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**PROSARE**

**PROGRAMA DE APOIO  
A PROJETOS  
EM SEXUALIDADE  
E SAÚDE REPRODUTIVA**

*THEME 2003*

***“Sexual Violence Against Women  
Children, Youngsters or Adults”***

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**Coordination: Débora Diniz**

***“Social workers and Nurses Face Sexual Violence Against Women: A project for College Education Capacity building in Brazil”***

This was a project to train human resources and had as its main target students and professors from Social Service and Nursing courses in the whole country. The objective was to provide pedagogical instruments that could prepare these two careers to discuss the theme of sexual violence against women in their curriculum, therefore improving the professional and political activities of social assistants and nurses. As this became an educational initiative with a national scope, it is expected that a new generation of social assistants and nurses will be more aware of the gravity and urgency of this theme so they will be able to recognize and face situations involving sexual violence against women in more efficient and long lasting ways.

The project was divided into two phases. In the first one, called “Overview of the Studies and Researches on Sexual Violence against Women in Brazil” two actions took place: 1. research of identification with all professors of Social Service and Nursing courses on researches and actions relating to sexual violence against women. The goal was to identify points of initiatives, especially those ones that had not been registered in the research groups directory of CNPq; 2. A Bibliographical Guide, named “Bibliography Studies on Sexual Violence against Women: 1984-2003”, aiming to create a directory of authors and studies produced in different areas of knowledge on the sexual violence against women theme. In the second phased, named “Facing Sexual Violence against Women”, three activities were carried out: 1. a didactic kit containing a training/teaching program on the theme of sexual violence against women. This kit was adapted to the specific field areas and contains bibliographical references, suggestions for classroom activities and themes for research in the Social Service and Nursing fields. 2) Pre-testing of the didactic kit in the Social Services and Nursing courses at University of Brasilia besides ‘extension courses’ opened to the community and 3) Distribution of the book “Bibliography Studies on Sexual Violence against Women: 1984-2003” and of the didactic kit to all undergraduate and graduate courses in Social Services and Nursing in Brazil”.

Concerning the original plan, there has been no changes regarding the contents of the different phases of this project, apart from an increase in the number of groups in which the didactic kit was tested. Besides the disciplines in the Social Service and Nursing undergraduate courses, it was also accomplished an ‘extension course’ by the Department of Nursing and a small preparation course for the Congress “III Forum of Education and Health in the Mid-Western Region and the Federal

District”. The inclusion of other spaces and formats let us to test and evaluate separately some of the modules of the program, allowing more flexibility in the use and all necessary adaptation by universities and colleges.

In the first phase of the project “Overview of the Studies and Researches on Sexual Violence against Women in Brazil”, 124 undergraduate courses of Social Services and 272 undergraduate courses of Nursing received a questionnaire that allowed us to have a partial identification of the researches and actions on the field of sexual violence in the Brazilian Higher Education institutions. This data was gathered with information made available by the following sources: Federal Council of Social Service (CFESS), Federal Council of Nursing (COFEN), Federal District Regional Council of Nursing (COREN-DF), CAPES/CNPq and the Students Guide, 2004 edition. At the end, 142 questionnaires were returned, being 43 from the Social Service (30% of all of the institutions from this area) and 99 from Nursing courses (70% of all of the institutions from this area); 69% of them came from small size institutions, located outside capital cities. It was possible to identify that 47% of the Nursing courses and 31% of the Social Service courses had some sort of activity related to the theme.

It was researched, surveyed and systematized 1.177 bibliographical references on the theme of sexual violence against women, published in Portuguese, between 1983 and 2003. These references are composed of federal legislation, books or chapters of books, films, monographies, dissertations and thesis, reference compilations, journals and articles in journals were compiled and published in the book called “Bibliography Studies on Sexual violence against Women: 1984-2003”. This book has already been revised, edited and diagramed is on press at the moment. Among the 1.177 bibliographical references, there is a selection of 55 documents which, after analysis, were considered the most significant to help the consolidation of teaching programs specialized in each career. Two regular courses from University of Brasilia were used as a pre-testing program, besides two ‘extension courses’ also at the University of Brasília and the III Forum of Education and Health in the Mid-Western Region and the Federal District. In each course, regular evaluations of the selected documents were carried out and some of them were excluded from the final program given the rejection rate found in the pre-testing phase. The teaching kit is ready and waiting for the final print of the book before it goes to press. The material will be distributed as soon as the printers make them available. An inquiry-questionnaire about the material will be attached to the kits distributed, which will become a final, though medium term, instrument to evaluate the impact of the project.

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***"MIDWIVES FOR PEACE"***

The project, in partnership with PROSARE, aimed to foster and/or intensify objective and subjective conditions to the traditional community midwives so they were prepared to help reducing the cases of domestic and community sexual violence against women in the Brazilian States of Pernambuco, Pará, Amapá and Maranhão.

The project was developed in one year with a chronogram starting in August 2003 and scheduled to finish in July 2004. The team was composed of five different professionals: a traditional community midwife, a sociologist, an anthropologist, a coordinator assistant, a social assistant and a secretary.

We organized specific programs working from language aspects to the everyday life of the population living in a different reality from the urban areas, which present as a background a patriarchal culture, the same as the large cities, though presenting different reactions according to the regional culture and in which we also reached in this large programmatic elaboration.

The 'CAIS of Birth' developed a methodology that included educational information concerning domestic, familial, sexual and community violence, giving information about forms of social intervention with respect and responsibility.

In the training sessions we made use of dynamic workshops, group activities, pedagogical games, lectures, educative video and adequate didactic material. The four elements of nature were used in the presentation dynamics. The coexisting agreement is indispensable to develop the activities and to promote the collective co-responsibility concerning the environment, inter-personal relations and activities.

In our methodological planning we defined that the content would be developed in three axes:

*Individual* – focusing on her, the woman as an individual and within the family, social and professional contexts;

*Collective* – The social codes, mechanisms and existent public policies;

*Intervention* – elaboration and implementation of the "Community Midwives for Peace" bases.

Duration: 24 hours, 8 hours per day, in three days.

The content was planned in a manner that the Midwives could, at the end of the training, be aware of the following issues:

- To be able to see diversity in values, beliefs and behavior in the gender relations;

- To recognize as cultural determinations the social roles attributed to men and women;
- To understand the silent violence, the domestic, sexual and community violence as serious crimes against individuals and Human Rights;
- To get to know the social mechanisms and existent public policies in order to be prepared for an effective intervention;
- To identify victims and possible victims of domestic and sexual violence, supporting and informing them about their rights;
- To support victims of violence to formally report the aggression;
- To follow the cases of violence, registering and quantifying the accomplished interventions;
- To recognize that violence against women is also a Public Health issue;
- To act in solidarity with the victims of domestic and sexual violence, respecting the decisions they make;
- To adopt practices that could disseminate a culture of peace;
- To develop critical consciousness in order to take responsible decisions concerning the social intervention on the issue of sexual and domestic violence;
- To review the methodological contents so this proposal can be multiplied.

Firstly, we elaborated our strategy understanding our specific public – as a potential group to face the problem – without major difficulties considering their spontaneous authority, especially facing the aggressor who, being part of the community, has probably helped to deliver them or their children. The traditional community midwives have a natural leadership, recognized by public representations and the local society even if the midwife has no or few years of schooling and is of an advanced age, therefore, if they can be capacitated, their actions will become more qualified therefore presenting more and better results.

During the building up of the strategy, we defined that the “Community Midwives for Peace” would be set up in the Community Midwives Association with few exceptions regarding small groups of midwives with important role in their communities, especially the ones living and working in the sugar mills and plantation in the rural areas of the State of Pernambuco.

Given this strategy, we are aware of the difficulties regarding the quantification of the activities carried out by the midwives as they have no schooling or only few years and the ones that can write are not used to register things. Therefore, we could see cases in which the Community Midwife for Peace could mediate a conflict and not forward the case to the specific services, the problem that arises is: how are we going to measure the results? We believe, however, that we will be able to see the reduction of violence in the annual epidemiologic data.

We do not have enough financial resources to carry out a systematic local monitoring of the activities but we have a frequent demand in these Brazilian States to promote other activities with the Midwives, therefore, in these opportunities we try to update information and we can see that they have been acting with more resources and more effectively.

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**Coordination: Maria José F. Rosado Nunes**

*“Religion and Violence against women”*

Topic: the influence of Christian religion in the formation of men and women roles in Western societies and the link of this cultural construction with violence against women.

The dominant discourse and the symbolic construction in the society are essentially patriarchal, imposing a model where women are seen as inferior, not apt to sacred activities and suffer a moral control upon their sexuality and reproduction. In churches of Christian denomination, women are, above all, servers and subordinated, with an irrelevant access to the spheres of decisions. The idea that this is “God’s will” promotes the naturalization of violence and makes more difficult to resist or report. By making explicit the relationship between culture and religion and the influence of this on men and women in everyday life, we are contributing to the de-construction of mentalities that reinforce and naturalize violence against women; we contribute, therefore, for the empowerment of women and challenge the silent posture of the church concerning this theme.

The general objective of this Project was to contribute to the reduction of cases of violence against women, strengthening the main people involved in the fight against violence so they can produce more effective results. In order to do this, we searched for the following specific objectives: a) to create an interface between the professionals from public services that assist women victim of violence and the leaders of women’s movement, creating a common understanding of the problem and a better relationship between these two groups; b) to capacitate these women so they can identify and acknowledge the religious components that interfere with their sexuality which promotes and justify violence, especially concerning psychological violence and c) To empower women that are already committed to working against sexual violence, giving them ethical-religious arguments to face the causes of the problem.

In order to achieve these objectives a video was prepared “Religion and Violence against Women”, besides seminars developed in nine cities, reaching 250 people/entities in São Paulo, Goiânia, Belo Horizonte, Belém, Blumenau, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Branco and Salvador. Prior to the seminar, information about the existent support services for women victim of violence (such as shelters and Reference Centers) was collected in cities nearby each venue.

The video lasts for 30 minutes and it was produced by “Três Laranjas” (with contribution from the ‘Catholics’). Five hundred copies were made and distributed to 272 entities/people that attended the seminars and another 110 copies to other entities from different States that had interested in the theme.

The most significant social impacts were:

- To reach and sensitize professionals that deal with women in situations of violence in the discussed themes, professionals that did not have the opportunity to discuss this type of issue in their traditional school programs and influencing the type of assistance;
- To form groups that could discuss more in depth the theme;
- Participation of the Catholics for a Free Choice/project Religion and Violence against Women in events promoted by other entities that aim to form agents, such as: the São Paulo Forum on Combating Violence, Popular and Legal Prosecutors (“PLP”) in Santo André and Diadema cities, Movement of Peasant Women from the State of Santa Catarina, public services that receive women in situation of violence;
- Promotion of other similar events with the advice of “Catholics”;
- Strengthening the networks in some of the places where seminar took place;
- Introduction of the theme “religion” in the discussion of how assist women in situations of violence;
- Reproduction of the video in Spanish so it can be used in other countries in Latin America.

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*“Capacitating Public Security and Health Care Professionals to Assist Women Victims of Sexual violence”*

Facing the issue of sexual violence against girls, adolescents and adult women has been slowly gaining more space in the agenda of public policy makers. This visibility of the problem is due, above all, to the pressure exert by women’s organized movements and also national and international organizations that present in their agendas the guarantee of Woman’s Rights as part of Human Rights. However, the supply of services is still small and not always presents the desirable quality.

CEPIA, engaged in this effort for a long time, had, in this project, the following objectives: to build the capacity of health workers in order to stimulate more demand for services, besides the improvement of the existent ones, to contribute to a full application of the prophylactic and therapeutic protocol as presented in the Technical Norms of the Brazilian Health Ministry and to promote the communication between services of public security and health.

A total of 8 training sessions, involving the participation of 417 police officers allotted to traditional District Police Stations, Legal Police Stations and specialized Police Stations for Women (‘Deams’) besides 200 graduates from the Police Academy, totaling 617 participants. The idea was to sensitize these professionals when assisting women victims of sexual violence in police stations in general and, particularly, the ones specialized in assisting women (‘Deams’), to be guided by the expected technical quality besides being respectful and supportive concerning the feelings and suffering of women and girls. One of the main objectives was to make **police officers aware of the importance and the need to send these women and girls to health reference units** as soon as possible after the act has taken place so prophylactic and therapeutical measures can be taken, which is an advice of the Brazilian Health Ministry Technical Norms.

The evaluation carried out showed that the project reached its objectives. It also showed a social impact as it can be seen in the implementation, by the São Paulo Municipal Secretariat of Health, of a network of units and in the orientation of victims of sexual violence to health services which now are done an ordinary procedure to police officers.

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*“Articulating social control and assistance integrated networks on violence against women in the cities of the state of São Paulo”*

**Partner Institutions:** State of São Paulo Council on Status of Women

**Other Partners:** Women Network of Education, Caism/University of Campinas

The objective of this project was to develop strategies of integration and interaction of areas, equipments, services, research centers and mechanisms of social control related to gender-based violence aiming the creation of a municipal and/or regional network specialized in giving attention to victims of sexual and domestic violence could be established. We call a network of services dealing with violence against women, an articulated action among institutions and governmental or non-governmental services and other organizations and groups from the civil society aiming to raise the quality and the scope of assistance and prevention. A network of services depends on public policies on gender-based violence that stimulate local agents and encourage relationships between governmental and non-governmental institutions, expecting, therefore, to be an articulated network, creating favorable conditions to implement and to continue work. In order to do so, it becomes necessary to have the intention for it, the willingness, the commitment and strategies of actions.

In a first phase, it was identified the services, equipments, governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the regions that had been chosen. From this information, indicators were created which allowed the definition of 5 cities participants of the project: Marília, Osasco, Ribeirão Preto, São José dos Campos and Sorocaba. A course was accomplished for municipal or regional articulators aiming, mainly, to sensitize, capacitate and strengthen leaderships with the adequate profile to articulate the main services (governmental and non-governmental ones) and to reproduce the capacity-building process locally, facilitating the network action. Afterwards, local workshops were carried out in the 5 cities that had been strategically chosen, aiming to encourage the planning for the constitution of a local network, with established guidelines and the signature of a protocol of intentions – ‘a Term of Commitments’ – between the local government and the participant organizations in each locality.

As stipulated in the approved project, strategies for the integration of the services dealing with the issue of violence against women within a network were developed, based on the discussions made and the consensus achieved during the execution of the project.

One of the positive points observed was the creation of an electronic group to exchange information and to maintain the capacitated articulators motivated. By this means of communication, we were able to maintain all cities informed about the development of the project,

the advances observed in the cities, therefore contributing to the acknowledgment of the existent protocols and also as a facilitating strategy for the network-building process. Taking into account the particularity of each locality, some of the steps are repeated and necessary to the creation and consolidation of local networks assisting women victim of sexual and domestic violence.

The **main result achieved** was the development of the project promoted the discussion and validation of the strategies to articulate services and to constitute a network.

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*“Gender, violence, reproductive and sexual health in the Distance Education course of Santa Catarina’s State University”*

The project “Gender, Violence, Reproductive and Sexual Health in the Pedagogy Course (Distance Learning) at the State University of Santa Catarina”, renamed later into Project “**Gender in Education – space for diversity**”, aims to contribute for a continuous formation of students and professors from the pedagogy course. We have noticed that although the issues of gender, violence and reproductive and sexual health are present in the lives of men and women, in public and private situations, most of the time they are only superficially discussed in educational environments. This is especially true concerning sexual and reproductive rights in educational institutions which, in many cases, tend to neglect the issue concerning their children who are victims of any sort of abuse, preferring not to interfere. One of the intentions of this project is to de-construct the common idea among teachers that gender is synonymous of women, sexuality and associated, exclusively, to reproduction. Furthermore, the idea that this is an issue exclusive to specialists. In this sense, we contribute to the formation of educators so they are able to incorporate these issues in their pedagogical practice and to look for autonomy in this field of knowledge.

The objectives of the project were: a) to capacitate students and professors from the Pedagogy course at distance from the State university of Santa Catarina to understand the themes related to gender, sexuality, violence and reproductive health, so they are able to adequately intervene in the pedagogical activities developed; b) plan and elaborate communication instruments that can help the teachers in their pedagogical practice.

A video and a pedagogical booklet were produced. The first one is a facilitating instrument and also a subsidy to the activities carried out by the teachers in the workshops and other educational spaces. The booklet serves as a basic guide to studies and activities as well as a theoretical input for the public involved in the project. The capacity building activity was developed in 20 workshops (three more than originally planned) with duration of 20 hours in each of them, in four regions of the State of Santa Catarina, reaching 598 people, including 11 tutors and 12 professors of the disciplines. The participants represented around 200 institutions from 8 cities of the four regions in the State of Santa Catarina.

Another result that we searched was to create incentives and to subsidize the participation of the students in civil society institutions that might exist in their cities, therefore the discussions developed during the workshop can be translated into political actions. We evaluate that this result was largely accomplished and presented good repercussions beyond the educational environments, including the mobilization of educational policy agents in the cities where the workshop took place.

This positive result was achieved by the methodology we adopted as it allowed to develop all the activities of the project in an efficient way, especially the workshops that favored many reflections and discussions by the participants. These reflections were materialized in different actions proposed by the representatives of about 200 institutions that participated in 20 workshops. The different proposals for action were divided into: a) educative activities in educational environments; b) collective organizations of the educational work from the institutions; c) actions in the structure of the educational system.

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***“Woman, Your Body Belongs To You”***

Many recent national and international studies show that the issue of gender-based violence demands integrated actions if one expects to achieve more effective results and it should involve public, private, non-governmental and civil society organizations. In this sense, the project “Women – Your Body Belongs to You” aims to stimulate network training by capacitating the women who will be acting as multipliers in the discussion process around gender-base violence, the consequences and forms of eliminating the problem.

The general objective of the project was to make possible the establishment of network training so the multipliers could act on the behalf of feminine citizenship, aiming to overcome gender-based violence situations and the construction of a new project of life. The specific objectives were: a) to structure instruments to collect data, aiming to identify the level of gender-based violence against black women in the form of indicators; b) to capacitate the multipliers to act in the discussion process about gender-based violence, consequences and forms to eliminate the problem; c) to facilitate a critical consciousness of women concerning the gender condition and d) to articulate the implementation of public policies that could overcome the conditions of violence among women and adolescents.

In the first phase of the project a capacitating course for multipliers on gender and violence against women was elaborated with duration of 120 hours and structured into three modules: I – Gender and Violence Against Women; II – Techniques for Group Moderation and III – Formation of Multipliers. In this course, 34 women participated, who were already acting in social movements in the city of Macapá. Afterwards, 5 women were selected to develop workshops for black women, aiming to mobilize them to face the issue of violence against women. Two workshops were developed. One in the community “Torrão de Matapi” where 26 women participated and another one in “Mazagão Velho” where 21 women attended.

The activities developed by this project ended up in the production of a documentary “Project Women – Your Body Belongs to You”, a 23 minutes video discussing the themes of violence against women, especially against black women.

The first phase of the project allowed integration among different social movements of women as the participants associated information and reflections from the point of view of thinking and acting, seeing themselves as protagonists in the process of network building.

The second phase of the project produced the “Shout of black women from Amazonas”, i.e., to get to know about the exclusion process, ostracism and how black women live and also the situation of violence, discrimination, institutional racism in black rural communities.

However, the most significant result was to observe that one of the proposed objectives of the project was fully achieved: the formation of 70 multipliers that can act in the discussion process on gender-based violence, consequences and forms of eliminating the problem.

Certainly, the gain from the project was to facilitate the empowerment and mobilization of the participants, especially black women. As examples we can quote the participation of some of them as delegates in the National Plenary of Black Women that took place in São Paulo or in the executive coordination of the Solidary Economy Forum in Amapá or in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Quilombola Women in Belém, Pará or in the National Conference of Black Women in Brasília and, finally, a candidate to local representation.

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***“Advertising Campaign Against Sexual Violence”***

*Where there is violence, everybody loses* is a social communication campaign targeted at male aggressors. The proposal is to place men at the center of the debate on domestic violence. Contrary to the majority of the messages against domestic violence, the ‘character’ is not the victimized woman but the perpetrator of violence. The campaign messages are an invitation to a change in male attitude and behavior regarding domestic violence. It is a national campaign, using mass communication media as a channel and it is composed of parts to television, radio and posters.

The main objectives of the campaign were: to sensitize men who are aggressors to change their behavior; to gain the solidarity of men who are not aggressors; to provoke in the general public a less cultural tolerant attitude concerning violence against women.

Although the necessary financial resources were not available, the campaign was planned with the same rigor as in large advertising campaigns reaching large audiences. Besides the conceptual definition and gathering a team of experienced professionals, some tests were carried out with men that presented a compatible socioeconomic profile to the concept and the targeted audience of the campaign. The developed work had two objectives: the creation of a mass campaign and the elaboration of a work methodology for social campaigns. This included the definition of a precise briefing, the organization of a group of experienced professionals, the construction of partnerships with communication companies, tests and post-tests to beacon the work, media planning, production of support material etc.

The first step for the construction of the campaign was to gather specialists in domestic violence and masculinities to elaborate a consistent briefing. A series of questions were raised: What would be the concept of the campaign? What should be the strategic positioning? What should not be missed? What should not be contained? How to involve male aggressors and non-aggressors on the debate about domestic violence? *Where there is violence, everybody losses* counted since its conception with debates surrounding the general concept to be used. Professionals from different areas and activists gathered together during the process of planning in order to elaborate the messages of the campaign. After the writing of the parts, pre-tests of the messages were carried out in focal groups formed with men. Qualitative surveys are an obligatory evaluation item in every large campaign. The evaluation of the results from the groups worked as a compass to the creation team and allowed the correction of some routes and some imperfections concerning communication, which allowed rewriting parts of the scripts for the spots to television and radio. The phase involving the production of the pieces counted on the same rigorous process from previous phases. The selection of the cast, the recording and the finalization of the spots followed the same routine used by professional advertising. The broadcasting of the campaign, on radio and

television, enters in the “advertising for public utility” quota (free advertising). There is an important political gain from the recognition of a campaign as public utility.

Focal groups of men and women were formed to know in depth the impact of the messages and to allow minor adjustments so more comprehension and acceptance could be achieved. The results will serve for the continuity of the campaign *Where there is violence, everybody losses*.

The current campaign does not end with the presentation of these first parts as it is inserted in a cross-platform advertising scheme that can be developed in many other phases. It is a base that tries to articulate activism and communication; cultural behavior and changes; elimination of violence against women and gender equality.

The campaign *Where there is violence, everybody losses* is not the result of ‘six brilliant minds’ nor was it produced rashly. Activists and research professionals participated in the construction, planning and communication processes. Pro and cons were heard. The parts, tested. The routes, constantly corrected. All the accumulation of knowledge from the women’s movement, from the organizations that work with masculinity issues and the remaining professionals served as a base for the creation of the concept of the campaign.

The construction of the concept and the discourse, the most important part of the work, was a successful project. Thus, society can count on a specific campaign and also an example for future campaigns. Precise contents, meeting with experienced professionals, evaluations, production of support material, in a word, the creation and making of a concept.

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*“Violence, sexuality and gender relations in the city of  
São Gabriel da Cachoeira, in the high Negro River (AM)”*

**Partner Institution for the database set up:** Prosecuting Council (‘Ministério Público Estadual) – Public attorney office of São Gabriel da Cachoeira

This project aimed to investigate and analyze the vision of the indigenous population living in São Gabriel da Cachoeira, the upper bound of Rio Negro (Amazon) on the theme: frequent cases of sexual violence against indigenous women. Given a multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic scenario in São Gabriel, we opted for a general overview of the problem, building a sort of ‘social cartography’ of the sexual violence in the city, in detriment of cultural analyzes on conceptions of the indigenous population about violence, sexuality and possible interconnections. We understand this alternative as necessary for a posterior more in depth discussion of the issue in a more anthropological approach.

The research was based mainly on registering and analyzing leadership discourses in 4 neighborhoods in the city which we considered representatives of the population. At the same time, two other subsidiary lines of investigation were developed: the first one consisted of interviewing authorities and representatives of institutions used to the problem in the city; the second involved a statistical analyzes of the processes at the São Gabriel District related to some kind of violence. This last activity was made possible thanks to a partnership with the Prosecuting Council which gave us access to the processes, therefore forming a database with relevant information for the research.

This first overview allowed us to further some important considerations. First, we observed that from the point of view of the institutional representative that deal with the problem in the city, sexual violence is, to a large extent, a ‘cultural problem’. Tolerance to violence, alcoholism, hesitation in reporting, turning the victim ‘guilty’ – in the opinion of these interviewed authorities all these is in one way or another related to the indigenous origin of the local population. We fully agree with the existence of cultural factors determining the perception and the attitudes of the indigenous population from São Gabriel concerning the issue of sexual violence as well as violence in general. For this reason we are convinced that only an anthropological research could lead us to a better understanding of the issue. But we also believe that to all these factors are other ones that add up too, more of a circumstantial character, which could be dealt with immediately with adequate public policies. We saw that although an alleged ‘connivance’ from the women aggrieved has been

insinuated every now and again, ‘tolerance to sexual violence’ and ‘accusation of the aggrieved’ were not, by far, the main component of the people’s representatives discourse. In the context of our quite formal conversation with the associations, the focus was on the problems of indigenous youth, on the one hand, and impunity with the whites in the city, on the other hand. Alcoholism and violence appear as connected problems in the view of the residents of São Gabriel when talking about the indigenous youth, especially concerning the young men just arriving in the communities.

Another factor mentioned quite frequently in the meetings with the associations as explaining reasons for the typical violence situations in São Gabriel – impunity with the whites – is related to historical relations between indigenous and white people in the city and in the region as a whole. We could formulate this issue as it follows: ‘from the point of view of the indigenous people, the city belongs to the whites’. In other words, the hegemonic representation among the indigenous population concerning the opposition between urban space and ‘village-community’ is that the countryside of the region and the characteristic way of living are associated to the indigenous identity whilst the city with its own rhythm is associated to the whites. Life in the city is conceptually opposed to life in the community, the latter ruled ideally by kinship values, sharing and appraisal of the community well-being.

For all these reasons, although the indigenous people form majority in the city, this space is understood by them as the ‘place of whites’ which contributes to the consolidation of a system of privileges, as described above, and stimulates historical conflicts between whites and Indians. The resentment the indigenous people have is expressed in different forms of accusations: the missionary who would have ‘destroyed their culture’; the anthropologists who would be only interested in their own research; the military who would have stolen their women. This last accusation is referred to a more advantageous position regarding the sexual and matrimonial systems in the city. When they arrive alone in the city, they end up establishing sexual relations and, in many cases, marrying and constituting families with the indigenous women who, on the other hand, justify their preference to whites with the argument that indigenous men tend to be drunk more often.

From the analyses of the criminal reports, the first important data is related to the proportion of sexual violence processes in the selected pile of documents. From the 201 registered processes, 33 refer to ‘sexual violence’, ‘collective rape’ or ‘intra-family sexual violence’, representing, therefore, around 16,4% of the sample. The processes of domestic violence sum up 19 cases (9,5%) and the ones relating to physical aggression 149 (74,1%). If we look at the 33 cases of sexual violence, they include 7 cases of collective rape and 5 of intra-family sexual violence, the remaining being sexual violence in general (rape, sexual harassment). We now observe the processes of ‘outside-family’ sexual violence to check whether the results in our database confirm the allegations that were reported in the meetings with the associations. In these processes, among the victims which information about the origin was available, we counted 9 victims from village communities and 10 who were born in São Gabriel. Taking into consideration the information from the association representatives that the majority of the victims of sexual violence in the city came from riverine communities, the slightest higher proportion of women born in the city in our sample suggests that these women tend to report violence more often. According to the clues given by our informants, it is plausible to suppose that a larger control of the codes in the ‘world of whites’ makes, in fact, women who were born in São Gabriel more comfortable to publicly report the aggression. From the 7 cases of collective rape, the information from the origin of the victim was available for only 3 of them: all of them born in the village communities in the countryside. Relating the age of the victims, the important point is that only 2 of the victims were over 18 years old, 4 of them minors and one with no age information. Concerning the geographical region of the accused of sexual violence in general, in 24 processes the defendant was born in the region, 3 of them were from other cities in the State of Amazonas and 6 from other States.

According to Domingos Barreto Tukano (Director of the FOIRN – Federation of Indigenous Organizations from Rio Negro) in the cases of sexual violence involving both indigenous victim and aggressor, the families “fight, report, and make a lot of noise”, thus, these cases are reported to the police and to Justice. “The big fight in the Courts is between indigenous people”, says Domingos. Regarding the cases involving an Indian victim and a white aggressor, the families tend to omit the case because their fear retaliation, given the aggressiveness of white people, but also because the indigenous population understands that the Justice system of the whites does not serve to mediate conflicts between whites and indigenous people: “the Indians would always lose”. However, in some cases involving whites, the problem is solved by their own initiative of the accused that, fearing a police report, look for the victim and/or the families and propose a financial compensation.

Our effort to mobilize the São Gabriel neighborhood associations succeeded and culminated in the accomplishment of a seminar called “Epidemic violence is not our Right”, counting with the participation of around 40 people, representatives of the urban neighborhood associations, institutions that deal directly with violence issues, such as the civil police chief of police, the Guardianship Council representatives (equivalent to the Social Services), the Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, the Council for Social Well-Being, social assistants from the ‘Guarnição Hospital’, attorneys from FUNAI (Indigenous people governmental Foundation), public attorneys, members of the ‘Sentinela’ program (program against sexual abuse and trading of children and adolescents), FOIRN and ISA.

During the seminar, issues concerning general knowledge about violence and sexual violence were discussed, emphasizing the association between violence practices in the city and alcohol. The young people were seen by the participants as, at the same time, “victims and wicked”. Counting on few future perspectives and few options of cultural and leisure activities, they would be more vulnerable to alcohol consumption and violent practices. On the other hand, the places of leisure, as night-clubs and night bars have not been watched over by the authorities and have been pointed out as participants and connived in this situation. Concerning the young women, victims of sexual violence or abuse, the most discussed issue related to girls that had recently arrived in the city (coming from riverside communities) and the enormous difficulties of the institutions that receive them (the Guardianship Council and the Children and Adolescents Council, Social Assistants from the hospital, ‘Sentinela’ program) to get from these young women explanations about their apparent state of “apathy”. There is still no knowledge about the profile of the families of the aggressors as well as the victims’.

We believe that this research initiative, anchored in a participative proposal and based on the establishment of dialogues among representatives of the population, can contribute to the important process of consolidation of the institutional role of neighborhood associations as they stimulate a systematic reflection on the problems of the city and foment the idea that it is possible to think about alternatives and build a different future.

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***“CHIC.com”***

The project ‘Chic.com’ was developed by the National Movement of Street Boys and Girls – Federal District (MNMMR) in partnership with CECRIA (a non-governmental organization). The ‘Chic.com’ deals with damage reduction among adolescents in situations of commercial sexual exploitation in the streets of the Federal District. Damage reduction is here considered as an action that should reach all of the society and contribute to the articulation and interlocution between the population living in the streets and the community. We consider that a person dealing with Damage Reduction should be sensitive to the issues relating drug use and dissemination of HIV/Aids and that, presenting a good insertion among the target-population of the project, is willing to work in preventive actions. Thus, the project ‘Chic.com’ aims to form young people that could help with the reduction of damages in this area so a new approach can be built with people involved in the commercial sexual exploitation.

The project contemplates the formation of young people with preventive work concerning those involved in commercial sexual exploitation, considered, by some of them, as a job and developed in a process that naturally emphasized the formation, during which spaces for contact among youngsters in the capacitating process were built and the sex professionals, allowing the articulation between two work dimensions: educational and preventive. This experience is developed with male (6) and female (9) adolescents and youngsters from the Federal District who participate in projects of other entities and that we call ‘facilitators’. From the 15 youngsters from 14 to 21 years old, five are enrolled in secondary schools and 10 are still attending elementary school, especially the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

In terms of methodological procedures, we have used as main instruments weekly meetings and workshops, fieldwork with systematic observation, area surveillance, and field diary.

The project was developed in four articulated moments: 1) the initial point constituted the moment of formation of the group, besides the technicians including also educators, facilitators and the support team; contact with Federal District institutions that work with the theme of commercial Sexual Exploitation among Children and Adolescents (ESCCA) so they could appoint the youngsters who were going to participate in the project and in the first meetings for organization and discussion of the work; 2) The process of formation of the facilitators approached the conceptual and methodological aspects of the project in general and in particular about the sexual and reproductive rights, sexual violence and social and political context and the definition of damage reduction; 3) Planning and confection of the material to be distributed was done when the

observation and surveying of the areas of commercial sexual exploitation took place, with priority in areas of five cities of the Federal District (Plano Piloto, Taguatinga, Cruzeiro, Núcleo Bandeirante and Ceilândia). The material became a kit containing: a telephone agenda with information suggested by the target-population, lipstick case and a purse. To approach publicly the debate on commercial sexual exploitation, besides the kit, we also created a theatrical play in which the facilitators performed and was called '*Chic is to take care of yourself*' presenting through dialogues among various characters (the penis, the vagina and the diseases). The fourth moment was the release and presentation of the project to the public who formulates and executes actions aimed to prevent and combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, to the general public and in place of high concentration of people or at the points that concentrate sex professionals. A solemn act in the Ministry of Justice marked the launching activities of the kit chic.com. Other venues for the launching of 'Chic' was the CONIC – commercial sector in the Federal District, one of the oldest and most traditional points for prostitution and sexual exploitation, and the Book Fair in Brasília, being announced on the news 'Bom Dia Federal District', Globo TV.

During the presentation of the project in the streets and in the night bars, the reception by the public was, in general, very good, there was interaction between the facilitators from the 'Chic.com' and the sex professionals. Some local traders and bar owners manifested the importance of the initiative and asked for more activities of this sort. There was great interest from the public to get to know more about the work on damage reduction developed by MNMMR and CECRIA.

Finally, we considered that the scope of the project 'Chic.com' – impossible to be told in details here – went beyond our expectations as we could reach the target-population in their context, expanding the action beyond the adolescents in commercial sexual exploitation situations and also sensitizing those who hire these services, accomplices, police officers, segments of the population and authorities responsible for the formulation and execution of public policies combating sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. We understand, therefore, that the 'Chic.com' proposal allowed the creation of mechanisms that contribute in an effective way to the prevention of HIV/Aids and the exercise of health and responsible sexuality in the Federal District.

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***“Qualification of Guardianship Councils for Assisting Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents”***

As sexual abuse of children and adolescents is a phenomenon characterized by an arbitrary exercise of power founded on differences of gender and generation transformed into inequalities, it becomes necessary to prevent these cases and to reduce the damage imposed on victims and their families, especially the mothers and the ones responsible for their care – normally blamed and stigmatized as negligents. Therefore, as the Brazilian legislation designates the Guardianship Councils (‘Conselhos Tutelares’ – CTs), which are formed by citizens without specifications regarding degrees – the institution responsible for taking the initial necessary interventions in these cases, this project focused on the qualification of their members as a preventive and primary strategy and also of damage reduction in already established violent situations.

The main objective of the project was to qualify guardianship councilors in the State of Rio de Janeiro so they would be capable of intervening in the cases of children and adolescents sexual abuses, in a perspective of prevention and damage reduction, aiming to subsidize the formulation of public policies that deal with this matter.

The implementation of the project was marked by five blocs of complementary activities: (a) investments in approximating each of the regions, aiming, at the same time, to circulate information about the activities and to gather subsidies to adequate the elaborated program to local specificities; (b) Active participation in the public debate concerning the theme in place; (c) Elaboration and production of didactic material; (d) Organization – including venue logistics and process of publicizing and enrollment – and realization of the 17 (seventeen) editions of the capacity-building course for guardianship councilors; (e) Realization of 4 (four) seminars.

The presence in public spaces for debate, concertation and struggles concerning the theme of sexual violence against women, children and adolescents have allowed efforts to be sum up with other institutions such as the Prosecuting Council (‘Ministério Público’), the Judiciary, Civil and Military Police Forces – as well as reinforcing the intervention in the civil society regarding the definition and implementation of public policies to the area – in particular in the Councils of Rights and other Forums in the civil society.

The process of qualification involved 350 (three hundred and fifty) guardianship councilors and the four seminars with the participation of 750 professionals from different social segments interested in the theme of sexual violence against women, children and adolescents. All this process dealt with the main aspects involved in the manifestation of the phenomenon and the ways to face it, including the implementation of the protection and responsabilization network, pertinent legislation, procedures to be adopted, competence rules (attributions and limits of each institution) and violence in its different manifestations, especially intra-family ones. There was a permanent emphasis on characterizing sexual violence as a phenomenon that denounces the inequalities related to gender and, in the specific case of this project, generational relations aiming to move further from common sense.

According to the evaluation of the participants of the course, the didactic material distributed (see appendix), the adopted methodology and the quality of the presenters in the seminars were quite adequate to the qualification needs of the councilors in order to intervene in cases of sexual abuse as well as the remaining segments of the System of Rights Guarantee – in this case, especially the discussion developed in the seminars.

Although the whole extension of the social impact would need a medium term monitoring in order to be observed, in the short term it was possible to notice that some actions did provoke changes in the assistance services and, specially, a change of attitude from the guardianship councilors in the face of the possible meanings of the sexual violence phenomenon as well as how to deal with it. Such evidence can be seen mainly by the more often contacts between the Guardianship Councils and other segments involved in the process of protection and responsabilization which have asked NOVA, during some of the dialogue occasions, to intervene as a facilitator of the processes. Such cases could be ratified by the pertinence and the satisfactory control of the issue – especially concerning their own attributions – that could be seen during the presentations of the councilors in the seminar.

At the end of all this process, it is possible to notice a better qualification of the guardianship councilors disputing the definition of concepts and public policies that face the phenomenon here discussed as well as a process of appraisal of this dispute as the main strategy to effectively change a situation of extreme vulnerability to sexual violence that women, children and adolescents found themselves in.

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***“Formative Evaluation of Family Mediation as an Intervention Method in Domestic Violence”***

This project aimed to evaluate the method of social intervention developed and applied by the *Pro-Women, Family and Citizenship (PMFC)* that deals with situations of intra-familial conflict. The method of *Interdisciplinary Familial Mediation* as it has been developed by the *PMFC* is based on the premise that intrafamilial violence requires a pacific and constructive alternative of intervention capable of changing mentalities and creating new forms of communication. The adaptation of the method to the popular stratum in the context of gender-based violence aims to equalize powers and the promotion of protagonism, destroying the dichotomy victim-aggressor and stimulating a behavior according to a relational logic.

From the *methodological* point of view, the evaluation involves a combination of qualitative strategies of collecting and interpreting data in order to select a case study that would involve a group of users (and their respective partners) that searched for assistance at the *PMFC* and went through all the stages of the service. From the *political* point of view, this proposal has as objective to multiply the use of the methodology as an alternative to intervention in situations of intrafamilial conflict and violence.

The general objective is to evaluate the experience of social intervention of the *PMFC* concerning the practice of the mentioned methodology. Specific objectives were defined: to produce scientific knowledge on the theory that fundamentals the working methodology developed and applied by the institution; to identify factors related to the method that would allow the use of pacific resources when dealing with situations of intrafamilial conflict and violence; to identify difficulties, obstacles and deficiencies during the application of the method and to propose measures that could improve social intervention; to develop a model of process evaluation adequate to the characteristics of the social intervention.

The research was carried out between September 2003 and August 2004, unfolding into two fronts. The first one involved to get information about the work of the institution, its methodology, characteristics of the technical team and the profile of users/clients. The second one followed - in an every day basis and during approximately six months - the flux of service attendance provided by *PMFC* in each stage. Besides the observation of the attendance, collective and individuals interviews were accomplished with the users of the services after concluding the pre-mediation stage and others with users after concluding the mediation or the juridical-adverse stages.

In order to understand the evasion, a selected group of people who had left the service in any of the stages were selected to be interviewed but they never showed up. Concerning the technical process, the observation of the weekly meetings for supervision and the participation on the *Project Implementation Commission* to organize a computerized system of attendance – still in progress – were continued. Another two meetings took place between the research team and the technicians from *PMFC* to present partial results from the evaluation process.

The method used by the research as well as the researched methodology stimulates transformative reactions which contribute to adjust changes in the method. Two members of *PMFC* are part of the research team fostering changes in the supervision, capacity building and routine of technicians after observations and findings pointing into this direction. It was not the case here of contesting the paradigms and objectives of the methodology but to search for more efficient forms of reaching these objectives and to overcome observed difficulties or failures during the application of the method, being either related to the flux or the assistance to users. This is the objective of the chosen evaluation alternative with a clear formative character. Some aspects not noticed before (because of a lack of direct observation of the assistance) or noticed but not solved could be thought over during the discussions between the researchers and gained clearer dimensions and more legitimacy as all group of technicians had deposited a lot of trust in the research team since the discussion of the first results began.

One of the chronic problems of the assistance flux has been the difficulty in guaranteeing the presence of the counterpart in the process, a necessary condition to the Mediation. Through follow up interviews, for example, it became clear that insisting in personal phone calls and changing the content of the invitation letter could be useful, procedures that have already been taken. The invitation letter was changed to a more personalized one and emphasizes the advantages of the service for the parts involved in the conflict.

Another result refers to the profile of the technicians of the institution which requires a reorganization of the professional staff.

Concerning communication issues, either among the technicians or between the technicians and the users, *PMFC* is experimenting new forms of supervision and recycling. The challenge of interdisciplinary work is enormous as it involves different points of view. A more practical than theoretical instrument (such as role playing) has been introduced so the technicians could be trained in internal communication and other aspects like language and listening when interacting with users. A weekly discussion on how to refer cases was introduced, aiming to resolve the deficiencies observed during the evaluation.

The project foresaw the elaboration of a set of evaluation indicators which would be afterwards suggested to the *PMFC* team as an instrument of continuous evaluation of the service. This objective, however, became unviable for many reasons. First because the implementation of a computerized system of flux in the *PMFC* has been slower than originally expected. Second because in depth evaluation studies revealed innumerable subtle behaviors and attitudes among the users, making difficult to maintain the original concepts related to success or failure that would be one of the guidelines for the indicators. A possible proposal of evaluation indicators that could be used continuously in the services will demand more time to think about and propose a viable alternative. The continuity of the project, with the support of FAPESP, will allow furthering this aspect besides the complementation of the study with the research on the target-population and the support of *PMFC* in the 'Juridical Assistance Procuratorship' (Procuradoria de Assistência Judiciária) of the State of São Paulo.

The project became visible in the specialized area contributing to the surveying for the 'Feminist Collection of Sexuality and Health' in São Paulo, 2003 (with the support of Ford Foundation) about services in the area of violence against women. It was also part of a documentary on Mediation Brazil-Canada (with the support of CIDA) and motivated the presentation of the project during the Seminar "New Perspectives in Mediation" (Sesc, São Paulo, September 2004).

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*“Access to Justice and the Proof of Sexual Crimes”*

Sexual violence is a social issue difficult to approach because of cultural-historical constructions surrounding sexuality and because of the myths associated with this sort of violence. This difficulty to face the problem reflects on invisibility and, consequently, impunity either because is difficult to report and the social and professional treatment given to the victims or because of the limitations on proving sexual violence in the Brazilian juridical system.

The general objective of this project was to promote the recognition that sexual violence is a violation of Human Rights and to stimulate the use of new mechanisms (forensic evidence) to reduce impunity and to guarantee the access of women and girls (victims) to Justice.

The accomplished activities had three main focuses: to sensitize institutions and society in general to the gravity of sexual violence against women and girls; to capacitate public workers and social movement members to assist and refer women who have been victims of sexual violence; to sensitize the authorities and justice agents to the impunity problem prevalent in the cases of sexual crimes and to use psychiatric profiles that could prove the post-traumatic stress as a alternative forensic evidence in these cases.

The project achieved important results. The theme of sexual violence, normally a taboo and difficult to approach, became part of the media agenda and many other events discussing social policies. It is clear that, besides the advertising made in a public campaign promoted by the State Network of Justice and Gender, coordinated by Themis, the agenda was also set by a national campaign combating sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. However, Themis and the network campaign became a reference in the majority of the events covering the theme in the State of Rio Grande do Sul.

The most important result, however, concerns the advances made in promoting the use of a psychiatric profile as means of forensic evidence in cases of sexual violence. The partnerships established between institutions and justice agents were an important support to walk into this direction which, at the end of the project, received the State Governor commitment to search for alternatives to create the forensic psychology/psychiatric career at the DML, besides the adhesion of the Prosecuting Council (‘Ministério Público’), the Superior School of Magistrature (AJURIS) and other justice agents to the campaign

The demystification reached with the advertising campaign and the activities to sensitize people as well as the concrete possibility of the implementation of a formal request device for psychiatric profile in the justice system points to changes that significantly contribute to improve the access of women to justice and to protect them against violence. On the other hand, the achieved results create opportunities to further these actions, meaning that we won the battle. In order to win the war there is still some challenges ahead.

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