



In his article **"Women Citizens,"** Paiva Netto highlights: "It is urgent to strengthen an ecumenism that crosses barriers, appeases hatred, promotes an exchange of experience that instigates global creativity, corroborating the value of social and humanitarian cooperation among partnerships." (Read the full article on page 4)



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# GOOD WILL

## Women



ELEVACÃO



### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**María Fernanda Espinosa**, first woman from Latin America to become president of the UN General Assembly, talks about gender equality in the world.

In São Paulo (Brazil) hundreds of community leaders are trained by the LGW. One of them is Elza Alves (left), next to the LGW's social worker Idália Pereira.



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Legion of Good Will  
Legião da Boa Vontade

69 years

The **Legion of Good Will** presents its recommendations of good practices to the participants at the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, from March 11 to 22, 2019. The LGW is a Brazilian civil society organization in general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1999.

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encouraging the debate on relevant  
Brazilian and world issues in  
addition to reflecting on trends of  
contemporary thinking.



4



16



30



36

#### 4 **Paiva Netto's Message**

Women Citizens

#### 10 **Interview**

María Fernanda Espinosa: "It's Time  
to Move Forward!"

#### 16 **LGW's Recommendations**

Women Who Move the World

#### 30 **Opinion — Education** by Sueli Periotto

Educating to Promote Equality

#### 36 **Social Technologies**

We Need More Women in Science

#### 44 **For the End of Violence**

Safety for Women

#### 52 **Female Leadership**

Moving Forward Towards a Better Society

#### 57 **LGW's Youth Opinion**

Raising Awareness Through Art

SUSTAINABLE AGENDA

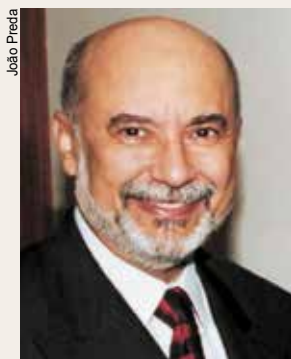
# WOMEN CITIZENS

Never has it been so indispensable as now to unite efforts in the struggle against hunger and for the preservation of life on the planet.





**LGW OF ARGENTINA AND  
A SPECIAL SUPPORT ON  
CHRISTMAS IN 2018**  
Julia Menania Ríos, 75,  
helped by the *Family  
Assistance* program and  
one of the beneficiaries of  
the food baskets that the  
LGW distributed, receives  
the affection from volunteer  
Cristina da Silva.



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 (LGW), 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, in his words, 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 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which the United Nations (UN) is holding in 2019, makes us ponder even more on how the future of the world depends essentially on the attention and the magnanimity of women. This year's priority theme of this notable meeting is “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.”

First, I would like to greet all the international delegations, authorities, and participants who are discussing these important issues in New York (USA) and wish them a successful event. Topics that guarantee respect for human rights are fundamental when it comes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Quite appropriate for this article, I share with all of you what I wrote in the 2012 GOOD WILL Women magazine that was forwarded to the CSW56: Women are the foundation stone of the greatest and most fruitful transformations. We have extraordinary examples in every country, from those women who are under the spotlight to the simplest ones, beginning with the humblest of mothers. Here I take the opportunity to exalt the greatness of a confectioner from the hinterland of the Brazilian state of Goiás

and eminent poetess **Cora Coralina** (1889-1985). With only primary education, she published her first book at the age of 75. Cora once said:

*“Happy is the person who transfers what he knows and learns what he teaches.”*

It is the talent of well-educated and spiritualized people that transforms poverty into wealth! The wealth of a country lies first in the solidary heart and in the enlightened conscience of its people. Creative capacity is born of these aspects. It applies to all nations.

A long time ago **Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790) stated that:

*“True wisdom consists of promoting humanity's well-being.”*

## MUCH CAN BE LEARNED FROM OTHERS

As I affirmed in 1981 to the Italo-Brazilian journalist **Paulo Rappuccio Parisi** (1921-2016) and published in the *Globalization of Fraternal Love\** magazine, never has it been so indispensable as now to unite efforts in the struggle against hunger and for the preservation of life on the planet. It is imperative to take advantage of the endeavor

Reproduction GW



Cora Coralina

Reproduction GW



Benjamin Franklin

Vivian R. Ferreira



Paulo Parisi





Valentina  
Tereshkova,  
Russian  
cosmonaut.



Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia)

of everyone, ecologists and their detractors, as well as workers, entrepreneurs, media professionals (written, spoken, televised, and now I also include the Internet), union leaders, politicians, armed forces, lawyers, scientists, religious people, skeptics, atheists, philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists, artists, actors, sportspeople, teachers, professors, doctors, students or not (though our desire is that everyone receives schooling), housewives, heads of households, barbers and hairdressers, manicurists, taxi drivers, street cleaners, among other segments of society. And this represents a higher spirit of Social Charity.

The first woman to go to space (1963), Russian cosmonaut **Valentina Tereshkova**, summarized in one phrase much about the seriousness of the situation we are facing with regard to the problem of global warming:

*“Once you’ve been in space, you appreciate how small and fragile the Earth is.”*

The subject has become dramatic; and its prospects, tragic. For the same reason, it

is urgent to strengthen an ecumenism that crosses barriers, appeases hatred, promotes an exchange of experience that instigates global creativity, corroborating the value of social and humanitarian cooperation among partnerships as, for example, in popular cooperatives in which women play a key role, **highlighting the fact that they are completely against waste. There is a lot to learn from each other.** The opposite of that is undoubtedly the path of violence, brutality, wars, which have invaded homes around the globe. **Alziro Zarur** (1914-1979), late founder of the Legion of Good Will, used to emphasize that battles in the name of Goodness require bravery. **Simone de Beauvoir** (1908-1986), French writer, philosopher, and feminist, got it right when she stated that:

*“All success cloaks a surrender.”*

**Summarizing:** Every time we overcome arrogance and prejudice, there shall always be something fair and good to assimilate from the components of this great “**Noah’s Ark**,” which is the globalized world today. That is the reason



Simone de Beauvoir



Alziro Zarur

\* **Globalization of Fraternal Love** — Magazine presented by the Legion of Good Will to Heads of State, high commissioners, private sector, and civil society representatives from more than 100 countries gathered at the UN for the 2007 High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in which the LGW has general consultative status. The event took place at the Palais des Nations, office of the organization in Geneva (Switzerland), from July 2 to 5.

Trying to make human beings compatible by way of their condemnable attitudes is complete suicide. Conciliation has to come from above: by its eternal virtues and qualities. A country progresses in direct proportion to the talent and the pertinacity of its children.

why we recommend the union of all people for the good of all, since we share a single home: the Earth. The abuses of its inhabitants have been demanding an imperative measure: either we seek integration or we will head towards disintegration. . . . That is why we should strategically work in partnerships that promote effective prosperity for the popular masses.

Our times require that we develop, without delay, a true awareness of the social problems **that need an urgent solution**. It never is nor was it ever just enough to roll up the car's window. The need for reform is knocking at our door. Let us implement it before the traumatic processes of society demand that measures be taken. Then, in addition to our rings, we will also lose our fingers. History is full of examples.

In an impromptu speech I gave in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on June 20, 1987, in the Total Ecumenism auditorium, which was located in the former headquarters of the LGW, I once again pointed out that one does not build a better country and ensure people are happier by listing their faults, but by correcting them and catalyzing their accomplishments. Trying to make human beings compatible by way of their condemnable attitudes is complete suicide. **Conciliation has to come from above: by its eternal virtues and qualities.** A country progresses in direct proportion to the talent and the pertinacity of its children. . . . The same occurs on a planetary scale.

### PRAYER, WORK, AND PEACE

Taking into account the little time we actually dedicate to prayer or to moments of meditation and introspection—for those who do not believe in the existence of God—I conclude this article by sharing a simple example with everyone:

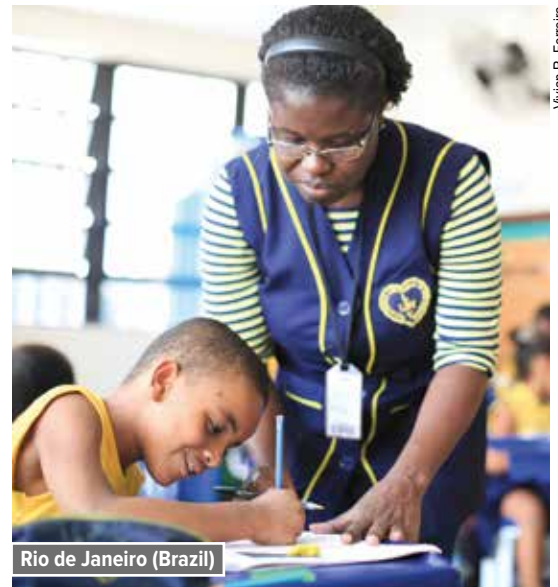
Ever since he was very young, whenever my youngest son—today a teenager—utters a brief prayer at the table before meals with our family and friends, he moves everyone with a simple mantra that could sum up great compendiums

Vânia Bandeira



Nossa Senhora da Glória (Brazil)

Vivian R. Ferreira



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



of wisdom, one that shares Solidarity without borders of any kind. The young boy exclaims:

*“God, I ask You, let there be no lack of food on anyone’s plate, including ours!”*

In the challenging moments the world is going through, I consider it very worthwhile to call on a Higher Power in a similar prayer: Let there be no lack of decent means of earning a living for any hard-working woman, for any dedicated worker, nor for any member of our family! Amen!

Let us make this plea together, but in the active hope that this *“so be it”* will find the right measures that meet the urgent needs of populations in the plans of the world’s governments.

Well-employed human beings who are duly valued for their efforts are a guarantee of Peace and sustainable progress for all. **Jesus**, Whom I consider to be the Heavenly Administrator of spiritual and human beings, was pragmatic when He stated in His Gospel according to **Luke** 10:7:

*“For the worker deserves his/her wages.”*

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*Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (1872), by Carl Bloch (1834-1890).*



Thiago Mendes



Vivian R. Ferreira

# “IT’S TIME TO MOVE FORWARD!”

The president of the UN General Assembly believes the world is living a new moment that can accelerate actions towards achieving gender equality

**T**he President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Ecuadorian diplomat **María Fernanda Espinosa**, does not conceal how proud she is to be only the fourth woman to hold this position and the first from Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms. Espinosa, who is a geographer, poet, and politician, is aware of the responsibility she bears of being the head of the main deliberative body of the United Nations. That is why she stresses that her wish is to make this year of work—which ends in September 2019—a very dynamic and productive one. For her, one of the goals of her administration is to bring the UN closer to the people.

In an exclusive interview with this magazine, in New York (USA), Ms. Espinosa emphasized the need to strengthen multilateralism in the international organization as a more effective way of solving global problems. She also touched on the importance of ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women. Here are some excerpts from this important interview.

**GOOD WILL — You’re the first Latin American woman to become president of the General Assembly. How significant is this achievement in terms of your career?**

**María Espinosa** — It has been a unique moment in my career and in my public life. I dedicated my election to girls and women, especially those in politics. I believe that female participation in decision-making, at the negotiating table in local and central parliaments, is fundamental to development, to peace and security, and to human rights, which are the three pillars of the UN system. Women have a contribution to make, and they need to be heard. It has already been proved that when they’re involved in decision-making processes, the chance of success is higher. . . . Therefore, I shared this achievement with other women, because I understand it to be an achievement for them as well. We’re half the global population and we cannot be ignored.







In 2013, as Minister of National Defense, María Fernanda Espinosa established a pioneering gender policy in the Armed Forces of Ecuador that aims to prevent any type of discrimination and to provide equal opportunities for men and women in the military.



### GW — Does the fight for women's empowerment also include the 2030 Agenda?

**María Espinosa** — The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will not succeed without the contribution of women. As soon as I took office, I summoned ambassadors from every region in the world to help me implement the work program of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly—in which seven priorities were determined—and I took into careful consideration the importance of gender equity and geographical balance in this process. In my own staff, 60 percent [of the members] are women. This diversity counts for a lot.

**“The promotion of women's rights must be seen as the promotion of human rights in its entirety.”**

### GW — Which topics will be prioritized during your presidency?

**María Espinosa** — When I announced my candidacy, I began extensive consultations and discussions with the UN Member States to find out how we could make a more inclusive presidency that would really meet the needs of the peoples represented at the United Nations. Based on that feedback,

I began to put together a program with the help of the permanent representatives and others I consulted with. I've always imagined a General Assembly that brought the UN closer to the people and the people closer to the UN. I'm a poet and a linguist. Words have a special value for me; they have real meaning. And my proposal is to match rhetoric with reality. Every action must have a reason for existing and must make a difference to those who need the results produced by the United Nations.

That's when we came up with the theme of the meeting, “Making the United Nations relevant to all people: global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies.” Based on this extensive consultation with the diplomatic community, we determined seven priorities. Why seven? Because seven are the days of the week. It's one [priority] for each day, symbolizing our daily work. They are: gender equality; migration and refugees; decent work; environmental action; persons with disabilities; youth, peace and security; and revitalization of the UN.

### GW — What actions are planned in light of these priorities?

**María Espinosa** — Several events addressing these priorities will take place throughout the year. On March 12, for example, I'm summoning the 20 female Heads of State and Government who exist in the world to attend a high-level event [the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), to be held in New York], in which we'll discuss a concrete plan of action to





1



2



3

(1) Foreign Minister of Ecuador María Fernanda Espinosa is sworn in as President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 18, 2018, at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. (2) On that occasion, the Slovakian Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly, handed over to Ms. Espinosa the gavel used in the General Assembly's sessions. (3) She receives the greetings of António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

give women greater autonomy and promote gender equality. On April 27, we'll have a major concert for the launch of the global campaign against plastic pollution, and on April 10, in New York, we'll be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in order to address the issue of decent work, which is so crucial to the 2030 Agenda, and to debate the job of the future with the private sector, academia, and civil society. We'll discuss how the General Assembly and its Member States can help achieve the goal of creating 600 million new jobs by 2030. We'll also talk about our other priority: the youth, who have a key role to play, because most of these jobs are for them.

### GW — How can diplomacy contribute to the empowerment of women?

**María Espinosa** — We're trying to build a strong alliance to [promote] gender equality, which we hope will last even after I leave [office]. Here at the UN, we have the International Gender Champions, a group that is led by the Swiss ambassador **Jürg Lauber** and whose aim is to promote

**"I've always imagined a General Assembly that brought the UN closer to the people and the people closer to the UN."**

**MARÍA FERNANDA ESPINOSA**

**MAKING  
THE UNITED  
NATIONS  
RELEVANT TO  
ALL PEOPLE**



Decent  
Work



Youth, Peace  
and Security



Migration  
and Refugees



Gender  
Equality



Persons  
with Disabilities



Environmental  
Action



Revitalization  
of the UN



Ms. Espinosa in a meeting with the International Gender Champions group, which is led by Ambassador Jürg Lauber (highlighted on the left), Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations.

greater female participation in decision-making processes and to give women greater power. The response of the male ambassadors has been very positive. At the event we held in January with gender specialists—and in this one with a group of women only who are prominent in their areas and are from all continents—we noticed there was a lot of interest from the ambassadors here in New York. This is a new moment as the world is beginning to realize that there's no going back on the issue of gender equality. It's time to move forward and reap the rewards of the inclusion of women, who account for half the global population. I was an ambassador to the UN here in New York and in Geneva 10 years ago and I can assure you that there's now more support and enthusiasm [for this matter]. The Secretary-General himself, **António Guterres**, has been a champion of gender equality. In less than a year, he's managed to achieve gender parity in the top leadership in his office, something previously unheard of in the history of the UN. We're on the right track, but there's still a long way to go, especially with regard to the pay gap between men and women who have the same job. And this is not a characteristic of this

or that particular region in the world. It's a challenge for all countries. We also have the serious problem of violence against women and girls, which crosses borders and social classes.

**GW — In its schools, the LGW offers an education that combines “*brain and heart*,” so that learning is not confined to students’ reasoning, but also strengthens their feelings and emotions by encouraging them to exercise Global Citizenship. Do you believe that an education that favors a Culture of Peace can put an end to gender-based violence?**

**María Espinosa** — The [LGW's] work is commendable. It's really the heart of the matter. Changing hearts and minds, offering an education that unites Soul and brain is an example that we can form a generation that is less prejudiced and more solidary and respectful of differences. It shows we can promote citizenship and [foster] an understanding that the respect for human rights, for a Culture of Peace, and friendship among people, makes a positive difference to entire societies and countries.





UN Photo/Ariana Lindquist


**President-elect of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, María Fernanda Espinosa participated in a press conference at the United Nations Headquarters on October 1, 2018. On that occasion, she outlined her priorities in the presidency of the deliberative body. On her right, her spokeswoman, the Brazilian journalist Monica Grayley.**

### **GW — How can we make educational content and practices more sensitive to gender issues?**

**María Espinosa** — I advocate a broad, inclusive debate on this topic wherever necessary. The promotion of women’s rights must be seen as the promotion of human rights in its entirety. A woman in politics today suffers from prejudice most of the time; she’s treated differently and is held accountable differently just because she’s a woman. She is judged on what she wears, how she speaks, the vocabulary she uses, her hairstyle, everything is a reason for scrutiny. I myself have faced—and still face—prejudice because of the choice I made to become a politician. I’m a geographer, I gave up the academic life for politics and I have no qualms about saying so. I’m a politician who’s convinced I made the right choice. In my own country, I was Minister of Foreign Affairs twice and also Minister of National Defense, an area that’s mainly dominated by men, but in which women still need to make more inroads. In just a short time, I helped reformulate the architecture of our Ecuadorian defense policy. It wasn’t easy, but my team and I were successful in the end. Of course, all of this requires great sacrifice for the simple fact

that we’re women, but more and more women need to be willing to go that extra mile. Many of us end up not being able to put up with the pressure, but I’m an optimist by nature and I believe we must keep on insisting courageously and with determination. If we can make gender equality a priority for everyone, it’ll be easier to make it a reality. ■

**“The [LGW’s] work is commendable. It’s really the heart of the matter. Changing hearts and minds, offering an education that unites Soul and brain is an example that we can form a generation that is less prejudiced and more solidary and respectful of differences. It shows we can promote citizenship and [foster] an understanding that the respect for human rights, for a Culture of Peace, and friendship among people, makes a positive difference to entire societies and countries.”**



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The Good Will Educational Complex offers students an efficient virtual learning platform. Through this resource, they have access to video lessons, deadlines, instructions for school papers and homework, games, charts, forums, and chats to discuss the content taught.



# WOMEN WHO MOVE THE WORLD

Written statement by the **LGW** submitted to the UN and translated by the organization into its official languages



The document is available  
through the symbol  
E/CN.6/2019/NGO/105.

*Between March 11 and 22, 2019, the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) takes place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. This year's priority theme is "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls." In order to contribute to the debates at this important event, the Legion of Good Will presents its best practices in the areas of education and social assistance. Read below the full statement that was translated by the UN into its official languages.*

**H**ow can we build social protection systems that are gender-responsive without reinforcing gender stereotypes? This is the central issue of our statement to the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). We, from the Legião da Boa Vontade (LBV) / Legion of Good Will (LGW), present our experience in addressing concrete and cultural obstacles to women's empowerment, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable population.

We are a network of organizations located in Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), North America (United States), and Europe (Portugal) that operates in more than 100 cities. We support over 15 million services and benefits free of charge to low-income families through 96 educational and social service centers. Our Organization was founded in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on January 1, 1950 (World Peace and Universal Brotherhood Day), by the late radio broadcaster **Alziro Zarur** (1914-1979), and is presided over by **José de Paiva Netto**, a journalist, writer, and educator.

This statement is presented in four subheadings: "Links between social protection and gender equality;" "Provision of care services for families and children;" "Social assistance programs and empowerment of women;" and "Promotion of Ecumenical and Global Citizenship."

## LINKS BETWEEN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY

In September 2018, the UN Women convened in Glen Cove (New York State, USA) the Expert Group Meeting in preparation for this year's session and discussed the need to redesign social protection systems that do not meet the demands of the female population. After all, the "World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends

UN Photo/Mark Garten



1

Vivian R. Ferreira



São Paulo (Brazil)

## LGW'S MISSION STATEMENT

To promote Social, Solidary, 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 Global Citizen.





Marco Grob

2



UN Photo/Kim Haughton

3

#### IN THE FRONT LINE

The LGW acknowledges three distinguished names in the top leadership of the United Nations for their initiatives in favor of gender equality: UN Secretary-General, António Guterres (1); Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women (2); and Geraldine Byrne Nason, Chair of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women.



Vivian R. Ferreira

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



Leila Tonin

Brasília (Brazil)



Leila Tonin

Uberlândia (Brazil)

- 2015,” a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), revealed that even when there is economic growth in a country, gender inequality generally remains unchanged.

Brazil, where our largest operation is undertaken, has policies aimed at reducing the gender gap. The “Human Rights of Women” report, published by the UN in Brazil in July 2018, highlighted the fact that women have priority in the main national cash transfer and affordable housing programs. However, even if we consider the period when the Brazilian economy grew the most in the last decade, racial and gender inequality in the world of work persisted and strongly affected the female and black population.

What explains this paradox? Several academic studies in the country have pointed out that, even though the policies that have been adopted are necessary, they end up legitimizing the stereotypes that perpetuate this inequality. To a certain extent, they reinforce the idea that it is a woman’s role to care for children, the elderly, and people with disabilities in the family. This unpaid work impairs women’s insertion into the labor market on an equal footing with men.

This is why we emphasize the importance of the debate about the need to implement measures that benefit women who decide to dedicate themselves fully to the family, such as establishing pension systems that recognize this often “invisible” work that they carry out; combating discrimination in the workplace; guaranteeing fair payment for domestic workers; etc.

## PROVISION OF CARE SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

We consider the provision of family and child care services to be a priority. Our centers are dedicated to expanding them, thus encouraging women to lead a productive life.

We currently run nine schools that offer early childhood education to children living in poverty in South America, and we are building one in the United States. According to the “Education at a Glance 2018” report published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), although the investment in day care centers and kindergartens has increased in recent years in Latin America, it is still low when compared to more developed countries.

Brazil, for example, increased the amount spent in this area from 0.4 percent to 0.7 percent of its Gross Domestic



SCHOOLS







São Paulo (Brazil)

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, which comprise the educational proposal created by educator Paiva Netto and are successfully applied in the schools and social and educational programs of the Organization. In bold gold letters next to the facade, the LGW'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."*



Asunción (Paraguay)



Buenos Aires (Argentina)



Taguatinga (Brazil)



→ Product (GDP) between 2010 and 2015. Even so, among children aged 0-3 years old—who make up 20 percent of Brazilian households with the lowest income—one-third (33.9 percent) does not go to school because there are no places for them or there is no day care center close to their homes. In the 20 percent of households with the highest income, on the other hand, only 6.9 percent of the children are affected.

We also provide social assistance services and programs for children and adolescents at social risk in almost 70 cities in Brazil (according to UNICEF, 61 percent of the Brazilian population under the age of 18 live in poverty—a total of 32 million people). This ensures some peace of mind to thousands of mothers who are afraid of their children falling victims to grooming by criminal organizations. After all, only 15.3 percent of public school students study full-time, while **half** of the Brazilian population feels the presence of organized crime or criminal factions in their neighborhoods, according to a survey by the Brazilian Public Security Forum that was conducted by the Datafolha Institute in 2017.

The aging of the population is also a challenge. According to projections by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), in around two decades' time the elderly will make up a quarter of the Brazilian population and outnumber children and adolescents up to 14 years old. For this age group (women account for 55 percent) we have developed social assistance actions in 40 cities, with a particular focus on socialization and the strengthening of ties.

For the elderly who are unable to take care of themselves or who do not have a family member looking after them, we have three shelters in which they can live. There are also senior citizens who only attend these facilities during the day, while their relatives are at work. Most of the people who look after the sick or dependent elderly people in Brazil are generally elderly women who come from the same family and are not paid to do so.

It is worth mentioning that our work is almost entirely privately funded, with donations being collected through a well-established fundraising structure. Most of the donors, employees, and beneficiaries of the Organization are women. This has been a trait of the LGW for decades.

Along with the work carried out, we also face up, in the cultural field, to what our President, Paiva Netto, defines as “*the obstacles offered by a male chauvinist culture,*” which we do mainly through our social

→

Vivian R. Ferreira



Volta Redonda (Brazil)

Leila Tonin



Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)



## SHELTERS FOR THE ELDERLY

Leila Tonin



Uberlândia (Brazil)





# GOOD WILL IN THE WORLD

The data account for the work of the LGW of seven countries:



Argentina



Bolivia



Brazil



Paraguay



Portugal



United States



Uruguay

**15.5 million**

services and benefits in 2018

**474,749**

people benefited from the work of the LGW

## SERVICES AND BENEFITS PROVIDED IN BRAZIL AND ABROAD



**641,485**

Senior citizens



**1,010,234**

Young people and adults



**13,212,132**

Children and teenagers

## TYPES OF WORK



**6,116,664**

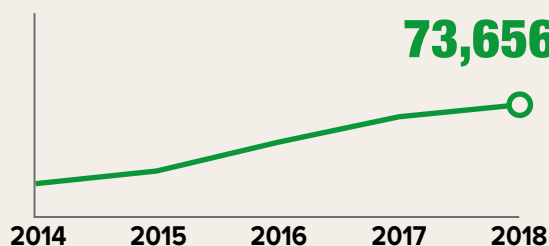
Basic education



**561,277**

Relief campaigns

## SERVICES AND BENEFITS FROM 2014 TO 2018



**82** centers in Brazil

**14** centers in 6 countries

In Brazil, for more than twenty years, the Legion of Good Will has its general balance audited by external independent auditors, by initiative of the LGW's President, José de Paiva Netto, long before the Brazilian legislation required this measure to come into effect.

- assistance programs and by training people for the job market (next subheading). We also promote debates about this topic in our schools and in our means of social communication, the goal being to alert people to the importance of fostering global citizenship (last subheading).

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Before being assisted by our services and social assistance programs, each woman is interviewed so we can identify the hardships they experience, particularly those gender-related. Based on the information gathered, our team—comprised of social workers, psychologists, and educators—draws up a plan in order to carry out specific interventions that help overcome risky situations and prevent violation of rights.

In all activities/workshops, even those aimed at families with unborn or newborn children, there is no division or distinction by sex. Everyone can take part and decide what activities they would like to be involved in according to their own preferences. This opportunity helps break down gender stereotypes, expands the universe of possibilities for girls, and promotes equality, both in the domestic life and in the world of work.

Girls and adolescents are also more likely to be excluded from social participation and the appropriation of public spaces; they commonly spend more time doing household chores or playing games that reinforce socially pre-established gender roles. In our centers, however, they are able to expand their experiences by way of the *Children: the Future in the Present!*, *Youth: the Future in the Present!*, and *Good Will Apprentice* programs. They provide a healthy environment for girls and boys to socialize and prevent girls from becoming victims of domestic child labor, which is considered one of the worst forms of child exploitation.

We also work directly with immigrants and refugees, valuing their knowledge and culture, promoting their integration in society, and helping them face up to situations of isolation and discrimination that primarily affect women. We also train young people and adults for the job market so they can provide for themselves, thus increasing their participation in the productive world. Above all, we teach women who benefit from our programs and social assistance services about their rights and their responsibilities, and we strengthen their autonomy and self-image.



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



Manaus (Brazil)



Montevideo (Uruguay)





Francisco Dias

Porto (Portugal)



João Perfeito

Goiânia (Brazil)

## SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS



Vivian R. Ferreira

São Paulo (Brazil)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Mogi das Cruzes (Brazil)



Leila Tonin

Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia)



Leila Tonin

Lisbon (Portugal)



## PROMOTION OF ECUMENICAL AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Finally, facing up to “*the obstacles offered by a male chauvinist culture*” begins by first promoting an effective change in one’s ideas and values. Our mission, as defined by educator Paiva Netto in our statutes, is to awaken Ecumenical Citizens, in other words, Planetary Citizens. To achieve this, we promote dialogue on gender equality in our schools—which have their own transversal and interdisciplinary curriculum that combines teaching content with universal values—and in our media, which include 23 radio stations, one national TV network, and several channels on digital platforms.

Our directive is to highlight female leadership in the many sectors of society and in the various areas of human knowledge, from Science and Economics (where historically, but even today, the actions of women have frequently been overshadowed) to Religion, in which we exalt those who have been eternalized in the Sacred Texts, but not always duly recognized. Educator Paiva Netto argues that in order to build a world worthy of **Jesus, the Holy Mary, Hypatia, Gandhi, Wangari Maathai, Buddha, Helen Keller, Anne Sullivan, Marie Curie, and Malala Yousafzai**—a world which they and so many other women and men have fought and keep fighting for—each person should be respected for his or her singularity: “*Women’s role is so important that, even with all the obstacles offered by a male chauvinist culture, no organization that wishes to survive—whether religious, political, philosophical, scientific, business, or family—can dismiss their support. Now, Women, graced by the Divine Breath, are the Soul of everything, the Soul of Humanity, the good root, the basis of civilizations. Woe to us, men, if it weren’t for elucidated, inspired, and enlightened women!*”

“*We can find their example of courage in the Gospel of Christ according to **John 19:25**. This passage reports the support Jesus received from Women who were solely accompanied by the Beloved Disciple [John] at the moment He was to be crucified: ‘Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother’s sister, **Mary** the wife of **Clopas**, and **Mary Magdalene**.’*”

“*These true heroines, in the depth of pain, did not abandon Him, but firmly remained by His side in a demonstration of outstanding bravery. No social, political, and/or religious movement can decisively progress without having the support of women, both in public and private spheres. History is proof of that.*” ■



Uauá (Brazil)



Tupanatinga (Brazil)

## SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS



In addition to schools, social service centers, and shelters for the elderly, the LGW has a broad social communications network dedicated to fostering education, culture, and the values of citizenship. In 2018, the daily programs of the Super Good Will Communications Network (radio, TV, websites, and publications) had the participation of hundreds of specialists from all across Brazil.





Adriana Rocha

Humacao (Puerto Rico)



Moises Franchi

Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia)



Jose Concello

Brasília (Brazil)



Carla Monica Mendes

Almenara (Brazil)

## RELIEF CAMPAIGNS



Sergio Borrelli

Porto Velho (Brazil)



Bruna Gonçalves

Recife (Brazil)





# Be a link in this unbreakable chain of Solidary Love.

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

**DONATE NOW!**



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[www.lbv.pt](http://www.lbv.pt)



[www.lbv.org.uy](http://www.lbv.org.uy)



Legion of Good Will  
Legião da Boa Vontade





# EDUCATING TO PROMOTE EQUALITY

How Ecumenical Spirituality encourages girls to be successful in the world of work

SUELÍ PERIOTTO

**A**t this very moment, somewhere near or far away from us, a female student might have been discouraged to take a course in a field she would like to work. Unfortunately, it is common to hear someone say: *"Oh, but that's not a course for women. Try something less complicated for a career."*

Such comments are unacceptable, as they may be understood by children and teenagers to be true, and this can jeopardize their spontaneity and make them afraid to be who they really are; that is, individuals with feelings and dreams, regardless of gender.

To prevent children and teenagers from having to face sexist remarks and attitudes, we need to improve the self-esteem of girls and boys within their families and in the schools, in a partnership that values their natural characteristics and acknowledges their expressions. This is one of



Vivian R. Ferreira

**SUELÍ PERIOTTO**

is the supervisor of the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy and the principal of the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute, in São Paulo (Brazil). She has a doctorate and a master's degree in Education from PUC-SP. She is also a conference speaker.

Photos: Vivian R. Ferreira



At the José de Paiva Netto Educational Center, located in Del Castilho, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), girls and boys have the opportunity to learn and practice judo during out-of-school hours. Dozens of athletes have participated in important competitions, such as the *Campeonato de Abertura da Liga Confederada de Judô – Rio de Janeiro*.



“I feel as though what we experienced today was a true investment in the future, because we know that children are the future. And the dedication that the LGW has, and the time, and the effort, the heart, the integrity,

all those great things, when you put them into children, the purity of the children, as they get older and go into society, hopefully that can make a bigger change for the globe. So, I think it’s very beneficial for society as a whole. [Visiting the LGW’s school] was very touching.”

**AL SKRATZ**

American rapper

On his visit to the Good Will Educational Complex (10/31/18)  
São Paulo (Brazil)

the concerns of the Legion of Good Will’s teaching line, which is applied in its schools and social service centers.

For the LGW’s President and creator of this teaching line, educator **José de Paiva Netto**, we need to undertake good initiatives in order to make society more receptive as well as motivate children and young people to discover their true potential. In his article “Human Machine and the Oil of Feeling,” he states: “*Affection for children and respect for youth are similar to a machine operating: in one of the gear wheels is the mind, logic; and on the other, the Soul, feelings, which prevents us from becoming more and more like savages! See now, the teeth of the wheel engage with those of another wheel making the mechanism move. However, if you do not put into that gear the oil of Fraternity, of Solidarity, of Mercy, of Compassion, then everything stalls, locks, creates rust, and fails!*”

This analogy used by the Organization’s president helps us reflect on those negative and even bigoted statements that can harm these younger generations that are naturally full of enthusiasm and are determined to help improve the world. Using this “*oil of feeling*,” as writer Paiva Netto suggests, can make all the difference in the personal lives of individuals and at school, if we consider as “*teeth of the wheel*” their cognitive development and aspects linked to their feelings as they interact in the school environment. These factors, along with the experience of spiritual, ecumenical, and ethical values, promote good relationships and the free expression of each and everyone.

## A VIEW BEYOND THE INTELLECT

The educational proposal of the Legion of Good Will is comprised of the Pedagogy of Affection, for children up to 10 years old, and of the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, applied in lesson plans for students from the age of 11 onwards. The unique approach



of this teaching line lies in its *“Education with Ecumenical Spirituality.”* It is used to guide educators to have a *“view beyond the intellect,”* when preparing lesson plans that combine spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values with intellectual knowledge, which enriches the teaching content being offered. This causes students to reflect on the meaning of life, on self-knowledge, and on universal feelings.

In the LGW’s schools, the combination of syllabus content and continuous debates about social, ethical, and philosophical issues encourages students to adopt a broader perspective on any topic whatsoever, without taboo or prejudice, thus reinforcing a global, receptive posture of different opinions. It is expected that each student’s eternal and unique Spirit be strengthened along with its own peculiarities, without making comparisons between genders that result in some kind of exclusion.

Fraternal and lively discussions are held in the classrooms of the Organization’s schools, a process that is mediated by teachers who are aware that they are witnessing the unique development of students, of each personality. Girls and boys are also given opportunities to continuously express their personal thoughts and not to be afraid to share their ideas openly.

The fact that the LGW’s educators support students just as they are, listen to what they are feeling and thinking, and respect their dreams has strengthened these students and boosted their confidence to hold on to their own opinions and not to be afraid to express themselves. The girls in particular are encouraged to pursue the career they chose, to develop resilience for those challenging moments in life, and to listen to different points of view without being arrogant, becoming part of an ecumenical generation that is able to say to a boy: *“Cry if you feel like it! Count on me! I’m here for you.”* If a girl is dreaming of a less common career, an LGW’s male

“I was surprised and amazed by the great Love that you [in the LGW] have for the students. They’re receiving a quality education, building their character, above all with Love, which is extremely important in our society. . . . Today I had a very important morning in my life. I saw the great work that the Legion of Good Will’s school is carrying out. I really enjoyed the work done with students with learning disabilities [through the *LGW’s Program – Boosting Skills*], who have to be included in the school routine. I also liked the fact that the nutritionist ensures that children have a healthy diet. You’re doing a great job!”

**LINDA MARINA MUNIVE TEMOLTZIN**

Consul General of Mexico

On her visit to the LGW’s Educational Center (10/05/2018)

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



student will support her, either now or when she is an adult, saying: *“Wow, that’s an excellent choice! Go for it! Follow your dreams!”*

## PORTUGAL HOSTS **LGW**’s INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EDUCATION

The Legion of Good Will will hold the LGW’s 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Education, in the city of Porto, on March 6—month in which the Organization celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of work in Portugal. Educators and specialists from Portugal, Brazil, Poland, and Ireland will share their experiences on how school and family can unite efforts to educate global citizens.

# PROFESSIONAL CHOICES DO NOT DEPEND ON GENDER

In a chat with this magazine, **Thaynara Paixão** and **João Pedro Monteiro**, both former students of the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo (Brazil), stress how the LGW's pedagogical line was responsible for empowering them and how this unique teaching method helped them overcome many barriers, including gender stereotypes that still perpetuate the culture that affirms that certain jobs are only for men and other jobs are only for women. ■



**JOÃO PEDRO MONTEIRO, 17.** He is in his first semester of Technology in Digital Games at Nove de Julho University.

## Can you tell us about your experience in the LGW's dance classes?

**A:** At first, I was a bit afraid; all the other participants were girls. Even some people in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years [of high school] said: *"Seriously?! Does he know how to dance?"* But as we got to know each other, they realized that there is no such stereotype that *"boys don't know how to dance"* or that *"dancing's not for boys!"* The girls welcomed me, and it became a lot easier. The teacher welcomed me right from the beginning.

## Was it important to study in the LGW's school?

**A:** Yes, because it allowed me to have an open mind about everything, to coexist peacefully with people, and to accept them just the way they are. A girl who loves to play soccer, [even] though she's not fully accepted, finds support in the LGW. The Ecumenical Culture and Peaceful Coexistence classes allow us to open our minds to accept everybody, and they teach us to have that empathy. I'm very grateful to the teachers, monitors, all the school staff. . . . I see educator Paiva Netto as a father, because he built this school, these facilities, and allowed us to study here. I'm really thankful to him, [because] he helped lots of people, either directly or indirectly. . . . This school opened up several doors for me and my family and helped us [improve] financially.





**THAYNARA PAIXÃO,**  
20. She is in her second  
semester of Biomedicine at  
São Judas Tadeu University, in  
São Paulo (Brazil).

### How to overcome gender inequality?

**A:** Never let yourself be intimidated! You create your own future. Even if the course you want is more slanted towards men, you can go there and make a difference.

### How did the LGW contribute to all this self-confidence?

**A:** The Legion of Good Will's educators always treat students equally, regardless of their gender or any other characteristic. I frequently recall my karate and dance classes. I was in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and I was the only girl taking karate. All the other girls were taking dance classes, but I had never been prohibited from taking part in it or had any problems because of what I had chosen. I was treated the same way as the boys who took karate with me.

### What's different about the Education offered by the Organization?

**A:** In addition to the school syllabus that is efficiently taught by the teachers, I learned how to build good relationships with people, to respect the differences, to be more creative, and to preserve Nature. I wouldn't have learned all these things if it weren't for the LGW.

## LGW Gives Lecture in Ireland

The Legion of Good Will will present its best teaching practices in basic education on March 4, at the Teacher Education Centre in Cork, in Ireland. Professors and teachers, directors, and especial education teachers from that country will learn about the results achieved by the LGW through the teaching proposal it applies in its schools in Latin America. The lecture will be given by the Doctor in Education Sueli Periotto and by the educators **Aline Braga Trevisan** and **Gisela Portilho**, representatives of the Legion of Good Will.

The LGW was invited by Professor **Trevor O'Brien**, a member of the Educational Psychology, Inclusive & Special Education Department of the Mary Immaculate College (MIC), in Limerick, after visiting the Good Will Educational Complex on November 7, 2018. On the occasion, he saw how the LGW's school promotes the inclusion of students with disabilities.

*"I was really struck by the passion all of the staff had for the children involved, and they started with the need of a particular child and the strengths of the child as opposed to focusing on particular disabilities. I also liked the way they [the students] collaborate with classroom teachers and they work with classroom teachers in the class, outside of the class. A collaborative approach is used, which makes it much easier for the children. . . . It's such a unique school. I've never experienced any sort of school with this range of facilities catering for so many children of different ages. I was particularly struck by not only the warmth and friendliness of the staff, but the way the school is structured, and the way they offered facilities for children and babies as young as fourth months old."*

Professor O'Brien came across the school after the recommendation of Dr. **Neide Noffs**, Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP). The day before the visit, in an interview with the LGW, the dean of the Faculty of Education of PUC, **Madalena Peixoto**, explained the reason behind this recommendation: *"The LGW carries out a very important work, which is that of inclusion in the school. He will see first-hand the effort being made [by the Organization]—and we know it is a great effort, with the support of many volunteers and of a multidisciplinary staff."*



Trevor O'Brien

Divulgação



Neide Noffs

Divulgação



Madalena Peixoto

Divulgação

## INNOVATION

# WE NEED MORE WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The **LGW**'s schools encourage girls to pursue a career in research, where women account for less than 30 percent in the world

LEILA MARCO

In spite of the great advances made towards gender equality, women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are still underrepresented in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), women account for less than 30 percent of all researchers worldwide (see infographic on page 38).

UNESCO points out that women may be a determining factor when it comes to helping the planet overcome some of the major issues presented in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes among other goals improving the health care system and fighting climate change. *"Diversity in research expands the pool of talented researchers, bringing in fresh perspectives, talent and creativity."*

Many schools and colleges, aware of the need of meeting these current and future demands, prepare students to be professionals that fulfill such requirements. The schools of the Legion of Good Will (LGW), for example, seek to awaken in all of their students an interest in different fields of human knowledge, including science.



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## BRAZIL



### CNPq and the Inclusion Challenges

According to data from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), 76 percent of the senior scientists who receive research grant are men. Gender equality occurs only at the beginning of the career, because women face many barriers to continue their professional life. One of the factors that widen this enormous disparity is the fact that research is tied to short-term contracts, with low employment safety, creating an impasse between career and maternity.

Vitória dos Santos, 14, student of the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute.



Vivian R. Ferreira

- At the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo (Brazil), our editorial staff learned about one of the initiatives that focus on STEM. The aim is to get 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders to take part in Academic Olympiads; and it has been a success so far. The school has managed to mobilize a large group of students and, in consequence, achieve **parity** between girls and boys in this competition.

The teachers emphasize that the efforts and involvement required from students to classify in

this type of competition make the teaching process more dynamic. It also makes the students more capable of facing up to the demands of the college admission tests, as well as starting their professional career.

### THE POWER OF EXAMPLE

Since the potential of girls for science is often neglected, the LGW is committed to providing them with access to such unrestricted opportunities. Fourteen-year-old **Vitória dos Santos** is a good example of this. As a participant in the second phase of the Brazilian Logical and Mathematical Reasoning Olympiads (OBRL) and the Brazilian Junior Chemistry Olympiads (OBQJr), she does not hide her enthusiasm while preparing for the tests. *“The way we are taught is great; it’s interactive. When you understand something, you feel like doing something with it, you want to learn more. You realize that chemistry and math are not that hard like many people say they are,”* she affirmed.

One class in particular was very special to Vitória, because she got to know a little of the life story of the Polish-born French scientist **Marie Skłodowska Curie**

Reproduction GW



Courage and determination were two remarkable characteristics of Polish scientist Marie Curie. On this picture from 1927, she is the only woman among 29 participants of the fifth Solvay Conference, in Brussels (Belgium), which gathered the most distinguished physicists and chemists at the time including physicists Max Plank, Albert Einstein, and Niels Bohr.

## What the figures reveal about gender inequality in STEM-related fields

Source: Report “Cracking the Code: Girls’ and Women’s Education in STEM,” published in 2018 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



(1867-1934). *“She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize and the only woman to win in Physics [1903] and Chemistry [1911]. I was impressed. I was like, Wow, that’s amazing!”*

She said that she received a lot of support and encouragement to participate in the Olympiads from both her teachers and classmates. *“I felt like I was doing something important, something good for society. . . . When you’re doing something that’s predominantly done by men, you’re not just fighting for yourself; you’re fighting for your daughter, your mother, for all women. You inspire others to want to be better.”*

With the dream of pursuing a career at exact sciences, Vitória recalled how proud her family was with her performance in the competitions. *“My parents came from the countryside and had little access to schooling. They saw that I could be something they weren’t able to be.”*

## STRATEGIES FOR ENCOURAGING A LOVE OF SCIENCE

**Juliano Bento**, a math and physics teacher in the LGW’s high school, was delighted to see that *“more girls are standing*

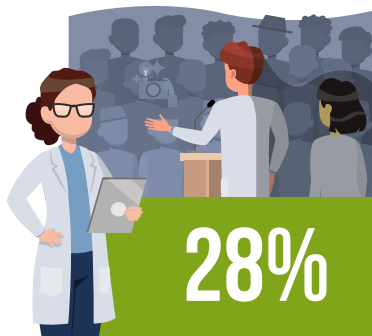
*out in STEM subjects.”* He believes this is the result of several actions that have been carried out during the school’s interaction and learning processes, which, in turn, are guided by the Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (from 11 years onwards).

This pioneering educational line was created by educator **Paiva Netto**. Its aim is to offer a

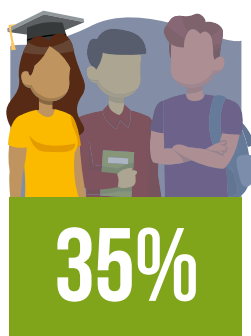


**Juliano Bento,**  
a math and  
physics  
teacher in the  
LGW’s high  
school.

Vivian R. Ferreira



of all the world’s researchers are women. Although progress has been made, women are still underrepresented in science-related fields.



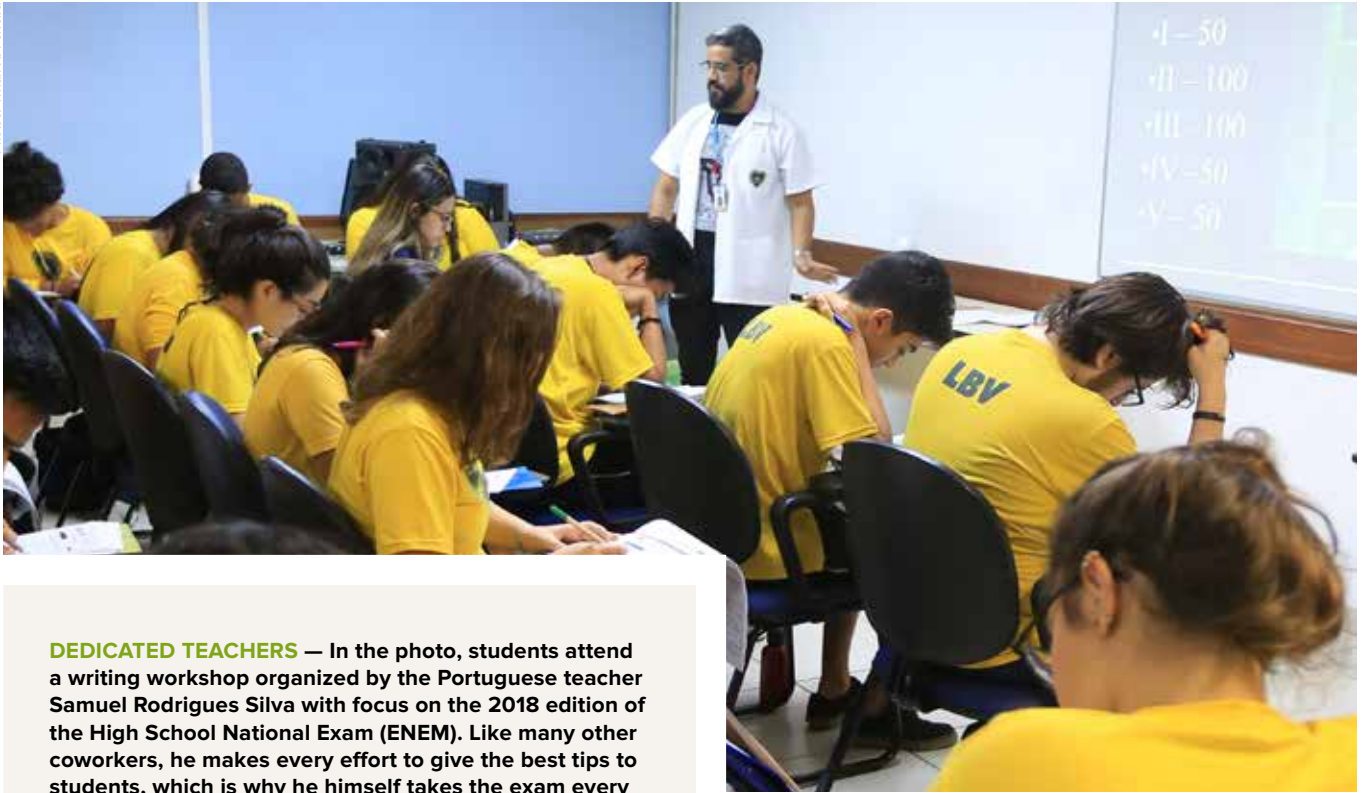
of college students enrolled in STEM-related fields are women.



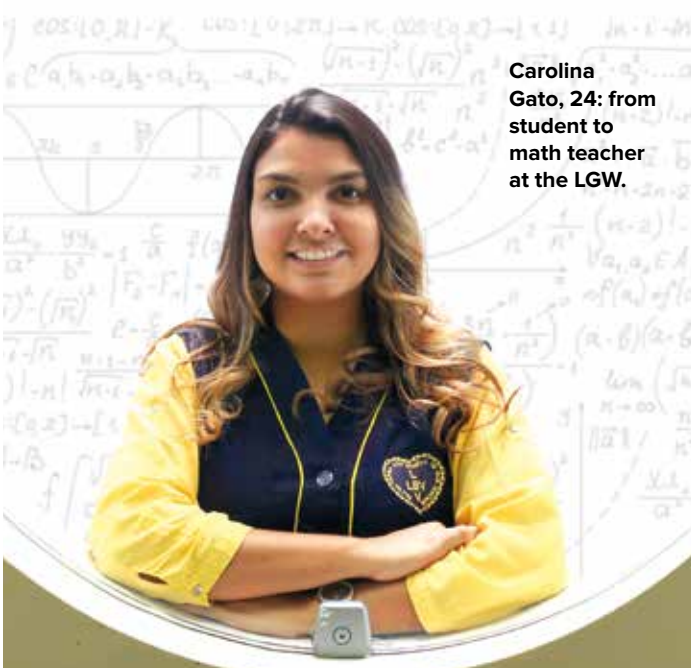
Photos: Divulgação NASA

**REMARKABLE MATHEMATICIANS** (1) Mary Jackson (1921-2005), (2) Dorothy Vaughan (1910-2008), and (3) Katherine G. Johnson. These three black scientists have greatly contributed to the success of a special program carried out by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), allowing for astronaut John Glenn to be the first North American to orbit the Earth in 1962. And this occurred at a time when the racial segregation laws were in force in the United States.

Photos: Vivian R. Ferreira



**DEDICATED TEACHERS** — In the photo, students attend a writing workshop organized by the Portuguese teacher Samuel Rodrigues Silva with focus on the 2018 edition of the High School National Exam (ENEM). Like many other coworkers, he makes every effort to give the best tips to students, which is why he himself takes the exam every year. This is one of the most efficient ways he has found “to be fully up-to-date with the changes of the ENEM and to identify all the difficulties that the students face over the two days of the exam—from the moment they arrive at the assigned facility where the test is administered to the total time they have to finish it.”



Carolina Gato, 24: from student to math teacher at the LGW.

→ complete education, which includes spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values (read more on page 30). By doing so, there is always room for innovation in the school’s teaching strategies. “I see, for example, that the girls can retain information much more readily by observing certain phenomena and making connection with subjects previously studied. Here, we reinforce this ability students have to observe the big picture in these classes,” Juliano stressed.

The fact that the LGW combines science, technology, engineering, and math for practical purposes is also a positive aspect of the teaching line applied in its schools. “We recently did a workshop with the students where they used tablets to take pictures from different perspectives in order to have an idea of big and small, high and low. Since the camera lens doesn’t capture all the depth that our eyes are able to see, you get this optical illusion when you take different perspectives of tall buildings, short people, etc. This deconstructs certain concepts that



they've developed, and this is important, because worse than not understanding a concept is misunderstanding it. We see that such mobilization, encouraging students' curiosity, is fundamental when it comes to catching their attention," Juliano concluded.

## A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

The Olympiads also allow students to interact more with teachers in STEM fields. **Juliana Bosso**, a chemistry teacher at the Good Will Educational Complex, said that having several female teachers in these areas is an inspiration. *"We see that girls want to study engineering, the exact sciences in general. So there's an even greater incentive. We constantly tell them: We will always be here for you; so whenever you need, you can talk to us, ask for help."*

In addition to helping raise students' self-esteem—since they begin to feel that they can reach new academic heights—the Olympiads encourage them to develop a more mature perspective. *"They come to class more willing to learn. 'Cool, I saw*



Juliana Bosso,  
a chemistry  
teacher at  
the Good Will  
Educational  
Complex.

Vivian R. Ferreira

*this in the test.' 'Oh, If I'd paid more attention to that lesson, I'd have gotten that question right.' So doing mock tests and other assessments shows them how important it is to really pay attention in class, because they know that this might come up in college entry exams, in the ENEM. It makes them want to learn more,"* Juliana said.

Photos: Bruna de Jesus



## WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

Carla Lima Galvão, 15, a resident of the Guarda Community and a former student at the LGW's Educational Center in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) is preparing for the exams to join the Brazilian Navy.

For her, the education she received made her believe in her potential, despite the predominance of men in this area: *"I learned from the LGW that there are no obstacles for women, but if they eventually come your way, you just have to overcome them. Just don't give up."* In addition to learning about resilience in school, Carla has also become more compassionate: *"The world is not just this little box in which we live. There are other people out there, and you need to treat them as if they were family."* In the second photo, she is with teacher Felipe José during a science class.



# EMPOWERING GIRLS TO EXERCISE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The story of **Joy Best**, 17, shows how education can be essential to the exercise of global citizenship. In 2014, when she was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Lincoln Avenue School in Orange, New Jersey (USA), she had the opportunity to participate in the LGW's *Good Will Students for Peace* program, which left a very positive mark on her.

Joy pointed out that the program—which was incorporated into the school curriculum—made her care more about her fellow beings and inspired her to help build a better world. She recalled a special moment during the partnership between the LGW and her school, when students engaged in the Organization's Christmas campaign and helped collect food to be distributed to families living in situations of social vulnerability.

For her, the lessons she learned from the LGW's educators made her take on a proactive

role in solidary actions. *"I remember the day I took the initiative after leaving class early to go help pack the food baskets. I felt a similar sensation when we did the activity of collecting garbage in the streets (waste for recycling). I filled five bags. I remember that we talked about it during a student council meeting, and it was very good to do something for my community. We were able to spread the message of environmental conservation throughout the school and in the neighborhood. I liked that everyone took part in the activity. It felt like a family event,"* she said.

Another moment that will also remain forever in Joy's memory was when the students joined volunteers and donors of the Organization to distribute the food baskets in shelters as part of the LGW's Christmas campaign. *"When we entered the shelter,*

## UNITED STATES

### Making history

In 2016, for the first time in the USA, at Dartmouth College, the number of female students surpassed the number of male students in the Engineering course. On average, only 19 percent of degrees in this area are conferred on women in the country.

Source: Exame website, by Editora Abril.







Sāmara Malaman

On Wednesdays, Joy Best volunteers at the Charity Round program of the Legion of Good Will of the United States. She always wears the pin she received from the LGW during the Good Will Students for Peace program (a blue heart that symbolizes the Organization). In her own words, it is a reminder of the commitment she made in her heart to practice solidary leadership to help build a better, fairer, and more fraternal world.

*what called my attention the most was seeing the conditions under which they were living. The rooms were really small, with a very small window. The space was very tight. At that moment, I was grateful for what I had and very happy that I was able to help people who really needed that food."*

These good memories kept the ideal of fraternity alive in Joy, and now in her senior year of high school, she became a volunteer at the Legion of Good Will's Charity Round program, which takes meals and clothes to

very poor families who live in shelters in Newark, New Jersey. *"I wanted to reconnect with that good energy," she said.*

Joy recently got accepted to Rutgers University and is preparing to go to college and take a Mechatronics Engineering course. She hopes it will enable her to acquire the knowledge necessary to assemble robots and carry out research projects that can solve the problems faced by the community. *"It's the same feeling I get from working with the LGW. It's kind of exciting being able to help people."* ■



"Society can learn a lot from the Legion of Good Will because it empowers you to help your community. By tying this to the field of engineering, which is predominantly male, the LGW is helping me show my voice."

**JOY BEST**

Student, 17 (the picture on the left was taken in 2015).

According to the  
Brazilian Public  
Security Yearbook  
(published in 2017,  
with data from 2016),  
every 11 minutes there  
is a rape in the country.

## BRAZIL



### Gender-based violence

Some types of prejudice are attributed to gender-based violence, especially against black women. A survey conducted in 2017 by the Brazilian Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics (IBOPE), across all regions of Brazil, reported that male chauvinism is the most practiced prejudice, being pointed by 99 percent of the respondents. The second type is the racial, pointed by 97 percent of the population.



# SAFETY FOR WOMEN

**LGW** carries out several actions to break the cycle of violence against women

WELLINGTON CARVALHO DE SOUZA

A report published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in November 2018 reveals that 87,000 women were intentionally killed worldwide in 2017. Of these, more than half (58 percent) were killed by their intimate partners or a family member. This represents an average of six women murdered every hour by someone they know. These shocking figures should not only be a reason for all of us to feel ashamed, but above all they show how urgent it is that we act effectively to protect women in the domestic environment.

The statistics in Brazil are also frightening. The main victims of homicide are black women, among whom murder rates have increased by 54 percent in ten years, while in the same period (from 2003 to 2013) it decreased by 9.8 percent among white women, according to the “2015 Map of Violence,” published by the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO).

These data were mentioned by the Brazilian actress **Taís Araújo** during a

talk she gave at the TEDx SãoPaulo in August 2017. She explained how difficult it is to raise her two children in Brazil—**João Vicente**, 7, and **Maria Antônia**, 4. *“I see there’s a difference between bringing up boys and girls. Gender is an issue. When I was pregnant with my son, I was so relieved to know it was a boy. I was certain that he wouldn’t have to face what we women need*



Divulgação/Comodo — Agência Riguardare

## MALE CHAUVINISM DEMEANS, HARMS, AND KILLS



Six women are murdered every hour worldwide. Of the 87,000 women who were killed in 2017, 30,000 were killed by their intimate partners, and another 20,000 by other relatives.



Africa is the continent where women are most at risk of dying at the hands of their intimate partners or family members. There are 3.1 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.

In the European Union, between 45 and 55 percent of all women over 15 have been sexually harassed.



More than 150 million girls may become victims of a forced marriage by 2030. These cases occur across the globe, but are more common in South Asia and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, afflicting 65 percent of the girls in Bangladesh, 48 percent in India, and 76 percent in Niger.



In Brazil, in the first half of 2018, the Women's Helpline (Call 180) received almost 73,000 complaints, a 59 percent increase compared to the numbers of 2006 (46,000). Every 11 minutes there is a rape in the country.



More than 135 million girls and women were mutilated in 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East, where this practice is most widespread. It is estimated that by 2030, more than 86 million girls will still be victims of this atrocious act. Every day, an average of 6,000 women suffer genital mutilation, a type of violence that affects 99 percent of all girls and women in Somalia.

Sources: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA); Brazilian Public Security Yearbook; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); Women's Helpline in Brazil; United Nations; and UNICEF.

to face." The actress' words reveal the lack of safety experienced by many Brazilian women. *"I find myself thinking all the time about how we women are raised to please others, about how people silence us and belittle us all the time. When I think about the risk Maria Antônia runs simply because she was born a woman, a black woman. . . It terrifies me."*

Aware of this reality and of the fact that women are those who benefit most from its actions, the Legion of Good Will works towards women's empowerment and the deconstruction of the male chauvinist culture. Examples of this can be seen in the Organization's social service centers, which hold social and educational workshops on gender equality, gender differences in the workplace, domestic violence, and other related topics.

### INFORMATION FOR BREAKING DOWN STEREOTYPES

In the LGW's unit in Anápolis (Brazil), for example, those being helped by the *Children: the Future in the Present!* program—aimed at girls and boys between 6 and 15 years old—participate in activities that raise their awareness that women and men have the same rights and duties. For educator **Patrícia Silva de Oliveira**, such work, from an early age, is very important, because *"they're growing up and learning new things and have the opportunity to develop a different view of the social roles that are currently spread among society in various spheres. And they are taught to praise people's values, like respect for others and dignified treatment, free from any form of prejudice."*

Another example is the *Solidary Coexistence\** program—aimed at people from 18 to 59 years old—carried out by the LGW's social service center of Pelotas (Brazil), where they watched a video entitled "We

**\* Solidary Coexistence** — Program for strengthening family and community ties through activities that help expand their knowledge, their artistic and cultural world, in addition to helping improve relationships of affection, solidarity, and mutual respect.



need to break the silence.” In it, Brazilian writer, philosopher, and feminist **Djamila Ribeiro** deals with many relevant issues, among them the right to have a voice in a society that is silent about inequality. Together they discussed the importance of gender, color, and social equality and how access to information is vital so that underprivileged communities know how to fight for their rights.

The deconstruction of the male chauvinist culture occurs naturally in the LGW’s schools. As opportunities arise during discussions in class—when students comment things like *“This is a job for men!”*—the teacher intervenes so that the class can understand how incoherent it is to separate the so-called “male” and “female” roles. In the Peaceful Coexistence classes—which address current issues that are relevant to society—topics such as “What is harassment?” and “Combating a culture of rape” are dealt with in a more detailed way, especially among high school students. They also come up with seminars, plays, songs, poems, and other works about these issues.

Positive results have been achieved, starting with the change in students’ behavior in their own social circles. *“We’re working on topics such as the Maria da Penha Law, so the boys themselves reflect on the dangers that often threaten their own families. If they have mothers, sisters, cousins, and/or girlfriends who are suffering from domestic violence, they’ll know what to do and how to help them seek their rights,”* affirmed **Suelí Periotto**, Supervisor of the Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (from the age of 11 onwards), both of which were created by the LGW’s President, educator **José de Paiva Netto** (read more on page 30).

Suelí, who has a doctorate in Education from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), explains that the LGW’s students learn the value of citizenship and solidarity and become aware that they have the duty to treat not only their partners but also the whole society with care and respect. *“I’m sure they’ll be better boyfriends, fiancés, and husbands. The girls will be better partners. . . . We notice that students understand very well how [a fairer] reality results from*



Leandro Nunes

## MARIA DA PENHA LAW

In Brazil, since the Law 11.340 was passed on August 7, 2006, it has changed the legal process reality of domestic and family violence crimes in terms of punishing the aggressors. Named the Maria da Penha Law, in honor of the pharmaceutical biochemist **Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes**, whose life story inspired the new law, it creates stricter mechanisms to inhibit and prevent violence against women, besides introducing changes in the Penal Code and in the Criminal Enforcement Law.

In 2016, when children assisted by the LGW in Fortaleza, Brazil, congratulated her for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the aforementioned law, the Brazilian activist highlighted how she felt: *“[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 LGW 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.”*

*our own attitudes,”* she said. *“There’s no doubt that the LGW’s students will have a very open mind, a firm stance when it comes to defending themselves and someone who’s experiencing some type of prejudice or who has low self-esteem. And they will pass it on to others.”*

# FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**T**he LGW of Bolivia has been making every effort to raise awareness among different generations about gender equality. This is why the Organization offers women the conditions to achieve financial independence. One action undertaken in this sense is the *Technical Training Center*, a social assistance program carried out in La Paz, the country's administrative capital. This program provides handicraft classes, in which students use recyclable materials, such as nylon bags, and learn how to make purses, costume jewelry, and macramé.

This project was elaborated as a result of a social and economic survey carried out with the poor families of the children and teenagers (from 6 to 14 years old) assisted by the Organization in El Alto through the *Charity Round* program. After analyzing the information obtained, the LGW's Social Assistance Department saw that 85 percent of the mothers are the heads of households and that 70 percent of them have no professional qualification, which prevents their access to more lucrative sources of income.

Jenny Mancilla





The *Technical Training Center* of the LGW of Bolivia offers handicraft classes with recyclable materials.



**Dolores Choque** (fictitious name), 52, was one of the 347 people who took part in the LGW's *Technical Training Center* in 2018. Thanks to this program, she managed to find another way of providing for her family, since she receives little money for washing other people's clothes.

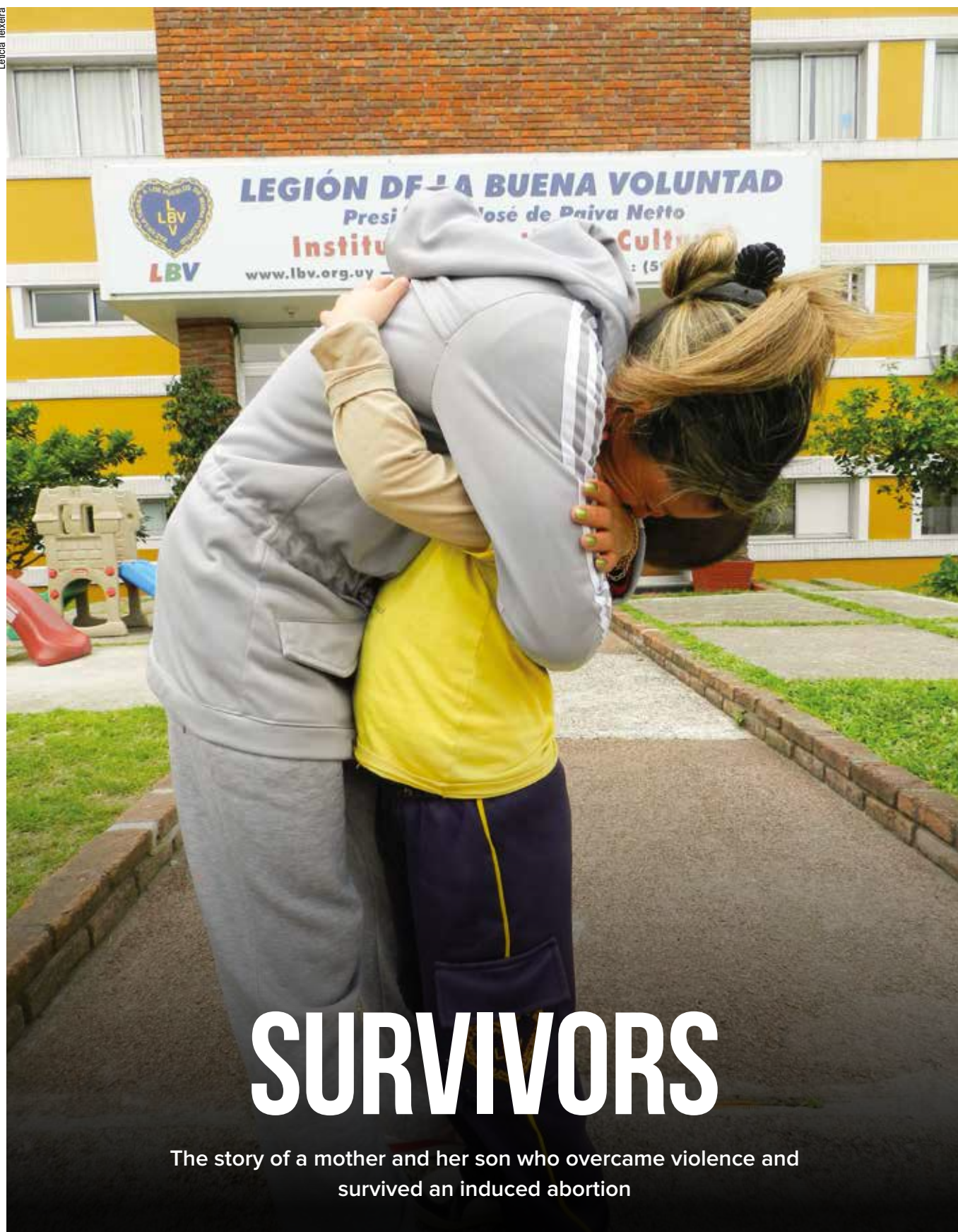
This brave woman had to become the family breadwinner after she divorced her husband, who subjected her to emotional abuse for being illiterate and not receiving a fixed salary, since she had to stay home and look after their six children. *"When I asked him for money to buy food for the kids, he would often humiliate me, saying things like, 'You're useless. You embarrass me. Why don't you go away?' I felt devastated, and my self-esteem was very low. I thought about abandoning my children and leaving. I used to cry because I felt helpless. It was the love of my kids that comforted me; they hugged me and covered me with kisses. Because of them, I also decided to leave their father,"* she said.

Today, with support from the Legion of Good Will, she makes purses and dresses

for dolls and sells them in front of schools in her neighborhood, earning some profits. *"It was great to participate in the classes on recycling solid waste, because I don't have to buy any fabric. I make clothes out of nylon bags and then I sell them. . . . I'm grateful to the LGW, because they come to these faraway neighborhoods and give us the opportunity to learn."*



Before coming across the LGW, Dolores dedicated herself exclusively to washing the clothes of families in her neighborhood.



# SURVIVORS

The story of a mother and her son who overcame violence and survived an induced abortion



Since 2015, **Juan Garcia** (fictitious name), 5, has been a student of the José de Paiva Netto Educational and Cultural Institute, an LGW's school located in Montevideo, Uruguay. Despite being a child, he is a winner; he survived an abortion attempted by his father. When **Mercedes Garcia** (fictitious name), Juan's mother, told her husband she was pregnant, he forced her (she was 23 then) to carry out domestic chores that demanded great physical effort. Because the husband was unsuccessful in his first attempts, he became even more aggressive. *"One night, he came home from work and told me that he'd been to the drugstore and bought me some pills for nausea. I told him that I'd go to the doctor the following week, but he forced my mouth open and made me swallow them. Then he said they were for an abortion. I couldn't stop myself from crying,"* she said.

To convince her husband to leave her, Mercedes had to ask her sister-in-law to intervene. Fortunately, she managed to get to the hospital in time to save the baby. With regard to such a painful experience, she continued: *"That struck me really hard. There were a lot of mixed feelings because I spent five years with a person who had never mistreated me. But when he found out I was expecting a child, he changed completely."*

After the divorce, she had to move in with her mother, where there was friction with other members of the family. Having Juan attend the LGW's school has been a great relief for her. *"The Legion of Good Will has been a blessing to me. My son got into the school when he was 2 years old. At the time, I was picking up trash [recyclable material] to survive. I wanted my boy to be somewhere where he'd be treated with love, since he lives in a complicated family environment."*

This resilient woman also pointed out: *"Juan is taught the best values and receives the best education in the Educational and Cultural Institute. Ever since he was born,*



Leticia Teixeira

"I think women are lacking in courage, in believing in themselves. I tell women who are suffering violence that they should never abandon their children, because their love keeps us going. . . . They need to ask for help. Thank God we have the LGW, a place where we receive a lot of love and that's always here for us. We have to teach our children from an early age good values and teach them not to repeat the mistakes we've made. I also believe that faith in God is one of the pillars that helped me move forward."

**MERCEDES GARCIA**

a mother helped by the LGW of Uruguay

*he has struggled with nutrition, but, thank God, with the food he gets here he's so much better. I have a lot to thank the LGW for, because the workshops that I took part in helped me move forward and encouraged me to study and look for a better job."* ■

# MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS A BETTER SOCIETY

Women from civil society organizations are the main beneficiaries of an **LGW**'s program for assistance and advisement

GABRIELE ELISA BARROS

**T**he *Solidary Society Network* program of the Legion of Good Will provides specialized support for civil society organizations so they may enlighten their employees and volunteers about their rights, as set out in the Federal Constitution. The goal is to strengthen the social protection system in Brazil.

The program was set up one year after the National Council of Social Assistance established, in a pioneering way, a public policy of advisement and assistance in Brazil by way of Resolution 27/2011. This regulation gives clear guidelines



## BRAZIL

### Advances and challenges in the home environment

The number of households headed by women has more than doubled in 15 years. According to *Female Heads of Household in Brazil: Advances and Challenges*, a study coordinated by the National School of Insurance, the number of households in which women are the breadwinner rose from 14.1 million in 2001 to 28.9 million in 2015 (an increase of 105 percent).

## SOLIDARY SOCIETY NETWORK FIGURES IN 2018



255

community organizations received training



961

community leaders, employees, and professionals from civil society organizations and public bodies took part in courses in the social assistance area



196

new young people attended training courses to become community leaders



17,850

people were positively impacted by the program's activities





Vivian R. Ferreira

São Paulo (Brazil)

→ and sets the standards to be followed by the organizations.

For the last seven years, the *Solidary Society Network* program has provided help for social institutions and organizations, given technical and administrative guidance, and trained professionals who work in the Unified Social Assistance System (SUAS), in addition to community leaders and users of this system.

During this period, the initiative has reaped great rewards on various work fronts thanks to the remarkable presence of women. They stand out because of their regionalized, inter-sector, and wide-ranging activities on behalf of sustainable development, as we will see in the following examples.

### EFFECTIVE NETWORKING

In Vitória (Brazil), the *Solidary Society Network* program has a partnership with the EDP Energias do Brasil Institute. Its aim

is to train presidents and representatives of neighborhood associations and non-governmental organizations to carry out strong social projects and to raise funds for their activities. The training lasted one year—from September 2017 to October 2018—and the participants presented community projects at the end of it and applied for financial support.

The activities carried out in the program engaged the “Good Territory,” a kind nickname given to the region on the outskirts of the capital of Espírito Santo State, comprising the Itararé, Bairro da Penha, São Benedito, Jaburu, Floresta, Bonfim, Consolação, and Engenharia districts. The nickname shows that there is a sense of community in the region, and this leads to actions that seek to provide tranquility, comfort, and hope of a better life for those who live there.

Community leaders received biweekly training and learned relevant facts about the proper functioning of their organizations,

Photos: Sandra Teixeira



The training courses promoted by the LGW take place every month through meetings and workshops for community leaders. The participants, who are mostly women, work in the social assistance area or are interested in the issues that are dealt with in the courses. They are divided into nine modules and, in a clear and explanatory way, they present the National Social Assistance Policy (PNAS) and the importance of undertaking social and educational activities.

including those related to laws and human rights, to the role of the leader vis-à-vis those who are at social risk, and to the needs of the socially vulnerable populations.

During the course, the topics “Social justice,” “Democracy,” “Representation and representativeness,” “Social security (health, social assistance, and pensions),” “Territory research,” “Becoming a leader and transforming the community,”

and “Administrative and financial issues (associations)” were addressed and the participants were given instruction in how to prepare projects.

Five projects received financial support at the end of the course from the EDP Institute, among them the *Living Charge – Purchasing Center*, which was conceived by **Raimunda Ivete de Souza** (photo), President of the Floresta Neighborhood Association. “*The Legion of Good Will’s training course gave me strength and pushed me to continue [carrying out] the project,*” she pointed out.

The high costs that local storekeepers had with individual purchases and with transporting supplies motivated the association’s president to come up with the idea. In order to strengthen the economy in the region, Raimunda put forward a microcredit proposal for the storekeepers: they buy products in large quantities at a discount, and then pay off the loan at low rates of interest. The undertaking benefits up to ten traders and boosts domestic trade, the local economy, and generates employment and income.

## URUGUAY

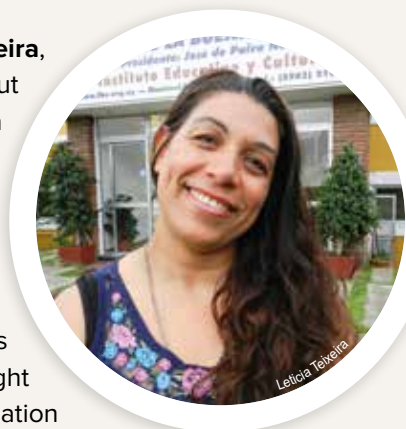


# TRIUMPH THAT COMES THROUGH SPECIALIZATION

The Legion of Good Will of Uruguay promotes programs and projects that benefit individuals in several ways. One of them encourages female leaders to boost income generation.

## Valéria Pereira,

42, found out about the LGW after a suggestion from her neighbors, and she then enrolled her children in the Organization’s school. This brought about a transformation in her day-to-day life. “*I only had temporary jobs. I used to sell recyclable material. We didn’t have enough money to live well,*” she said.





# THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AT THE AGE OF 60

Many actions are undertaken by the Legion of Good Will of Paraguay, the focus being on professional qualifications and generating income. Nearly 80 percent of the people who participate in these activities are women. They stress that besides achieving their main purpose the classes help them improve their self-esteem. In Asunción and in Ciudad del Este, the Organization provides socially vulnerable communities with courses in making cleaning products,



Raquel Diaz

The transformation came unexpectedly: *“When I attended workshops in the LGW’s Psychomotricity Room with my children, I was encouraged to study to improve [professionally].”*

Valéria goes to Law school and is currently working in the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uruguay. *“I haven’t got enough words to thank the Legion of Good Will. They’re like a big family for me. There’s too much love, dedication, and care in what the professionals and volunteers do. . . The LGW is part of my family and of my story,”* she concluded.



Laila Tonin

## PSYCHOMOTRICITY ROOM

Located in the LGW’s José de Paiva Netto Educational and Cultural Institute in Uruguay, it helps integrate the motor and mental skills of the children assisted, which consequently improves their behavior.



- cooking and pastry-making, recycling, crochet/ sewing, and baking and confectionery.

**María Teresa Careaga Vda. De Díaz**, 62, a resident of the Pinozá district, in the country's capital, lost her husband when she was still very young and had to work hard as a domestic helper in order to raise her children all by herself. *"I always wanted to continue with my studies, but I couldn't,"* she said. The opportunity came in the mature stage of her life when she took her grandchildren to the LGW's José de Paiva Netto Nursery and Preschool. *"That was when they invited me to attend the courses they had. The first one I took was about*

*cleaning products, which was a surprise to me. Today I make eight types of air purifier and I sell them very well,"* she said, satisfied.

She also took the basic cooking course, in which she learned how to make English pudding, sweet bread, and savory dishes. María is currently attending baking classes, and she knows that with these new skills she will be able to continue doing what she likes: working from home to help with her daily living expenses. *"There are a lot of challenges, but I have this opportunity and I feel useful. I thank God for this Organization that offers free courses. I'm very happy,"* she said.

The courses offered by the Organization are excellent tools in the lives of the participants and contribute to the development of their daily activities. **Luz Marina Santacruz León**, 37, is proof of this. After her children started attending the LGW's school in the Paraguayan capital, new paths opened up for her. *"A friend invited me to take part in the cleaning products course, and I'm currently making these products to sell. I hesitated at first, but I ended up liking it; I saw that it wasn't difficult to make. As a result, I can provide for my family. Now I'm taking the baking course. I'm excited because I like it, and my goal is to start my own business. These classes are a valuable opportunity for me. I want to thank everyone for what they are teaching me,"* she concluded. ■



In addition to the certificate of the baking course, Luz Marina received from the LGW an electric oven, a mixer, and a digital scale.







Vivian R. Ferreira

# RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH ART

**LGW's** social and cultural projects encourage actions for sustainable development

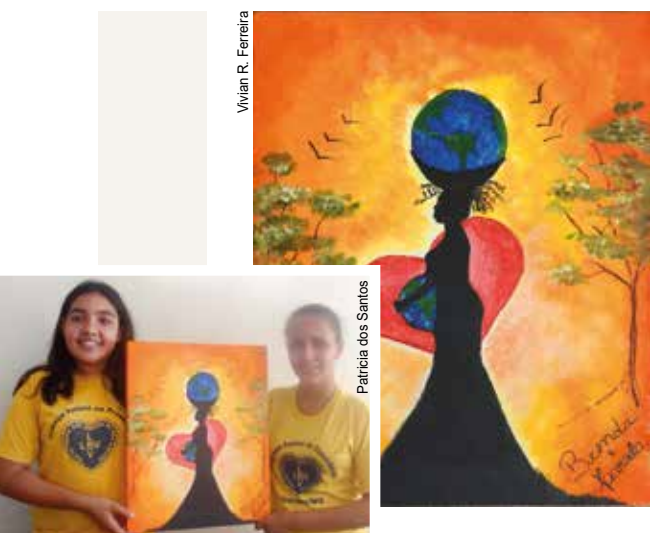
BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

**T**he Legion of Good Will believes that promoting Culture is indispensable to the full development of children and teenagers. That is why the Organization offers music, painting, handicraft, and dance classes in the more than seventy Brazilian cities in which it operates. These are some of the permanent actions that the LGW carries out, which have produced positive results, such as the promotion of Global Citizenship.

To measure the impact of this work, the GOOD WILL magazine met with two young women who were part of a special moment that took place in 2015 during the celebrations of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations (October

24). As a way of paying tribute to the UN, the LGW invited girls and boys between the ages of 6 and 17 who at the time attended its social and educational programs to portray the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through art. The result could be seen in over one hundred paintings that made up the exhibition “Everyone hand-in-hand with Peace – LGW’s Homage to the UN’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,” which was held from October 21 to 28, 2015, in the Art Gallery of the Temple of Good Will (TGW), in Brasília (Brazil).

Read on the next page a summary of our talk with these young women, and find out what it meant for them to be part of this initiative.



**Participant:** Marcela Cristina Pereira, 15. She is in her last year of middle school in the Joubert de Carvalho Municipal School and attended the LGW's *Children: the Future in the Present!* program.

**City:** Uberaba/MG (Brazil)

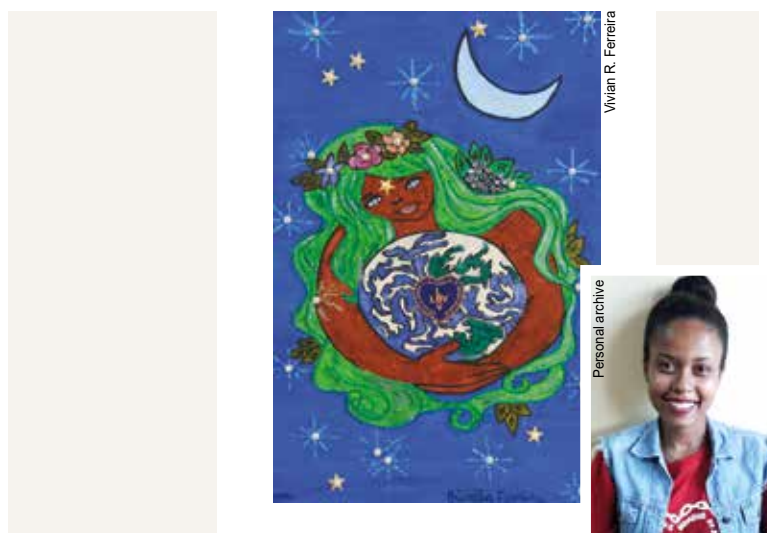
**Title:** Woman—Body, Soul, and Heart in the Transformation of the World

**Materials and techniques:** Acrylic on canvas, buttons, grains, and texture. (The art work was also painted by Brenda Biajo)

**Her impressions about the experience:** “It was gratifying, and the outcome was great. It felt good to portray a woman, an important figure for humanity. She is carrying the world. There’s no life without her.”

**Legacy of the action:** “One of the main things I’ve learned is that we change the world little by little, and that means that great transformations come out of small actions. This place helped shape who I am. Much of what I am and know today I owe to the team from the LGW.”

**Helping change the world:** “I’m the president of the student council at my school, and we always try to do social work both inside and outside school, because I believe that when you do good to others, you inspire people to do the same. That’s why the more good deeds people do, the better the world’s going to be.”



**Participant:** Priscila Ferreira Marques Batalha, 18. She is a senior in the Professor Edgar Barbosa State School and also attended the LGW's *Children: the Future in the Present!* program.

**City:** Natal/RN (Brazil)

**Title:** Global Equilibrium

**Materials and techniques:** Beads, fabric paint, glitter, and crochet thread.

**Her impressions about the experience:** “Knowing that I’d be sharing my art and also sending an ecological message was wonderful. I wanted to show how we’re dependent on nature and that we need to take care of it.”

**Legacy of the action:** “I love the Legion of Good Will. It taught me the importance of sharing good moments with people, and I’ve had experiences there that I’ll never forget. I loved taking part in several of the activities, such as the choir and art classes. I remember the day I got into the LGW. It was the beginning of a new chapter in my life.”

**Helping change the world:** “I’m a volunteer at the LGW. I help the educators with the children who currently attend the program, as I once did. I couldn’t leave behind something that was—and still is—so important to me. I want these kids to feel welcome just as I did. I want to do good for humanity, to help those who need it. In the future I want to be a forensic expert or a vet.” ■



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