of Good Will. (3) H.E. Ambassador **Regina Dunlop**, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and **Lourdes Maria Bandeira** (C), Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of Public Policies for Women of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, receive the LBV’s recommendations. For the ambassador, “*the wide dissemination of the Maria da Penha Law that the LBV is undertaking with the participants of the conference is wonderful.*” Next to them, **Adriana Rocha**, representative of the Organization at the event, with the GOOD WILL *Women* magazine in French.



Curitiba (Brazil)

Vinicius Rambo

the author concludes: “Assistance for the victims of violence, in its various aspects, has to become a reality. It is the duty of all of us and of the constituted authorities to make this happen. And such help has to get there in advance, thereby preventing it from happening.” For the LBV, “getting there in advance” means raising awareness to the problem in the areas of education and public affairs in order to produce the necessary cultural transformation in gender relations.

The feminization of poverty

In a preparatory panel for the 58th session of the CSW, the world scenario brings enormous concern: the economic, environmental, and food crises, in addition to the increase of social inequality, are mutually strengthening each other and putting at risk the important (although still limited) progress that has been achieved in gender equality. Poverty, unemployment, lack of adequate access to sanitation, education, health, and food affect women first and more intensely.

Consequently, other social indicators become worse as women are generally the ones responsible in the family for caring for the children, the elderly, the sick, or those with disabilities. In the book *Em Pauta* [On Focus], writer Paiva Netto highlighted the fundamental role of women when he affirmed that “it 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,



Jean Carlos



João Pessoa (Brazil)

José Gonçalves



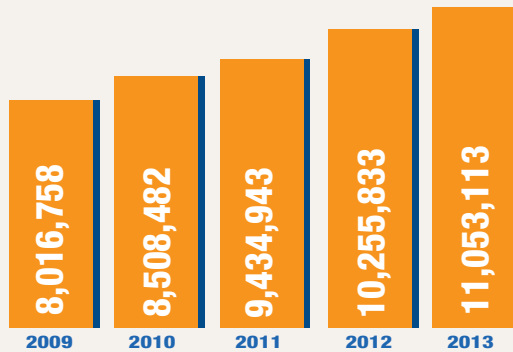
Brasília (Brazil)



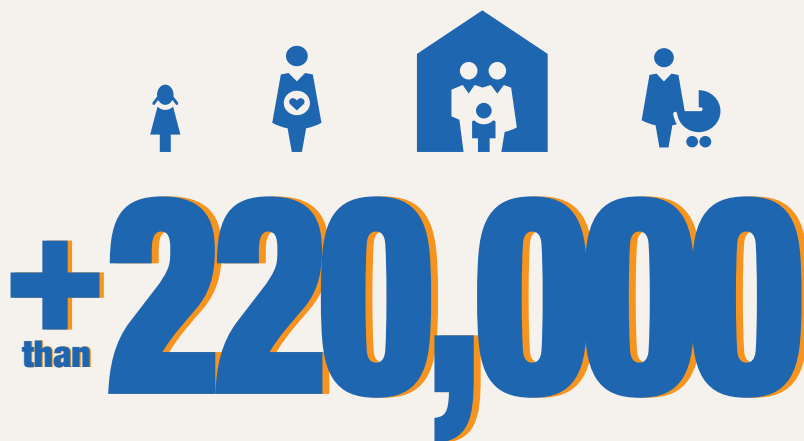
LBV OF BRAZIL

The Legion of Good Will was founded on January 1, 1950 (World Peace and Universal Brotherhood 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.

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



* For more than two decades, the Legion of Good Will 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.



educational and social service units across Brazil.



MILLION

services and benefits to families and individuals in vulnerability or at social risk.



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.



Nathália Valério



Vivian R. Ferreira

articulation of various strategies for overcoming violence and inequality around one specific central point: lifelong education.

The LBV schools develop social assistance programs focused on the specific needs of children (already during pregnancy), youth, and adults. The Organization also produces content for public life-affirming campaigns that are disseminated by various forms of mass communication.

There are many challenges for developing nations, like those in Latin America, to universalize primary education and extend the academic journey for children and teenagers. This precarious situation prevents many mothers from formally working. As a result, the family income is drastically reduced and the women lose their autonomy in relation to their partners or family members.

In this scenario, the program *Children: The Future in the Present!* offers socio-educational workshops in Brazil for children and pre-teens and guarantees social support for the families. Themes like citizenship, gender equality, and youth protagonism are discussed with the children, parents, and legal guardians. LBV professionals are also trained to identify and help find solutions for cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

In the programs *Youth: The Future in the Present!*, *Solidary Coexistence*, and *Full Life*, the LBV approaches these themes in a more comprehensive manner with teenage girls and adult and elderly women. Every year, this initiative helps thousands of its users to acquire knowledge about the mechanisms that ensure their rights and help create and strengthen fundamental social and community ties required for

→ *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!"*

One of the aspects that distinguishes the experience of the LBV lies in its holistic and complete view of human beings and their Eternal Spirit. This is why the Organization proposes the

the emancipation of women in order to overcome degrading situations. The Organization's support may be complemented with the *Training and Productive Inclusion* program, which prepares those assisted for the formal labor market or for entrepreneurship. This action promotes income-generating activities that are aligned with the reality of the community that is being assisted. The LBV of Bolivia, for example, supported the creation of a skills-building training cooperative for women focused on the production of ecological brooms, helping to not only reduce PET bottle waste that is discarded in the environment, but also to significantly improve the income of these families.

In cases where the woman is a community leader who acts as a spokesperson with the government in regards to issues involving sanitation, housing, and urban infrastructure, she can find training and a place for exchanging experiences with others through the actions of the LBV's Solidary Society Network. In this initiative, multi-stakeholder leaders from the public and private sector, universities, and civil society work in a network enabling the development of partnerships and the implementation of public policies.

Women's health

In the health area, the high rates of maternal mortality, particularly in Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and in specific regions of developing countries—as well as high rates of HIV/AIDS in countries in Africa and the Caribbean—are putting sexual and reproductive health at the center of discussion for promoting the quality of life of the female population on a global scale. The LBV has a vast



Alejandro Pati

Santa Cruz de La Sierra (Bolivia)

teaching experience in the area of family planning and in the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. In addition to its interdisciplinary work in basic education, the Organization implemented thirteen years ago a subject in its school curriculum called "*Convivência*" (Living Together). By proposing that the youth become involved with research activities that reflect critically on behavioral topics and their outcomes on society, the Organization helps them establish affective relationships in an equitable, more mature and safer way from a perspective of gender equality.

Another permanent activity of the LBV in this area is the *Baby Citizen* program, which ensures psychological and social support to hundreds of mothers every year. It offers guidance on how to have a healthy maternity and on the necessary care throughout the child's first three years of life. Special attention is dedicated to value the mothers' femininity.

The target audience are pregnant women and mothers with children in

SKILLS-BUILDING TRAINING AND PRODUCTIVE INCLUSION PROGRAM

The LBV of Bolivia supported the creation of a skills-building training cooperative for women focused on the production of ecological brooms in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

The initiative helps to reduce PET bottle waste that is discarded in the environment and also significantly improves the income of these families.



Cascavel (Brazil)

Leila Tonin
Vivian R. Ferreira



Natal (Brazil)

To guarantee the right to a full maternal experience, the Organization recommends that initiatives like the *Baby Citizen* program, with social and psychological support for pregnant women (allied to prenatal medical care), be replicated and/or influence more comprehensive public policies capable of meeting the needs of more women at social risk. It should count, whenever possible, with the help of the private sector and civil society.

The Legion of Good Will also acknowledges the efforts undertaken in Brazil to guarantee the right for all Brazilian children to paternal recognition. After all, *“the State and society united must manage solutions so that families can raise and educate their children in a dignified way,”* as the president of the LBV has been declaring since 1980.

Education with enduring values

The LBV's educational model has been systematized and replicated in other learning institutions, both public and private, receiving academic recognition. The Organization is available to share its unique pedagogies and work methodology with other social and educational institutions from other countries that are interested in adapting them to suit their local needs.

In addition to the academic curriculum of traditional schools, which every year expects the student to acquire a certain amount of knowledge and a number of competences, the LBV establishes teaching objectives for the development of citizenship values, with strategies and specific mechanisms of assessment. Based on this principle, the discipline of

their first years, who are facing financial difficulties, psychological problems, and instability in their family or marital relationship. Aggravated by a lack of pregnancy planning and by social and family pressures, especially from their partners, such situations may cause great emotional conflict that leads to precipitated acts with possible permanent physical and psychological sequels.

Ecumenical Culture develops in-depth periodic themes containing social and cultural elements that are simultaneously integrated with the other academic disciplines.

An example of one of the periodic themes worked on was Charity—considered in its broader meaning as a synonym of Fraternal Love. On September 5, 2013, the world observed the first International Day of Charity, an annual celebration created by the United Nations. This recognition represents an important step towards the humanization of public policies that take into consideration the affective and spiritual dimension of the human being.

The LBV recently completed 20 years of association with the UN’s Department of Public Information (DPI) and 15 years of general consultative status with ECOSOC, and manifests its satisfaction to contribute to this transformation. Since the beginning of its relations with the United Nations, it has always sought to present its perspectives on global issues inspired by fundamental principles of Solidarity, Altruism, Fraternal Love, and all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality. The Organization considers, therefore, that these universal values are essential for building a fair society without discrimination on gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, social condition, etc.

In regards to the notion of Charity, the president of the LBV wrote in a statement submitted in 2007 to the UN/ECOSOC High-Level Segment meeting in Geneva: “Charity, in its deepest expression, should be one of the main statutes of Politics, because it is not restricted to the simple and praiseworthy act of giving a piece of



Vitória (Brazil)



Manaus (Brazil)

bread. When understood in its broadest sense, Charity is the sentiment that—illuminating the Soul of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of Government—shall lead the people to a regime in which Solidarity is the basis of the Economy. This requires a popular and academic cultural reform through Ecumenical Spirituality and the Pedagogy of Affection.” ■



64 years

Our work



Argentina



Bolivia



Brazil



Paraguay



Portugal



Uruguay



USA



Vivian R. Ferreira



Nicole Angel



Vivian R. Ferreira



Vivian R. Ferreira



Vivian R. Ferreira



El Alto (Bolivia)

Andrea Varela



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Nathália Valério



Belém (Brazil)

Archive BV



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 elementary education, as well as to Youth and Adult Education (EJA).



Montevideo (Uruguay)

Archive BV



Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Archive BV



Taguatinga (Brazil)

José Gangel



La Paz (Bolivia)

Laila Tonin

Vinicius Ramão



Curitiba (Brazil)



Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)



Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)

Manica Mendes

Leila Tonin



Uberlândia (Brazil)

Lediane Santana



Volta Redonda (Brazil)

Leila Tonin



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 nutritional monitoring, medical and nursing care, and occupational therapy.



Archive BV

Mogi das Cruzes (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 the strengthening of the 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:

Vivian R. Ferreira



Teresina (Brazil)

Paulo Araújo



Maringá (Brazil)



Manaus (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

Archive BV



Montevideo (Uruguay)

Tatiane Oliveira



Salvador (Brazil)

Archive BV



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 initiative fosters 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)

Nambialia Valério



Fabíola Bigas

Florianópolis (Brazil)

► SOLIDARY COEXISTENCE AND FULL LIFE

These programs foster socio-cultural inclusion and strengthen the citizenship in young people, adults, and the elderly. They are provided with an environment that favors 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 Tomín

La Paz (Bolivia)



Archive BV

Asunción (Paraguay)



Archive BV

Buenos Aires (Argentina)



Porto Alegre (Brazil)

Liliane Cardoso

► **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.



São Gonçalo (Brazil)

Nathalia Valério



La Paz (Bolivia)

Leila Tonin

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 BV



La Paz (Bolivia)

Archive BV

▶ **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 BV

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.



Sâmara Mateman

New Jersey (USA)



Porto (Portugal)

Archive BV



Coimbra (Portugal)



Porto (Portugal)

Archive BV

► 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 a lack of primary needs, and to promote social inclusion. Thousands of families are benefited by 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 BV

▶ 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 BV



Orange, NJ (USA)

Archive BV

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 helps 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 and first aid items, cleaning products, and mattresses.



Itaoca (Brazil)

Felipe Tonin



New Jersey (USA)

Archive BV



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.



Andreea Varela

La Paz (Bolivia)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Guarulhos (Brazil)



Tatiane Oliveira

Aracaju (Brazil)



Jean Carlos Archive BV

Natal (Brazil)



Gabriel Lucas

Asuncion (Paraguay)



Boa Vista (Brazil)



Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

Edison Gerardo



Curitiba (Brazil)

Tatiane Oliveira
Vinicius Ramão



Jean Carlos



João Pessoa (Brazil)



Salvador (Brazil)

Women and girls towards a

Culture of Peace

Critical thinking and sentiment
in favor of sustainable
development

Suelí Periotto

The maturing process promoted by Education can encourage the engagement and positive attitude that are so necessary for the urgent changes needed on our planet. Waste recycling illustrates this premise well. It is an example of a practice that can start with just one home and from there spread to neighbors, to families in another street, or to whole neighborhoods, which will become enthused with the idea. At this rate sometime later the habit will become a reality in large areas of the city, demonstrating just how strong small or major changes in behavior can be.

It is true that attitudes like these are the result of internal motivation, because of the wish that human beings have of making a difference in society and because of their desire to cooperate, even in the simplest of activities.





Instituto de Educação
José de Paiva Netto
São Paulo/SP

Vivian R. Ferreira



Sueli Periotto, Supervisor 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 Doctor's 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 (visit www.boavontade.com).



Brain and heart

To this end, the Legion of Good Will's educational proposal values raising people's awareness and establishing a critical view. It encourages social actors to exercise their power of transformation in order to face up to the serious social problems that undermine the human hope of a better world. For us of the LBV, taking action requires agents with enlightened hearts that are permanently filled with enthusiasm. Such people are never a prisoner to sterile discourses or to irate conducts and/or conducts marked by violence.

Educating with an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality is the unique approach proposed by the teaching method created by the President of the LBV, **José de Paiva Netto**, which is comprised of the Pedagogy of Affection (directed at children up to the age of 10) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (for children starting at the age of 11). The concern of this teaching proposal

is with the complete development of the human being (biopsychosocial Spirit-being – see box on page 43), combining both *“Brain and Heart”*, in other words, sentiment and reason. The aim is to create a significant learning experience that invites students to become participants in building a Culture of Peace. *“Education, a theme always on the agenda. It is urgent that it be disseminated and acknowledged by all of us as a safe path that shortens the distance among social classes. Education is also an efficient antidote against violence, criminality, diseases, and everything that harms the healthy development of the people,”* recommends the Organization's president.

This innovative educational methodology currently benefits thousands of children, young people, adults, and the elderly in the LBV's formal schools and socio-educational and socio-assistance programs in nearly 80 Brazilian cities and in six other countries where the Organization



BALLOONS, FLOWERS, AND CHILDREN —

The Jesus Super Day Care Center was inaugurated 28 years ago on the same day that the city of São Paulo celebrates its anniversary (January 25). It is considered a gift from Paiva Netto to the metropolis where it is located. Pre-K and kindergarten students crowded the areas between the school's courtyard and wooded garden to commemorate the date with lots of balloons and smiles.



Felipe Tonini

What does it mean to be a biopsychosocial Spirit-being?

In the LBV's educational units, students are considered as a biopsychosocial Spirit-being, since they already carry within them a background that will contribute to the learning process.

“Spirit”

The Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy value what is found within, the subjective aspects that carry a record of previous experiences; after all, the student is not a *tabula rasa**. They also stimulate one's feelings and reinforce values such as Ecumenical Solidarity, Friendship, and Companionship, employed in an empathic manner.



“Psycho”

Emotional issues are observed by the multidisciplinary team of the LBV's units, especially by psychologists. When necessary, the student is supported in the aspects concerning fragility derived from disaggregating situations, common among socially vulnerable environments in which many families are subject to. Learning difficulties and behavior disorders that require professional help from a psychologist, such as cases concerning aggressiveness, social isolation, and apathy, are carefully observed.

“Social”

The LBV emphasizes the combined work of the school and family. The organized participation of parents in the school life of their children is fundamental. When the school knows the social and economic reality of the family it becomes possible to contribute towards the strengthening of the affective ties. The family needs consideration, encouragement, and guidance in order to overcome difficulties and identify and strengthen its skills. Through the practice of values enlightened by an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality, the Culture of Peace is promoted in the schools of the LBV, where, in fact, the dropout rate is zero.

“Bio” (biological)

Encompasses medical, dental, and nutritional care. Physical health is thought of in a preventive manner, including taking information and guidance to the families through talks, pamphlets, as well as health programs that can benefit them. The well-being of the body is an essential condition for an adequate educational process.



Photos: Vivian R. Ferreira

* *Tabula rasa* — In empiricism (a school of philosophical thought that believes that the only source of knowledge is based on experience absorbed from the external world), the Latin expression *tabula rasa* is a state that characterizes an empty mind, prior to any knowledge obtained through the senses.



Leila Tonn

La Paz (Bolivia)

“Education, a theme always on the agenda. It is urgent that it be disseminated and acknowledged by all of us as a safe path that shortens the distance among social classes. Education is also an efficient antidote against violence, criminality, diseases, and everything that harms the healthy development of the people.”

Paiva Netto

→ has autonomous bases: Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay. Those assisted are motivated to assume a posture of greater involvement in discussing and solving problems that affect the community where they live. By encouraging the individual’s critical thinking, it provides them with room for reflecting on their role, including the fulfillment of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Such an understanding comes when we become aware that we are part of a world that is lacking in personal intervention by those who live in it, and who are individually and collectively responsible for our planetary dwelling. That is why we need to direct our efforts towards complete sustainability. Those who attend the LBV’s schools and programs feel motivated to take part in actions in favor of environmental preservation and valuing Life.

Own methodology

For more than six decades the Legion of Good Will has been working to offer quality education in a violence-free school environment. In all the activities of the LBV, women and girls, who are treated as equals with men and boys, receive the support they need to develop their own socio-economic autonomy, achieve inclusion, and have an active voice in society, while remaining committed to sustainable actions.

Research, debates, delving into issues that affect a home’s surroundings, proposing proactive measures, and simulating community actions are all part of the strategies used by the Organization’s own methodology, the MAPREI (Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research). The school students and participants of the various LBV programs receive the attentive support of educators

and other professionals during formal education or recreational-pedagogical activities. From early infancy, for example, they are encouraged to experience and build up a series of attitudes linked to protecting the environment; defending themselves (warning children and young people about the danger of drugs); and reflecting on and searching for alternative paths to those selfish feelings that only lead to an inhuman progress.

It is possible through education to build a Culture of Peace, with actions (systematized or not) that are significant for the youth. It is worth repeating that educating young people with ethical, ecumenical, and spiritual values is the basis of the teaching proposal created by educator Paiva Netto. Indeed, he believes that filling the hearts of the little ones with the idea of cultivating good feelings will result in a natural consequence: when they get older and later become adults, they will return to society what was given to them.

The Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy are inspired in the life and teachings of the Celestial Educator, **Jesus**. In His visible passage on Earth He left us an important message of Fraternal Love, particularly in the Gospel according to **John**, chapter 13, verses 34 and 35: *“A New Commandment I give you: Love one another as I have loved you. Only by this shall all of you be recognized as my disciples, if you have the same Love for one another.”* In complying with this supreme order, the LBV defends the banner of Solidarity, Fraternity, and Peace and opposes those selfish sentiments that have led Humanity to wars, hunger, and diseases.

Education, therefore, needs to invest in the development of the intellect without forgetting that we are all beings with a mind and soul that need spiritual comfort;



Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Archive BV



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Nathalia Valério



Cascavel (Brazil)

Leila Tonin

Vivian R. Ferreira



André Fernandes



Educator Paiva Netto supervises the Good Will Educational Complex and is warmly welcomed by students.

in the words of the LBV's president, we need to have *“a view beyond the intellect”*. I am certain that girls and women, boys and men will be grateful for every educational proposal that respects them and considers the potential each one has to contribute with positive actions. When such actions are fraternally added up they will make a difference within the context of the next set of global targets: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An example that inspires generations

On October 18, 2013, a pleasant surprise changed the routine of the students from the Good Will Educational Complex, in São Paulo, Brazil: a visit from the school's founder. Paiva Netto supervised the rooms of the educational complex, which is attended by approximately 1,500 students. The reception by the students and teachers was moving, because they were able to

enthusiastically welcome there a man of Good Will who always works to offer others a wide range of quality services that pays particular attention to their material and spiritual needs.

The Organization's president visited various environments, such as the Primary Education area for children up to 6 years old. He toured the courtyard and the recently inaugurated wooded garden, with its fruit trees and flowers. The place was full of little boys and girls who warmly greeted him the whole time he was there. Educator **Geni Bertolin** highlighted: *“His presence provided us with very moving moments, such as when the little children gently placed their tiny hands on his arm and shoulder and looked delightedly into his face.”*

The homages and manifestations of gratitude from the students did not stop there. In the Educational Institute, for elementary and middle school students and Youth and Adult Education — EJA (program for youth and adults who did not have the opportunity to finish their studies), the courtyard became

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





João Perácio

The children happily welcome educator Paiva Netto on yet another of his supervisory visits in October 2013. In the background, on the right side, is the emblematic quote from the late founder of the LBV, Alziro Zarur (1914-1979), portrayed in his *Poem for the Great Millennium*: “The children are children of all the mothers, and the mothers are mothers of all the children.” The LBV’s president has always been concerned with closely monitoring the good development of the work carried out at the Good Will Educational Complex.

→ colorful because of the joy and smiles on the students’ faces. He supervised the new facilities of the Bruno Simões de Paiva Library, which is now housed in a bigger and more modern area. The name is a tribute to the father of the school’s founder, who encouraged his son to read from an early age. There, the teaching team carries out countless activities, including the Permanent Reading Encouragement and Information Interpretation Program. Activities are undertaken by nearly all age groups, from nursery (using cloth books for the toddlers) to EJA.

On the visit to the library, the Goodwill Instrumentalist Group and the Ecumenical Children and Youth Choir, formed by students from the school, performed some of the songs from their repertoire. Among them the highlights

were two compositions by the school’s founder: *Loving with the Love of God* and *Prayer for Tranquility*. The choir also presented a piece in the Brazilian sign language (LIBRAS).

Quality education, art, and fraternal values go hand-in-hand both in the activities of the Good Will Educational Complex as well as in the LBV’s other socio-educational units. By the initiative of educator Paiva Netto, valuing feelings is added to the excellent content, thus forming “*Brain and Heart*”.

For student **Geovanna Ribeiro**, 16, in the last year of high school, all the values she has learned became especially evident at that moment. “*It was a great honor to welcome him here where we study. It was a very moving day and undoubtedly we shall never forget it!*”

Get to know, be inspired, and collaborate with the LBV!

The Good Will Educational Complex is located at Av. Rudge, 630/700, Bom Retiro, in São Paulo, Brazil — Phone: (+5511) 3225-4500.



EDUCATION: THE BASIS FOR REACHING ALL GOALS

The establishment of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 represented an important advance in the global commitment to take millions of people out of extreme poverty and promote social inclusion. Due to the changes encouraged especially by MDG 2 (Achieve universal primary education), public policies in several countries contributed so that more and more children and young people could have access to school. Nevertheless, as from 2015 the challenge will grow even more, since achieving universal primary education means not only guaranteeing school enrollment, but also ensuring that children continue attending school. Below are some of the main steps and stumbling blocks to reaching this goal.

Moving towards universal primary education



82%

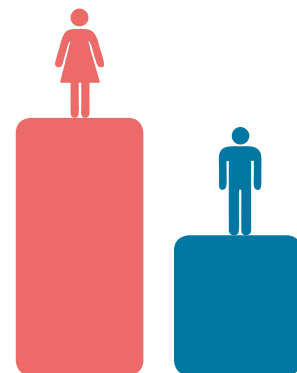
In 1999, enrollment in primary education in developing regions in the world reached 82 percent of the population of primary school age.



90%

As from 2011, there was an increase in the number of access to primary education; 90 percent of the population of children and young people attended school.

Women and the poorest people: the gap



In 63 developing countries girls are more likely to be out of primary school than boys. This gender gap in school attendance increases in secondary education, even for girls living in the richest households.

SOURCES:

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013.
4th National MDG Progress Report, 2010, with statistics from 2008.



Orange, NJ (USA)

Photos: Eliana Gonçalves

Seed of Fraternal Love

LBV of the USA promotes Culture of Peace and Solidarity
in North American schools

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 has been investing in quality education. In order to achieve this, it allies its teaching practice with the values of Ecumenical Spirituality for the promotion of a Culture of Peace. This is the unique approach of the LBV, which 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 of the USA, for example, implements an important work through its *Good Will Students for Peace* program. “The action involves a partnership between educators from the Organization and with

schools. One of the editions of this initiative took place in Lincoln Avenue School of Orange, New Jersey,” affirmed **Sâmara Malaman**, LBV’s program coordinator and educator. 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. (Learn more about this theme in the “Statement of the LBV for the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women”, on page 14.)

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



DenverJeffrey Wikimedia Commons

Columbine Memorial

15 years since the Columbine massacre

Violence among young people in the United States, especially in the school environment, is an issue for constant concern on the part of society and authorities. Scholars who study human behavior are trying to understand the reasons for bullying, for the virulence of youth gangs, and for tragic incidents, such as the one that became known as the Columbine massacre. On April 20, 1999, in Columbine High School, Littleton, Colorado, two young men, **Eric Harris** and **Dylan Klebold**, killed twelve students and a teacher.

“There is a constant concern in schools to develop a Culture of Peace, bearing in mind how much violence, bullying, and tragedies beset the American school environment. The *Good Will Students for Peace* program proposes introducing strategic activities into teaching that invite students to self-reflect, to think about their own behavior, on the law of cause and effect, and on how to resolve conflicts.”

Maria Albuquerque, Ed.S.
Educator from New Jersey, USA.

themselves. “Everybody was happy to see their collaboration recognized. Furthermore, they were filled with good feelings,” remembered **Danilo 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 view 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 promote 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 carried out 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





Montevideo (Uruguay)



Porto (Portugal)



La Paz (Bolivia)

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



Asuncion (Paraguay)



Buenos Aires (Argentina)



→ universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; ensuring environmental sustainability; and working towards a global partnership for development.

In the opinion of **Cindy Varela**, 2nd grade teacher, 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 2nd grade teacher **Yashmine Cooper**, who congratulated the LBV for its work.

“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.

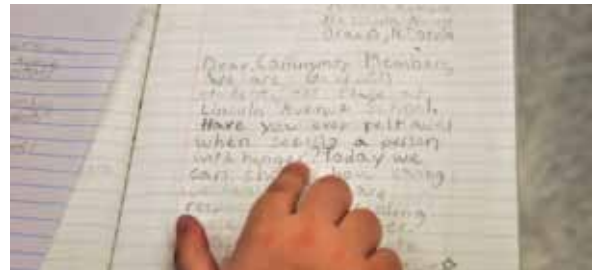
According to kindergarten teacher **Hassan Shaheed**, the work he develops with the students has, in his opinion, shown him the value of charitable feelings. *“This program of the LBV is going to make children more aware of the world, to see what it’s really like, because sometimes in our homes we don’t 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 of the USA, Danilo Parmegiani, summed up the feeling 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.”*



Orange, NJ (USA)

Photos: Archive BY

“In my classroom we put the Good Will Students for Peace program into practice every day,” said education specialist and kindergarten teacher **Maria Albuquerque**, who works with children aged 5 and 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 motivating for them. The result of this is that *“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 from 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 Sãmara 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.”*



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,

UN Photo/Lean-Marc Ferré



▼
Ban Ki-moon,
United Nations
Secretary-General.

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 29 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 a suggestion of 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

Leila Tonin

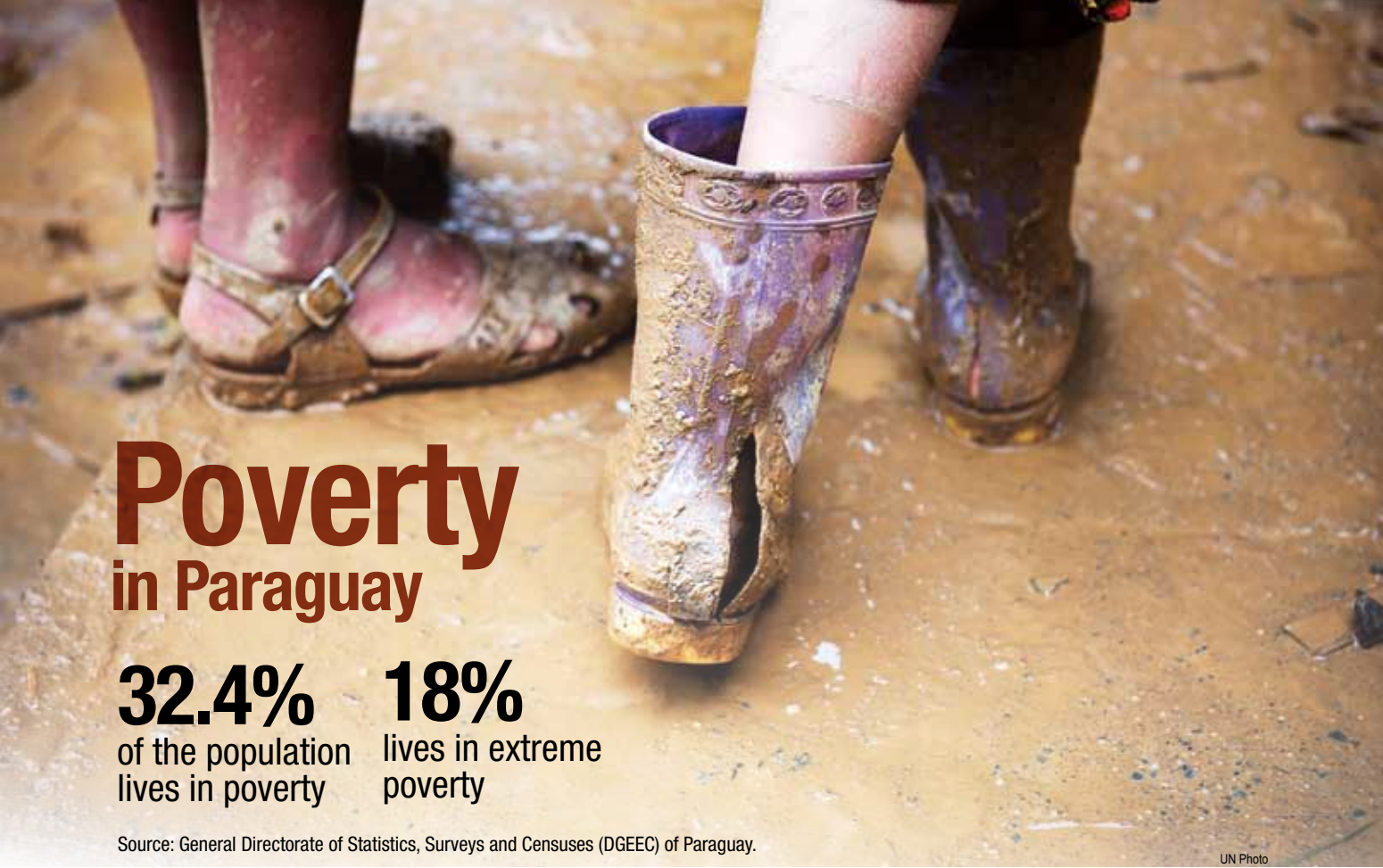


Asuncion (Paraguay)



“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.



Poverty in Paraguay

32.4% of the population lives in poverty
18% lives in extreme poverty

Source: General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC) of Paraguay.

UN Photo



intestine, interfering with the absorption of nutrients, vitamins, minerals, and water.

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.

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;
- and 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 (FAO).





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 are foreseeing an equally difficult 2014.

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, many of them headed by women.

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 rose during this period—to 28.6% in 2011—, which indicates that this number tends to continue rising.



Archive BV

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 64). 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 managing the family budget. Recently, volunteer **Katrina Halahan**, from the Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences of the University of Porto, went to 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)

One Step Forward program

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.



Coimbra (Portugal)

economic possibilities they think that healthy food is expensive food. That's not at all true." 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 tremendously 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)

Photos: Divulgation



Who seeks help at the LBV of Portugal?

Based on the 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 relationship between the lack of funds and the appearance of health problems (depression, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, and other degenerative diseases);
- It was found that the situation also increases the use of and dependence on psychoactive substances, like alcohol and other drugs.



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 from her 46-year-old unmarried son the help she needed for her sustenance. 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.



.....

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world
starts with a
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.....

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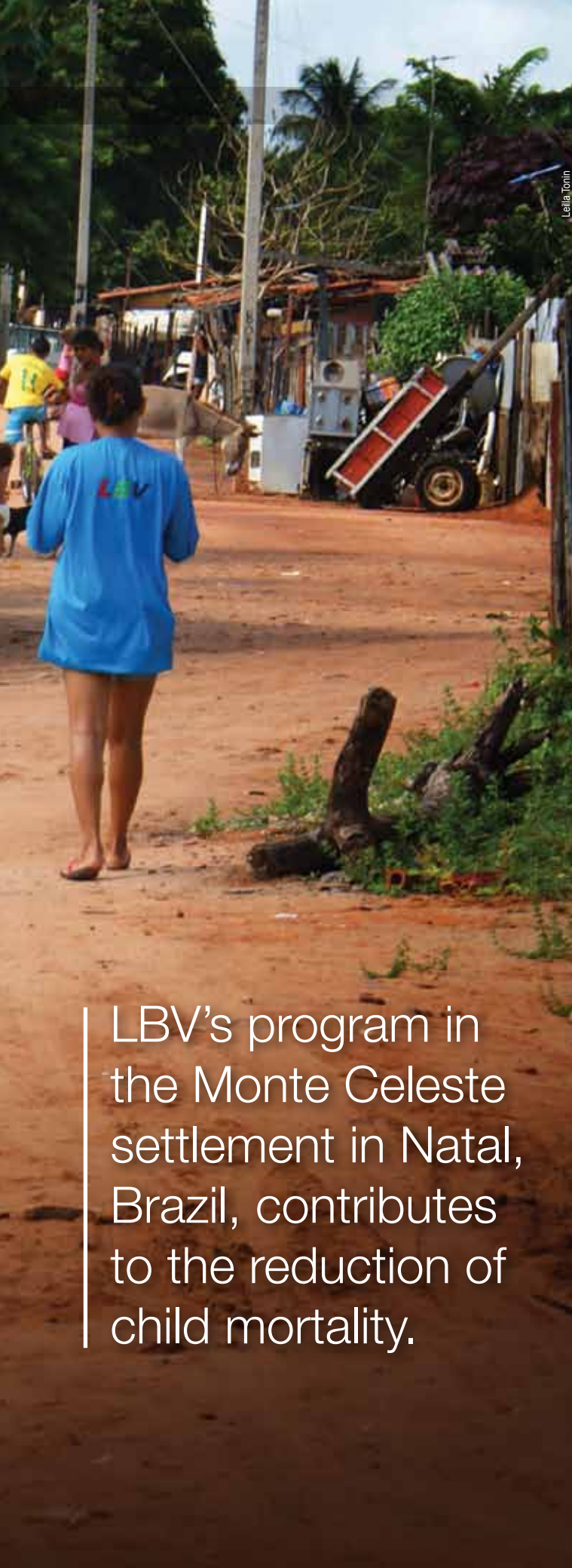
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Goals and commitments to new generations

Mariane de Oliveira Luz



Leila Tomim

LBV's program in the Monte Celeste settlement in Natal, Brazil, contributes to the reduction of child mortality.

With less than a year to go before the final deadline for achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), considerable progress has been made in combating extreme poverty and other social ills. According to UNICEF's 2013 Progress Report on Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed, Brazil exceeded the goal established by the United Nations (UN) by 11 percentage points, which foresaw a reduction of 66 percent in child mortality (see on the next page box "Brazil exceeds expectations").

In this respect, the Legion of Good Will's socio-educational work in favor of families in a situation of social vulnerability helps achieve these goals in the five regions of the country, as the reader will see in the examples described in this article.

Present where people most need it, the LBV reaches locations that have major social demands, such as the community where **Priscila da Silva**, 23, lives with her three children. The Monte Celeste settlement, located in the metropolitan area of Natal (Brazil), suffers from a lack of infrastructure and basic services. Hygiene and health care are threatened, because the living conditions of local residents are precarious due to the absence of running water, sanitation, and electricity.

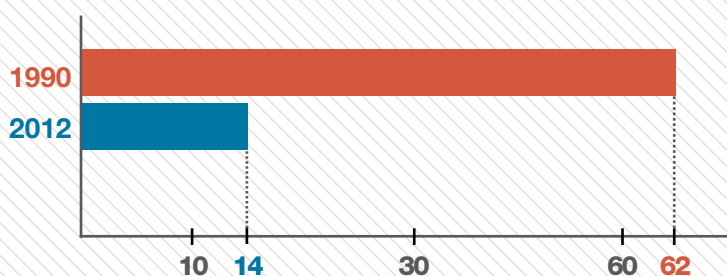
When the LBV's team arrived at the settlement it found residents with no motivation to transform their lives for the better. *"We saw that all the families were in a vulnerable situation, without basic health services, jobs, or housing. The houses were made of cardboard and didn't even have an appropriate structure for us to provide assistance. Today, however, through the*



Brazil exceeds expectations

The 2013 Progress Report on Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed, a global effort for saving children from dying of preventable causes, shows that Brazil has done its homework well and has exceeded by 11 percentage points the goal established by the United Nations, which foresaw a reduction of 66% in child mortality. Below data from UNICEF:

Deaths among children under 5 years of age (per 1,000 live births)



Between 1990 and 2012, thanks to a combination of several strategies, there was a drop of 77 percent in the under-five mortality rate.

work of the LBV, we see that several changes have occurred,” said **Oderlania Leite Galdino**, responsible for the LBV in Natal.

At the beginning of the activities in favor of the local population it was found that the entire community was infested with jiggers (an insect that causes an infectious skin disease), not to mention pathologies that are generally associated with poor sanitary conditions, like verminosis. An assistance unit for the residents was built with the support of partners and the local population.

Along with its socio-educational programs and campaigns towards health prevention and promotion, the LBV took to the families of Monte Celeste the values of Solidary Citizenship. One of the initiatives warmly welcomed by the community was the *Baby Citizen* program, directed at pregnant women and mothers with children up to three years old. The program is guided by the concepts brought by the Pedagogy of Affection (read more about the LBV’s pedagogical line on page 40). Thanks to this action, Priscila and many other women who were assisted started receiving social support and guidance on the care needed for a healthy pregnancy and for the child’s first years of life.

In addition to receiving a layette and a specially prepared kit for the mother, the women assisted count on educational talks, in which the emphasis is placed on strengthening the ties of affection and family bonds. *“I feel really happy and I want to keep attending the program. I’ve learned a lot of things here. Even though I’ve had two children, I didn’t know where to find the right vitamins that could help me in my third pregnancy. At the LBV I learned how important Love*



“I overcame depression with the help from the LBV.”

The socio-assistance program *Baby Citizen* in the municipality of São José, in the metropolitan area of Florianópolis, as well as in dozens of other locations in Brazil, is an important initiative that leads to learning and interaction. Its activities take place in the LBV's Social Service Centers, which welcomes on a regular basis new groups of pregnant women and mothers with children up to the age of three coming from families living in situation of vulnerability or social and/or personal risk.

Michele Silva*, 28, mother of **Mateus, Juliana, and Igor**, is one of the women assisted by the LBV. She remembers what her life was like before taking part in the program: “*I was depressed. I couldn't work; I used to just cry. I only stayed indoors because I didn't want to go out when I was pregnant. (...) I almost lost my baby. I had to be hospitalized for a month before having him. I wasn't accepting my baby.*”

With the support of the Organization she started seeing maternity in a different way. “*I'm*

deeply grateful to the LBV. I had depression and the LBV's team helped me a lot. Through talks and with the help of the social worker I felt like having my son and I realized that it wasn't a bit like I was thinking. The LBV helped me see that I can work and meet up with other people... Now I'm really happy,” she says.

The knowledge Michele acquired through the program, including breast-feeding techniques, was soon put into practice when looking after her children. “*I'm already a mother for the second time, but I didn't know how to breast feed correctly. I learned a lot in the LBV. I learned about bathing, pain, everything to do with the baby. It was all new to me.*” Emphasizing also the value of those who help make the LBV's socio-educational work a daily reality, she concluded: “*In the name of all the mothers I thank the collaborators. Don't fail to help no matter how little you give, because it's very important. From a diaper to a piece of bread, or a kilo of rice or beans; whatever you help with it means everything to us.*”

* Fictitious names were used to preserve the identity of the woman assisted and her children.



Uruguayan families receive free medical care from the LBV

Since 2007, the medical office of the Legion of Good Will's Educational Institute in Montevideo has been providing on a daily basis low-income families with an average of 20 free consultations and medical exams in the areas of pediatrics, psychology, and gynecology. The initiative is the outcome of a partnership between the Organization and the Uruguayan Ministry of Public Health.

Jacqueline Arias (on the right), 38, and her three children have used the medical office's health services ever since they found out about the Organization. *"I really appreciate the LBV's work. It helps everybody who lives here, especially this neighborhood that really needs care,"* said Jacqueline.

→ *is and I also started believing in a better world for me and my family!"* Priscila expressed confidently.

Several partners joined the Organization to help strengthen the support provided to the families. The partnership with the Nursing Cooperative of Rio Grande do Norte (COOPERN), for example, enabled the Monte Celeste settlement and other communities assisted by the LBV in the state capital to systematically benefit from health guidance and educational actions,

which reinforce the socio-educational activities already being undertaken in these locations. *"We were looking for an organization with which we could carry out actions that had a social reach in the health area. Fortunately, we came across the LBV, a serious organization. (...) From what I've seen, the LBV has also invested in organization and education,"* said the President of COOPERN, **Marcelo Bessa**, to *Foco* magazine in November 2013.

Debates that educate

The Legion of Good Will's socio-educational assistance offers guidance on health, hygiene, education, and culture. Every day, thousands of children and young people living in a vulnerable situation have access to quality content, undertake research, and engage in fraternal debates on current issues, such as prejudice, sexually transmitted diseases, and the harm caused by the consumption of alcohol and other drugs.

These and other important subjects are widely discussed in the *"Convivência"* (Living Together) classes, which have been included in the Organization's schools curriculum since 1999. The initiative behind introducing a new school subject came from the LBV's President, José de Paiva Netto, who was concerned with the risky behavior among young people. At the time he emphasized the importance of dealing with such issues from the viewpoint of an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality and, therefore, in harmony with ethical, ecumenical, and spiritual values.

According to **Debora Stelzer**, elementary education coordinator in the Good Will Educational Complex in



Photos: Archive BV

FIGHTING CANCER IN THE UNITED STATES

The LBV of the United States carries out its cancer prevention program (*Save Program*) in partnership with Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. This action provides women over the age of 40 with medical examinations and cancer prevention tests, such as mammograms and Pap tests. They also attend educational talks in the Organization's Social Service Center. A mobile bus is also used for carrying out the exams.

São Paulo (Brazil), the Living Together discipline provides an environment for reflection, and the students begin to understand better each topic and different points of view. *"They learn to be forewarned about problems, to say no to drugs and to alcohol. On several occasions, even students who have nutritional problems ended up exposing them and so we were able to help them solve this situation,"* she said.

The educator emphasizes that the students themselves often choose the topics to be studied in the classroom. *"Once the 5th grade students asked to discuss topics linked to body care, such as hygiene, the prevention of diseases, eating habits, etc... I remember that we invited in a pediatrician and the children took advantage of her presence to clear*



DENTAL CARE IN PORTUGAL

The Legion of Good Will holds educational talks on dental care and correct oral hygiene in its socio-educational units. This is of special benefit to students between 5 and 17 years old. Since 2001, the LBV of Portugal has carried out this action. By way of its *Happy Smile* program, community agents of the Organization visit schools, associations, and other locations in Porto, Lisbon, and Coimbra to offer dental care and carry out socio-educational activities and guidance on oral health care. To accomplish this, the Organization counts with more than two hundred partners in the country and three mobile oral health units.



DENTAL CARE IN BOLIVIA

The Legion of Good Will of Bolivia, located in the capital city of La Paz and in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, has been carrying out important socio-assistance activities. Among them is its *Clean Teeth, Healthy Children* program, an example of how social technologies play a fundamental role in regions that are lacking in infrastructure and are far from major urban centers. In 2013, seven educational units in Collana Tolar, located 68 kilometers outside La Paz, benefited from the program. This initiative was responsible for holding oral health workshops with information about brushing techniques. Personal oral hygiene kits were also handed out. The work was developed in partnership with professors and students from the Franz Tamayo and El Alto universities.

“With the LBV’s actions health and education came together. If there’s someone sick, they help, they bring in a doctor; if someone’s hungry, they look for a way of helping them with food. The LBV is like a mother to these people here.”

Maria de Fátima Bezerra

Community leader of the Monte Celeste settlement in Natal, Brazil, highlighting that life in the community has improved ever since the LBV started developing its solidary work there.

up their doubts. It was very interesting. Another time, the 8th grade students were curious to learn about Alzheimer’s disease and how to prevent it.”

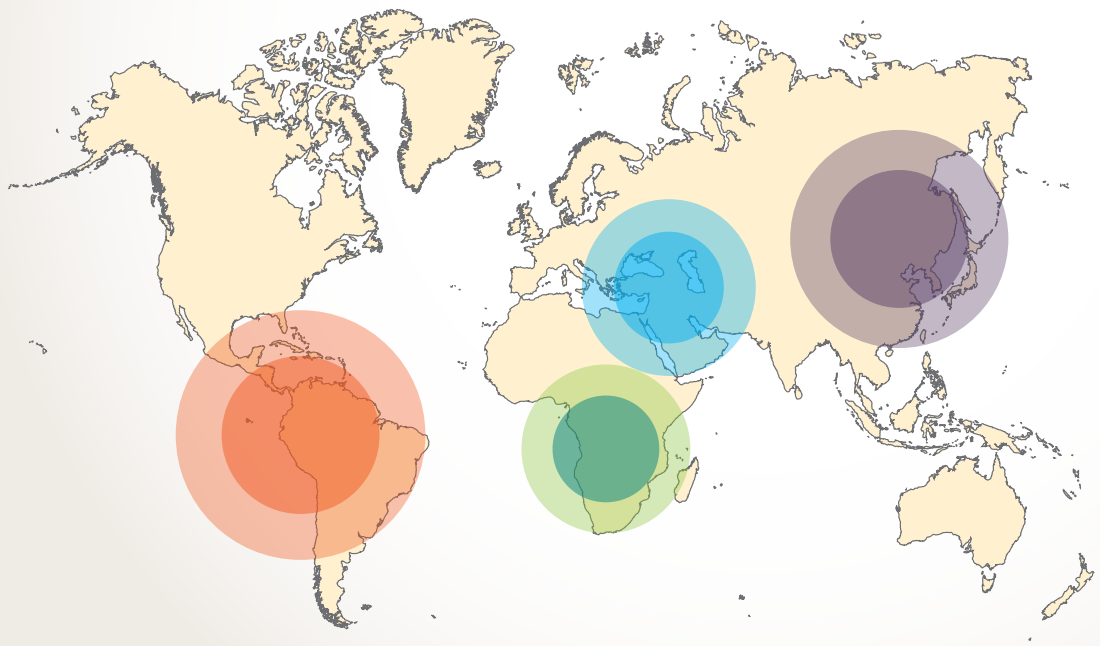
A former LBV student, **Priscila Mendes**, 17, says that she learned a lot

from this discipline: *“Living Together classes are a time for reflection on our attitudes and on creating a better future for ourselves and for new generations. Young people could avoid going down the wrong path if they had lessons like this, which warn us and promote dialogue without prejudice.”*

The LBV understands that investing in information represents an important instrument for social progress and for combatting prejudice. For this reason, the Organization has held for decades educational talks in its schools, Social Service Centers, and in other teaching units through partnerships. Moreover, on the Super Good Will Communication Network (radio and TV stations, the Internet, and publications) it publicizes its life-affirming campaigns that are against any form of prejudice, among which are AIDS — *The virus of prejudice assails more than the disease itself and Don’t use drugs. To Live is Better!*

Women's health worldwide

With the launch of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013 the United Nations presents a world overview of the progress made and the challenges faced for achieving the MDGs by 2015. Below are the updated numbers on the health of women and girls in important regions of the world.



Latin America and the Caribbean

The region met the MDG target of reducing child mortality by two thirds four years before the deadline. Brazil and Peru had the best results in reducing this rate.

Sub-Saharan Africa

This is the region most affected by the AIDS epidemic. It is estimated that 1 in every 20 adults is infected by the virus, which accounts for 69 percent of the people living with HIV worldwide. Just 28 percent of young women have a comprehensive and correct knowledge of what AIDS is. Most of the new infections are transmitted through sex.

Caucasus and Central Asia

Despite significant advances in combatting HIV/AIDS, the incidence of HIV in these regions has more than doubled since 2001. It is estimated that 27,000 people were newly infected in 2011.

South-Eastern Asia

Between 1990 and 2010, the annual number of maternal deaths dropped from 543,000 to 287,000 worldwide, a reduction of 47 percent*. In South-Eastern Asia this rate has declined by around two thirds. Women who give birth in rural areas are still at a disadvantage with regard to the care they receive. In the rural areas 53 percent of the deliveries are attended by skilled health personnel, while in urban areas this rate reaches 84 percent.

* Source: Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2010 (UN).





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

Source: United Nations.

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 unites 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

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 77).

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 embarrassment. *“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, in

which the mothers attend frequently. 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 help them increase their income through employment or entrepreneurship and thus guarantee family harmony. ■

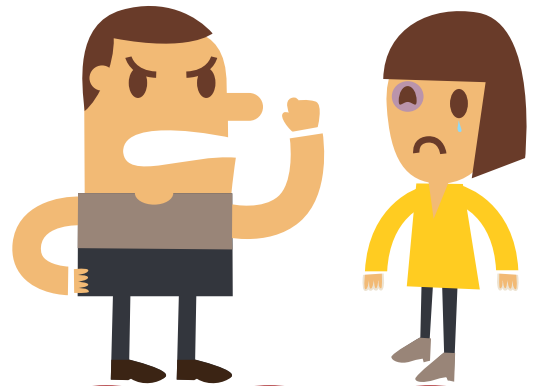
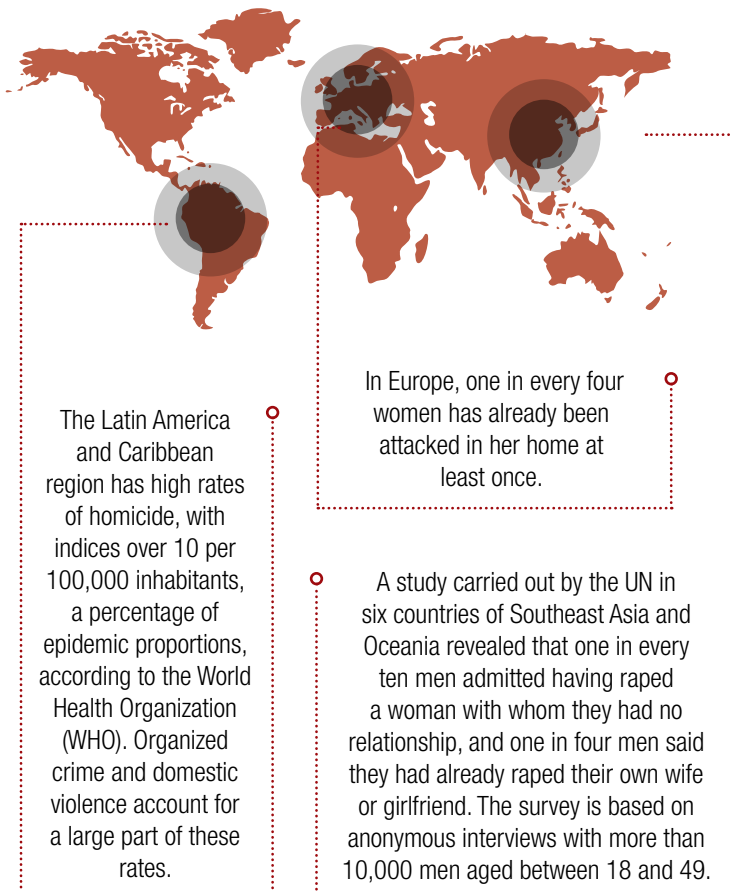


Franca (Brazil)

Fransinet Furtado

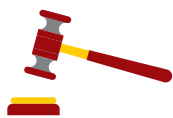
RATES OF THIS SOCIAL TRAGEDY

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 gender equality

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 spheres. 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 the writer continues in the subtitle "Misery is not the fate of human beings": "(...) *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 Militant Youth of Good Will from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

SALVADOR, BRAZIL

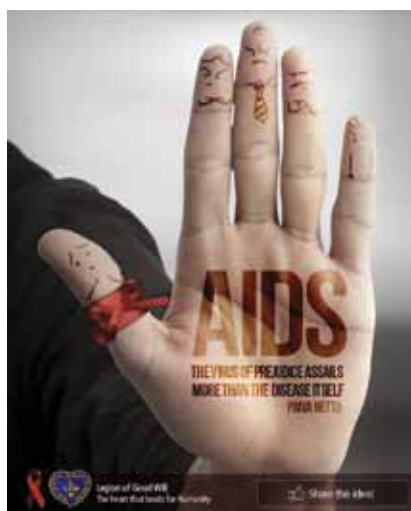
Youth of Good Will organize parades in favor of the preservation of the environment.



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".

than the disease 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 Militant 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

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.) ■

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 Militant 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

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