



COMISSÃO DE  
CIDADANIA E  
REPRODUÇÃO



MACARTHUR  
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**PROSARE**

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

*THEME 2004*  
**“FUNDAMENTALISM AND  
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS”**

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## **ADVOCACI – CITIZEN ADVOCACY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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### **Institutional Mission**

**ADVOCACI** is a non-governmental organization whose objective is to use the law strategically as an instrument for intervention in public policies in order to promote and advocate human rights. It was organized in 2001, and stems from the understanding that, despite the advanced national and international legal standards for human rights protection, the strategic use of these instruments for actual implementation is still incipient, in that it is necessary to foster new technical-legal actions—allied to legal research—to make these rights fully effective. In order to deepen and boost its initiatives, **ADVOCACI** contributes to and/or seeks legal advice from other organizations of the civil society. To make its work operational, **ADVOCACI** has an Executive Coordination, occasional consultants, and an administrative infrastructure based in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

*Project Coordination: Gleyde Selma da Hora*

*Team: Gleyde Selma da Hora, Rulian Emmerick, Iara Amora dos Santos, Suelyemma Franco, and Sonia Maria Moreira de Souza*

### **Objective**

To build a model to provide services to women caught in the police / legal system due to the practice of abortion, based on the analysis of each case and to offer assistance to women who are being sued due to the practice of abortion in Rio de Janeiro.

Length and Period: 12 months: 09/01/2004 to 08/31/2005

### **Methodology used**

1. Research to identify existing suits in the state of Rio de Janeiro in which the defendants are women who practiced abortion and to identify the number of final decisions in terms of convictions and acquittals or conditional suspensions of the lawsuits. In addition, to analyze the type of theoretical foundation and legal discourse that support the decisions of the suits found. We started with a survey of the lawsuits filed between 1995 and 2004, using the official data of the Court of Justice of the State of Rio de Janeiro and of the Prosecutor's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro. In addition, we paid visits to ten counties of the metropolitan region, totaling fifteen jury courts, so as to obtain copies of the respective ongoing suits. Moreover, we interviewed four women sued for the practice of abortion in order to complement the information obtained in the suits for better quality of results.

2. Provision of legal counseling and services in four individual cases, with suit follow up, procedural defense, and hearings. Two of the women interviewed already had the services of Advocaci and the other two, at the time of the interview, did not have any counseling, so the

institution is also working in these two cases. In this fashion, the activities are connected, since research aims to support the defenses of women sued for the practice of abortion.

### **Main activities**

1. Developing important integrations and partnerships to monitor and follow up these lawsuits, as well as to establish a relationship with legal institutions, councils of law, and the media
2. Analyzing the legal decisions that support the processes that feature women sued for the practice of self-abortion
3. Organizing and holding, in collaboration with the Association of Public Defense Attorneys of the State of Rio de Janeiro, the Seminar on Reproductive Health, Abortion, and Human Rights, whose objective was to discuss and debate the theme of abortion, and the kind of services provided to women sued for the practice of abortion, as well the decriminalization of abortion
4. II Seminar on Reproductive Health, Abortion, and Human Rights, at the Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and publication of the records of the Seminar on Reproductive Health, Abortion, and Human Rights

### **Main Results**

1. We identified eleven lawsuits in 10 Counties of the State of Rio de Janeiro in the period from 1998 to 2004. Of the lawsuits found, two are still going on, and seven resulted in the conditional suspension of the suit.
2. The socio-economic profile of the women sued is as follows: a) young women between 19 and 31 years old; b) black or mestizas; c) with little education; d) single, but mostly living with a stable partner; e) women who already have children; f) most work, but in little qualified professions in the services industry and, as a rule, without formal employment ties; g) the vast majority interrupted their pregnancy for financial reasons or lack of family structure; h) in order to interrupt their pregnancy, they used cheap accessible methods they believed were effective; i) they received legal counseling from Public Defense Attorneys or from Advocaci; j) most women suffered psychological and economic-social consequences for being sued for the practice of abortion.
3. The main insight this study provided was that the fact that the practice of abortion is a crime does not inhibit its practice in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Women that resort to this practice in a clandestine and unsafe manner do not have any guarantee of their fundamental rights—those guaranteed by constitution, and by the international documents of human rights protection. As for the theoretical foundation and legal discourse, we learned that with the approval of Law # 9.099/95 the women sued by the practice of abortion are entitled to a conditional suspension of the suit, as long as they meet the legal requirements. Thus, in all suits analyzed in which charges were filed by the Public Prosecutor, the aforementioned suspension was applied.
4. According to data from DATASUS, between 2000 and October 2005 approximately 89,543 women were admitted to public hospitals of the State of Rio de Janeiro due to spontaneous and/or provoked abortion. However, we estimated that the number of provoked abortions is at least five times higher than the number of hospitalizations, although we could find only eleven ongoing suits.

### **Problems detected**

1. The principal difficulty we came across was to have access to institutional data to be able to survey the quantitative of cases and perform interviews with the women sued
2. Another difficulty was the need to expand the referral network for the women involved with the police system. We contacted all police stations specialized in services to women—DEAMS—in order to learn more about the service, as well as the Public Prosecutor, and the Court of Justice.
3. It was also difficult to get the cooperation of institutional agencies to distribute material informing about our offer of legal counseling,
4. Moreover, we found only a small number of suits, which made it difficult to design a model to provide services to women sued for the practice of abortion.

### **Solutions Adopted, Lessons Learned, and Unexpected Discoveries**

1. Establishing partnerships with other institutions to obtain further institutional data
2. Conducting fieldwork at courts to access lawsuits
3. Learning the best strategy to obtain and work with institutional data that we frequently have to use in the researches we perform
4. The main discovery was the small number of suits going on in the State of Rio de Janeiro

### **Next Steps**

The research presented in this report finished with the end of the project and there are no plans to continue it. However, ongoing lawsuits will continue under the institution's responsibility until their completion.

**ANIS – Institute of Bioethics, Human Rights, and Gender**

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**Institutional Mission**

To promote ethics

**Project**

*Academic Freedom on Sexual and Reproductive Rights: Promoting a Constitutional Standard in Brazil*

The general objective of the project was to foster the creation of legal mechanisms to ensure, promote, and protect teaching and research on sexual and reproductive rights in Brazilian higher education.

**Length and Period**

Length: 12 months Period: August 2004 to July 2005

**Methodology used**

The project was developed in three phases and resulted into five products.

1. The **first phase**, called “Conditions to Make Teaching and Research on Sexual and Reproductive Rights Possible in Brazilian Universities,” comprised three actions:

a) Surveying and analyzing official documents from different higher education confessional institutions. From the initial survey of 136 entities, 11 Brazilian confessional entities were analyzed in depth. The methodology adopted met the following criteria of representativeness: region, number of students, and number of postgraduate programs. These are the most important criteria to justify, for example, public funding for these entities. The objective of this survey was to identify in the official documents of these institutions any records of violations of the constitutional academic freedom. The methodology used was the following: 1) the institutions researched were Brazilian postgraduate institutions that have courses recognized and recommended by Capes (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel). From the total, the confessional entities were selected per country region, according to the larger number of postgraduate courses offered, number of teachers and number of students enrolled. The following higher education entities were selected: a) Center-West Region: Catholic University of Brasília (UCB) and Catholic University of Goiás (UCGO); b) Northeast Region: Catholic University of Pernambuco (Unicap); c) North Region: There are no confessional teaching institutions in the area; d) Southeast Region: Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC/SP); Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC/RJ); Methodist University of São Paulo (Umesp); Presbyterian University Mackenzie (UPM/SP) and e) South Region: Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUC/PR), Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUC/RS) and Lutheran University of Brazil (Ulbra). In addition to the number of postgraduate courses, the entities were selected because they represent several religions—Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian. Of all regions, the only one that does not have any confessional entity is the north region. After the selection, a detailed survey was conducted on the data and information of each of the institutions, including: a) research areas and lines, postgraduate programs and courses; b) administrative and managerial documents, such as articles of

incorporation, mission, bylaws, work contracts, newsletters, and other documents available on the entities' websites. The purpose was to analyze restrictions to the constitutional standard of academic freedom, having sexual and reproductive as the conducting line of the evaluation.

b. Surveying and analyzing the Brazilian laws that accredit and rule on higher education institutions. The objective of this survey was to map the national framework of laws and norms that rule on university teaching and research. The methodology used was to survey the Brazilian federal laws in effect in the country. The survey was conducted in the websites of the following official agencies available on the Internet: Planalto Palace, Federal Senate, Lower House, and Ministry of Education, in addition to the sites of the entities themselves. The intention was to confront the information made available by all these agencies to see if there were no issues with regard to the constitutional standard, its consolidated content, and effectiveness. The purpose of this survey was to map the national legislative and normative framework that rules on university teaching and research, particularly the laws resulting from the constitutional standard of university autonomy;

c. Mapping authors, entities, publications, arguments and networks committed to the theme of academic freedom. This mapping not only made it possible for us to acknowledge the lack of reflection on this issue in Latin America, but also to organize a bibliography of publications available in Portuguese and English. The following methodology was used to survey specialized literature in Portuguese: 1) research the libraries of the country's leading public (federal and state) higher education institutions (at least two by Brazilian state), as well as the libraries of the country's leading private higher education institutions, particularly the confessional institutions. The list of institutions and information about them derived from the following page: <http://bve.cibec.inep.gov.br/> and the country's main publishers, bookstores, and book distributors from <http://www.portaleditorial.with.br/default.asp>. The following key words related to academic freedom were researched: a) freedom of teaching (higher education); b) academic freedom; c) university autonomy; d) religion and education (higher); e) confessional teaching institution; f) state-education relation (higher education) and g) lay teaching. The objective was to understand the current status of academic freedom in Brazil.

The following methodology was used to survey the specialized literature in English – The following bibliographic data was researched: Library of the American Congress (<http://catalog.loc.gov/>), British Library (<http://blpc.bl.uk/>) and Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)). The following key words related to academic freedom were researched: a) academic freedom, b) freedom of teaching, c) university autonomy, d) church colleges, e) church and education, f) (higher) education and state, g) (higher) education and religion and g) Catholic universities and colleges. The objective was to get to know the current status of academic freedom in the international literature.

2. In the second phase, called “Academic Freedom At Issue: Restrictions to Teaching and Research on Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Brazil”, we conducted an official consultation to the Ministry of Education, with the official monitoring of the Federal Public Prosecutor. The latter helped to make sure that the information provided by Ministry of Education reflected the reality of the theme of academic freedom in the government's educational instances. The Ministry of Education was consulted about its official public policies to promote and/or ensure academic freedom, in addition to provide information about the allocation of resources in public, private and confessional higher education institutions. The objective of this consultation was to contrast the restrictions to teaching and research on themes regarding sexual and reproductive rights and the allocation of public resources into these institutions.

3. The third phase included the holding of a seminar to formalize the public hearing and launch the book with chapters produced by the project consultants. The public hearing will be held based on the legal piece prepared by the project consultants and contributors. The information surveyed was used as a support for the project consultants to prepare their articles. Both the public hearing and the publication about academic freedom make use of

information gathered during the project's first phase, which comprises extensive bibliographic research in Portuguese and foreign literature, particularly American and European.

The text of the dossier to the Ministry of Education and the consultants' chapters are completed. The publishing companies *LetrasLivres* and *Editora Livraria do Advogado* have shown interest in publishing the book as soon as possible, so that it can be launched by the national seminar and the presented at a public hearing. The book will be organized by Debora, Diniz, Samantha Buglione and Roger Raupp Rios and will have articles written by several experts, in addition to a list of references of publications in Portuguese on the theme.

At the moment, what still awaits conclusion is whether the representation at the Public Prosecutor will be performed as an argumentation before the State, particularly to the Ministry of Education, or whether it will be performed by means of a concrete case in discussion by means of a labor suit. The present understanding is that a representation to the Public Prosecutor would imply in the existence of a concrete case of violation of a constitutional standard. Thus, for that to be evidenced, we would need to: 1. reactivate one of the cases of dismissal occurred in the country – and the possibility of activating the case of Debora Diniz or Diaulas Ribeiro is under evaluation to see if they have not prescribed; 2. to have sound legal and political argumentation of the unconstitutionality of the Law on the Guidelines and Bases for National Education (LDB) and 3. to safely incorporate the arguments about the importance of government laity for Brazilian higher education. In this sense, for the purpose of completing the project, the final strategy is, when public universities' strike comes to an end, to carry out a national seminar about the theme and, on the occasion, have guests from the Ministry of Education and the Federal Public Prosecutor to present brief with recommendations for the regulation of the constitutional standard and the unconstitutionality of the LDB. The main results of this project were discussed in 8 (eight) seminars and national meetings, in addition to an international seminar to celebrate the 100 (one hundred) years of the French law of the Lay State in Paris.

### **Main activities**

#### **- Conditions to make Possible Teaching and Research on Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Brazilian Universities**

Activities: survey and analysis of Brazilian and international laws about academic freedom; production of a directory of authors and entities devoted to the theme; survey of international jurisprudence

#### **- Academic Freedom at Issue: restrictions to teaching and research on sexual and reproductive rights in Brazil**

Activities: production of a complaint for the public civil suit; selection of documental evidence; preparation of originals for publication; definition of strategies for the public civil suit

#### **- Academic freedom: a democratic principle**

Activities: public hearing about academic freedom and seminar about the theme; launching the publication and media actions

### **Main Results**

#### **- Production of a directory of authors and entities and list of references on the theme of academic freedom**

Result: The directory outlines key people and entities, and provides a map of specialized theoretical literature produced nationally and internationally about academic freedom, enabling project researchers to understand the current status of the theme to support their reflections. At first, the target audience will be project researchers themselves. However, in the future, this directory will target students, researchers, teachers, entities, members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, other law professionals and, above all, the general public interested in studying, researching and developing professional activities related to the theme of academic freedom.

**- Survey and analysis of the laws and national and international jurisprudence on academic freedom**

Result: Project researchers could understand the ambiguity of the constitutional standard before the LDB, which rules on the existence of confessional entities. That is, cases of possible violations to the constitutional standard would be protected by a legal provision about the existence of these entities. At first, the target audience will be project researchers themselves. However, in the future, this directory will target students, researchers, teachers, entities, members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, other law professionals and, above all, the general public interested in studying, researching and developing professional activities related to the theme of academic freedom.

**- Production of representation for the public civil suit**

Result: Due to the reflections of the previous phase, project researchers decided to carry out an official consultation to the Ministry of Education (MEC) with the official monitoring of the Federal Public Prosecutor. At first, the target audience will be project researchers themselves. However, in the future, this directory will target students, researchers, teachers, entities, members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, other law professionals and, above all, the general public interested in studying, researching and developing professional activities related to the theme of academic freedom.

**- Public hearing about academic freedom and seminar about the theme**

Result: Based on bibliographic surveys, official consultations and constant reflections and debates between researchers, the lines for the holding of a public hearing and seminar are being idealized. They are scheduled to happen as soon as the strike of Brazilian federal universities comes to an end. At first, the target audience will be project researchers themselves. However, in the future, this directory will target students, researchers, teachers, entities, members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, other law professionals and, above all, the general public interested in studying, researching and developing professional activities related to the theme of academic freedom.

**- Launching the publication and media actions**

Result: Researchers produced academic articles that were the fruit of matured reflection and debate conducted in all the project's previous phases. These articles will be gathered and published in the format of a book to be launched and distributed to the whole of society at the time of the public hearing and seminar. At first, the target audience will be project researchers themselves. However, in the future, this directory will target students, researchers, teachers, entities, members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, other law professionals and, above all, the general public interested in studying, researching and developing professional activities related to the theme of academic freedom.

**Problems detected**

**- Production of a directory of authors and entities and a list of references on the theme of academic freedom.**

Problems: The unbalance between the quantity of authors and entities that research and work in the field of academic freedom at national and international levels. It is worth mentioning the scarceness and dispersion of specialized literature on academic freedom produced in Brazil.

**- Survey and analysis of the law and national and international jurisprudence on academic freedom**

Problems: The scarceness of legislative and legal debate about academic freedom, particularly in Brazil, reflected in the absence and inconsistency of laws and jurisprudence in effect.

**- Production of a complaint for the a public civil suit**

Problems: The reflections about the theme imposed a change in the project's argumentative direction, such as the extension of the debate to other areas of law and definitive inclusion of the principle of laity in the Brazilian State.

**- Public hearing about academic freedom and seminar about the theme**

Problems: The strike in Brazilian federal universities delayed the schedule for the holding of the public hearing and seminar.

**- Launching the publication and media action**

Problems: The delay in the holding of the public hearing and seminar imposed by the strike of Brazilian federal universities led to the delay in the book launching.

**Solutions Adopted, lessons learned and unexpected discoveries**

**- Production of a directory of authors and entities and a list of references on the theme of academic freedom.**

Solutions: We conducted extensive research in the national bibliographic data. Overseas, we selected the main databases, focusing on English-speaking countries. This project has the merit of fostering debate about the theme in an almost unique way, at least in the perspective it approaches.

**- Survey and analysis of the law and national and international jurisprudence on academic freedom**

Solutions: In this case, an extensive research was performed in Brazilian courtrooms. Likewise, a selection of the supreme courts of English-speaking countries was performed. The intention was to resume the legal debate in the country with the suits related to the dismissals of Debora Diniz and Diaulas Ribeiro.

**- Production of a complaint for the public civil suit**

Solutions: The extension and change of the argumentative direction of the project delayed the meeting of times, but consistently enriched debate about the theme.

**- Public hearing about academic freedom and seminar about the theme**

Solutions: In this case, the only way out to hold the public hearing and the seminar is when Brazilian federal universities resume classes. However, because it is an extemporaneous theme, the debate about academic freedom will keep up-to-date.

**- Launching of publication and media action**

Solutions: Even with the delay in the holding of the public hearing and seminar, researchers continued their researches and produced their studies. For this reason, the book is being edited and printed.

**Next Steps**

The research and intervention of academic freedom will not end with the closure of this project, since this is a theme that has just emerged in Brazil and there is still much to be discussed and matured about it. In addition, other cases of violation of academic freedom may come up along time and this demands permanent social control.

If it were for this project alone, legislative and legal reparation of academic freedom would be immediate. Nonetheless, we know this is a process of change in Brazilian legislative and legal ordeals that can still take long to be completed—be it with regard to the legal reparation of the damages caused by the dismissal of Debora Diniz and Diaulas Ribeiro and other teachers that are under similar conditions, be it with regard to the change of Brazilian laws.

This project, however, is an important step to consolidate academic freedom in the country, because it addresses the theme within the scope of Brazilian society and institutions in a strong theoretical way, which gives more consistency to debate and increases the likelihood of success.

### **Catholics for Free Choice**

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#### **Institutional Mission**

We seek social justice and to change the cultural and religious standards in effect in our society, respecting the necessary diversity to make freedom and justice come true. By means of spreading ethical and religious ideas in favor of sexual and reproductive rights, we intend to oppose the conservative Catholic thinking that comprises an obstacle to the exercise of these rights.

#### **Project**

*Opinion Poll among Brazilian Catholics: Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights and the Church-State Relation*

The research aimed at surveying the opinion of Catholics about the lay state, reproductive rights and abortion, and release the results to a different audience. It also focused on expanding and supporting arguments for the Lay State and sexual and reproductive rights, especially legal and safe abortion. The research release was used so as to maintain the debate on abortion and Lay State in the media, expanding the support of our society for the advancement of these rights.

#### **Length:**

One year, from August 2004 to July 2005

#### **Methodology used**

Opinion poll carried out in two stages—the first in November 2004 and the second in February 2005. The focus was to respond to the pressing debate that was going on at the time at the Superior Federal Court concerning the legality of abortion due to fetal anencephaly.

In this stage, IBOPE Institute, in collaboration with the University of Brasília, conducted a poll about whether Catholics agreed with the advancement of child delivery in case of fetal anencephaly. Altogether, 2,025 people were interviewed in 140 municipalities of the country between November 24 and 29. Data sources for the production of the sample were PNAD / 2002 and the Census / 2000.

The second stage – 2005 – included the preparation of a questionnaire containing 11 issues about the following themes: Catholic support for changes in the Catholic Church to enable the use of condoms to prevent Aids and other contraceptive methods; the Lay State; Catholic appurtenance and the use of contraceptives, practice of abortion or support to a woman that decides to abort; support to the offer of contraceptives; condoms and legal abortion at public services; situations in which abortion should be allowed; acceptance of the use of the following-day pill in case of rape and unprotected sexual relation.

2002 interviews were carried out in 143 municipalities of the country from February 10 to 15, using representative samples of the population under study, stratified (allocated proportionally to the population of each stratum).

We planned to release data, contacting the press before starting the research, and counting on technical assistance.

### **Main activities**

- Preparation, application and release by the means of communication of the Ibope Bus research about early child delivery (October to November/2004).
- Compilation and analysis of previous researches on abortion, Lay State and related themes.
- Production of the eleven-question questionnaire, hiring Ibope and communication services to release results (December/2004 to January/2005).
- Application of research questionnaires, preliminary analysis of results, preparation of result synthesis and comparative report (February/2005).
- Production of release texts for different national and regional means of communication
- Release of data in several means of communication, including websites.
- Attendance to events, radio and TV programs talking about the research results.
- Inclusion in CDD presentations and in CDD educational materials.
- Release for members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches; members of medical corporations and associations, NGOs, and feminist and religious articulations.
- Preparation of reports and discussion of the results.

### **Main Results**

The objectives established and the results expected were fully reached. The research release, emphasizing the frankly favorable opinion of Brazilians, particularly Brazilian Catholics, to offer emergency contraception and abortion in the cases allowed by law, were part of the campaign to legalize abortion that was carried out in the same period. The extensive release of results was much favored by the intense political debate on the matter. In addition to the research having contributed for keeping the issue of abortion in the news agenda (with favorable arguments), the discussion about the importance of the Lay State was revitalized in the news and in opinion articles. Nevertheless, we believe that the beneficial results of the knowledge produced by the research are not over yet, because some of them will be still used to guide future work at the social segments that are more resistant to the right to abortion.

- The release of the research results at the TV Show *Fantástico* and *Época* Magazine, at first, raised the interest of other means of communication, which favored the publication of articles by CDD members in *O Estado de São Paulo* and *O Globo* newspapers.
- Altogether, we listed 42 communication outlets – radio, TV, newspapers, and sites, – with articles regarding the research results. Those include national circulation media (*Época*, *Veja*, *Criativa*, *Estado de São Paulo*, *O Globo*, and *Jornal do Brasil*). The leading daily papers of five states covered the research (CE, SC, RS, MG, PA), in addition to SP, RJ and DF.
- The international press also published it: the *El Country* newspaper, from Colombia. International agencies such as *France Press* and *Reuters* also released the news; and to our surprise, even the website *Aljazeera Net* published it.
- The reach of the release is hard to measure. Considering only *TV Globo* viewers on Sunday, we have approximately 23 million people, plus the circulation of magazines and newspapers—*Época* Magazine is approximately 600,000; *Correio Braziliense* 96,000; *FSP* 400,000; *OESP* 330,000; *Veja* Magazine 1.1 million—we can say that the audience was huge;
- Another form of data release is still going on by means of a video used in the workshops of awareness and education to expand support to the legalization of abortion, which until now has reached 1,500 women in 14 Brazilian states.

- Sending summary reports to the members of the executive, judiciary, and legislative branches also yielded important results. According to the Minister Nilcéia Freire, it was a substantial addition to the discussions about reproductive rights.
- In the public debate about the lay State, there was some allusion to the research data in the article of Justice Roberto Arriada Lorea, which—in our understanding—much contributed to strengthen the theme.
- To have personalities produce articles, such as the journalist André Petry/*Veja* Magazine, reinforced the arguments favorable to the legalization of abortion.
- It is important to list the support of the progressive sectors of the Churches: the Lutheran Church News Agency, and ADITAL (Catholic Church) released articles, and Friar Beto – a Dominican, wrote an article openly favorable to changes in the Catholic Church.
- Using elements learned in the research about emergency contraception in the process that defends the distribution of contraceptives in the town of São José dos Campos. The data favorable to distribution served as a base to defend population access to contraceptives, since the city hall attempted to veto such right.
- Release and comparative work between the researches carried out in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Bolivia prepared by Maria Mejia from CDD Mexico, at the international meeting “*II Reunion de Investigacion about embarazo no deseado y aborto inseguro*” held in Mexico in August 2005.

#### **Problems detected**

- There were not many limits in project development; however, there were fewer questions than the questionnaires prepared by the other three countries that conducted similar research.
- The reduction of resources made it impossible to produce a publication comparing Brazil’s results to data from other countries, which would enable us to have a better view of the region about the behavior of Catholics in relation to sexuality and reproduction.
- There were also adverse reactions: A North American website (CNA), maintained by the conservative Catholic sector, tried to disqualify the research results.
- We also received manifestations questioning our presence in the Catholic Church, since we emphasize the disagreement between believers’ practices and the rules of hierarchy.

#### **Solutions Adopted**

- We were right in our analysis of the general scenario that indicated, at the time of the project, the future formation of a Commission to review abortion laws.
- Important lesson: the option to hire special assistance, both to develop the research and to implement data release—enabled better use of the research product.
- Preparing Summary Reports on the data, including the most significant results from other countries that could be compared to the Brazilian data, enabled us to have a more detailed analysis, especially for the media, thereby providing a more encompassing view about the Catholic thinking in Latin America.
- The research results that support the use and distribution of CE served as support for argumentation in activities to ensure political policies – like the CE case in São José dos Campos.

#### **Next Steps**

Even after the project deadline, we had important developments, with the publication of articles and news stories mentioning or using the research data, including the article of *Criativa*

Magazine, published on September 01; the article of Justice Roberto Arriada Lorea, defending the Lay State, published at Folha de SP, on September 24, and the workshops of the Project “Catholics in Campaign for the Legalization of Abortion” that plan for several activities next year in which they will use the video with research data supporting the Lay State and access to legal abortion.

The summarized research reports will be sent to congressional representatives once again, in the context of the debate about the Project for the Legalization of Abortion of the Tripartite Commission that is currently being studied by the Social Security and Family Commission (CSSF). The study will lead to a public hearing in the coming weeks, where the two parties – for and against – appointed names to advocate for them.

We believe the research data may be sent to congressional representatives, especially the members of the CSSF and CCJ (Justice Constitution Commission) as support to be taken into account in the building of favorable arguments to the Lay State and reproductive rights.

## **Cemicamp – Campinas Research Center on Reproductive Health**

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### **Institutional Mission**

To plan and develop research on health and sexual and reproductive rights, aiming at improving the quality of life of the newly born, adolescents, women, and men from developing countries. It also aims to plan, develop, and carry out actions and programs directed to the promotion of health and sexual and reproductive rights.

### **Project:**

**“The role of religiousness in the opinion and practices of gynecologist physicians in relation to legal abortion, emergence contraception, and IUD”**

### **Objective**

To analyze the role of religiousness in the opinion and practices of gynecologist physicians in relation to legal abortion, emergence contraception, and IUD.

Length and Period: 12 months, between September 2004 and August 2005

### **Methodology used**

We used a quantitative and qualitative approach. For the quantitative component, we carried out a descriptive cross-sectional study, for which we used a structured pre-tested self-completed questionnaire, filled out by gynecologists and obstetricians, members of the Brazilian Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics Associations (FEBRASGO).

The questionnaire and an explanatory letter were sent together with the entity’s newsletter in the months of January and March 2005. Physicians were asked to fill out the questionnaire and send it back in a stamped return envelope that accompanied the questionnaire. 3337 filled-out questionnaires were received. Other 49 were fully in blank, and were considered as refusals.

For the quantitative data analysis, we initially performed a simple descriptive analysis of the following variables: religiousness, religion changing, religious education, religious simultaneity, simultaneous frequency to religious cults, and religion declared. Next, we conducted a bivariate analysis to test the possible associations between religiousness and religion changing and the opinion and behavior of physicians in relation to abortion, EC, and IUD.

We also conducted a multiple regression logistic analysis for the dependent variables of 18 models: opinion in relation to several circumstances in which abortion should be allowed (11 separated models); behaviors before abortion (three models); opinion and behavior in relation to EC and IUD (four models). The independent variables taken into consideration were: age, gender, marital status, number of children, region in which physician graduated, region of residence, religiousness, and religion changing.

For the qualitative approach, we developed an exploratory study with three focus groups. Altogether, 30 physicians from Campinas and São Paulo attended the meetings.

The discussions of the focus groups were transcribed and the texts inserted in the program *The Ethnography* v.5.0 to facilitate analysis. We then proceeded on the thematic analysis of the content, for which, from an encompassing reading, we classified the text segments as per the following major themes discussed: opinion about abortion (lawful and unlawful) and about IUD and EC; behavior in relation to abortion (lawful and unlawful) and to IUD and EC.

For the purpose of result interpretation, we considered quantitative and qualitative analyses jointly.

### **Main activities**

- Preparation and pre-test of structured self-questionnaire
- Printing of 30,000 questionnaires and explanatory invitation letters, sent together with the reply stamped envelope
- First mailing of questionnaires and letters with FEBRASGO newsletter (Year 12 N° 1 – Jan/Feb – 2005)
- Second mailing of questionnaires and letters with FEBRASGO newsletter (Year 12 N° 2 – March – 2005)
- Checking and codification of questionnaires answered: numbering of questionnaires, review of answers recorded and attribution of supplementary codes, when necessary
- Preparation of a computer program to enter data from questionnaires
- Data entry: twice, by different people
- Database cleaning and consistency: carried out by one of the researchers together with statisticians, to survey and check all inconsistencies and prepare a database for analysis
- Preparation of a script for focus groups: developed by the researchers together with a consultant in Religion Sciences, based on a preliminary analysis of the data obtained from questionnaires answered by physicians
- Three focus groups, conducted by a researcher and with notes taken by two other researchers
- Quantitative data analysis: descriptive, bivariate and multiple analyses, to test the possible associations between religiousness and the other study variables – confrontation of findings with the results of the qualitative approach
- Analysis of qualitative data: thematic content analysis – confrontation of findings with the quantitative data analysis
- Production of a final report: condensation of results and analyses developed, joint preparation with researchers and research assistants involved

### **Main Results**

- The general response rate was 22.4% of the members of FEBRASGO who had paid their dues.
- The sample size was calculated later to find if that number of individuals would be enough for the analyses to be made, which resulted in 2,386 individuals. Therefore, the analyses made with the data from 3,337 gynecologists have made it possible to meet the proposed objectives.
- The results from the focus groups validate and explain the quantitative findings.
- The religiousness of physicians (intermediate and non religious) was associated with their opinion about in which circumstances abortion should be allowed.
- Religiousness (intermediate and non religious) was also associated with helping a patient and a woman in a family to have an abortion not authorized by the law.
- Religiousness was directly associated with making a legal abortion when requested.
- Religiousness was not associated to the opinion and behavior of physicians in relation to the prescription of EC. However, it was associated with professional behavior of not inserting an IUD because they believed it is an abortive method.

- Religion changing, age, region of residence, number of children, and gender were other variables that showed an association with the point-of-view and behavior in relation to abortion.

### **Problems detected**

- The distribution of questionnaires was late because FEBRASGO's newsletter did not circulate in February 2005, which delayed sending the second batch of research materials.
- According to the technique used for data collecting, it is not possible to know the features of those who did not answer the questionnaire, neither why they did not do so. However, we know that the proportions of respondents are equivalent to that of FEBRASGO's members in each region of the country.
- Due to the limited funds, it was not possible to have focus groups in other regions of the country, neither with some sub-categories of individuals, like for example younger physicians, who work in smaller, more remote towns, etc. This could have shed new light on quantitative results.

### **Solutions Adopted**

- The gynecologists interviewed showed to be religious people, though not usually affiliated to a religious institution.
- Their negative opinion about abortion was marked by this religiousness. There was a trend to link abortion to social stigma and personal conflicts, rather than just a legal issue.
- Even in relation to abortion allowed by law, a negative opinion and fearful behavior prevailed: it causes uneasiness and guilt, and the decision of doing it or not is based on reasons other than the law.
- In public health facilities, the refusal to do an abortion permitted by law, due to religious reasons is recognized as legitimate.
- Opinions were more positive when they agreed with the "mission of physicians", of saving or relieving people's lives: when women had been raped, their lives were threatened or when the fetus had malformations incompatible with life.
- Apparently, gynecologists tend not to have restrictions in prescribing emergency contraception and the IUD, based on what they were taught about their mechanism of action. However, they understood that the mechanism is not clear, and, exactly because of the benefit of the doubt, they did not have restrictions to prescribe these methods.

### **Next Steps**

- Papers are being written to be published in scientific journals, and secondary analyses of the data will be developed.
- The opportunities to present results in congresses, seminars, etc. will be used.
- An executive summary with the main results of the research will be handed to participants of the X Inter-professional Forum on Violence Against Women and Implementation of Abortion Allowed by Law, to be held in Rio de Janeiro (November 21 and 22). This will reach representatives of many sectors, including: FEBRASGO, Ministry of Health.
- An executive summary with the results of the research will also be sent to State Departments of Health and non-governmental organizations that work to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women.
- Results will be included on Cemicamp's page in the World Wide Web.
- Two studies with law agents (judges and public prosecutors) have started including the investigation on religiousness.
- Studies with people related to religious institutions are being considered to evaluate which are the most adequate arguments to promote minimal consensus about the issue of abortion.

## Centro de Teatro do Oprimido – CTO-Rio

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### Representatives:

General Project Coordinator – Helen Sarapeck  
Claudia Simone and Flavio Sanctum – Project Handypeople  
Aline, Augustus, Tony and Jovani – cast of the Group Direito de Ser

### **Institutional Mission**

The Theater of the Oppressed Center – CTO-Rio is a socio-cultural not-for-profit association, run by theater professional Augusto Boal, whose objectives are: democratizing the means of cultural production, promoting the Theater of the Oppressed in Brazil, to activate and strengthen citizenship, through the implementation of socio-cultural projects that foster the active and leading participation of underprivileged brackets of society, and which seek to transform reality.

### **Project**

The *Dialogue to Become Closer* Project intended to promote THEATRICAL DIALOGUE on the sexual rights of youth organized in many groups for homosexual and religious emancipation, through Legislative Theater, fostering the creation of Theater Groups, as a way to expand the discussion in many social contexts.

### **Length**

The project lasted 14 months from September 2004 to October 2005

### **Methodology used**

The objective of the Project was to encourage **DIALOGUE** as a democratic way of bringing people closer together and breaking barriers, so as to help sharing experiences, and reduce the existing reciprocal discrimination.

The promotion of THEATRICAL DIALOGUE on the sexual rights of youth organized into homosexual and religious groups was accomplished through the Legislative Theater, part of the Theater of the Oppressed.

As an Esthetic Method that systematizes Theater Exercises, Games and Techniques, the Theater of the oppressed seeks the physical and intellectual demechanization of practitioners and to democratize theater, establishing practical conditions for oppressed people to seize theater's means of production and, in this manner, expand their possibilities of expression, establishing direct, active and purposeful communication between audiences and actors.

The most widely used technique of the Theater of the Oppressed is Theater-Forum, which consists of a question asked by the cast to spectators, by the way, spect-actors, who are expecting to join the scene and act.

Based on real facts, the Theater-Forum brings up themes of interest to citizens and society. Moreover, it is not the mere reproduction of a real situation, but rather the stage representation of that reality, so that we may understand it and gain strength to change it.

The performances of the Theater-Forum are a powerful vehicle of communication between the many sectors of a given community, and can bring distant communities closer together, such as

homosexual and religious communities, in addition to making possible the identification of problems and the pursuit of concrete alternatives for solving them through Legislative Theater.

The proposal of Legislative Theater is to turn citizens into legislators, affirming their authority in the process of creating the laws that rule our country. By watching performances, viewers feel encouraged to create bills to minimize or hinder the problem presented onstage. It is the true exercise of full citizenship.

### **1. Main Activities**

- The creation of a network of partnerships among entities for the emancipation of homosexual and religious practices, through contacts, meetings and presentations.
- organize the Popular Season with 22 presentations of the Groups: *Artemanha* and *Pirei na Cenna* with the performances *Forbidden Fruit (Fruto Proibido)* and *Better Prevent than Medicate (Melhor Remediar que Remédio Dar)*, respectively, in homosexual groups, NGO's that work with AIDS prevention, religious entities and other spaces youth go to.
- The systematization and referral of the Legislative Proposals that emerged during the Popular Season to the local, state or federal legislative powers. Two proposals are being analyzed in the Rio de Janeiro Legislative Assembly.
- Building two Theater Groups: *Direito de Ser* with the performance *It is forbidden to forbid (É Proibido Proibir)* and *Grupo Esperança* with the performance *What kind of Cinderella am I? (Que Cinderela sou eu?)* through Awareness Workshops and a Theater-Forum Course for the viewers of the Popular Season interested in it.
- Dialogue: presentation of two performances by the groups formed in a meeting of the House of the Theater of the Oppressed with the participation of partners.
- Popular Circuit of the groups *Direito de Ser* and *Esperança* in homosexual groups, NGO's that work with Aids prevention, religious entities and other places youth go to.
- The systematization and referral of the Legislative Proposals that emerged during the Popular Circuit to the local, state or federal legislative powers.
- Training two Multiplying Agents, one of each group formed, through training, attendance to activities at CTO-Rio and in multiple activities of their own group.
- Weekly meetings of the Project Coordination team, in addition to Workshops with the entire artistic team of CTO-Rio including its director Augusto Boal to discuss and refer the issues that emerge during the process.
- A Seminar on Sexual Rights and Religiousness held at the House of the Theater of the Oppressed with presentation of the groups *Direito de Ser* and *Mesa de Debates* attended by members of the Metropolitan Christian Church, Iemanjá Candomblé Religion Grounds and ABIA.

### **Main Results**

- The Popular Season reached about 1,600 viewers for the discussion of the sexual rights of youth organized in different entities.
- From the organization and referral of the legislative proposals presented by viewers, two became bills by Representative Gilberto Palmares, and are being analyzed by Rio de Janeiro's Legislative Assembly.
- The Theater Groups that were formed, with their respective performances, furthered the discussion about the rights of the youth participating in these entities, facing the limitations imposed by cultural patterns and religious concepts, reaching 60 people through the Awareness Workshops.
- The promotion of dialogue on sexual and reproductive rights through the presentation of the 10 performances produced in religious spaces and in the sexual discussion with systematization and referral of the main legislative proposals presented by more than 600 viewers.
- The confirmation that the process will continue through the education of two Multiplying agents, who came from the Theater Groups.

### **Problems detected**

- The difficulty of bringing certain religious entities closer together, delayed the process of the Popular Season; but, on the other hand, it expanded the range of partners in organizations that work on Aids programs.

- The difficulty of approximating religious people and homosexuals made it possible to create two theater groups, rather than just one, which led to the duplicity of the activities conducted, and, consequently, the dedication to the project.

### **Solutions Adopted**

- Greater integration of the coordination team that worked in an incisive and dedicated manner toward the surprising aspects that emerged at each new step.

- Expansion of the range of partners in organizations that work in Aids programs and with the GLBT audience.

- Foster discussion and thinking in fruitful and exciting debates between the Groups involved and in the whole institution CTO-Rio.

- Expand the groups involved and partner institutions, thus contributing toward the process of rescuing the people involved from the marginalization society pushed them into.

### **Next Steps**

The intervention of the institution as set forth in the original proposal ended, but the project will live on.

To that end, two multipliers were trained to continue the groups. One of them already has performances scheduled for December.

The legislative proposals referred to Rio de Janeiro's Legislative Assembly will be followed up by the institution, until the completion of the process, which we hope, will be the confirmation of the creation of more popular laws as a defense tool for our population.

## CFEMEA – Centro Feminista de Estudos e Assessoria

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### **Institutional Mission**

The Feminist Center of Studies and Advisory Services -CFEMEA – is a public non-governmental not-for-profit feminist organization whose mission is to defend and expand democracy; to seek to overcome gender and race/ethnic inequality and discrimination; and to affirm diversity, freedom, solidarity and autonomy as core values to society.

The main objectives of the Institution are: to defend and promote rights equality and gender equity in law and in public policies; to participate in the Federation's budgeting process, seeking to include gender opinions; contribute to strengthen women and feminist movements; promote feminist agendas and the presence of women in political representation spaces; and to develop communication instruments to expand the public space for the debate of gender issues.

### **Project**

The overall objective of the project “**Dialogues on abortion: building the right to legal and safe abortion**” is to contribute toward the affirmation of the idea of a secular state and toward building the right of women having legal and safe abortion as an issue of human rights, citizenship and public health.

### **Length**

September 01, 2004 to September 30, 2005

### **Methodology used:**

The methodology includes:

1. **Advocacy** at the National Congress, as a communication and pressure tool for congresswomen; further the dialogue on the issue of abortion; and direct and incisive follow-up of the legislative propositions on the theme;
2. Active **integration** with women networks and movements engaged in the discussion of national activism strategies, more specifically in the coordination of Journeys for the Right to Legal and Safe Abortion;
3. **Identification and diffusion of the opinions of federal congressmen** about the sexual and reproductive rights of Brazilian women, accomplished at the 4<sup>th</sup> Opinion Pool, conducted at the National Congress by CFEMEA, through questionnaires that were distributed to congresswomen, with many questions on women's rights, including many questions on the theme of abortion;
4. **Dissemination in the press** of articles on abortion and participation in all means of communication, through interviews and articles about the theme, aimed to contribute to the development of the public debate about abortion in the country and spread feminist opinions.

### **Main activities**

1. Survey of the new propositions about abortion presented at the National Congress (NC) and follow-up of the flow of existing propositions;
2. Participation in the Day Meetings for the Right to Legal and Safe Abortion;
3. Participation in the Political Coordination of the Day Meetings for the Right to Legal and Safe Abortion, follow-up and virtual and live discussions on proposals and strategies for the implementation of legal and safe abortions in Brazil;
4. Integration with women organizations and mixed organizations and implementation of joint actions to defend the right to the voluntary interruption of pregnancy;
5. Distribution of news agenda for the media on the right to abortion and participation of Project participants in programs and debates in means of communication related to the issue;
6. Follow-up of the Three-Party Commission, created by the Department of Policies for Women, aimed at preparing a bill to revise the punitive legislation on abortion.

### **Main Results**

1. Promote in-depth dialogue with federal congressmen so as to build awareness on the importance of the Lay State and raise more interest on the reproductive rights of women.
2. Expansion of the discussion with the Brazilian society, through media news stories, of issues beyond women's movement, in order to be better informed on the theme of the legalization of the voluntary interruption of pregnancy.
3. Expansion of major alliances and support of sectors of the organized civil society such as the GLBT segment, FEBRASGO, and jurists.
4. Progress in the dialogue with the Special Department of Policies for Women, which enable more support to the proposals of movements and links of feminists and women.
5. Contribution to the approval of the proposal of legalization of abortion at the I National Conference of Policies for Women, which ended with the implementation and constitution of the Three-Party Commission.

### **Problems detected**

1. At the National Congress: the go-slow operation due to the election process and delays in the agenda and flow of the work of the Theme Commissions.
2. The attack of congressmen linked to the Catholic and Evangelic churches, who work aggressively toward limiting the sexual and reproductive rights of women.
3. The election of Representative Severino Cavalcanti, expressive representative of the Catholic Church in the Congress, as president of the Lower House, who took over his position making statements against abortion and homosexual relations.

### **Solutions Adopted**

1. Communication with congressmen allies of the cause, fostering the discussion on the voluntary interruption of pregnancy among women representatives.
2. Enhancing the strength of the ally group which triggered the creation of the Parliament Front for Free Sexual Expression, comprised of representatives also engaged in the legalization of abortion.
3. Establishment of relations with the Civil society, preparation of pressure instruments for the Executive for the presentation of the Bill prepared by the Three-Party Commission.

### **Next Steps**

CFEMEA's work on sexual and reproductive rights, especially in the advocacy of the legalization of abortion, continues. In this sense, participation in the Political Commission of the Brazilian Day Meetings for the Right to Legal and Safe Abortion continues in the National Feminist Network of Sexual and reproductive rights, in addition to the advocacy in the National Congress and political communication through the *Fêmea* newspaper, website and commercial media.

### **Cunhã Coletivo Feminista**

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#### **Institutional Mission**

The Cunhã Feminist Group works in the promotion of the rights of women, focusing on *gender and citizenship, in health, sexuality, sexual rights and reproductive rights*, and has the strategic areas of *training, political links, and communication*, aimed at contributing to the improvement of public policies for women, adolescents and youth, toward the equity of gender relations and for the democratization of human and social rights.

#### **Project**

*Social Mobilization and Abortion in Brazil: Building Paths for Legality – Day Meetings for the Right to Legal and Safe Abortion*

#### **Objective**

Encourage Day Meetings, with the objective of promoting the debate to mobilize and influence public opinion and to expand the support base, aimed at changing the legislation on abortion, based on the leading role of the feminist movement, adopting a collective definition of political strategies.

#### **Length**

August 2004 to September 2005

#### **Methodology**

Participative, having as principle the collective construction of the feminist and women's movement, so as to incorporate the contributions of the partners of the Day Meetings.

#### **Main activities**

- **Expansion of the Public Debate and Social Mobilization:** **a)** *Mobilization of September 28* in the states (2004 and 2005) **b)** Organized participation in events: *Social Forum of Northeast and Espírito Santo* (Nov. and Dec. 2004) and *World Social Forum* (2005), *IX "Unsafe Abortion as a Issue of Violence Against Women" Forum* (Sept./04); **c)** seminars: Revision of the punitive legislation that deals with the voluntary interruption of pregnancy – SPM, UNIFEM and UNFPA (May 2005) and *Legal Reform Toward Advancing Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Brazil* – IPAS and SPM (ago/05).
- **Mobilization of the feminist movement:** **a)** support to mobilize, build capacity and strengthen The Women Forums of Ceará (FMC), of Rio Grande do Norte (FMRN) and Bahia (FMBA) and the Paraíba Women Network to incorporate the theme; **b)** Participation of the Executive Secretariat - SE at the *National Meeting* and *Regional Seminar for the*

*Freedom of Sexual Orientation and Legalization of Abortion of the Brazilian Medical Association (AMB).*

- **Expansion of the Allied Base – Strategic Dialogues:** a) Holding five seminars with movements of feminists, lesbian women, gay, transgenders, prostitutes, youth, black women and men who discuss masculinity, in a partnership between SE/Day Meetings and RFS and support of DFID; b) Consolidation of the relationship with physicians, communication between Febrasgo and RFS; c) Strengthening the relationship with jurists; d) Links with young feminists; e) *Strategic Dialogue with Rural Workers and Midwives*, in a partnership with the Curumim Group.
- **Qualified Monitoring of the Three-Party Commission (TC)**, with the work of two representations in the preparation of a bill for the legalization of abortion in Brazil;
- **Legal Commission of Day Meetings** – to design the arguments and a proposal for a project to translate the political thought of the Day Meetings.

### **Main Results:**

Direct and indirect results, given the features of the project, working in an integrated fashion with other organizations of the Day Meetings,

**Expansion of the allied base:** 1. 05 seminars with roughly 400 people from 20 states and communication between the feminist movement and the GLBT movements, incorporation of the Brazilian League of Lesbians and the Young Brazil Network into the Daily Meetings and partnership of ABGLT. 2. Inclusion of the abortion theme in the Seminar of the Day of GLBT Pride, held by the National Commission of Human Rights.

**Support to Groups, Networks, Actions, etc:** 3. Strengthening the action of Women Forums for legalizing abortion in partnership with AMB; 4. Including or prioritizing the abortion theme in the action plan and in the agenda of networks, links.

**Political Coordination and Executive Secretariat:** 5. Hiring a Coordination Assistant, an administrator and a moderator of electronic lists. 6. Organization of five live meetings and two audio-conferences. 7. Two emergency projects approved (IWHC and CFFC).

**Political Strategy for revising the legal landmark of abortion in Brazil:** 8. Mobilization of the women's movement for the I CNPM; 9. Inclusion of the recommendation for the revision of the abortion legislation in the National Plan of Policies for Women; 10. Providing elements to the TC, with the presentation of a bill from the Day Meetings. 11. Request 09 hearings, in Brasília, with authorities to back up the TC; 12. Political pressure that resulted in a bill proposed by Minister Nilcéa Freire to the National Congress. 13. Consolidation of the partnership with representative Jandira Feghali.

**Communication Strategy for the Day Meetings:** 14. Functioning of two virtual lists, as an instrument of communication, favoring the collective and participative character of decisions and dialogue between the CP and the Driving Group. 15. Implementation of monitoring and press services: mailing 49 letters to editors of newspapers and magazines, 7 were published and 141 articles about abortion were analyzed, and published in 7 newspapers and 03 national magazines (Apr/Sept): 65 favorable, 37 unfavorable and 39 balanced/informative; 3 articles shown on the *Observatório da Imprensa* website, and an editorial in the electronic ABNGO bulletin, in September 2005.

### **Problems detected**

1. Planning difficulties – the action of the fight for the legalization of abortion is conditioned to the political scenario and to the correlation of forces between conservative and progressive groups.
2. Election of Severino Cavalcanti as the president of the Lower House
3. Instability in the national political scenario due to a crisis triggered by accusations of influence peddling, involving the then Chief-of-Staff.

4. Unclear position of the Brazilian government; pursuit of political support at CNBB, at the same time that SPM promoted a revision of the punitive law for abortion.
5. Changes in ministries, aimed at the political feasibility of the current government, replacement of the Minister of Health and the imminent termination of SPM.
6. Offensive of opponents to the right to abortion, with the Catholic Church lobbying in Lula's government.
7. Speed to make and operate decisions to meet the emergency of political time, respecting the democratic process of decision making.

### **Solutions Adopted**

1. Mobilization of the feminist movement and communication with other sectors of the civil society – Link with Febrasgo, SBPC, ABNGO, Young People Network, ABGLT, LBL.
2. Influence in the public debate through the media – qualified press service.
3. Support to SPM – Mobilization of the women's movement for the maintenance of SPM.
4. Social Control – request for hearings with authorities, delineating the presence of the feminist movement, always represented in an ample and diversified manner.
5. Expediting the decision of the CP Day Meetings, telephone contacts and phone conferences.
6. Proactive strategy agreed – tension in the correlation of forces, generated destabilization, even if temporary, of opponents.
7. Negotiation capacity – flexibility of strategies, without losing the decriminalization focus.

### **Next Steps**

The Day Meeting Intervention continues and the opinion is following the legislative process, through the action of advocacy in the Congress and with federal representatives in states. One of the main challenges is to stop the idea of a plebiscite, defended by opponents. To cope with the process, the action continues with the promotion of public debate, social mobilization, incidence on the media and expansion of the allied base.

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**Institutional Mission**

**ECOS** – Communication in Sexuality is a non-governmental organization that has operated in Brazil since 1989 with the proposal to contribute to the promotion of transformation of values and behaviors related to sexuality, reproductive health, sexual and reproductive rights, always from the perspective of the fight to moral exclusion and discriminations of gender, age, class, sexual orientation and race.

Its mission in the defense of sexual and reproductive rights was always very clear and transparent in its entire production. Its accomplishments are marked by a continuous and persistent intervention that surpassed the universe of NGOs, operating in different spheres of society, in public, private institutions, governments and media. During its existence, **ECOS** incorporated new themes, as to meet growing social demands, among which Youth Participation, Culture of Peace, Diversity, Prevention of the Undue Use of Drugs and Gender Violence, without ever abandoning its main vocation which is to promote Sexual Education.

**CORSA** – Citizenship, Pride, Respect, Solidarity and Love aims to promote the commitment of GLBTT citizens (gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transvestites and transsexuals) through continuing visibility and awareness, aimed at full social integration with equal rights. CORSA was founded in 1995 in the city of São Paulo, SP, since the beginning with the mission of emancipating sexual minorities and struggling against prejudice based on interventions founded on solid collective work and on multidisciplinary partnerships.

## **Project**

*SEXUAL DIVERSITY AT SCHOOL: New Educational Practices About Sexuality and Citizenship – Capacity Building for Educators*

Our target is to create conditions to overcome any form of prejudice in the school environment, particularly homophobia and gender prejudice, especially with respect to differences, human dignity and the defense of citizenship. And to attain them, we thought of a project that could encourage a group of 160 educators, of the State Public Teaching Network, to review their views and opinions with relation to homosexuality and to the sexuality of youth so that, subsequently, they may in their daily lives, in and out of school, contribute to the fight against prejudice and discrimination of homosexuals.

## **Length and Period**

The project was developed from August 2004 to September 2005.

## **Methodology**

We used participative methodology based on the constructivism theory which enables effective action by the people involved – from the team responsible for the project to the target population – in the educational process. Participants are active individuals, involved in the discussion, in the identification and pursuit of solutions for problems with which they will have to deal in their role as citizens. In this sense, specific methodological resources were used for each project stage. A team of specialists and educational agents participated in the whole project development process: from the preparation of the training course to writing the educational instrument. In order to create awareness among principals and educational coordinators of the North 1 region, we held workshops to show the project and the theme. Procedures were important for defining adherence to the project. We held focus groups with teachers and applied a closed questionnaire with multiple-choice answers and open questions for 1<sup>st</sup>-year high-school students of the region where the course was held for the entrance diagnosis. The training course, preferably oriented toward high school teachers, offered theoretical, methodological and practical knowledge, to help in daily practice, and aimed at meeting specific demands related to sexual diversity and discriminations ensuing homophobia. Classes were prepared so as to enable contact and the sharing of experiences, including time for reflection, organizing and planning. Classes, workshops with audiovisual resources and personal accounts (life background) were used.

## **Main activities**

- Raising interest in 80 principals and educational coordinators that belong to 96 schools of the Public Educational Network of the State of São Paulo – North 1 Educational Board.
- Entrance diagnosis with students (questionnaire and open questions) and teachers (focus groups) selected from 96 schools, in order to identify how questions related homophobia are perceived and reproduced in the school daily routine.
- Training course for teachers (40 hours, 8 modules)
- Recording CD-ROM with texts given by experts
- Poster Contest, with 1<sup>st</sup>-year high-school students, of schools participating in the project.
- Production of educational material in a book format to work with the sexual diversity and homophobia theme in the school environment.

## **Main Results**

- Raising interest in 80 educational managers (educational coordinators, schools principals, among others) that work in 96 schools of the North 1 Educational Board, and that became contribute partners and stimulators of the project.

- Ample Entrance Diagnosis, based on the analysis of focus groups, questionnaires and open questions that allowed acknowledging the presence and intensity of homophobic prejudice and discrimination among teachers and students of the Public Education Network. The diagnosis contributed to orient the focus of the teacher-training course and helped the preparation of teaching material. It will lead to the writing of an article that will serve as the rationale for the course to continue and as discussion material with educators.
- 40-hour Training Course, with the enrollment of 169 teachers of the basic and high-school Public Education State Network, 154 of which completed the course, with an average 80% attendance;
- Establishment of a team of 13 educational agents/experts who will be encouraged to develop the course in other regions;
- Preparation and distribution of a book/primer, with multidisciplinary texts and suggestions of activities to be carried out in the classroom. It is pioneer material because it introduces the theme of sexual diversity into schools, based on gender opinion;
- Involvement of more than 200 high-school students in the poster contest with the theme **“NO HOMOPHOBIA AT SCHOOL: for ethics and citizenship”**. 150 posters applied, 25 of which went to the final stage that selected 3 winners;
- Approval for continuing the course, in a SECAD/MEC bidding notice, for the South Region São Paulo Board.

#### **Problems found**

- Difficulty to match the time schedule of the Public Education Network with the Project’s time schedule for carrying out the entrance diagnosis and beginning the course.
- Difficulty with the logistic support offered by the Educational Board: poor conditions of the area where the course was held and absence of equipment.
- Course with two groups a day in two consecutive days proved to be a tiring format for the team and, especially for the expert.
- Absence of reference material about sexuality, gender and especially about sexual diversity in schools, to help teachers’ work.
- Difficulties of teachers to introduce and work the theme of sexual diversity with their students.
- Difficulties of teachers to develop/write out a class plan about sexuality/sexual diversity; anxiousness of teachers to get “recipes” on how to deal with issues on discrimination and prejudice.
- Difficulties to choose experts on sexual diversity with an opinion on gender and education and available to participate in the preparation of the teaching book.
- Difficulties of the team to prepare an educational instrument, without any other parameter for comparison or inspiration and whose theme is absent in education.
- Difficulties of the team to bring together and carry out concomitantly two complex and laborious activities – the course and the book –, which affected time schedule.

#### **Solutions Adopted**

The team learned many lessons that added to the discoveries and pleasant surprises, among which we highlight:

- Adherence of teachers to the project, expressed in an 80% attendance rate. Of the 160 enrolled, only 15 did not complete the course;
- The adherence and the request from teachers for the course to continue, confirmed the importance of continuing education courses, as an extensive approach. Participation in a 40-hour course, held during 4 months every 15 days favored immersion in the theme, reflection and clarification of questions.

- Sexual diversity cannot be worked separately from gender perspective.
- It was gratifying to observe a change in the perception of teachers in relation to homophobic mockery, common in personal and school daily routine, initially unnoticed by most of them as a source of discrimination and prejudice.
- The difficulties found with logistics were negotiated and solved according to the possibilities of the Educational Board.
- The difficulties of teachers to prepare class plans and make posters was solved by changing the last course module, about legislation and the GLBTT movement, to one class on project design / class planning, in addition to the critical analysis of the posters made by students.
- The lack of reference materials in public schools about sexuality and sexual diversity, made the team prepare a CD-ROM (not included in the original proposal) with texts from the experts who gave the course.

### **Next Steps**

The project was presented to SECAD/MEC and approved to be implemented in the South Region. There will be capacity building for 340 professionals from the Public de Education Network (among principals, coordinators and teachers) offering theoretical, methodological and practical knowledge, to be used in their daily practice, to meet specific demands related to sexual diversity and to discrimination resulting from homophobia. These professionals will be supervised to spread knowledge and methodology learned in the training course at the schools they work in, through workshops during educational meetings.

### **Grupo Curumim**

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Phone: 55 81 3427 2023 Fax: 55 81 3427 9100

E-mail: [curumim@grupocurumim.org.br](mailto:curumim@grupocurumim.org.br)

#### **Representatives:**

General Coordinator: Ana Paula de Andrade Lima Viana  
Coordinator of the Midwife Program / Responsible for the Project: Núbia Maria de Melo e Silva

#### **Institutional Mission**

“To create technical and political conditions aimed at integral health care and humanization of the care to women, youth and adolescents, through actions in education, proposition and social control of public health policies”.

#### **Project:**

*“Women, Midwife and Reproductive Rights: weaving social inclusion!”*

#### **Objective**

To contribute to carrying out *Right to Legal and Safe Abortion Day Meetings*, in the urban and rural popular environments, through the development of strategic and structuring activities for carrying out the day meetings with midwives, community agents and rural workers.

#### **Length**

01 year – Period: 08/30/2004 to 09/15/2005

#### **Methodology**

- **Popular Education:** focuses on the Reflect-Action teaching approach. Reflect Action education is being built from the theories and practices of Paulo Freire, revisited by a reading of gender relations, power and intercultural aspects and enhanced through the utilization of Rural Participative Diagnosis methodological tools in collective processes of self-learning;
- **Focus Group (FG):** supports itself on the interaction between group participants, by means of stimuli and conduction of the moderator;
- **Dialogue Wheel:** adjustment of the FG technique, in which participants and the moderator can be people who know each other;
- **Strategic Dialogue:** open dialogue on a specific theme, conducted as to provide closer ties and partnerships between political individuals.

#### **Main activities**

- **Reflect Action Meetings:** in which the following was addressed: individual and collective identity; difficulties that community midwives and women face; violation and access to reproductive rights to build citizenship; participation and social control of women’s health; and collective construction of the book;
- **Focus Groups and Dialogue Wheel:** research of arguments for issues related to abortion;

- **Strategic Dialogue:** empowerment of midwives and rural workers aimed at possible participation in strategic activities in Day Meetings;
- **Research, preparation and publication of the book:** *Woman, midwife: citizenship and reproductive rights.*

## Results

- Seventy-nine women participated in the project.

- Regions:

Acre: Cruzeiro do Sul – Alto do Juruá

Pernambuco: Sertão do Araripe

Sertão Central

Zona da Mata Sul

Metropolitan Recife

Midwives	44*
Representatives of Rural Working Women Movement	26
Community Health Agents	09

\* Of the forty-four midwives, twenty-eight comprise the Pernambuco group and of these, twelve were at the Dialogue Wheel, moderated by Cunha, and eight were at the Strategic Dialogue with Curumim, CDD and the Executive Secretariat of the Day Meetings.

The effective involvement of traditional midwives in the fight for the legalization of abortion in Brazil in Public Hearings (in Pernambuco and Brasília) and in contacts with the media; Radio Program of the Zona da Mata – Rádio Mulher; Programs in Recife and national CBN radio; Newspapers that circulate in Brasília and Recife.

- Participation of traditional midwives in the Regional Maternal Mortality Study Commissions of Ouricuri that encompasses 11 municipalities from the Sertão do Araripe – 2 midwives;
- Municipal Maternal Mortality Commission of Palmares – Zona da Mata Sul/ PE. – 02 midwives;
- Municipal Development Counsel – Trindade – 01 midwife
- Development Counsel – Mirandiba – 1 midwife

Collective preparation of the book: *Woman, midwife: citizenship and reproductive rights;*

**Coordination:** Núbia Melo and Paula Viana (Grupo Curumim)

**Co-author midwives:** Alice Rodrigues de Oliveira Lima, Maria Francisca da Silva and Raimunda Maria de Jesus (Trindade, PE), Bernadete Maria de Oliveira, Regiane Maria da Silva and Tereza Maria Diniz Vieira (Jaboatão dos Guararapes, PE), Dione Maria da Silva, Francisca Januária dos Santos and Raimunda Maria Leal (Mirandiba, PE), Edite Maria da Silva and Maria do Carmo Marques Machado (Palmares, PE), Iraci Cosmo da Silva, Maria Auxiliadora do Nascimento and Maria Aparecida Cordeiro de Souza (Flores, PE), Joana Joventina da Conceição and Maria Auxiliadora de Jesus (Quilombola Community Conceição das Crioulas, Salgueiro, PE), Inês Juvino Alves Neto and Luíza Maria de Oliveira Neta (Ouricuri, PE), Maria José da Silva and Nair Eugênia dos Santos (Água Preta, PE), Maria Neires Bezerra de Oliveira and Romana Severina da Silva (im memorian) (Bodocó, PE), Ivanilda Maria da Silva, Maria Quitéria da Conceição and Josefa Maria Gomes da Silva (Catende, PE), Maria Rita da Silva (Xexéu, PE), Nilda Martins de Menezes and Rosa Maria Luíza da Silva (Olinda, PE), Zenilda Aroxa do Nascimento Alves (Cabo de Santo Agostinho, PE), Maria da Silva and Tabita Bentes dos Santos (Melgaço, PA), Rita Gonçalves de Vasconcelos (Breves, PA).

**Text and Revision:** Angeles Cabria, Flávia Squinca, Ivanise Bezerra, Jacirema Bernardo, Núbia Melo, Paula Viana, Soraya Fleischer.

**Cover Drawings:** Maria Quitéria da Conceição

**Book:** Product of the collective work in which all the author-midwives of this book took part.

**Pictures:** Angeles Cabria, Arquivo Curumim, Soraya Fleischer

**Meetings facilitation Team:** Ivanise Bezerra, Jacirema Bernardo, Núbia Melo and Paula Viana.

**Research:** Flávia Squinca and Paula Foltran, researcher of ANIS: Institute of Bioethics, Human Rights, and Gender – DF

**Executive Production:** Neide Batista

**Partnerships:**

Anis – Institute of Bioethics, Human Rights, and Gender – DF

Radio Mulher Palmares / Women’s Center of Cabo – PE

Brazil Reflection-Action Network (REDERA)/ Josué de Castro Center (CJC) – PE

**Supports:** Citizenship and Reproduction Commission (CCR) through PROSARE 2004 – Sexuality and Reproductive Health Projects Program

International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC)

**Acknowledgements:** Angeles Cabria, Bia Fioretti, Cícera Maria Silva de Souza, Cira Santos, Débora Diniz, Isa Hamouche, José Carlos Batista, Melissa Dickie, Soraya Fleischer, Sula Valongueiro and PT Association of Melgaço.

**Circulation:** 5,000 units

**Edition:** Distribution and Information: Grupo Curumim

**Graphic Project:** Triade Desenho Gráfico – Phone: (81) 3427-6240

**Printed by: Reproarte** – Olinda – PE – Phone. (81) 34294354

The objective of the project is the publication of the book. During the preparation of the book the group felt the need to publish more books.

- Construction of arguments to help media campaigns in the defense of the right to legal and safe abortion for Day Meetings focusing on the symbolic universe of women of the urban and rural popular environments;

#### **Problems found**

- Difficulty in the process of recruiting women for the FGs, respecting the technical criteria that the FG participants and moderator should not know each other;
- Impossibility of keeping the time schedule of trips as planned for the Ministry of Health, so as to hold FGs in other regions of Brazil;
- Difficulty to organize the book, taking into account the volume of relevant contents to the work with and among midwives, contents that emerged during the preparation of the book.

#### **Solutions Adopted**

- Adjustment of the de focus group technique to the Dialogue Wheels. In partnership with the Patrícia Galvão Institute we decided to start the dialogue based on the information on the theme researched and based on the presentation of data about abortion, with women who knew each other, sticking to the script
- The parts of the research that had been planned for other regions were carried out in Pernambuco;
- Definition that the content of the book *Woman, midwife: citizenship and reproductive rights* only with themes related to citizenship and reproductive rights.

#### **Lessons learned**

Many things were learned during the process of executing this project, including:

- The need to overcome the challenge of building spaces to put the abortion theme on the agenda, provide an environment of trust, information and debate on abortion in the opinion of public health and human rights of women;

- That it is possible to deconstruct non-critical arguments repeated without thinking and questioning, and which have no sustainability in minds and hearts;
- That to set up a national project as big as the Day Meetings, it is essential to have the participation of several political individuals on the same page with the same objective and, still, living a relationship of extreme trust among partners.

#### **Next Steps**

- We intend to continue the Reflection-Action process with a group of midwives from Pernambuco, in order to evaluate the process, understand the impacts on the personal and professional lives of midwives, and also to socialize the experiences the Day Meeting activities and in the Maternal Mortality Commissions /PE.
- We intend to continue the preparation of books to help the work with and of midwives, contributing to fight inequalities and injustices among women.

We will pursue new partnerships for these actions.

### **Grupo de Mulheres Negras Mãe Andresa**

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Representatives.

Josanira Rosa Santos da Luz – General Coordinator  
Conceição de Maria Cantanhede – Deputy Coordinator

#### **Institutional Mission**

The “Mãe Andresa” Black Women Group (Grupo de Mulheres Negras Mãe Andresa-GMNMA) is formed by women who live in the city of São Luís, in the state of Maranhão. It emerged from the need to address issues linked to the situation of afro-descendent women in society, issues that referred to their political participation, identity, health, sexuality and job market.

Initially the work of the group was oriented toward creating awareness through discussions related to ethnic identity, by holding workshops and participation in debates. In a second stage, issues related to health, sexuality, culture, and self-esteem were incorporated to their activities. Discussing, in addition, broader themes on women’s participation, including the major difficulties found in the job market and a practical experiences in the environment they lived in.

These years of experience provided maturing that is translated into the proposal of this project. The in-depth knowledge of the problems related to black women from the state of Maranhão enabled the group to develop projects financed and supported by entities such as: Misereor, CESE – Ecumenical Services Coordination, CERIS – Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies, FASE – Federation of Agencies for Social and Educational Assistance and IAF – Inter-American Foundation.

GMNMA has partnerships with other similar entities, such as: CCN-Center for Black Culture of Maranhão, Carajás Forum and the Municipal Counsel of Women’s Condition, affiliated to the Reproductive Health Network, to the Municipal Health Counsel and Movement of Brazilian Black Women (*Articulação de Mulheres Negras Brasileiras*).

#### **Project**

The project “**Informing and building skills in youth, building new values and attitudes**”, aims to foster the discussion on reproductive and sexual health. Train 30 youngsters to work as multiplying agents and; inform, through lectures, fundamental education students of 08 schools of the Municipal Education Network, especially on gender issues, highlighting the problem of pregnancy during adolescence.

#### **Length and Period**

01 year from September 2004 to September 2005.

#### **Methodology**

Informing and building skills in youth, building new values and attitudes, (**Young Attitude**) project considered adolescents and youngsters as the main individuals of all actions to be developed.

The central focus of the methodology was the development of youth, supported on their knowledge of themselves, on positive self-esteem and on the utilization of their creative potential

which contributed to changes in attitudes and behaviors that led to self care and the perception of the need to adopt a style of life that favors information, education and prevention.

The participative methodology was used as a way to work on not exclusively technical capacity building, but took into consideration and went in depth into the experience of youth, including presentation dynamics, group integration, relaxation techniques, presentations, text reading, music, videos, DVDs, debates, testimonials, information sharing, preparation of posters, murals, cultural presentations, movies, communication techniques and role playing of difficult situations to be faced in activities at schools.

The work of young multipliers at schools was always developed in pairs or trios, so as to assure a compensation of the gaps in their knowledge.

To that end the pairs or trios of young multipliers took part in study groups and meetings to prepare workshops at schools.

The supervision of a facilitator/adult and a meeting schedule for evaluation and planning was always guaranteed for the activities carried out at schools by young multipliers.

The evaluation meeting with young multipliers was intended for in-depth knowledge, discussing how difficult or easy actions were, and to strengthen the commitment of the group.

### **Main activities**

- ✓ Internak meetings to begin project implementation;
- ✓ Partnership with the São Luís Municipal Counsel for the Rights of Children and Adolescents.
- ✓ Partnership with entities that work with adolescents and youth;
  - Needy Communities of Maranhão Support Group;
  - National Street Children's Movement of Maranhão;
  - Church Community for Minors of the Itaqui-Bacanga Area;
  - Family Society Well-Being in Brazil-BEMFAM
  - Maranhão Center of Black Culture
  - Maranhão Childhood News Agency – MATRACA
- ✓ Selection of Facilitators;
- ✓ Creating awareness in Facilitators;
- ✓ Selection of Young Multipliers;
- ✓ Creating awareness in Young Multipliers;
- ✓ Integration meeting of Young Multipliers;
- ✓ Partnership with the Municipal Department of Education;
- ✓ Project Launching;
- ✓ Planning of capacity building for Young Multipliers;
- ✓ Capacity building for Young Multipliers;
- ✓ Creating awareness in principals and teachers;
- ✓ Capacity building to Young Multipliers by PROSARE August 12 to 14, 2005;
- ✓ Capacity building of GMNM facilitators by PROSARE September 09 and 10, 2005;
- ✓ Planning of workshops and lectures at schools;
- ✓ Workshops and lectures at schools;
- ✓ Integration and evaluation meeting with youth, facilitators, partner entities and schools.

### **Main Results**

*“ Eu acredito is na rapaziada/ Que segue em frente and segura o rojão/  
Eu ponho fé is na fé da moçada/Que não foge da fera and enfrenta o leão/  
Eu vou a luta with essa juventude/ que não corre da raia a troco de nada”!*  
**(Gonzaguinha)**

*(I believe in youth/ That keeps on going and takes it all/I have faith in youth's faith/That doesn't run from beasts and faces the lion/I'll fight along with this youth/ That will not run away for anything)*

1. Partnership established with the following entities: (Municipal Counsel for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, Municipal Department of Education of the Municipality of São Luís, Black Culture Center of Maranhão, Needy Communities Support Group of Maranhão; National Movement of Street Boys and Girls of Maranhão; Church Community for the Minors of the Itaqui-Bacanga Area; Family Well-Being Society of Brazil–BEMFAM, Maranhão Childhood News Agency–MATRACA
2. A group of 30 youngsters/multipliers was trained and completed capacity building on sexuality and reproductive health, especially prevention of teenage pregnancy;
3. Awareness was created in 13 facilitators /adults on the approach to the theme of sexuality and reproductive health with a component on gender and ethnicity;
4. Awareness was created in 08 principals, 08 educational coordinators and 40 teachers;
5. Sixteen workshops were held by young multipliers, 02 of which in schools of the 08 priorities for an audience of 480 adolescents and youngsters;
6. Eight lectures were given at 08 schools to an audience of 300 adolescents and youngsters in each school, totaling 2,400 adolescents and youth;
7. One workshop was held in the Vila Embratel neighborhood, as an initiative of young multipliers themselves, with the objective of creating awareness among 30 youngsters of the community on sexuality and reproductive health, especially prevention of STD/AIDS and teenage pregnancy in the carnival period with the “Fun Carnival” (Carnaval Legal) action.
8. Socialization of the experience, presenting the Youth Project (Projeto Jovem) at the State Education and Ethnic-Racial Diversity Forum in the city of São Luís from June 01 to 03 2005.
9. Nice receptivity and participation in the Young Attitude Project (Atitude Jovem) by school principals, teachers, technicians, adolescents and youth;
10. Project activities were perceived by adolescents and youth/multipliers as relevant and useful to promote behavioral change, in face of the challenge of experiencing healthy sexuality;
11. Enabled young leadership, in which youngsters talked and interacted with other youngsters thus facilitating workshops and lectures on sexuality and reproductive health;
12. Emotional maturing was favored, as was overcoming shyness and raising self-esteem of 30 young multipliers;
13. Assisted building youth leadership to make young people aware of their role in today's society.
14. Partnership with the Municipal Department of Education that plans to continue the project in more than 08 municipal schools of São Luís in 2006.
15. Partnership with the Municipal Department of Health / STD/AIDS Coordination that supplied educational material and contraceptive methods.
16. Socialization of experience, presenting the Youth Project at the State Education and Ethnic-Racial Diversity Forum in São Luís from June 01 to 03 2005.

#### **Problems found**

- School timetable priorities such as: strikes, continuing education, election of the school counsel, holidays, vacation and science fairs made communication and development of actions at schools difficult;
- To set up 02 young multiplier groups, as planned in the project;

- Project implementation dynamics demanded hard integration work to initially reach 10% of municipal schools, which corresponds to 08 Schools.
- Project execution time, because the type of communication/discussion of sexuality and reproductive health is broad and there should be more time to go in depth into reflections and get the suggestions that came up during the workshops and lectures at schools;
- The project did not foresee capacity building to school teachers and technicians, which was requested by them.

### **Solutions Adopted**

- We had to prepare our schedule of activities at schools taking into consideration the priorities of schools.
- We chose to train a single group of 30 young multipliers, favoring quality over quantity.
- We prioritized 08 schools of the Municipal Education Network to carry out the project, beginning the intervention with baby steps.
- We were able to involve technicians and teachers in the integration and awareness carried out at schools and continuing education lectures were offered at the schools that requested them.
- Creative potential, capacity and responsibility of young multipliers;
- The need of schools to discuss and work on concrete issues of sexuality and reproductive health;
- Profile, commitment, openness and participation of school managers in the implementation of the project;
- Acceptance of the project by school adolescents and youth;
- The amount of mistaken, prejudice, macho and conservative information in relation to sexuality and reproductive health, by students, revealed the importance and need for the project.
- The drive and commitment of young multipliers who want to continue in-depth discussion of the theme and the project, going to other schools.
- Commitment of the facilitator teams, during the 01-year project.
- The impact and differential of youth talking to youth (young leaders, appropriate language, naturalness, atmosphere of trust, group of peers).
- The credibility of the Black Women Group with partner entities and the way the project was conducted, with the participation of all involved.

### **Next Steps**

- Partnership with the Municipal Department of Education of São Luís that plans to continue the project in more than 08 municipal schools of São Luís in 2006 by holding workshops with students and continuing education for teachers on sexuality and reproductive health.
- Partnership with the Municipal Health Department/ STD/AIDS Coordination and Municipal Department of Education to create the prevention “corner” at schools with the participation of adolescents and youngsters from schools;
- Presentation of the Young Attitude Project to other funding agencies: e.g.: UNESCO on 10/30/05;
- Partnership with the Maranhão Childhood News Agency to create a radio program made by young multipliers on sexuality and reproductive health.

## Grupo Transas do Corpo – Ações Educativas em Gênero, Saúde e Sexualidade

Website: [www.transasdocorpo.org.br](http://www.transasdocorpo.org.br)

Representative  
Eliane Gonçalves

### **Institutional Mission**

The *Transas do Corpo* group aims to construct a society based on feminist principles of plurality, justice and solidarity, through educational actions and research in gender, health and sexuality.

### **Project**

*“Sexual and Reproductive Rights – positioning the feminist field and expanding the debate on human rights”.*

### **Objective**

The project is a public communication aimed at constructing dialogue about sexual and reproductive rights in the human rights field with different social actors, aiming to expand the communication between those fields and to strengthen feminist positions in defense of a lay state.

### **Length**

September 2004 to September 2005

### **Methodology used.**

- "Public policies for Safe Abortion: a social justice matter", public hearing held in the House of Representatives of the State of Goiás in an open format with invitations sent to a key-audience. Presentations by experts and national and local authorities: CEPIA/RJ, FEBRASGO/SP; Technical Area of Women's Health of the Ministry of Health, Department of Health of the State of Goiás and Department of Health of the Municipality of Goiânia, Transas do Corpo Group.
- March 28 and 29 2005: *“Sexual and Reproductive Rights: in the defense of the lay state”* seminar, held at the UFG School of Law, open format, debates with representatives of the feminist movement, rights operators and social sciences professionals, from Goiânia: Transas do Corpo Group, CEPIA/RJ, THEMIS/RS, Goiás Federal University and Public Prosecutor's Office.
- June 10 and 11 Seminar: *“Sexual Rights: building reflections and dialogues: closed format, with pre-registration. Panels with short 20-minute presentations and prolonged debate with participants. Opening with multipliers from the Theater of the Oppressed, Goiânia. Lecturers of organizations and local, regional and national networks: Transas do Corpo Group, Federal University of Goiás, Malunga Black Women Group, RedeSaúde, Brazilian Meetings for Abortion, Cunha/PB, Divas Institute /PE, Papai Institute/PE, Ilga/RJ.*
- September 28 2005: *“Right to legal and safe abortion”* Seminar. Closed format for 32 people representing 36 institutions from all areas involved in the dialogue. Presentations: Woman's Health Technical Area of the Ministry of Health, Mother-Child Hospital of the State Department of Health, Public Prosecutor's Office of Goiás, Human Rights Commission of the House of Representatives of the State of Goiás.

### **Main activities**

- Four events held: *public policies for safe abortion* public hearing; open seminar “*Sexual and Reproductive Rights: in defense of the lay state*”; open seminar *Sexual rights: constructing reflection and dialogues*, and closed seminar *The right to abortion in cases foreseen in law: the current political debate*.
- Spreading news and construction of a relationship with the media.
- Publication of the Argumentos Feministas (Feminist Arguments) issues 1, 2, 3 and 4.

### **Main Results**

- November 09 2004: "Public policies for Safe Abortion: a matter of social justice" public hearing, held at the House of Representatives of Goiás. Open format with invitations sent to key-audience, participation of 60 people (full occupation). It resulted in effective commitment of the Human Rights Commission with the filing of a complaint by the *Transas do Corpo* Group at the Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate health services' compliance with the Ministry of Health's Technical Standards.
- March 28 and 29, 2005: “*Sexual and Reproductive Rights: in defense of the lay state*” seminar, held at the UFG School of Law, open format, 200 people, especially law students and professionals.
- June 10 and 11 Seminar: “*Sexual Rights: constructing reflections and dialogues*”: closed format, with pre-registration, participation of 68 people; 25 diversified groups from Goiânia, Ceres (GO), João Pessoa, Brasília, Recife, Rio, and São Paulo.
- September 28 2005: “*Right to legal and safe abortion*” seminar. Closed format for 32 people representing 36 institutions from all areas involved in the debate. As a result of the seminar, the Public Prosecutor's Office started an investigation to understand why there is no public health center in Goiás, offering assistance to women who need an abortion in circumstances legally accepted in Brazil. 29 insertions in the media (local newspapers, electronic media and radio). *Diário da Manhã* and *O Popular* are the two major daily newspapers of the State and we had nine insertions in different editorials. CBN Anhanguera Rádio is a branch of the largest news station in Brazil, with three insertions. Portal da Abong, RedeFax/RedeSaúde and Revista do Terceiro Setor (RETS) are important media of circulation of information on NGOs throughout Brazil and abroad and we had a mention in each. The remainder is local media whose major reach is the capital, Goiânia.
- Publication of four notebooks of the Argumentos Feministas series, with roughly 12 pages each, average of four short texts; circulation of 300 copies for issues 1, 2 and 3, and 1,000 for 4 (because of LGBT groups who requested higher circulation for their audiences).

### **Problems found**

- Some presentations did not have a corresponding text published because speakers did not prepare or send them for publication on the required date.
- Some people representing institutions in the integration did not stay during all events.

### **Solutions Adopted**

- Definition of text size and format, requesting them for publication well beforehand;
- Expansion to other representatives of the same or other institution.
- An assumption that there would be a reaction from the pro-life movement of Anápolis (Padre Luis Lodi) was not confirmed and the silence was strange, but welcome. We discovered the potential of LGBT groups in strengthening feminist ideas.

### **Next Steps.**

The project ended, but it inspired the preparation of a similar proposal submitted to the Department of Participative Management of the Ministry of Health, pre-approved in September 2005.

**Instituto de Acesso à Justiça (IAJ)**

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Elizabeth Zambrano

Roberto Lorea

**Institutional Mission**

Social inclusion and defense of Human rights

**Project**

“Right to Homoparenting”

**Objective**

The target of the project is: a) to show, through ethnographical and bibliographical research, how the social representations of family and sexuality relate to the legal decisions that allow access of homosexual and transgender individuals to parenting, b) to promote its results to help future legal decisions.

**Length**

The project lasted 1 year, from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 to August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**Methodology used**

The empirical universe of work includes homosexual men, transvestites and transsexuals who live in the city of Porto Alegre, RS; and law professionals who work in the Central Court of the city. A qualitative methodology of ethnographical orientation was used, with semi-structured interviews, mostly utilizing the snowball technique. The sample was of 20 informants: 12 homosexuals with ages between 28 and 48 years, 10 of which were couples and 2 single individuals; 5 transvestites between 24 and 41 years, 2 with a stable relationship and 3 single individuals; 3 transsexuals, with ages ranging between 31 and 44 years, 2 in a stable relationship and 1 single woman. All homosexuals belonged to the average and average-high class, 1 transvestite and 1 transsexual were from the low-average class, and the others belonged to the low-income class. The level of schooling of homosexuals ranged from: technical courses to post-graduation, while transvestites and transsexuals ranged from: no schooling to complete basic education. Law professionals were accessed as a consequence of the relationship with a project coordinator. In the literature review covered homoparenting studies in Psychology, Anthropology and Law, through books, scientific articles and the Internet. A survey was carried out on the Internet by the Folha de São Paulo newspaper.

**Main activities**

Empirical research

- 20 ethnographical semi-structured interviews with homosexual men, transvestites and transsexuals living in Porto Alegre.
- 7 ethnographical semi-structured interviews with law professionals working on the adoption team and multidisciplinary team of the Childhood and Youth branch of the Central Court of Porto Alegre.

#### Bibliographical review on “Homoparenting”

- In Psychology aimed at answering issues that refer to the “well-being of children” raised in a homoparent family.
- In Anthropology focused on the anthropological theories on family, family ties and new family configurations.
- In Law finding the laws on adoption and guardianship of children by homosexual parents.
- Survey in the Folha de São Paulo newspaper, covering the 1997 to 2005 period, about marriage and parenting of homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals.

### Main Results

As it deals with research without intervention, the main effects relate to the communication of the research itself, and its results are being sent to NGOs that work with individuals with sexual diversity, Childhood and Youth branches, judges, law professionals and people interested in the theme. Main results follow below:

- Empirical research and scientific studies on homoparenting, have conducted and published since 1975, in countries such as US, Canada, Spain, England, and France.
- The conclusions of these studies indicate that there are no significant differences in the “well-being of a child” in a heterosexual family when compared to that of one in a homosexual family.
- Most studies focus more on the access to maternity of lesbian women than on paternity of gay men.
- The result of the survey by the Folha de São Paulo newspaper indicates greater visibility of gay paternity than of lesbian maternity. News stories favor political mobilization with discussion and fight for sexual and reproductive rights, more than moral (positive and negative) evaluations of homosexuality.
- Our empirical data indicate that
  - Informants refer to a traditional family model although they include new configurations when considering the composition of their own family groups.
  - Parental care is still related to traditional gender roles (father and mother), following the model in which the woman plays the female role, and helps in childcare.
  - There is a moral division between the family and the sexuality spheres, aimed at protecting children.
  - Each family group surveyed (re)invents its own terms for “father” and “mother” (e.g. such as *painho* or *dindo*), always maintaining the acknowledgement of the sex/gender difference.
  - The parental representation of the homosexual is male and paternal. Transvestites and transsexuals may show female and maternal parental representations. Gender identity prevails over the biological determination in the parental definition.
  - Parenting may be a positive element for stressing homosexuality, transvestites and transsexuals, and may make the stigma relative.
  - Adoption is the preferred mode of access to parenting among our interviewees.

- Belonging to a low-income social class adds to sexuality as a factor that increases stigma and prejudice against homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals who want to fulfill their desire to have children.
- Transvestites and transsexuals have greater difficulties to obtain guardianship or legally adopt children. They generally adopt children informally and seek the legal system to legalize the guardianship of the child they are already caring for.
- The homosexuals interviewed (medium and medium-high classes) have more access to the legal system, despite the stigma.
- The pursuit for adoption is carried out by one of the elements of the homoparent couple, even when parenting is planned together.
- As partners of legal parents (biological or adopting) cannot adopt together, the law does not protect their rights and links with the child they planned or helped raise.
- The child that belongs to a homoparent family does not have the same protection from the State nor the same rights as children in a heteroparent family, regarding affective links, relationship and inheritance.
- There are no legal obstacles, for couples in a “stable union” not to adopt, whether hetero or homosexual.
- The impediments, when they exist are linked to ideological and religious positions, and have origin in the prejudice of law professionals and judges.

### **Problems found**

1. Participative observation with adoption and multidisciplinary teams, who assist in cases of request for adoption and guardianship in the Court of Porto Alegre, revealed itself non-productive due to the low number of suits filed by homosexuals.
2. The choice of informants based on birth gender in order to study representations of paternal parenting revealed itself problematic, because some transvestites and transsexuals also trigger representations of maternal parenting.

### **Solutions found**

1. We realized it was more profitable to interview law professionals individually.
2. We included participative observation in the weekly meetings promoted by the NGO Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals of Rio Grande do Sul – A IGUALDADE (EQUALITY), to collect data.
3. We discovered that in order to research the representations of paternal parenting, we would have to interview female to male transsexuals, who would probably trigger this representation.
4. We found an unexpected amount of references on homoparenting, being published for 30 years, however only 1 article on transsexual parenting and none on transvestite parenting.
5. We found an enormous lack of knowledge of law professionals on these references.
6. The advantages of multidisciplinary studies and their promotion in the different areas involved in the theme became evident.
7. We consider the finding on the parental representation of transvestites and transsexuals important research data indicating the need of further studies.

### **Next Steps**

A study, whose project was funded by PROSARE, ended in the planned time schedule. Its continuity is not anticipated although the amplitude, complexity and importance of the theme justifies complementary research.

## **Instituto Patrícia Galvão– Comunicação e Mídia**

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### **Institutional Mission**

The Patrícia Galvão Institute – Communication and Media is a civil society not-for-profit organization, created in 2000. The founding partners of Patrícia Galvão have been working for more than 20 years in the field of political communication and women's rights.

Their areas of work are communication and media, considered strategic in cultural, social and political transformation projects.

Its ideal is increasingly democratic, plural, non-sexist and non-racist mass communication.

### **Objective**

To contribute toward the construction, in the media, of an image of women that suits better the reality and leading role women play in Brazilian society.

The Patrícia Galvão Institute understands that the challenging tasks in the field of political communication cannot be faced individually. The Patrícia Galvão orients its projects and actions to foster, encourage, drive and influence strategic alliances for carrying out actions of impact.

### **Project**

Research and communication on reproductive rights

### **Summary**

The project is based on the principle that the legalization of abortion, the historical and central banner of the feminist movement, depends on many factors, especially against conservative forces, strongly resistant to sexual and reproductive rights. The general objectives of the project were to map, identify, catalogue and analyze the main forces against abortion in the country. Toward that end, it planned to interview and survey affiliation, institutional ties, funding sources, and types of campaigns carried out by congressmen, judges, physicians, religious, and other actors identified with the anti-abortion cause.

After leaving for the research field, and considering all the difficulties inherent to the investigation on the theme, the decision was to go in depth into the research using the public information available. Websites of the groups surveyed, newspapers and online magazines transformed themselves in fundamental research sources, which brought about as a positive consequence the fact that all the information provided by the document is validated by neutral public sources, and not identified with the feminist movement.

The main actions carried out were to monitor the news related to the theme, searching for public information especially on the Internet.

After the project, it was possible to identify a bibliographical gap about the action of religious groups against the decriminalization of abortion in Brazil. The major merit of the work is, therefore, its pioneer nature. There are two assumptions of social impact in the project: the communication of information to the public, so as to support the relevant debate on the Lay State in Brazil, and its role as the foundation for future research aimed at going in depth into issues mapped in this first document.

It should still be pointed out that the project was developed also taking into consideration the scenario of the debate on the theme. That is why, during the entire first half of 2005, the period

of operation of the Three-Party Commission for the Revision of Punitive Legislation of the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy, the team monitored, through the news and the attendance to events, the unfolding of this debate. This possibility added content to and updated the project.

With this project, for the first time in Brazil, it was possible to identify the main groups against the legalization of abortion and their action strategies at the Academy, Legislative Body, Legal System and press. Their main actions in the country and their international links were also identified.

## **KOINONIA – Presença Ecumênica e Serviço**

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### **Institutional Mission**

KOINONIA is an ecumenical service entity, comprised of people of different religious traditions, joined in a civil not-for-profit association. Its mission is to mobilize ecumenical solidarity and render services to historically and culturally vulnerable groups and to those in the process of social and political emancipation. To that end, it produces knowledge, information and educational programs, that operate through networks, searching for democratic spaces, that guarantee justice and human rights – economic, social, cultural, environmental — and the promotion of ecumenism and of the ecumenical movement and its libertarian values at the national and international level.

### **Project**

The “Gender Relations and Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Religious Contexts” project aims to contribute to overcoming the obstacles of cultural and religious nature that prevent the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights.

### **Length**

The project lasted 12 months, from August 2004 to August 2005.

### **Methodology**

The socio-interaction methodology was used in workshops to share experiences, organize life stories, reflect about sexual and reproductive rights, provide technical information in health, and talk with experts from the biological, human sciences and theology areas.

The training methodology became operational in three stages: awareness, capacity building, and monitoring and supervision. Awareness aimed to draw attention of community leaders in relation to:

- the need to build an environment where gender relations and sexual and reproductive rights are worked.
- the need to perceive the complexity of the theme and its inter-relations with the social, political, economic, cultural and religious aspects.
- the urge for religious institutions to take over their role as transforming agents, defenders of rights, and of instruments to overcome prejudice, especially in relation to sexual and reproductive rights.

### **Main activities**

- **4 awareness seminars:** a two day-seminar was held in each region assisted by KOINONIA (see item 9, below). The themes dealt with were: woman’s body and sexuality; gender

relations and religion; sexuality, religion and STD/AIDS; sexual and reproductive rights and the lay state; public health facilities.

- **4 capacity building courses:** one course was held in each region, with the total participation of 65 women and one man. The themes discussed were: sexuality and gender relations; behavior and personal relationship; spirituality and theology; action planning.
- **2 inter-regional meetings:** one in Salvador, gathering 22 women from the Sub-Mid São Francisco and from the city of Salvador, and another in Espírito Santo, joining 20 women from this state and also from São Paulo.
- **1 national meeting:** held in Salvador, BA, it joined 36 multiplying agents from four regions. The objective was to provide dialogue between different realities/cultures and the exchange of experiences.

### **Main Results**

- Building awareness in 270 women, in the seminars held, one in each region assisted by the Project, (62 women in the Sub-Mid São Francisco region, mostly catholic; 30 women in the metropolitan region of Salvador, mostly from the *candomblé* religion; 40 *quilombola* women in the north region of Espírito Santo, mostly Pentecostal; and 138 women in the Vale do Paraíba region (protestants, Roman Catholics, and Pentecostals). The themes worked on were: women, body and sexuality; gender relations and religion; sexuality, religion and STD/AIDS; sexual and reproductive rights and lay state; and public health facilities.

- Capacity building of 65 women and 1 man, spread through the regions assisted by KOINONIA. The capacity building provided the minimum of knowledge necessary to the multipliers agents that are developing educational and awareness actions in relation to sexual and reproductive rights in their communities. The activities had as themes: sexuality and gender relations; gender (cultural, social and spiritual aspects); behavior and personal relationships; case study; contextualization and discussion about spiritualities and theology; and planning of actions and applicability.

- We consider that there were many gains, but we would like to point out as the main results:

1. Creation of spaces for inter-religious and ecumenical reflection and dialogue about reproductive and sexual rights, and the organization of a Network of Contributors, through the actions of multipliers.

2. Training and organization of women in situations of vulnerability, in different social cores, enabling empowerment and raising the self-esteem of women in mobilized groups.

3. Dissemination of the information and concepts acquired, based on the integration of women.

4. Change in behavior and intention to pursue personal growth. Some women, when they completed the basic training course, resumed their ideals and their dreams, looking for jobs, going back to school and, mainly, reestablishing their self-esteem and care with their bodies.

5. Regional acknowledgement, as a reference work on sexual health and reproductive rights, meeting regional demands.

### **Problems found**

During project activities, we ran into some difficulties as for example:

- The excess of activities in the agendas of *candomblé* grounds that made training activities in that population not feasible.
- Difficulty to access distant communities, because of lack of funding, bad roads, and precarious transportation.
- Difficulties related to public policies, to the care offered to low-income populations and impossibility of tests and treatments.

## Solutions Adopted

Always seeking solutions for the difficulties presented, KOINONIA tried to establish contacts and partnerships with municipal and state agencies that could establish partnerships to make feasible work such as, for example:

- Partnership with the Municipal Department of Health of Salvador, to hold health fairs at *candomblé* grounds, in which multipliers spread information on women's health.
- In an agreement with the Presidente Kennedy and São Mateus City Halls, multipliers received funds for traveling between municipalities, thus making the participation in encounters, meetings and supervisions possible.
- Decentralization of activities due to geographical distances, in this case, in the SMSF region.
- Multipliers sought methodologies that make activities feasible, and also enable the creation of a new culture of institutional functioning in healthcare facilities and relationships between healthcare professionals whose prospects are not only to cure or relieve pain, but to reveal the beauty of life.

**Lessons learned and unexpected discoveries** occurred as of the creation of spaces and possibilities, as for example:

- The group of SMSF multipliers have used its mobilization potential, plus acquired knowledge, and promoted discussions in municipalities (Chorrochó, Rodelas, Belém de São Francisco) in relation to public policies and health, organizing walks and demands for breast cancer, cervix tests and distribution of male and female condoms.
- The fact that the multipliers of Espírito Santo were youngsters, who had no information about project themes, and today share themes, in their *quilombolas* communities.
- One of the points that surprised us was the willingness of the groups to expand the relationship and integration with governmental agencies (Testing and Care Centers, Guidance and Social Assistance Centers, Reference and Training Centers, Municipal Departments of Health and Education) and with the ecumenical field (National Council of Christian Churches, Latin American Churches Counsel, Deaconship). There is also the desire to grow, not only in numbers, but also in gender, with the inclusion of men.
- We consider the reaction of churches that opened their doors to the discussion and reflection about sexuality, sexual rights and reproductive rights a significant advance, because these issues were considered taboo. The project did not only challenge institutions, but also contribute in a substantial way to the lives of the people who contributed in the different church communities.
- The utilization of the publication "Aids and Churches: an invitation to action", not only by Catholic and Evangelic churches, but also by Kardecist centers and *Candomblé* grounds. Moreover, due to the promotion of the publication, some city halls decided to prepare meetings with the public power, churches and NGOs about the importance of the relation between religion and health.

## Next Steps

The project does not end with the end of the partnership with CCR. Actions developed that made the beginning of the project feasible, provided partnerships with churches and governmental agencies that showed interest in working the issues of sexuality and religion. It is clear it will not continue as intensely because it will not count on the funds of the past twelve months. On the other hand, the actions developed at *quilombolas* communities in São Mateus, in ES, won the "Incentives Award in the Promotion of Racial Equity in Health", a bid promoted by UNDP and the British Embassy, which will make it possible to continue the project in the region, in the coming 12 months.