



PAIVA NETTO writes "Charity and Strategy" and highlights:

"Charity, allied with Justice, is the fuel to profound transformation. Its action is subtle, but effective." (Read the full article on page 4)

Non-commercial magazine

GOOD WILL

Women



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Chair of the UN 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ambassador Antonio Patriota, talks about the importance of women in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

AGENTS OF TRANSFORMATION

The work carried out by the Legion of Good Will to educate girls and women of all ages to become protagonists in their communities



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The **Legion of Good Will (LBV)** presents its recommendations of good practices to the participants at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, from March 14 to 24, 2016. 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 de Boa-Vontade

66 years

A energia pernambucana é
o que corre em nossas veias
e nos orgulha há 50 anos.



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70 YEARS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A Story of Struggles and Triumphs

GOOD WILL
Women



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CHARITY AND STRATEGY

João Preda



José de Paiva Netto is a Brazilian 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 defense of human rights and in the concepts of Ecumenical Citizenship and Ecumenical 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, Generosity, and Fraternal Love.”*

The destiny of being a woman and the universal dimension of Fraternal Love are topics that converge and must be remembered in this 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held from March 14 to 24 in New York/USA. After all, most of the time the responsibility for looking after children, the elderly, and the sick is in the hands of women, and the education, health, and well-being of

family members depend on their work and income.

Empowering, therefore, this natural activist of human rights is an urgent task for the advent of a Solidary, Altruistic, and Ecumenical Society, which requires a spirit of true Charity, a subject which I will discuss in this article, based on my experience of decades of work in the Legion of Good Will (LBV).

But first, I would like to openly greet Ambassador **Antonio Patriota**, Permanent Representative of



São Paulo (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira



Ban Ki-moon

Reproduction GW



Antonio Patriota

Eliana Gonçalves

Brazil to the United Nations, Chair of the historic 60th edition of the CSW, and a longtime defender of gender equality. In granting an exclusive interview to *GOOD WILL Women*, he gave us the honor of bringing relevant considerations about the meeting, enriching this publication (see page 10).

INDISPENSABLE TOOL

On September 5, 2013, the United Nations launched the annual observance of the International Day of Charity. The LBV was invited to participate and during the ceremony, which took place at the UN Headquarters in New York, talked about the power of Complete Charity for complying with the global sustainable development agenda. September 5 refers to the date on which **Mother Teresa of Calcutta** (1910-1997) passed away. She was an icon of assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable people and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Regarding the objective of this important day, UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** stated:

“Charity plays an important role in upholding the values and advancing the work of the United Nations. Donations of time or money; volunteer engagement in one’s own community or on the other side of the world; acts of caring and kindness with no thought of recompense; these and other expressions of global solidarity help us in our shared quest to live together in harmony and build a peaceful future for all. I welcome this first observance of the International Day of Charity.”

In English, charity rhymes with amity; and not just phonetically. Its action is intrinsically linked to the cordial gesture of enlightening and protecting the less well-educated.

In the new edition of my book *Cidadania do Espírito* [Citizenship of



Campina Grande (Brazil)

Jean Carlos

the Spirit], I dedicate a chapter to the meaning of the word Charity, based on concepts I have developed since the 1960s. I invite the reader to reflect on what, in my opinion, is an essential tool for adjusting the mechanisms of society, which is still today governed by individualism, whether in the private or collective sphere. As a matter of fact, this has led people to indifference, to a dryness of the Soul, that is, the absence of Solidarity, Fraternity, and Generosity in human and social relationships. Here are some extracts on the subject. I hope you appreciate them:

Charity is not a feeling of foolish people. It is a strategy of God that establishes in our hearts the ideal condition for us to work, govern, do business, manage, preach, do Science, elaborate on Philosophy, and, with a spirit of Generosity, practice Religion.

When there is Fraternal Love, incomparable commitment, and consecrated competence, which is

developed with hard work and zeal—even the simple act of banging a nail into a piece of wood (believe in your own worth!)—there are no limits to the foundation upon which a better world can be built.

To voluntarily practice Good actions is one of the most beautiful pages of Love that a human being can write. . . . Charity, allied with Justice, is the fuel to profound transformation. Its action is subtle, but effective. Charity is God, when understood unequivocally as Love, not as vengeance.

Charity is not a feeling of foolish people. It is a strategy of God that establishes in our hearts the ideal condition for us to work, govern, do business, manage, preach, do Science, elaborate on Philosophy, and, with a spirit of Generosity, practice Religion.



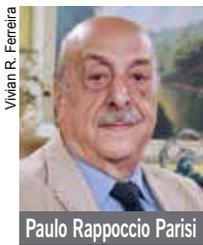
Tatiane Oliveira

Antônio Martins (Brazil)



Leilla Tonin

Salvador (Brazil)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Paulo Rappoccio Parisi

EFFECTIVE REFORM

Inhumanity results in inhumanity, and that, in a nutshell, is the explanation for the current state of the planet. However, with the wealth of our Spirit we can build a more significant tomorrow. No reform will be long-lasting if there is no sense of Charity in our Soul.

Charity is the gravitational center of political, social, philosophical, scientific, religious conscience. If human beings do not understand it they must make every effort to try and do so in order for it to come and abide in their own personal intimacy. No heaven is more auspicious than the heart when enlightened by the forces of Good. This is the divine feeling that keeps us alive. Let us not forget charity and instead of lamenting, especially at times of pain, let us practice it with devotion throughout all of our existence. This is great remedy for the Soul.

Charity is the proof of the power that the Spirit has of building promising times for citizens across the planet. There is no greater inspiration for good politics than this. An absurd?! Time will show that it is not. In fact, it is already proving otherwise.

CHARITY: EXCELLENT POLITICS

As I affirmed in 1981 to the late Italian journalist resident in Brazil **Paulo Rappoccio Parisi** (1921–2016): It has become urgent to illuminate Capitalism with the light of the moral, ethical spirit of Charity, which comes from God—meaning Love and Justice, in Truth and Mercy—, **so that the unbridled craving for capital, in other words, greed and corruption, does not weaken Democracy from time to time with the results we are well aware of.** On the contrary, we shall continue to witness, horrified, the denial of the right to freedom, to life, to healthcare, to

COMPLETE CHARITY

(The Editors)



For more than six decades, the Legion of Good Will has advocated for its pioneering thesis of Complete Charity. The practice of this concept created by the founder of the LBV **Alziro Zarur** (1914-1979), and developed by Paiva Netto, means going beyond giving material support, because it values the individual as a whole, offering him or her the necessary support to rise again and to change his or her own reality.

The LBV believes that no nation can develop if its population lacks support. Therefore, all its activities, programs, and social and educational projects are based on the principle of Complete Charity. This work, recognized internationally, was praised by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. When the World Parliament of Ecumenical Fraternity (LBV's ParlaMundi) was inaugurated in Brazil's capital, in 1994, the late missionary congratulated the president of the LBV for the initiative:

“Dear Mr. José de Paiva Netto, I entrust you with my prayers for all people. May God’s blessings be with all of you of the Legion of Good Will, and may many people get to know the Love of Jesus through the World Parliament of Ecumenical Fraternity of the LBV and keep alive the Good News of His Love in the world, loving one another as He has loved us. May God bless all of you.”

study, to employment, and to happiness of multitudes that **dared to be born**.

This is excellent Politics: the measure taken to educate, re-educate, instruct, and spiritualize on the road to Peace, resulting from the fellowship of the numerous cultures that form civilization, which in itself is one, truly planetary. (And let us never forget that our existence is not only physical, since it begins up Above, before we become flesh.) One day, those with courage to develop this theme will appear, because we need to learn the Laws that govern, from the Spiritual World, our worldly path. Alziro Zarur talked to us about the Politics of God, without hatred and intolerance. This is it. Time, through Master Love or Master Pain, shall prove this. **We have a lot to learn from each other, human beings and nations**, instead of slaughtering one another. A policy,

therefore, of convergence towards Brotherhood in international relations must be adopted, in which, for instance, sports and caring for the environment may have an even greater active participation in life, in the sustainable development of people and of countries.

We are complementary beings. One day this reality must be better understood, as well as experienced in an effective and solidary way. Otherwise, what may happen to Humanity will be the kingdom of hatred, a conscious and imprudent extermination practiced throughout the whole planet, with rare exceptions that are likely to happen, because there is always a solution when there is Goodwill and, consequently, the Ecumenism of Peace in the hearts. ●

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Women's Rights on the Agenda

Chair of the UN 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ambassador Antonio Patriota stresses the importance of women's participation in implementing the 2030 Agenda

BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Since the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 1946, this is the first time that a permanent representative of Brazil to the United Nations has presided over it. Elected Chair of the 60th session of the CSW, Ambassador **Antonio de Aguiar Patriota** is aware that he is leading one of the most important editions of the conference. After all, this one brings with it the expectation that gender equality be included in all debates and global actions of the new Sustainable Development Agenda, also known as the 2030 Agenda.

Just a few days before the abovementioned session the diplomat gave an exclusive interview to

GOOD WILL *Women* magazine and talked about the creation of a ministerial segment in the CSW, which he believes, “*will help increase the visibility and reinforce the political commitment of governments to gender equality at a high level.*” Also according to the Brazilian diplomat, this commitment will contribute towards empowering women and consequently promoting Peace and improving the quality of life of everyone on the planet.

GOOD WILL *Women* — Mr. Ambassador, what does it mean to the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN to have your name elected to chair

this historic session of the CSW? What contribution can the country take to this meeting?

Antonio Patriota — It is an honor to be chair of the CSW. I am sure I was elected as a result of the high profile that Brazil has assumed in the defense of women’s rights at both national and international levels. Brazil will take to the CSW its experience in promoting the rights of women and its firm commitment to gender equality, to women’s empowerment, and to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

GW — What is it like to chair the CSW at a time when the United Nations is holding discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an outcome from the Rio+20 Conference, which you also co-chaired?

Patriota — CSW60 will play a key role in following up and monitoring the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development concerning Goal 5 (“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”) as well as the other goals. This agenda is very special to Brazil, taking into account the role played by the Rio+20 Conference, which established a road map for adopting it. The 2030 Agenda constitutes the basis on which governments, civil society, the private sector, and the UN System will guide their policies and actions in favor of sustainable development over the next fifteen years.

GW — 2016 will also be the first year that this UN commission will have a ministerial segment. What changes will this new structure bring?

Women in Brazil spend more time in school than men, and fall less far behind in their education as well.

Patriota — The first three days of the next session of the CSW will be dedicated to the ministerial segment. This will help increase the visibility and reinforce the political commitment of governments to gender equality at a high level. As part of the ministerial segment, the Commission will review the agreed conclusions from the 57th session, held in 2013, on ‘the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.’ The UN Member States will be able to make presentations about the main progress they have made in combatting gender-based violence and share the lessons learned and other good practices.

GW — The SDGs are related to the search for plurality, whether in gender or access. Has the empowerment of women gained strength in this new global agenda?

Patriota — Absolutely. The 2030 Agenda is based on the understanding that it will be impossible to achieve sustainable development if half of humanity cannot fully enjoy their human rights. Achieving gender equality and empowering women



Rick Bajomas/UN Photo

Brazilian Ambassador Antonio Patriota, Chair of the UN 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.



Giuliano Gomes/Seead



▼
Mobile unit of the *Mulher, Viver sem Violência* [Women Living without Violence] program. The bus has been adapted to provide emergency assistance and preventive health care for women and girls who are victims of violence. It is conducted by a multidisciplinary team that is also trained to receive reports of abuse.

are essential contributions to the progress of all the goals in the Agenda, in its three pillars: economic, social, and environmental. Gender equality is of benefit to society as a whole and must be promoted at a global level.

GW — What was the most significant progress made over the last few years for this to happen?

Patriota — Significant progress was made in Brazil in terms of legislation,

gender policy, and actions directed at promoting women’s rights. The Law on Femicide made the gender-motivated killing of women a heinous crime and a non-bailable offence. Women also started becoming the protagonists in social inclusion policies and the main recipients of income policies. Another relevant fact is that, currently, Brazilian women are receiving more schooling than men and advancing in the labor market. Gender equality, however, has still not been achieved in any country in the world. The challenge we face is that of fully achieving gender parity and the empowerment of women by 2030, as determined by the fifth Sustainable Development Goal.

GW — In addition to the laws implemented in Brazil in favor of women, especially the Maria da Penha Law, is the implementation of new public policies a path seen by the country for promoting gender equality?

Patriota — The transversality of the gender perspective in public policies is crucial for achieving gender equality, not only in Brazil, but also worldwide. A good example is the *Mulher, Viver sem Violência* program [Women Living without Violence—which is coordinated

“The 2030 Agenda is based on the understanding that it will be impossible to achieve sustainable development if half of humanity cannot fully enjoy their human rights. Achieving gender equality and empowering women are essential contributions to the progress of all the goals in the Agenda, in its three pillars: economic, social, and environmental.”



GENDER EQUALITY

The male diplomats of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations support the cause for gender equality and have joined the UN Women #HeForShe campaign. According to Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (sitting in the center), *“the normative concepts of masculinity and femininity reinforce vertical and unequal power relationships.”* The diplomat considers that *“engaging men and boys in the discussion about overcoming gender inequality is revolutionary.”*

by the Secretariat of Policies for Women of the Presidency of the Republic] that aims to really implement the Maria da Penha Law. The units of *Casa da Mulher Brasileira* [Brazilian Women’s House] are part of this program and offer assistance for women living in situation of violence. With their multidimensional approach, the Houses provide guidance on work and income, incentives for entrepreneurship, professional qualifications, and inclusion in the labor market. Another example of policy directed at gender equality was the enactment of the Amendment Proposal to the Constitution of Domestic Workers, which promoted the definitive inclusion of this working class in the social protection system benefiting daily more than six million Brazilian women.

GW — How do you see men’s participation in the UN Women #HeForShe campaign?

Patriota — The participation of men in the struggle for gender equality is absolutely fundamental, because society as a whole must be mobilized

“The participation of men in the struggle for gender equality is absolutely fundamental, because society as a whole must be mobilized to put an end to gender inequality and discrimination.”

to put an end to gender inequality and discrimination. Men need to be made aware of the inequalities and injustices that affect women. President Dilma Rousseff supports the campaign, which seeks to bring men to the core of the discussions on gender equality. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all men readers to join this campaign. All male employees of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations have already joined through the website www.heforshe.org.



In recognition of the great potential women represent for democracy and Peace, three female personalities were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011. From left: Yemeni activist Tawakkol Karman, Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee, and President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.



Henry Had

“In Guinea-Bissau I was able to see for myself women as a segment of the population that work for the building of peace, because they focus their aspirations on building fair societies that offer to future generations a higher standard of living.”

including the mobilization of domestic resources and prioritizing actions directed at empowering women and for increasing the official assistance towards development.

GW — During your management in the UN Peacebuilding Commission you defended gender equality in the name of Brazil. Is empowering women fundamental for the achievement of Peace?

Patriota — Yes. There are several studies and official statistics that show the transforming impact of empowering women in social progress, in economic growth, and in development in post-conflict scenarios. The Peacebuilding Commission pays special attention to countries with weak institutions and economies, among which are Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, and Burundi. In Guinea-Bissau I was able to see for myself women as a segment of the population that work for the building of peace, because they focus their aspirations on building fair societies that offer to future generations a higher standard of living. ●

GW — The SDGs are likely to stimulate debates and impact the distribution of resources. Can they contribute substantially to the economy over the next few years?

Patriota — Due to its universal aspect, in other words, because they apply to both developed and developing countries, it is expected that the Sustainable Development Goals will galvanize the international cooperation. The CSW60 will discuss the need to expand investments in gender equality,



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Legião da Boa Vontade

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Vivian R. Ferreira



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São Paulo (Brazil)



LBV's statement for the

60TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON

THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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), an NGO in general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1999.

Preparing women to lead in community initiatives is one of the most strategic policies to promoting the sustainable development of communities, particularly in regions that are more socially vulnerable. This is what we, in the Legion of Good Will, have proved while carrying out our work in more than 150 cities across seven countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay).

Over the last five years, we have provided more than 60 million services and benefits for people living in poverty. Education and re-education—structured on the basis of spiritual, ethical, and all-encompassing ecumenical values—are pivotal aspects of our social transformation work. In general, the communities assisted lack opportunities in the labor market and have basic public services, specifically in the areas of sanitation, education, and health. These locations have registered high rates of violence and informal employment.

Many of the families are single-parent families headed by women, who have to work twice as hard to guarantee support for their home and also look after their children. With little schooling and low salaries, they spend hours on commute every day, while their children spend long periods of time not being looked after or supervised by adults. In Brazil, these families also suffer from prejudice and racism, since the majority of the women are black, in a country that is still marked by the heritage of more than three centuries of slavery.

All these difficulties pile up and are aggravated in moments of economic crisis. They also increase the number of people who, being deprived of a meaning for their own lives, abandon their homes to live on the streets, become addicted to alcohol and other drugs, and eventually fall victims to depression and other psychological and/or physical illnesses. Our President, the journalist, radio broadcaster, and writer **José de Paiva Netto**, has been advocating for human rights since the 1950s in the Brazilian media with messages that have had great repercussions. Among them, the articles “Apartheid there and Apartheid here” and “Roots and memories,” in which he states:

*“One of the basic reasons for the existence of the Legion of Good Will is its devotion to educating, teaching, and spiritualizing, showing that life does not end in the grave, a truly sad destination. A country whose people are not educated is weak; and a weak country is one that is easily dominated. The more ignorant the people, the greater their bondage. As I have said so many times, **Princess Isabel** signed the controversial Golden Law [in 1888, which abolished slavery in Brazil], but the spirit of slavery still harms our people, making them, for example, hostages of violence, which roams freely everywhere. We have to grow in teaching, education, and spirituality. Valuing*

THE LBV'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

ourselves means keeping people's self-esteem at the very peak."

In fact, opposing people's self-esteem with the "spirit of slavery" is one of the nubs of today's social agenda. It is not all thorns in the slums and "excluded" communities. Social leadership and the existing relationships of solidarity and belonging, plus technological innovation, have consolidated identities and new ways of popular organization and of vocalizing demands for greater citizenship rights. Added to this is the discovery by economic agents of innovative approaches of driving the huge latent potential of these regions.

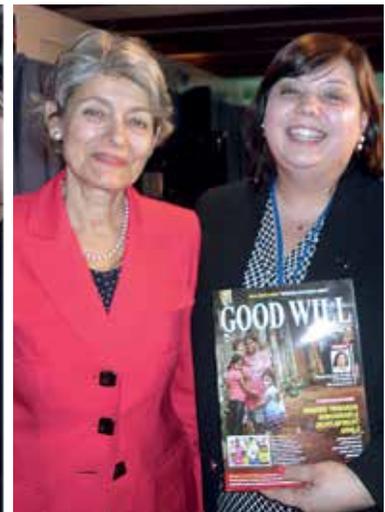
LEGION OF GOOD WILL'S SOLIDARY SOCIETY NETWORK PROGRAM

In addition to the macro strategies already mentioned, promoting the progress of vulnerable communities requires effective, short, and medium-term measures, like those provided for in our *Solidary Society Network* program. It consists, mainly, in identifying and providing technical and administrative advice for community leaders and social organizations in the metropolitan regions, where our social and educational units are located.

Our professionals provide guidance on Brazil's social development policies and train community leaders in how to mobilize public and private resources on behalf of the communities themselves. Sixty six percent of the presidents of the entities that take part are women. This percentage rises to 71 percent when we consider the whole universe of those to whom advice is provided. What these movements mainly demand is access to housing, high-quality education, social protection, and a healthy environment.

Among the most significant results achieved by the program so far are:

- Strengthening and qualifying entities



(1) During the ECOSOC High-Level Segment in 2013, in Geneva (Switzerland), the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, was greeted by Adriana Rocha, from the LBV and received the GOOD WILL magazine (in English). He leafed through the publication, and pointed out that he admires the work of the Organization. (2) The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova (L), received a copy of the Good Will Women during the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2014, from the hands of Adriana Rocha.

for providing organizational planning, for fundraising, and for the management, monitoring, assessment, supply and execution of social services;

- Expanding the general public's knowledge of public policies;
- Facilitating access to content, resources, and methodologies related to increasing

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↳ LBV'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Carlos Cesar Silva



Buenos Aires (Argentina)

→ social participation and strengthening leadership for demanding citizenship rights;

- Identifying local potential and mobilizing and organizing groups of leaders by means of creating an articulation between them and public policies.

Strengthening community organizations is no substitute for possible affirmative policies aimed at increasing the participation of women in political decision-making processes, but it may help when it comes to implementing such policies to the extent →



SCHOOLS

São Paulo (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

The José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute in São Paulo (Brazil) demonstrates that high-quality Education, Solidarity, and an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality are indispensable to the character building 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 social and 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."*





LBV IN THE WORLD

The Legion of Good Will was founded on January 1, 1950 (World Peace Day), in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by the journalist, radio broadcaster, and poet Alziro Zarur (1914-1979), who was succeeded by the also journalist, radio broadcaster, and writer José de Paiva Netto. The data presented below account for the work of the LBV of seven countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay.

NUMBERS FROM 2011 TO 2015



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EDUCATIONAL AND
SOCIAL SERVICE
UNITS

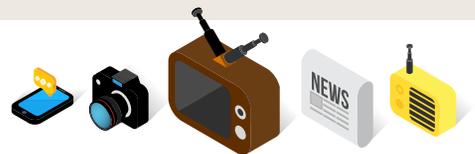
+60 than MILLION

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

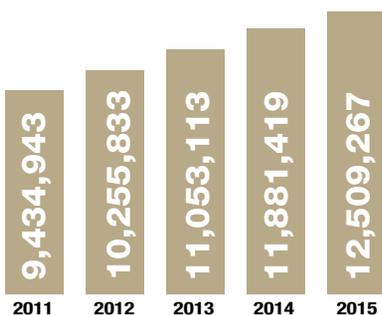


+1.7 than MILLION

people impacted by the
LBV's work



NUMBER OF SERVICES AND BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE LEGION OF GOOD WILL OF BRAZIL FROM 2011 TO 2015*



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

In addition to schools, social service centers, and homes for the elderly, the LBV has a broad social communications network (radio, TV, websites, and publications) dedicated to fostering education, culture, and citizenship values. More than **12 thousand** specialists from all across Brazil participated, in 2015, in the programs of the Super Good Will Communications Network.



Archive GW

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

 **SCHOOLS**



Leilla Tonin

Taguatinga (Brazil)



Archive GW

Montevideo (Uruguay)

→ that it empowers the 'organic' leaders of these communities. However, these are still considered parallel efforts, as we conclude from the research carried out by Dr. **Teresa Sacchet**, a researcher at the University of São Paulo, in Brazil, and visiting professor at the University of California in Berkeley, United States, the results of which were published in the paper *Capital social, gênero e representação política no Brasil* [Social capital, gender and political representation in Brazil] (2009):

"Women tend to invest their resources in a more collective way: spending on the family (education, health, and welfare of its members) instead of on themselves. Official government and multilateral development agency programs mainly benefit women and have them as their partners in the implementation of social projects. Without ignoring the strategic





Belém (Brazil)

Leilla Tonin



Leilla Tonin

La Paz (Bolivia)



Vinicius Ramão

Curitiba (Brazil)



Raquel Dias

Asuncion (Paraguay)



Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)

Patrícia Oliveira



HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

Vivian R. Ferreira



Volta Redonda (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira



Uberlândia (Brazil)

→ *importance of these initiatives for women themselves, including for their economic empowerment, it is necessary to ask what is implicit in this discourse and practice. . . . Therefore, it is also necessary to implement effective measures to include them in the decision-making processes when social projects are being devised and articulated."*

To make community residents assisted aware of the challenges mentioned above, debates on such issues permeate the actions of our advisory program, namely:

- Training for entity managers and technicians and community and organizational leaders who represent the population being assisted;
- Personal guidance for these clients;
- The promotion of systematic local and regional meetings between network participants;
- The production of multimedia content that socializes surveys in society and among the operators of public policies;
- Equipping the entities with a database





Liliane Cardoso

Porto Alegre (Brazil)

SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS



Vivian R. Ferreira

Cidade Dutra, São Paulo (Brazil)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Teresina (Brazil)



Izabela Mendes

Inhumas (Brazil)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Fortaleza (Brazil)



São Paulo (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira



SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS

Mônica Mendes



Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

Leília Tonin



São José (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira



Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

- system for registering users and acts of care and benefits provided, thereby improving the quality of their actions vis-à-vis the population (next phase);
- Organizing public policy seminars.

The debate about the realities experienced by community residents covered by the *Solidary Society Network* program is, in itself, very important, seeing that the population considers many of the social disparities that exist in Brazil today to be 'natural,' because they are rooted



La Paz (Bolivia)

Archive GW



Ciudad del Este (Paraguay)



Porto (Portugal)

Leilla Tonin

in current social and cultural practices. Nevertheless, we also perceived the need to create alternative narratives, which is why we adopted an innovative teaching-learning model process that is based on values that are common to different cultures, among which are Love, respect, and Goodwill. This new educational proposal basically covers two segments: the **Pedagogy of Affection** and the **Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy**, which are successfully applied in our teaching network and in the social and educational programs we carry out.



Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Carlos Cesar da Silva



Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Ray Mina



SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS



Leila Tonin

Porto (Portugal)

→ The Pedagogy of Affection is directed at children up to 10 years old. It combines feelings with the children's cognitive development in such a way that love and affection are present in all knowledge and in the environments surrounding them, including in schools. The next step in the teaching-learning process is the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, aimed at educating teenagers, young people, adults, and the elderly, equipping individuals to live the Ecumenical Citizenship, based on the full exercise of Planetary Solidarity.

We have shared the methodology and promising results of this educational method, which include zero dropout rates and violence-free environments among students, with other public and private educational institutions. This is why we place it at the disposal of organizations and governments that wish to learn





Maceió (Brazil)

Leilla Tonin

Marra Mendes



Asuncion (Paraguay)

Archive GW



New Jersey (USA)

Leilla Tonin



Fortaleza (Brazil)



Santa Quitéria (Brazil)

Leilla Tonin



RELIEF CAMPAIGNS



New Jersey (USA)

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União da Vitória (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira

→ more about this teaching proposal and the social and educational programs we apply. They aim to foster a new mentality, which gives rise to innovative cultural and behavioral models, such as was emphasized in 1981 by the creator of this pioneering proposal, educator Paiva Netto, in an interview with late Italian journalist living in Brazil, Paulo Rappoccio Parisi, and reaffirmed in a message sent to the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, held from 25 to 27 September in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States:

“Solidarity has expanded itself from the luminous field of ethics presenting itself as a strategy, so that human beings may achieve and guarantee their own survival. To combat the globalization of poverty, we counterpose the globalization of Fraternity, which spiritualizes and ennobles the Economy and disciplines it in a solidary way, as a strong instrument for reacting to the pseudofatalism of poverty;” and →



Gustavo Henrique Lima

Brasília (Brazil)



Liliane Cardoso

Porto Alegre (Brazil)



Tatiane Oliveira

Uauá (Brazil)



Rubens Machado

Periquito (Brazil)



Bruna Gonçalves

Buíque (Brazil)



Tatiane Oliveira

Xerém, Duque de Caxias (Brazil)



Michella Valério

Juazeiro (Brazil)



Jean Santos

Martins (Brazil)



Fátima Bigas

Biguacu (Brazil)



Gabriel Estevão

São Paulo (Brazil)



Ipinga (Brazil)

Leilla Tonin



RELIEF CAMPAIGNS



São Paulo (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira



New Jersey (USA)

Felipe Duarte



Aracaju (Brazil)

Vânia Bandeira

→

“Therefore, it is essential to converge all the tools available towards Ecumenical Solidarity and to share them, so that the transition to full sustainable development can be fostered with the utmost urgency. When these instruments that aim for the common good are combined, through the authentic meaning of Fraternal Love and Justice, which distinguishes us from wild animals, we shall be able to put an end to the horrors that still persist in the world. In addition to overcoming all social ills, however long the struggle lasts, it is our duty to build together in unity a new development model that effectively preserves life on this planet.

“The Legion of Good Will, founded almost 66 years ago by Alziro Zarur (1914-1979), has been waging a daily battle against hunger and social inequality in favor of sustainability and education with Ecumenical Spirituality, never forgetting to undertake the Herculean struggle against the lack of Solidarity,

→



José Gonçalves

Taguatinga (Brazil)



Natal (Brazil)

Jean Carlos



Goiânia (Brazil)

Fegizete Carlos



Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

Rafael Mendes



Ananindeua (Brazil)

Leilla Tonin



Vale do Jequitinhonha (Brazil)

Rafael Mendes



Curitiba (Brazil)

Vinicius Ramão



Juazeiro (Brazil)



La Paz (Bolivia)

Andrea Varela

→ *Fraternity, Mercy, Generosity, Altruism, and Justice; consequently, the aridity of the Spirit and the heart. The absence of these values directly hinders the favorable outcome of any attempt at a beneficial transformation on Earth. For this reason, it is more than current time to remember the millennial rule taught to us by the philosopher, religious and social activist **Jesus**, when He offered us these Words of Peace: 'Love one another as I have loved you. . . . There is no greater Love than to lay down one's Life for one's friends.' (The Gospel according to John 13:34 and 15:13)"*

In this historic session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which has reached the significant milestone of 60 editions, we applaud all women and men who have done, do, and will do their part in this long journey of struggles and achievements, hereby ratifying our solidary commitment to the eradication of all forms of inequality on the planet. ●



Vilma Araujo

Maringá (Brazil)



Campina Grande (Brazil)

Jean Carlos



Paulo Araujo

Porto Velho (Brazil)



Vânia Pessôa

Buíque (Brazil)



São Luís (Brazil)

Paulo Araujo



Become a link in this unbreakable chain of solidary Love.

Help the Legion of Good Will
transform the future of thousands
of people.



Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boa vontade

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Lança Futuro no Presente!





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A Story of Struggles and Triumphs

LBV pays tribute to the United Nations on its 70th anniversary and participates in the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

JANINE MARTINS

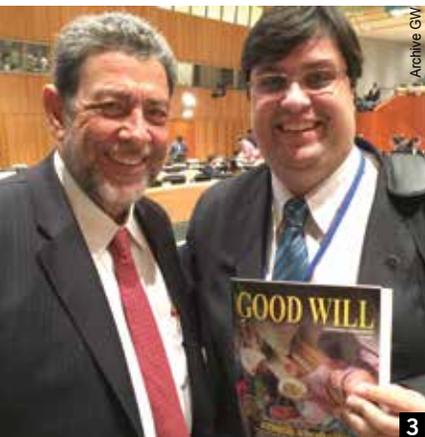
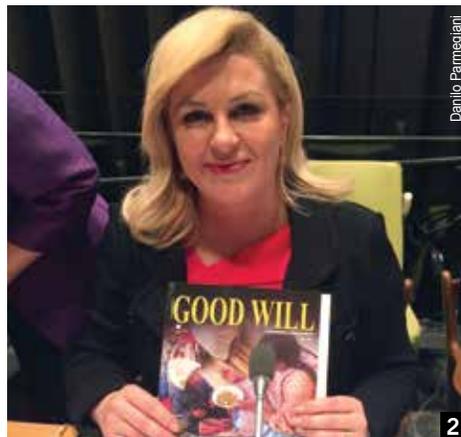
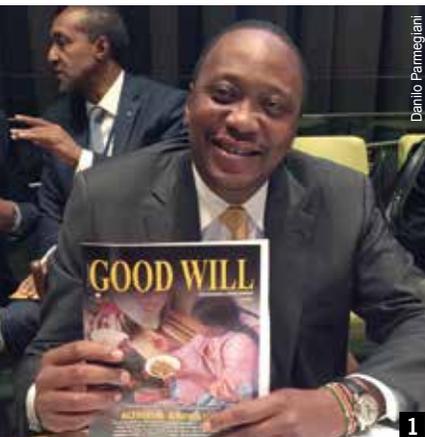
The 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, from March 14 to 24 of this year, brings a wide-ranging debate on “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development.” The meeting is also a historic opportunity for the United Nations and its Member States to assess how much has been done by the organization over seven decades and the new directions it will take over the next few years. This issue triggered by the UN’s 70th anniversary in 2015—officially founded on October 24, 1945—continues to be debated in 2016, the year of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which constitute the new global agenda. These goals are imbued with the reaffirmation of universal values, among them the dignity and valuing of human beings and equality of women’s and men’s rights and duties. Until these values become a reality there will be no prosperous economies or the possibility of living in a fair, equitable, and happy society.

The Legion of Good Will, which became a member of the United Nations Department of Public

Information (DPI) in 1994 and has had general consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1999, could not fail to pay a tribute to the UN on such an auspicious occasion. Every year the LBV presents to the entity its own recommendations of good practices and those



UN Photo/ Eskinder Bebebe



During the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015, held in the UN Headquarters in New York, the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta (1), and the President of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović (2), received the Legion of Good Will's magazine for the event. It was also handed to the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves (3), and to the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Miro Cerar (4), by the LBV's representative Danilo Parmegiani.



“I would like to thank the Legion of Good Will for its efforts and constant engagement with the development goals and the economic and social justice, which the UN carries out in defense of human rights. We need partnerships like this in every country.”

GIANCARLO SUMMA

Director of the United Nations Information Center for Brazil (UNIC Rio)

submitted by civil society organizations for implementing public and international humanitarian policies. It also uses its reach and influence in the seven countries where it is present (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay) in order to ensure that discussions and resolutions led by Heads of State reach civil society. The work of the LBV is to provide information and opportunities to people who live in a situation of social vulnerability so they can seek the fulfillment of their own rights and live in a dignified way. As a

result, the Organization contributes to the achievement of the UN goals.

In an interview with GOOD WILL, **Giancarlo Summa**, Director of the United Nations Information Center for Brazil (UNIC Rio), talked about the importance of the partnership between the various social sectors. *“This is a UN global campaign for engaging federal and local government actors. . . . It is fundamental that we have the support of civil society and non-governmental organizations that, like the Legion of Good Will, for example, are members of the DPI,*

ECOSOC, and UN bodies, and also [the support] of the media, to communicate what we do.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

As a way of paying tribute to the UN on its 70th anniversary, the Legion of Good Will, caring for the future generations, also invited girls and boys between 6 and 17 years old who participate in its social and educational programs across Brazil, to reflect through art on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which were adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 and must be achieved by all countries by 2030.

The result of the Organization's initiative could be seen in more than one hundred works of art that made up the exhibition entitled “Everyone hand-in-hand with Peace — LBV's Homage to the UN's 70th anniversary,” which took place between October 21 and 28, 2015, in the Art Gallery of the Temple of Good Will (TGW), in Brasília, Brazil.

The paintings express the view of these children and teenagers on the challenge of achieving sustainable development. In making the works of art, the students used acrylic paint on canvas, a variety of mixed techniques, such as collage, and grains,

Vivian R. Ferreira



Paulo Medeiros, administrator of the Temple of Good Will; Alziro Paolotti de Paiva, representing the founder of the monument, José de Paiva Netto; Alan Bojanic, representative for FAO in Brazil; Marta Jabuonski, curator of the TGW's Art Gallery; and children assisted by the LBV in the Brazilian capital.

thread, leaves, sand, wool, chains, buttons, beads, etc.

The creativity of the young artists attracted the attention of **Alan Bojanic**, representative for FAO in Brazil, who attended the opening of the exhibition. *“I'm very happy to see how these children relate to the new global agenda, an agenda established to unite humanity and commit all of us to this great goal of eradicating poverty, hunger, and diseases, and also to build a better world, one of Peace,”* he affirmed. ●

More than 350 places in 85 countries were lit up in blue as a tribute to the United Nations on its 70th anniversary (October 24, 2015). In Brazil, the cities of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Salvador, Brasília, among others, took part in the act. In the photos, the Temple of Good Will, in the Brazilian capital, and the LBV's Educational Center, in Rio de Janeiro, joined the tribute.



Archive GW



Priscilla Antunes



Gustavo Henrique Lima

Rodenilde Pereira and her daughter Hacsá Melissa, 5, a student at the LBV's Alziro Zarur Nursery School in Taguatinga, Brazil, also benefit from the "A+ Child — without Education there is no Future!" campaign. Every year the Organization distributes thousands of school supplies across Brazil, thus contributing to improving the self-esteem and performance of the students.

— EMPOWERING — MOTHERS

The application of the **LBV's** Pedagogy of Affection and Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy helps foster this important issue.

SUELÍ PERIOTTO

In the Legion of Good Will's schools and in its community centers for social assistance (which attend to children and young people during off-school hours), parents or guardians are invited to join efforts in order to improve the social and educational conditions of girls and boys in their community. After all, as the President of the LBV, educator Paiva Netto, says, *"School is essential, but it does not replace the home. State and society united have to coordinate solutions so that families can raise and educate their children in a dignified way."* This continuous integration is boosted during collective or individual meetings, whose purpose is to involve and give support to each family in the activities the Organization develops with the students, as guided by the Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (from 11 years onwards). These pedagogies comprise the educational method created by the president of the LBV.

The Legion of Good Will's professionals also apply the MAPREI (Learning Method

through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research) in their meetings with the families. The method was devised by the Organization's educators especially for the LBV's innovative teaching proposal, and is based on its goal to foster Education with Ecumenical Spirituality—a distinguishing feature of the Organization.

Therefore, parents or guardians can see firsthand how the methodology is applied in the recreational and pedagogical activities with students.

These meetings are predominantly attended by women, making these gatherings valuable occasions for encouraging female empowerment, helping unlock their potential to be breadwinners and also to become agents responsible for the academic development of girls and boys. These events also show how very involved these women are with the children's and young people's homework, helping in the process of research and data collection. Such activities are either proposed by the Organization's educators or requested by the LBV's social and educational programs. Through them the



Vivian R. Ferreira

Suelí Periotto is the 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 Doctorate degree also in Education from the same university. She is also a conference speaker and host of the *Educação em Debate* [Education on Focus] program on the Super Good Will Radio Network. (Visit: www.boavontade.com).

LBV'S TEACHING PROPOSAL: ECUMENICAL SPIRITUALITY IN PRACTICE

Workshop for parents and guardians “Discipline and limits:
a view beyond the intellect”

STAGE

1

IDENTIFYING THE CONTENT

Keyword: Mobilization

Use of an audiovisual aid to show scenes and situations of indiscipline, which ratify the points that families indicate as being particularly challenging.

STAGE

2

INDIVIDUAL SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE

Keywords: Intuition and research

For research purposes this question is asked: “*What is your approach to rules and limits with your children?*” The objective is to make the families think about the strategies that usually work. It is also suggested that these families carry out a self-assessment, in which each of them identifies the ways of dealing with their children that have not produced positive results.

STAGE

3

SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

Words and key expressions: Mediation and analysis of the topic

The Organization’s professionals who run the workshop act as mediators, making room for families to share what is working and what has gotten out of their control.

STAGE

4

CONCLUSION

Keyword: Production

Parents and guardians are encouraged to write the best quality of their children and their biggest behavior problem on the clothes of the EVA doll they are given. Then the mediator collects the dolls and distributes them at random, calling them ‘secret children.’

The ‘swapped’ families have to produce a written material that suggests ways of solving the issues.



STAGE

5

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS

Key expression: school-family-community integration

The mediator organizes the material produced, making it available for appreciation by others under the title: "There are no manuals about how to look after children, but we have some suggestions." Ideas for recreational activities that can be done at home and that strengthen the ties of its components are also given.



STAGE

6

INDIVIDUAL CONCLUSION

Keywords: Internalization and feedback

To end the meeting, there is a discussion with the families about the topic in focus. This leads to personal conclusions about possible changes in children and young people when the parents or guardians feel empowered and capable not only of perceiving the risky situations in their lives, but also of acting with knowledge and firmness to prevent or combat these situations, as proposed by the previous five stages, whose activities are based upon values of Ecumenical Spirituality.

participants have their cognitive capacity and emotions developed.

A constant practice during these events is the discussion of topics suggested by parents and guardians, which deal with the challenging situations they face in their everyday lives. An example of the good experience of using MAPREI is the workshop on "Discipline and limits: a view beyond the intellect," carried out at the LBV's Alziro Zarur Nursery School in Taguatinga, Brazil. The planning used in this workshop was prepared by the multidisciplinary team from the abovementioned school (see page on the left).

LBV'S CONGRESS ON EDUCATION IN PORTUGAL

The aforementioned planning was also presented in a workshop at the LBV's 15th International Congress on Education, which took place on November 24-25, 2015, in Porto, Portugal. The participants simulated holding a workshop as if they were holding it with families from the groups or institutions in which they take part. The activity led them to reflect on how necessary it is to prepare families for facing up to current adversities.

The Legion of Good Will considers this partnership with families to be extremely valuable. That is why it continuously encourages the parents or guardians to be involved in activities that expand the ties of affection with children and young people so they feel more welcome and motivated. The objective of the meetings the LBV arranges is to make each family feel properly prepared to face up to difficulties and overcome them, by strengthening and increasing their capacity to identify and prevent the dangers that threaten the physical, emotional, and/or psychological integrity of children and young people. ●



Natal (Brazil)

Rewriting Destiny

Women find in the **LBV** a path to their empowerment

LEILA MARCO

The GOOD WILL *Women* magazine dedicates the following pages to presenting stories of women who experienced situations of social risk, hardships, and challenges, but who, despite all of this, came out on top, assumed their social leadership, and became important role models in the area in which they operate. All of them have in common a desire to make dreams come true, determination, and the support they received from the Legion of Good Will, which was a decisive factor that enabled them to show their own potential.

Coming from the poorest and most disadvantaged strata of society, these women have improved not only their own lives, but also the lives of their family members and the life of the community in which they live.

HOW SOMEONE WHO WENT HUNGRY MANAGED TO COME OUT ON TOP

The story of **Oderlânia Leite Galdino**, 37, is that of countless other women from Brazil's northeast region and exemplifies well how important it is to unlock female potential. Not even the experience of hunger and anguish caused by extreme poverty could extinguish the hope she had in her heart of seeing better days. *"I was born in an incomparably beautiful place, on top of*

the Martins Mountain Range in Rio Grande do Norte state. I remember that when I was a child I wanted to fly far and wide; so high, much higher than the hills where I lived, so that I could forget the difficulties I was enduring and overcome them," she says.

In 1985, when she was just 7 years old, her father died. Her mother had to work doubly hard and carry out several activities in order to earn enough to support the family. *"I saw her do the work of two people so she could feed her eight children,"* she recalls. Despite her mother's efforts, this phase was very tough, as she describes: *"It hurt me a lot when we didn't have enough to eat at home. I used to drink water or eat manioc flour to try to alleviate my hunger so I could manage to get to sleep. My siblings and I got to the point of begging from door to door to survive. I always remember the taste of the first yogurt I had that I found in the garbage; it was perfect. The waste dump was a point of support for me where I used to go and look for food so my family and I could keep on our feet."*

When she was 16 and already living in the city of Natal, new prospects arose in her life. Months later, she began working as a volunteer for the Legion of Good Will. *"My story with the LBV is one of transformation. The Organization came into my life like a light, where*



Brazil



Photos: Anivaldo Oliveira

(1) Activity carried out in the Pissarreira community in Taipu, where the LBV delivered clothes to families living in a socially vulnerable situation. (2) Distribution of food baskets by the LBV in Taipu.

I didn't even imagine any brightness existed. I identified myself with this place from the first moment I set foot in it," she reveals.

Her passion “for the care provided, the consideration shown, and the attention given by the LBV to all those assisted” profoundly changed her to the point that the extremely shy young girl, who did not like talking to anyone, was left behind. “My fears seemed to be bigger than I was, but little by little I started becoming more outgoing in the mission that God had prepared for me,” she emphasizes.

In 1996, the opportunity arose for her to work as an employee in the Organization's

assistance unit. She was always very dedicated and carried out many tasks, until one day she was invited to be the manager of the LBV's Social Service Center. “I was surprised and very happy. I accepted the offer and here I've been until today, trying to develop an excellent work so that in this way I can contribute towards building a better world and empowering each one of those the Organization helps. Today I have a degree in Social Work and a postgraduate qualification in Sustainability and Preparation of Social Projects. . . . I feel fulfilled and a winner, thanks to the LBV and its President, José de Paiva Netto, who is a human being enlightened and blessed by God,” she says.

Jean Carlos



“My story with the LBV is one of transformation. The Organization came into my life like a light, where I didn't even imagine any brightness existed. It was, and still is, a watershed in my life for overcoming the difficulties I experienced.”

ODERLÂNIA LEITE GALDINO

After a difficult childhood marked by hunger, she succeeded in life, and started working as a volunteer for the LBV. She is currently the manager of the Organization's Social Service Center in Natal, Brazil.



Portugal

Porto (Portugal)

Certório Baptista

Volunteerism brings with it a passion for life

Maria Adelaide Silva Pinto, 54, from Portugal, faced serious health problems that dramatically changed her life. She had a very active professional life in accounting but had to give up her job after suffering two strokes and experiencing severe depression, and for a certain period of time she became dependent on her aged mother looking after her.

The first door opened for Maria Adelaide at the beginning of 2014, when with the support of a neighbor she sought help from the LBV unit in Porto,

“I thank God a lot for the opportunity I had to become a volunteer, because it’s a way of feeling useful.”

MARIA ADELAIDE SILVA PINTO
Volunteer



Eduarda Pereira



Long Branch (USA)



Hazlet (USA)

Photos: Archive GW

Portugal. According to her, it was difficult to talk about the needs she had; she was ashamed to ask for assistance.

The good reception she received helped her dispel these fears and soon a bond of affection and understanding was formed between her and the Organization. She took part in the *One Step Forward* program and every month began receiving a food basket to support her and her mother, in addition to attending the talks offered by the program.

Maria Adelaide also says that she found not only social support in the Legion of Good Will, but also a privileged space to reflect on her posture and behavior towards others. *"I thank God a lot for the opportunity I had to become a volunteer, because it's a way of feeling useful. When I see other people also going through identical situations to mine I want to pass on my experience to them,"* she adds. This was how she overcame her depression and other health problems. *"I*



USA

“When I discovered volunteerism in the LBV I was able to work on behalf of goodness and humanitarian justice, which makes me very proud.”

ANA SOFIA SEQUEIRA
Volunteer of the LBV-USA



Archive GW

don't have much, but I'm the happiest person in the world. I have what I most want, which is inner peace."

NEW YORK (USA)

This feeling is also shared by executive secretary **Ana Sofia Sequeira**, 37. Portuguese of Angolan descent, she has been living in the United States for 22 years and became a happier person after getting to know the Legion of Good Will of the USA. She provides assistance for pregnant women in social risk situations and helps poor children become socially included. *"When I discovered volunteerism in the LBV I was able to work on behalf of goodness and humanitarian justice, which makes me very proud. It's inevitable not to be touched by the reaction of those we help, when what we do has some type of direct and immediate impact on their lives,"* she emphasizes and adds, *"Today, without a doubt, I'm a winner!"*

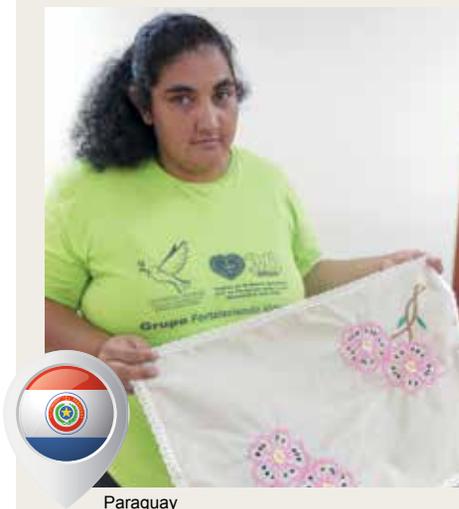
LAMBARÉ (PARAGUAY)

Technology and increase in family income

It was by participating in activities organized by the Legion of Good Will of Paraguay that **María Luisa Russo**, 35, fulfilled the dream of many mothers: to work from home. She was concerned about the health of her 6-year-old daughter who was obliged to follow her around the streets of Asuncion in search for recyclable materials, which she sold to feed her family. *"Even if it was cold or raining we still had to go out so my little girl was always sick because of this,"* she says.

This reality changed when the LBV took its *Good Will in Action* program to the Villa Angélica settlement (read more on page 54), where María Luisa lives, which is located in Lambaré, a metropolitan region of the Paraguayan capital. Thanks to this initiative, she was able attend free courses on different handicraft techniques and as a participant of the Organization's programs she has also been invited to become a member of the Strengthening Lives group.

Since then her life and that of her three children has improved considerably. In the group she learned to gain autonomy and this raised her self-esteem. Participation also meant that she saw the possibility of using social networks to sell the products she learned to make with the volunteer professionals from the Organization. She is currently earning five times the amount she made with her former activity. *"Today I earn my money at home and have more time to be with my children. I thank the LBV for everything it taught us and for the food basket they provide. This is a blessing for us."*



Paraguay



Photos: Raquel Diaz

Lambaré (Paraguay)

TRANSFORMATIVE ATTITUDE

Female Community Leadership

L**B****V** offers support to women as they assume the role of protagonists where they live

JANINE MARTINS

What does one do when the community suffers from poor infrastructure and the lack of basic services, among which running water, sanitation, and electricity? Given situations like these, many women have within themselves an indispensable factor: the determination to look for solutions to the problems in the places where they live.

These are people who, either working individually or in associations, make an effort to provide well-being for their families and those living around them. According to **Marcos Kisil**, a strategy consultant and founder of the Institute for the Development of Social Investment (IDIS), this search to guarantee the rights of society has been

increasing since the 1980s. *“With the return of democracy [in Brazil] there was an increase in community organizations focused on problems or issues of public interest, on service provision or on the search for [fulfilling] human rights that are part of our Constitution,”* he explained.

In harmony with this reality and with the 17th Sustainable Development Goal, “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development,” the Legion of Good Will has been supporting civil society organizations in order to improve the quality of life of people and families living in districts or settlements in social risk situation. This assistance is given by means of the L^BV’s

Solidary Society Network program, which prioritizes actions that empower women.

THE STORY OF AUNT LOURDES

Imagine the following scene: someone is walking past a shack and hears a child crying. When they get closer they see a little 5-year-old boy who, having been left alone while his parents were out trying to earn a living, had burned himself while heating up his food. The person who witnessed this was **Maria de Lourdes dos Santos Silva**, originally from the State of Alagoas, who is currently 62 years old. This sad fact led her to act so that incidents like this one would no longer occur. The action she took made her become reference in leadership in Jardim Princesa, the district where she lives in the northern region of São Paulo city.

Touched by the boy's case, Aunt Lourdes, the kind nickname she is known by, offered to supply him with food in order for him not to get burned any more. Other parents who experienced similar situations were soon asking to leave their children at her house. Her home ended up being transformed into a daycare, the first maintained by the *Associação Creche Imaculado Coração de Maria* [Immaculate Heart of Mary Day Care Association], which she founded to help and house these children.

Maria de Lourdes changed the lives of many people with this action. **Roselita Vitor da Silva** is one of them. From the state of Ceará, northeast of Brazil, when she arrived in the city of São Paulo as a newly-wed she turned to Aunt Lourdes for help. She brought up her only son in the daycare and today she helps other mothers by working in the Association.

Currently, Roselita is who takes part in the meetings held by the Legion of Good Will through its *Solidary Society Network* program. *"We receive this support from the LBV as well as courses on how to qualify, put together, and run an association . . . This is fantastic!"* she said.

Vivian R. Ferreira



Aunt Lourdes in the Jardim Princesa district, where she develops her work with the community through the *Associação Creche Imaculado Coração de Maria*.



Vivian R. Ferreira



Brazil

“As a social entity we draw back sometimes, because we feel very alone. It’s very good to receive this support from the LBV, to have this friendly and comforting arm to lean on, someone who speaks the same language.”

ROSELITA VITOR DA SILVA (R)

She helps Aunt Lourdes run the day care centers of the Association located in the north side of São Paulo city.

**LAMBARÉ, PARAGUAY:
“WITH THE LBV I LEARNED
TO SUCCEED AS A WOMAN.”**

In the Villa Angélica settlement in Lambaré, Paraguay, anyone looking for assistance seeks out **Elsa Raquel Morel Callante** and the LBV. Six years ago the community leader managed to get several improvements for the location, among which electricity, running water, and one of the streets is now asphalted.

Mother of ten children, Elsa lost one of them at birth and another when he was four years old, hit by a stray bullet. Despite her domestic chores, she alternates between looking after her own children and her recycling work, with which she manages to help her husband financially at home. She also actively looks for solutions to the problems of her community.

Four years ago the LBV became part of Elsa’s life and of her community, in which she is a leader. *“From then on we achieved a lot; we matured as people, as women; our self-esteem improved; we learned how to get along better with our neighbors, with other women; we benefit a*

LBV’s Solidary Society Network

FOCUS ON WOMEN



WHAT IT IS Consulting services for civil society associations and institutions. With this initiative the Legion of Good Will helps in a multi-stakeholder way so that associations and its partner organizations can work more and better on behalf of the communities where they are located.



HOW Professionals from the LBV provide guidance for social managers on social development policies and train them on how to use public and/or private resources on behalf of the communities themselves.

PRIORITY



of the target public assisted by the organizations involved with this program are women.



of the number of organizations registered are led by women.



Paraguay

lot from the LBV, not only the women, but the children too,” she stressed. Comprised of approximately 140 families, which have in all more than 300 girls and boys, the settlement receives food baskets every month from the LBV. The Organization is also constantly carrying out social and educational programs and campaigns aimed at discussing preventive measures and raising awareness concerning health issues.

Elsa recently concluded a secretarial

course and even increased her family income by selling items she made with handcraft techniques she learned in the LBV’s Strengthening Lives group. The Organization’s initiative has been of benefit not only to Elsa, but also to other mothers in the community. *“Thanks to everything we learned in the group, we grew. Some of the products we produced we’ve already sold and this gives us an income. We work at home and so we can look after our children,”* she said. ●

In the Villa Angélica settlement in Lambaré, Paraguay, (1) Elsa Raquel gives a talk during an activity and is (2) surrounded by her children at home.

“THE LBV TEACHES YOU HOW TO FISH.”

“The LBV helps us keep this work going in the community. If it wasn’t for it I wouldn’t be here today. The LBV teaches you how to fish. Paiva Netto is a father to us; he’s someone who’s helped us and the associations should thank him a lot for this support. How many times have I come in here thinking to myself: ‘How am I going to manage?’ The meeting of the *Solidary Society Network* program helped me look for the solution. If it wasn’t for this I’d never receive as many donations as I receive, in addition to the LBV itself giving us donations. So I can only be grateful.”



Divulgation

MARIA DA GLÓRIA JULIÃO

President of the Leão de Judá Association, located in the Vila Sílvia district in the east side of São Paulo city.

Adaptation and Assistance

Women face up to the differences of a new culture with the help of the **LBV**

JANINE MARTINS

According to a 2014 survey by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)—one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations—, around 28.5 million Latin Americans and people from the Caribbean live outside their country of origin. The report also points out that the presence of women in this group has increased. Other studies show that, starting in the 1980s, there has been a significant change in the profile of migration, because not only have married women started moving with their families from one region to another, but also unmarried and young women have started leaving their homeland in search of better living and working conditions.

It is in this context that many of them end up assuming the role of breadwinners in order to

overcome social and economic hardships. To help these working women in the assistance process and provide them with opportunities in the new society in which they find themselves, the Legion of Good Will offers support in different ways. Read about the story of two women who left their country and counted on the LBV to overcome their challenges.

SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS

In 2005, at the age of 15, **Soledad Encinas** left La Paz, Bolivia, to join her mother who had been living for eight years in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Despite the common language [Spanish], adapting to the new country was challenging for her. *“I wasn’t comfortable. I didn’t feel good, because*

“Ever since I arrived [in this country], I’d never made any friends, and in the LBV I felt good, part of something. . . . [The assistance provided by the Jesus Nursery School is] good because it’s not just for the children, but for the whole family.”

SOLEDAD ENCINAS



Argentina



Carlos César Silva



Bolivian Soledad Encinas, 25, and her children Agustín (L), Maximiliano, and Valentina, who attend the Jesus Nursery School in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



School of the LBV of Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Argentina

Photos: Archive GW



LBV CONTRIBUTES TO UN DEBATE ON THE MIGRANT CRISIS

The Legion of Good Will, in partnership with the NGO Committee on Education, organized a panel discussion on the theme “Education for the Sustainable Inclusion of Displaced Populations,” on February 11. The event comprised the official agenda of the 54th session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development.

(1) The representative of the LBV at the UN, Danilo Parmegiani, presents excerpt taken from the book “*É Urgente Re-educar!*” [It is Urgent to Reeducate!] by the writer Paiva Netto.

(2) Psychologist and psychoanalyst Joseph DeMeyer, Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on Education and representative of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), talked during the panel discussion as well. Read full report at <http://goo.gl/1DBc7b>.

→ people were different. The food, the culture, everything was different,” she said.

A few years later Soledad started a family of her own, and the difficulties of motherhood were added to the ones she faced culturally. As a mother of five and with serious financial problems, she saw a change in the course of her life when she found the support she needed in the Jesus Nursery School, which is run by the LBV of Argentina.

The insecurity of leaving her children with someone who is not a family member in order to go to work ended when her oldest daughter was enrolled in the LBV’s school. In addition to providing good education, the Organization became a safe haven on the most critical days. “Sometimes I had no food and the LBV helped me,” she pointed out.

Feeling more at ease, she began participating in the Organization’s social programs in which she gained the respect and affection she so much desired. “We get together with other mothers. We talk about our stories and how we feel at that moment. That was when I felt comfortable for the first time. Ever since I arrived [in this country], I’d never made any friends, and in the LBV I felt good, part of something,” she said.

At 25, Soledad sees the horizon opening up for her professionally. After having recently concluded the Customer Service course offered by the LBV through its *Education in Action* program she started living life in a more positive way. “Since last year I’ve had a different mien. Before I used to have a crestfallen look on my face and now I’m aiming for the future.”

With regard to the help she receives from the Jesus Nursery School, she commented: “It’s good because it’s not just for the children, but for the whole family. It’s a relief to know that your children are in good hands.”

FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER

The daughter of a tailor and seamstress, **Melvi Janete Callizaya Conde** is the oldest of four children and was born in La Paz, Bolivia. In April 1998, her family—which at the time comprised Melvi, her sister, and her parents—landed in Brazil and settled in São Paulo. Melvi had learned to read and write in Bolivia and when she was 7 she moved to Brazil, where her two other siblings were born.

She studied for a short time in schools in São Paulo and a little while later enrolled



Vivian R. Ferreira



Brazil

in the Good Will Educational Complex, whose motto is *“Here we study. Brain and Heart are formed.”* There the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy are applied (read more on page 42), which comprise the pioneering educational proposal created by the President of the Legion of Good Will, educator Paiva Netto. On that change of scenario, she stressed, *“In other schools where I studied before coming to the LBV I felt the difference because I was a foreigner; but here I didn’t feel that. It was more welcoming.”*

One of the fundamental aspects of the LBV’s teaching proposal is to work on the student’s individuality, and this was essential for the young girl, who did her elementary and secondary school education in the establishment. *“My teachers made all the difference, because they perceived our difficulty; so they were more patient,”* she mentioned. She also found in her former teachers the inspiration to follow the career she chose. She has a BS in Mathematics and is starting a degree in Spanish. She is currently a teacher and today notices how the education she received is positively reflected in her work. *“You can make a difference and we see*

“The teachers, employees, students, in short, everybody at the LBV’s school has a lot of affection for us. I end up reproducing this same love in my job and with my siblings. This makes a big difference.”

MELVI CONDE

She is a former student of the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo, Brazil. She is also a teacher and part of the first generation of her family, who migrated from Bolivia to Brazil, to go to college. She is already taking her second undergraduate course and dreams about becoming a college professor. Two of her three siblings are still studying in the aforementioned LBV’s school.

the result in the students—whether they like you or not, if your lessons are working or not,” she commented.

Melvi’s family did not approve of her investing in a profession in education at first, but now her parents are proud of her choice. *“When my father said, ‘My daughter is a teacher,’ I felt completely accomplished. And there’s also the recognition I get from the students,”* she admitted with joy.

At 24, diligent Melvi is planning to fly even higher. *“My dream is to become a college professor.”*

TIME FOR A NEW BEGINNING

LBV's programs help strengthen the protection of women

GIOVANNA PINHEIRO

Ending gender-based violence is one of the major challenges on the global agenda for the upcoming years. In 2013, a study presented by the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that 35 percent of women have been victims, at least once in a lifetime, of violence caused by their intimate partners, family members, acquaintances, or strangers.

That is why the Legion of Good Will works to fight this condemnable practice and to strengthen the protection of women. The LBV also promotes awareness campaigns and social mobility initiatives regarding this issue. LBV professionals—consisted of a multidisciplinary team—assist women who have suffered any kind of assault through psychological assistance or referral to specialized facilities, when necessary.

DEFEATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Living on the street is a reality for many women.

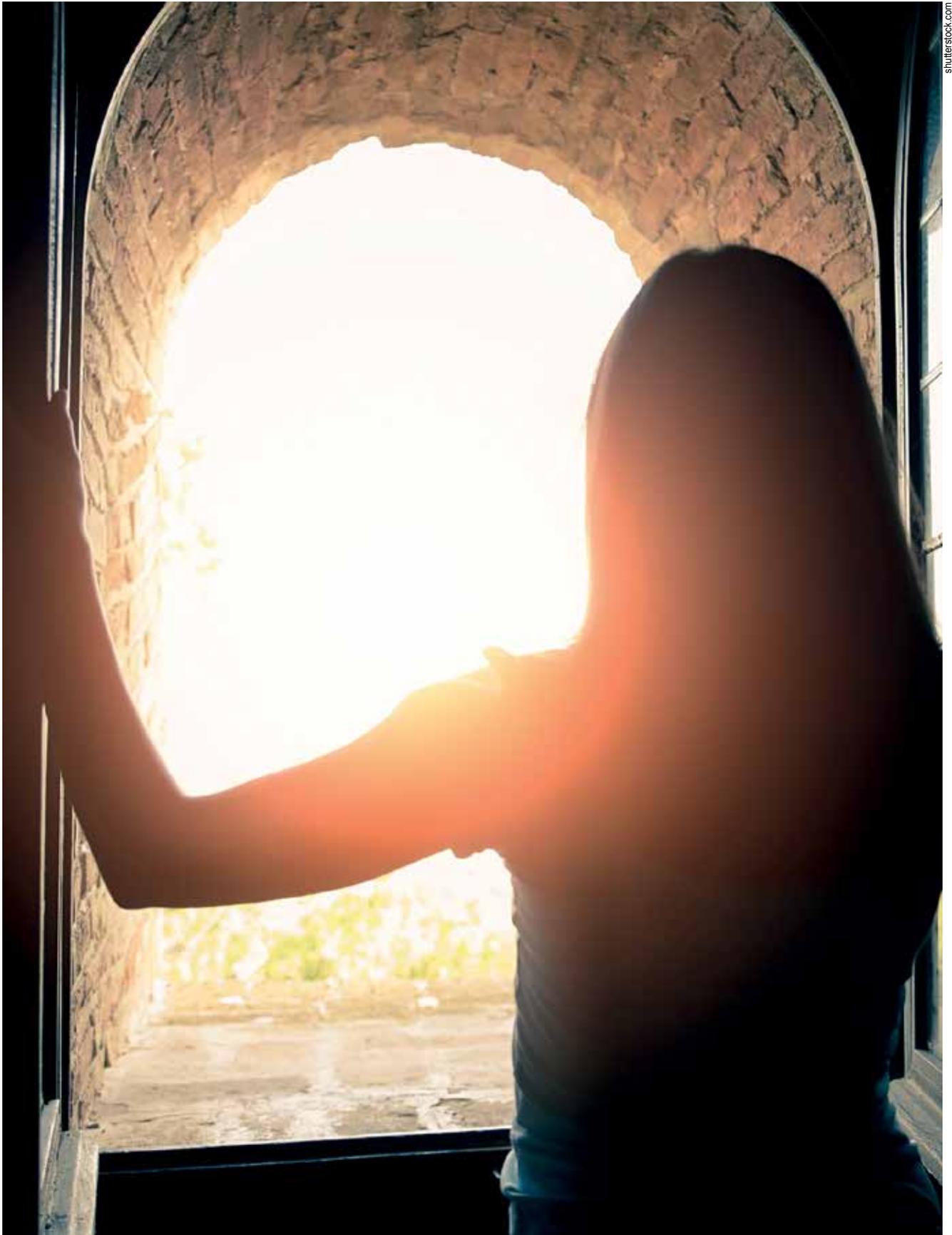
This is exactly what **Guadalupe***—who lives in Montevideo, Uruguay—went through. She met her husband in 2006, and married him three years later. After her son **Luiz*** was born she had to quit her job in order to take care of the baby and her home. That was when the violence began; first, it was psychological, not to mention the indifference her husband felt towards Luiz.

Later on, after her partner started taking drugs, the situation worsened and Guadalupe's physical integrity was threatened: *"He forced me to have sex with him, then he would hit me in the head with a heavy object. . . Besides that, he turned my home into a place for women, drugs, and alcohol."*

To avoid experiencing more embarrassment and pain, the mother ran away from her own home with her son and because she was in dire financial straits, she ended up living on the streets with Luiz for four months. She is a fighter and soon got a job opportunity and found the helping hand of the LBV



* Fictitious names to protect the victims' identity

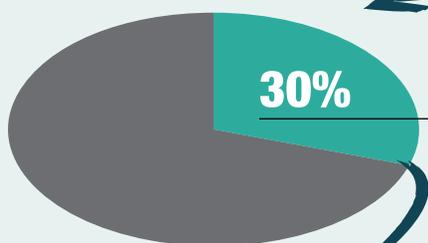
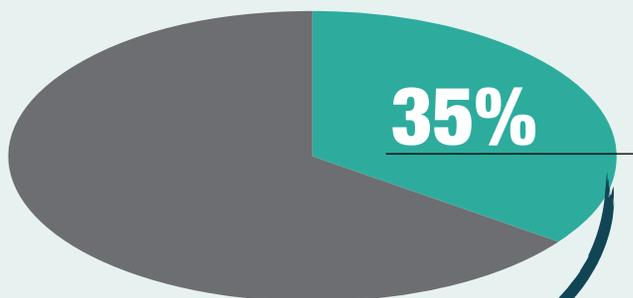


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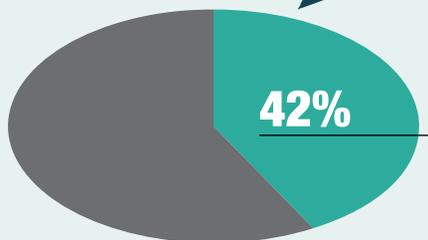
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FIGURES

A study carried out by WHO*, in partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the South African Medical Research Council, analyzed the prevalence of physical and sexual violence committed by intimate and non-intimate partners (family members, friends, acquaintances, and strangers) against women, and the effects of the violence on their health. Among other data, the work revealed that:

Around 35% of women worldwide have experienced domestic violence or violence outside the family environment at some point in their life.



30% of women who have been in a relationship have experienced an intimate partner violence.



Of the women that have suffered physical and/or sexual violence from their partners, 42% presented some kind of injuries, be it broken bones, pregnancy complications, and even mental disorder.

*Data from the 2013 report “Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.”

→ of Uruguay that gave the boy a chance to study at the José de Paiva Netto Educational and Cultural Institute. Therefore, she was able to find some peace of mind while she worked to provide for her family.

Guadalupe is a completely different person today. She says that she once again believes in better days. *“Now, my 5-year-old son and I are happy. We have a new life. I’m doing well at work—I’m in the armed forces—and my son is well taken care of at the LBV’s school. I’m very happy to see that he is so happy and that our past is just that: the past.”*

GENDER INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION

Although the illiteracy rate in Bolivia has decreased, the problem still has the face of women. Three out of every 100 people are illiterate in the country and out of those, two are women. This is a consequence of exclusion and gender inequality. **Amalia Apaza**, 30, mother of two, is one of them.



Uruguay

“Now, my 5-year-old son and I are happy. We have a new life. I’m doing well at work—I’m in the armed forces—and my son is well taken care of at the LBV’s school. I’m very happy to see that he is so happy and that our past is just that: the past.”

GUADALUPE

Born in the community of Humanata, in the province of Camacho, to a large family, she says that her parents used to say that studying was “only for men.” To them, explains Amalia, “women must only learn to do housework.”

At 16, she moved to La Paz, capital of Bolivia, and was overwhelmed by even more competitive social environments. “In my first jobs as a kitchen assistant, I suffered ill-treatment at the hands of my employers because of my lack of experience and, moreover, because I was very shy since I didn’t know how to read and write,” she recalls.

Humiliation continued even as a married woman. “My husband said that I wasn’t good for anything, that I didn’t help paying the bills, and that all I did was ask for money,” she said.

The tragic psychological violence cycle was interrupted in 2014, when Amalia, living in the Buena Vista settlement, in the city of El Alto (approximately ten kilometers from the country’s capital), learned of a group of youth and adult women attending literacy and technical training courses, at the location’s social service center, run by the Legion of Good Will.

“Little by little I learned different [knitting and crocheting] stitches and how to make a layette, and one day a woman saw my work and said that if I wanted she could take my products to her store and sell them. From then on, I’ve been selling my work, I always have orders,” she highlights.

The autonomy she gained also changed things at home: “My partner no longer humiliates me, and now I am able to help out at home financially. I learned to value myself as a woman, mother, and I do my best so my children don’t suffer what I did. I’m grateful to the LBV for the free courses, for this opportunity to learn, and thus improve our lives.”

Amalia Apaza (first on the left) receives the certificate of technical training by the LBV.



Leandro Nunes

TEN YEARS OF PROGRESS

In 2016 Law 11.340/06, also known as the Maria da Penha Law—in a tribute to biopharmacist **Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes**—, will complete 10 years. On February 19, children assisted by the LBV in Fortaleza, Brazil, congratulated the woman who inspired the new piece of legislation that combats and prevents gender-based violence in the country. “[I’m] happy, because I know that you’re working on the issue of violence against women and teaching about this law to children. We tend to reproduce what we’ve been taught, the good things we’ve learned. The LBV is working in this direction. I feel truly honored to have my cause advocated through your actions. I’m very grateful to Paiva Netto for the work he’s been doing with children regarding education and citizenship. I’d like to thank him for divulging the Maria da Penha Law and for his commitment to implementing it,” the Brazilian activist stressed.



Archive GW



Bolivia



Vivian R. Ferreira

SCHOOL of My Life

How studying in the **LBV** boosted my skills
to fight for female leadership

REGINA DO NASCIMENTO SILVA

A young woman from Minas Gerais, Brazil; for some people she is brown, but for me she is black. She is the daughter of parents who spent their childhood working on the land and never even finished elementary school, but who have a diploma in honor and in spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values. This is my story. Today when I recall my journey so far I see how important it was to have studied in the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo (Brazil).

What I learned in this school made me grow spiritually, humanely, and professionally.

At school, we were always encouraged to look at the social problems around us—some of them even in our own homes—in a critical, but also sensitive way, which awoke in us the will to build a better world. In high school, we visited the Lidiane community in the Limão district of São Paulo, where with the support of professionals and volunteers from the Legion of

Good Will, we participated in recreational activities with the children and teenagers, while their mothers and other family members were being assisted by the Organization's social programs.

This experience not only served to wake us up to the harsh reality and make us perceive the suffering and ills of life, but also enabled us to see the potential of those people and learn that there are human lights to be found in all social classes. We are all equal. It is only the opportunities we are given that differentiate us.

The extracurricular content offered by the LBV's schools expands the students' critical thinking and sense of humanity and goes far beyond the topics that are usually worked with in an expensive textbook-based system. They are part of a consistent teaching project that knows exactly what needs to be presented to individuals to help them achieve the result that is expected of them as human beings.

But unfortunately, not everyone sees education in this way. It is commonly thought that the instilling of ethical values in children and teenagers should

be exclusively the responsibility of their parents or guardians. In fact, the whole of society educates, because no individual lives cloistered in a purely educational family environment. All human beings are part of the world and they end up interacting with different people and/or realities.

Aware of this I can safely say that the whole team of professionals and educators from the Legion of Good Will, which is engaged in applying the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy*, contributed towards making me the person I am today, and helped me understand that I am in constant development. This education gave me the courage to face up to my problems and challenges in life and equipped me with the knowledge I needed to be successful in different exams, among them the one that enabled me to enter higher education. I graduated as a teacher from a renowned university to which I won a full scholarship, got excellent grades, concluded my scientific research project, and published my first article.



Vivian R. Ferreira

Regina do Nascimento Silva, 29, a former student of the Good Will Educational Complex, has a degree in Education from Mackenzie Presbyterian University, and a postgraduate degree in Language of the Arts from the Maria Antonia University Center of the University of São Paulo (USP).

*** Pedagogy of Affection and Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy** — They comprise the educational method created by the President of the LBV, educator Paiva Netto, and are successfully applied in the Organization's units (Read more on page 42).

Clayton Ferreira





Vivian R. Ferreira

The LBV then opened another door to me: the door to the world of work. I am delighted to be part of the immense group of people who everyday applies the social and educational method of this Organization, which is one of the biggest humanitarian movements on the planet.

At first, I worked as a teacher's aide, carrying out recreational, artistic, cultural, and logical reasoning activities, by teaching children how to play chess and other board games. Sometime later, having had incredible experiences and learned a lot from the children and young people assisted by the LBV, I took over the teaching supervision of the work carried out by other educators who deal with the public in the social programs. During this period, I went into social assistance activities in more depth and worked with community leaders by way of the LBV's assistance and rights' defense and guarantee program: the *Solidary Society Network*. By offering access to knowledge, this initiative empowers simple people,

who distinguish themselves for being more sensitive to the lack of resources in their neighborhoods and by mobilizing various people from government, the private sector, and the community itself to search for improvements in the quality of life of the population. Most of the time, these people are women who have had inspiring stories of struggle and difficulty since their youth, but who overcame their own suffering by alleviating the pain of others. This is work for which I was undoubtedly born to do, because in addition to all the technical preparation I sought and acquired, I identify myself a lot with this activity and with each of the women who take part in this program.

I wish all Humanity knew how to look after children and teenagers and effectively build a **solidary knowledge**, which is the sum of cognitive potential with spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values. As the LBV's teaching proposal states, we are complete beings, that is, we are "*Brain and Heart*," in the words of educator Paiva Netto. ●



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