

Annual Report 2020



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY

Background.....	01
Programs	08
Empowerment and capacity building on women’s human rights.....	09
Human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights	17
Empowerment and capacity building on adolescents and youth	24
Human rights, access to justice and violence against women	37
CEPIA’s Participation in classes and courses	56
CEPIA’s Campaigns	59
CEPIA’s Manifestos	62
CEPIA in media	66
Management and transparency	75
Governance	76
CEPIA’s team	77

BACKGROUND

In 2020, CEPIA celebrated 30 years of a long and productive journey in the defence of women's human rights working in different democratic governments, facing challenges and responding to opportunities. We started our work soon after the promulgation of the 1988 Constitution and went through the 90s, and, in this new century, with strong participation in the UN Conferences and important incidence in key legislations, such as the Family Planning Law, the Maria da Penha VAW Law, the Femicide Law and in public policies in the areas of security, justice and health. Today CEPIA faces an adverse political context and is resisting the dismantling of laws and public policies, hard won by women, maintaining its commitment to human rights, gender and race equality, democracy and social justice ([See our Letter celebrating 30 years](#)).

In spite of the current adverse context, CEPIA continued its line of action focused on research,

dissemination of knowledge, training and capacity building, articulations and partnerships, specially with feminist organizations, women's movements and youth, as well as with broad sectors of society, including public officers in the areas of education, security, justice and health, to better attend women, youth and girls. The advocacy actions in defence of women's human rights and their implementation in public policies have accompanied CEPIA's work throughout these three decades.

The national context of Brazil in 2020 was marked by the Covid-19 pandemic and the deepening of economic, political and social crises, especially with the expansion of unemployment and poverty. Added to these factors are the continuing influence of conservative religious forces and groups, a narrative of hate and intolerance, the growth of authoritarianism from statements and actions of the Brazilian President and his allies, that endanger democracy itself and the credibility of the country on the international scene.

The denialism of the government in face of the pandemic led the country to register very high rates of deaths and illnesses by Covid-19. The government continued to reject an informative campaign for the population to better protect itself. The President refused to wear masks and to do social isolation, encouraging crowds. By the end of 2020, more than 270,000 deaths were recorded in Brazil from Covid-19, many of which could have been avoided. The government's denialist policy promoted the indiscriminate purchase and use of drugs, considered to "prevent" Covid, without any scientific evidence and already rejected by the WHO and the National Health Surveillance Agency - ANVISA. The Ministry of Health has been negligent in the context of the pandemic, trying to hinder access to data on hospitalizations and deaths due to Covid-19, which has led groups from the mainstream media to organize themselves into a consortium to seek and disseminate this data.

The Bolsonaro government continued with the policy of

expanding access to firearms with new decrees allowing the purchase of weapons and ammunition and the reduction of mechanisms of inspection and control, despite the high rate of violence registered in all Brazilian states. Data from 2019 indicated the occurrence of 43,033 homicides, including femicide crimes, which reached 3,737 cases registered in this same year, equivalent to a rate of 3.5 victims for every 100,000 female inhabitants in Brazil.

Anti-environmentalist actions deepened in 2020 expressing the government's contempt for a sustainable environmental policy. Deforestation of the Amazon continued to advance, as did the invasion of indigenous lands by mining, cattle ranching and predatory agriculture groups, representing the agribusiness sector strongly supported by the President.

The anti-gender crusade has maintained its attacks through social media on all opponents of the

government especially NGOs, academics, feminists, black movements and LGBTQI+ movements, which are accused by radical fundamentalist movements of being responsible for the destruction of families and being subversive, contrary to religious values and to the "patria". Other movements, such as black women, human rights, environmentalists, indigenous peoples, are also accused of being agents of disorder and destruction.

The conservative agenda is implemented by the Federal Executive in public policies and in the proposal of bills in the National Congress with the objective of restricting rights, including the prohibition of the voluntary interruption of pregnancy in all circumstances, even when resulting from rape. A paradigmatic case occurred with the attempt of government agents and their allies to prevent the performance of a legal abortion of a 10 year old girl raped by an uncle.

The fundamentalist forces mobilized by the Ministry of

Women, Family and Human Rights, acted as shields to prevent the girl's access to a hospital, to have the abortion performed. Fortunately feminist groups and allies in the medical sector reacted, assuring the girl's access to safe abortion. This case is just the tip of the iceberg. Data from the Brazilian Public Security Forum, indicated, in 2019, the continued occurrence of a high rate of sexual violence against women, with the majority of victims (53.8%) being girls up to 13 years old.

The good news is that there is strong resistance to this adverse context of constant attacks on democratic institutions, of a fundamentalist agenda on moral and customs, banning gender and sexual education from school curricula, of hate and intolerance, science negationism, increase of arms and a toxic culture of masculinity. Civil society organizations are still very strong and articulated on different fronts. They actively oppose the dismantling of democratic principles and human rights. Feminists, black movements, indigenous

and LGBTQI+ movements, environmentalists and academics, among others, are at the forefront of this resistance, building common agendas in their diversities to defend secularism and democratic principles as inscribed in the Brazilian Constitution. Sectors of the mainstream press and social media have also taken a daily stand against authoritarianism and populism. Similarly, the Supreme Court has taken a firm stance to prevent authoritarian and coup forces from jeopardising democratic institutions.

Also, in the positive side, is the existence of a public Unified Health System – SUS, a conquest of the 1988 Constitution, and the large experience of Brazil in delivering vaccines, that has diminished the negative effects of the federal government denialism assuring access to vaccines and health care to the population.

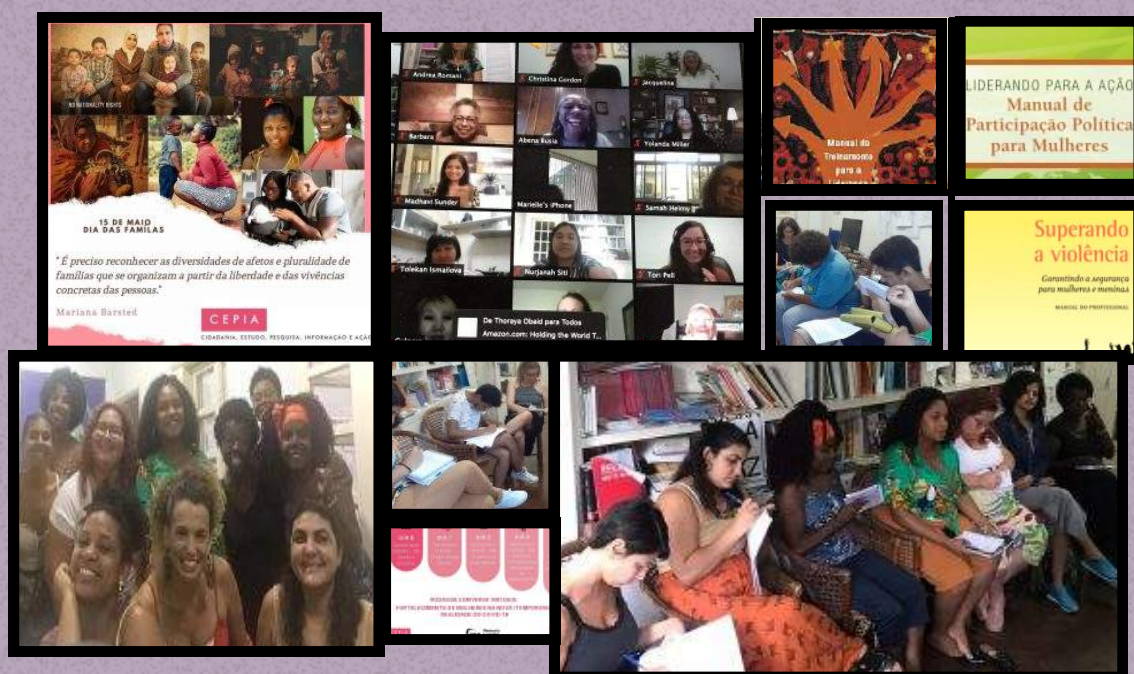
We walked through 2020 with hope for better times, in solidarity with social movements and civil society organizations.

PROGRAMS

All of CEPIA's programs, developed through its various projects and activities, include a focus on the intersectionality of gender, race and ethnicity, social class and age group in order to embrace the diversity of women and their different experiences, needs, vulnerabilities and potentialities. CEPIA's four key programmes – Empowerment and capacity building on women's human rights, Human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, Empowerment and capacity building on adolescents and youth and Human rights, access to justice and violence against women are interconnected and mutually reinforcing and enhance the development and expansion of women's human rights.

Empowerment and capacity building on women's human rights

This program aims to share knowledge and skills for the advocacy of women's rights, to build common agendas and promote movement building. It responds to the need for continuous training of leaders of organizations and social movements, youth collectives, students, as well as professionals who play a key role in the formulation and development of public policies.



In 2020, CEPIA developed different activities such as Women's Human Rights Course, Training of Trainers Institutes (TOT), workshops, classes and meetings with participants from different parts of Brazil as well as from Latin America and Lusophone Africa. CEPIA also strengthened its partnership with other organizations and networks, such as the Women's Learning Partnership, WLP, that gathers 20 autonomous organizations from the Global South.

Some of the activities developed in this Program were:

In February, CEPIA held a meeting with the participants of the training of trainers (TOT) that occurred in 2019, to exchange learnings and evaluate the impacts of the training in their personal lives and their activism. This was one of the last in person activities held by CEPIA prior to isolation measures.

In April, in partnership with the collective *Mulheres de Frente* (Women on the Front) and WLP, CEPIA held a

cycle of 5 meetings, Virtual Discussion Groups, with a focus on domestic violence, exacerbated during Covid-19 pandemic, gathering women from Brazil, Germany and England.

The 15th of May, Family Day, was marked by CEPIA with the recognition of the existence of a plurality of families also entitled to respect and to have the protection of the law. With this initiative CEPIA joined an international Campaign Equality: it's all in the family, produced by WLP, illustrating the *spectrum* of family laws around the world and their impact on women's freedom, safety and well-being.

Still under the partnership with WLP, CEPIA participated at the online Transnational Partners Convenings bringing together representatives of the various organizations that integrate this international network.

CEPIA was a speaker at the Women Leading with Courage in Times of Crisis event, held in April, bringing

together women from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and the USA for a discussion on how the coronavirus pandemic affected communities in different parts of the world.

In November, CEPIA organized the 2020 edition of the Training of Trainers Institute (TOT): *women's empowerment and political participation*, that took place in its first online version, bringing together women from different regions of the country, for four days of training, focused on horizontal leadership, advocacy, political participation, violence, digital security and climate justice.

Along the TOT CEPIA presented the film *It's Up to Us*, produced by WLP, and hosted a discussion with women leaders reflecting how they have been impacted and how women's leadership can help tackle the world's most pressing problem. The Portuguese version is on CEPIA's youtube channel.

CEPIA, together with the *Law School of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV)*, the *Postgraduate Social Policy Studies Program of the Fluminense Federal University (UFF)*, the *Center for the Study of Inequalities and Gender Relations of the State University of Rio de Janeiro (NUDERG/UERJ)* and the *Alziras Institute* maintained its participation in the *Fluminense Forum for more Women in Politics*, founded in 2018, created to encourage the democratic participation of women candidates and activists in political parties' decisions on the use of public campaign financing, as well as to strengthen strategies to ensure that at least 30% of the Electoral Fund resources are distributed to female candidates. The *Forum* has among its components representatives from academia, civil society organisations and the legal sphere, in a space for exchange, information and support for women candidates from the State of Rio de Janeiro and advocacy for the expansion of women's political participation throughout the country.

Among the initiatives was the *IV Webinar Fluminense Forum for more Women in Politics*, with CEPIA as one of the speakers, when it launched the *Commitment Letter to Political Parties* with the presence of pre-candidates from the State of Rio de Janeiro. Access this [event](#).

Still in the promotion of women's political empowerment, CEPIA was an exhibitor, in a panel about the *Experience of Feminist Alert for Elections* in the webinar *Registration and Candidacies and Collective Mandates* promoted by the *Forum*. Access the full text of the event in this [link](#)

CEPIA joined *Elas no Congresso* (Women in Congress), an initiative of *AzMina Magazine*, which monitors and scores law projects proposed to the National Congress in relation to women's rights. To know the Project, the methodology adopted and the ranking of the projects analyzed access [here](#).

Brazilian Population and Development Network (REBRAPD), in partnership with CEPIA, held the virtual event *Platform Beijing+25 Brazil: gender, women's voice and SDGs in the context of Covid-19*, bringing together women in their plurality, including black, quilombola, indigenous, LGBTQI+ and migrant women. [Access the event.](#)

CEPIA remains very active in the *Diversity and Inclusion Commission*, of the *Brazilian Institute of Collaborative Practices* (IBPC), which has as one of its objectives to develop a more diverse and representative community of professionals, joining forces with other Commissions, in the area of Law and Psychology, to strengthen the debate, including agendas with the perspectives of race, gender and class.

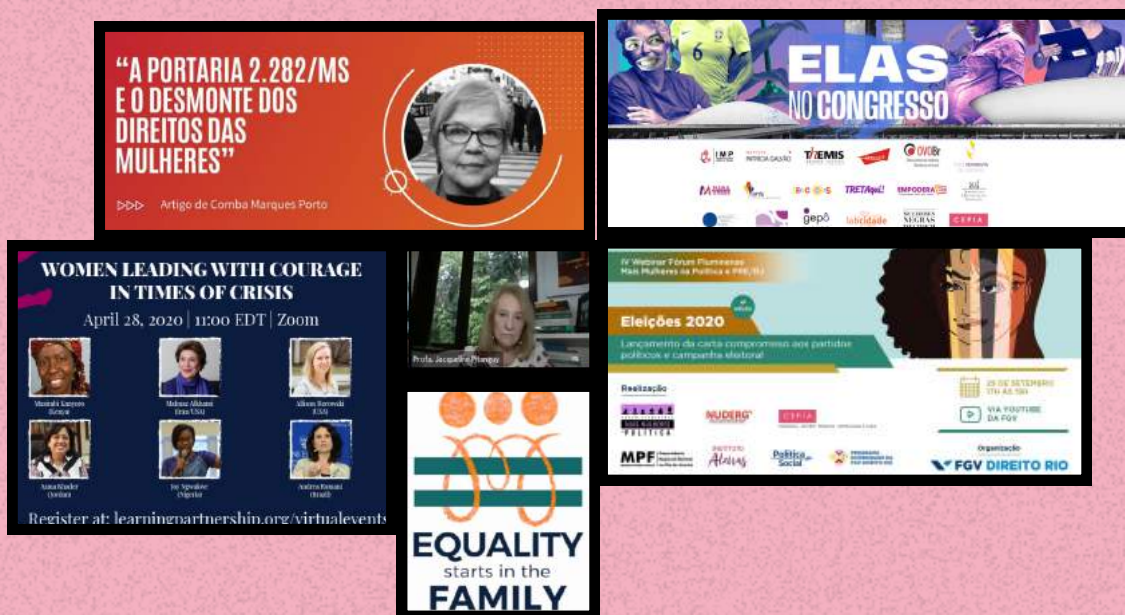
The *Collective 4 D* (4 Decades of Feminism), of which CEPIA is part, met throughout the year to debate issues linked to punitivism in Brazilian culture, in laws and legal practices, women's human rights as well as issues

of inequality and democracy and to draw strategies of resistance.

CEPIA also participated in the *Webinar in Homage to Ruth Bader Ginsburg* – Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, promoted by the *Permanent Forum on Biorights, Bioethics and Gerontology of the School of Magistrates of the State of Rio de Janeiro* (EMERJ).

Human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights

This program aims to defend and enforce these rights and is developed on different fronts: advocacy actions, including *amicus curiae* before the Supreme Court; training and awareness raising of different audiences, especially health professionals; research on access to contraception and evaluation of health services and campaigns on sexual and reproductive rights.



As part of the *Study Group on Abortion* (GEA), which brings together medical doctors, health professionals, civil society organizations and scientific and academic societies, CEPIA was very active attending its board meetings and seminars and speaking in events, such as the meeting. *Reproductive Justice: the impact of the pandemic on pregnancy.*

CEPIA, accompanied the Open Meeting *Violence Against Women as an expression of sexism and racism; abortion and feminicide,* promoted by the GEA.

On April 24th, began the trial by the Federal Supreme Court (STF), of ADI 5581 filed by the *National Association of Public Defenders*, in which CEPIA is *amicus curiae*. The Action demands protection and social benefits for pregnant women infected by Zika virus and the care of their children with Zika Virus Secondary Syndrome, as well as the right to decriminalisation of abortion for women who have been infected. The virus is still circulating in the country and remains a public health issue.

In collaboration with a coalition of feminist organisations, CEPIA published qualified information on its social media in order to give visibility and raise public awareness on the urgency of the issue.

CEPIA was a speaker in different webinars promoted by the *School of Magistrates of the State of Rio de Janeiro (EMERJ)*, with the *Research Center on Gender, Race and Ethnicity (NUPREG)*, strengthening this partnership, including:

- The webinar *Sexuality and Reproduction in Brazilian Law*, within the *Cycle of Debates on Sexual Reproductive Rights*, which brought a historical retrospective of women's struggle for equality. Access the event.
- The cycle of debates, marking the date of *Decriminalization and Legalization of Abortion in Latin America* with the exhibition of CEPIA, with the theme *Architecture of Reproductive Rights: Construction and Dismantling*. Access the event.

- CEPIA also attended the webinar *The culture of rape in Brazil*, promoted by the *Permanent Forum on Domestic, Family and Gender Violence* that had as speakers representatives of the security system and justice. CEPIA participated in this webinar.

CEPIA is part of the *Maternal Mortality Committee of Rio de Janeiro*, a monitoring and social control body, and was present in the Committee's throughout the meetings that took place in 2020, debating on the causes of maternal mortality in Rio de Janeiro and proposing measures to ensure safe pregnancy and births as one of the ways to reduce maternal mortality.

The *Committee* met to take a balance of the activities developed in 2020, analyse the records of Maternal Death (MM) in the context of Covid-19 and plan its actions for 2021. The relationship between race and infirmities that affect maternal morbidity and death, as well as unsafe abortion as a public health issue, were topics proposed to be deepened in seminars organized

by the *Comittee*.

An important initiative taken by CEPIA, along with *Maternal Mortality Committees* (MMC) from other regions of the country was the elaboration of a Note of Repudiation of the Ministry of Health and in solidarity with the *Women's Health Coordination* team of this organ, exonerated by the Minister, as a result of a Technical Note issued by this Coordination reiterating that the rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services already guaranteed by law should be ensured and expanded during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Note expressed deep concern because the Ordinance hurts rights guaranteed to girls, adolescents and adult women victims of rape, hindering their access to abortion in public health services. Women victims of sexual violence are constantly re-victimized when facing the route to enforce their option for a legal abortion. In practice, the Ordinance makes unviable the care of women and girls victims of sexual violence in health services, by making such demands. Access the full Note.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, women's challenges in accessing health services, especially sexual and reproductive health, have become even greater. They face difficulties from seeking contraceptives to prevent pregnancy, to prenatal care and the entire process that a pregnancy involves. They also face many challenges to access legal abortion. The rate of Maternal Mortality has increased drastically during 2020.

CEPIA was present at the 30th meeting of the *Perinatal Forum of the Metropolitan Region I* of the state of Rio de Janeiro, which had as its theme *Adolescence, pregnancy and abstinence, let's talk about it?* that focused on reflecting on the counterpoints between the national campaign of sexual abstinence as prevention of pregnancy and STIs and the need and the right to inform and empower adolescents about their sexual and reproductive health.

CEPIA in a joint initiative with Demeter Press and the Federal University of Santa Catarina, organized and

participated as a speaker in the meeting Mothers, Media and Covid-19. The meeting sought to promote a debate on motherhood, maternity, feminism and media in terms of the isolation imposed by the pandemic.

An important dimension of CEPIA'S work on sexual and reproductive health is developed with adolescents, male and female, students of public schools by means of workshops on gender equality, sexual violence, reproductive rights and health, including our social medias Partiu Papo Reto.

Empowerment and capacity building on adolescents and youth

This Program aims to stimulate youth protagonism, involving girls and boys, especially those in situations of greater social vulnerability. The training activities include workshops and seminars on topics related to the human rights of adolescents and youth; development of research and building partnerships with government agencies, academic institutions, public schools and social movements that work with this public.



The program also invests in digital technologies such as the app Partiu Papo Reto, videos, digital storytelling and direct interaction channels with young people from the social media Partiu Papo Reto (instagram, facebook, tiktok e youtube), to raise awareness and stimulate the protagonism of young people.

In February, before the isolation measures due to the pandemic, and already in the Carnival rhythm, CEPIA's youth team promoted actions in the streets of Rio de Janeiro to inform the young population about Combined Prevention in the fight against STIs, HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis.

In early February, CEPIA's team held meetings at the *Orlando Villas Boas Municipal School* with teachers and the school board, in order to jointly plan the activities to be developed throughout the year 2020 with class representatives and the school's student union.

The team also met with teachers and coordination of the *Henrique Dodsworth Municipal School* to plan workshops for adolescents and young people at the school. Besides planning the training activities for 2020, CEPIA also shared findings from the various training cycles held in 2019 on issues related to gender based violence, gender equality, puberty and the 10 life skills proposed by the guidelines of the Mental Health Program of the World Health Organization (WHO).

With the objective of training and empowerment of the team itself, internal workshops at CEPIA were organized, with the presence of guests, in a creative and participatory way valuing the perception of each one about the relevance of life skills – self-knowledge, interpersonal relationships, empathy, dealing with feelings, coping with stress, effective communication, critical thinking, creative thinking, decision making and problem solving – that aim to contribute to young people responding effectively to the demands and challenges of everyday life.

Due to Covid-19 the planned activities were adjusted to an online format.

In partnership with the *Municipal Department of Education of Rio de Janeiro (SME)*, through the *Health at School Program (SME/PSE)*, CEPIA developed the online modules of the project *Sharing knowledge and strengthening dialogues in times of Covid-19*.

Module 1 was directed to health, educational and social worker professionals and module 2 was directed to public high school students. The project was initially planned to take place face-to-face. The themes worked in the meetings were mental and emotional health in the context of isolation, challenges and opportunities of the virtual world, impacts of isolation in the territories, especially domestic violence, youth pregnancy and digital safety. The life skills, essential tools in the individual and institutional response to the Covid-19 context, were also introduced.

At the closing session of Module 1 of the Project, the focus was on *Strategies in the retake: partnerships, creativity and opportunities*, bringing together participants, including representatives of the education, health, social assistance and human rights secretariats, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing and considering the context of each territory, each school, in this process.

Module 2 was called *Straight talk among peers: from youth to youth*. The workshops of this module were facilitated by CEPIA's youth team, and addressed issues related to puberty, adolescence and feelings with students from the municipal education network, the target audience of the training. The impacts of the pandemic on the experience of these feelings and perceptions of changes in the adolescent phase were also addressed in the meetings.

Another training activity was developed by CEPIA in partnership with *Nucleus of Adolescents Multipliers* (NAM), developed a set of workshops for public high school students in municipal schools of Rio de Janeiro. The proposal was to involve adolescents from NAM, as well as other students in conversations about life skills. Through playful activities, each of the 10 life skills (WHO) was presented to the adolescents bringing them closer to their realities and daily lives. Read more about the project's report in this [link](#).

Since the first weeks of the pandemic, CEPIA produced videos for IGTV and stories on various themes as a way to maintain dialogue with youth and adolescents. The videos include the series *Tô de Quarentena*, with themes related to why stay at home, mental and emotional health, how to take care of yourself with a good diet, cultural tips and mobilization in the slums and *De Rolé com a Puberdade*, which talks about sexuality, toxic masculinity, families, among other topics related to puberty.

These videos and other materials produced by CEPIA are on our [youtube Cepia Cidadania](#).

Through its social medias @Partiu Papo Reto, aimed at teenagers and young people, and @Cepia Cidadania, more focused on adult women, CEPIA invested heavily in the production and dissemination of content and information, on the importance of restricting the movement of people to reduce infection by the virus, personal hygiene care, mental health, digital safety, support materials on domestic and sexual violence, among other topics. The team invested in strengthening ties with women and youth by sharing the social, physical and emotional impacts of Covid. Through cards, stories and sharing materials, CEPIA sought to inform, welcome, sensitize and strengthen women, adolescents and youth so that they could experience this period in an informed, conscious and supportive way.

On July 15th, the day that marks *World Youth Skills Day*, a date established by the United Nations in 2014, CEPIA's staff prepared a video about the various personal and interpersonal skills, and how young people are coping and developing their adaptability and resilience skills in the context of social isolation. CEPIA understands that the development of emotional, social and cognitive skills helps adolescents and young people to better deal with doubts and uncertainties and enables the construction of identity and life projects so necessary in the adolescent phase, especially in the face of the challenges of isolation and the greater need for resilience. The 10 life skills suggested by the *World Health Organization* are being worked in a playful way by the young team of CEPIA. Access @partiupaporeto and see the videos.

Besides the intensive production of videos and contents to social media, CEPIA also invested in the production of digital publications available on its website, including 2 Manuals. CEPIA plans to launch a 3rd Manual in 2021 on WHO 10 Life Skills.

The Manual of Ideas and Activities – Active Methodology for Working with Adolescents and Youth and Manual of Creative Tools: activities on puberty. The first brings together dynamics and practices, jointly developed by the team, and applied in workshops held in public schools with themes such as citizenship, human rights, power relations, gender inequality, health, sexual rights, reproductive rights, racism, bullying and youth protagonism. The publication is an adaptable tool for any audience and environment. The second Manual addresses 12 themes that include girls' empowerment, sexual orientation and gender identity, unplanned pregnancy prevention, toxic masculinity, life projects and others. Suggestions are made for activities aimed at adolescents aged 10 to 12 and 13 to 14, in addition to those that can be applied to adolescents of various ages, seeking to highlight the understanding that the needs, views and concerns are different for each age group, according to the life cycle. This publication was especially designed to support educators in their activities on puberty with adolescents.

In partnership with AMAZE and IPPF, CEPIA started, in 2020, recording of the Portuguese version of the video *Por que não gosto da minha aparência?* (Why Don't I Like The Way I Look?), *Identidade de gênero* (Gender Identity: Being Female, Male, Transgender or Genderfluid), *Puberdade: descobrindo quem você é* (Puberty and Finding Out Who You Are) and *Segurança na internet* (Being Safe on the Internet). This project consisted of the selection, translation, adaptation, recording and mixing of four educational videos that address various issues related to puberty.

As a member of the *State Forum for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Workers* (FEPETI-RJ) and the *Working Group on Sexual Violence* (WG), CEPIA has been contributing to a joint effort in the fight against sexual violence and in the construction of more egalitarian and fairer gender relations. Throughout the year CEPIA was present at the FEPETI/RJ meetings, bringing together representatives from various municipalities in

the state, NGOs such as CEPIA, the *Public Defender's Office* and the *Municipal Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents* (CMDCA/RJ).

The 18th of May marks the struggle for the human rights of children and adolescents in the fight against sexual violence. This year, 2020, is the 20th anniversary of this date, established by Federal Law 9.970 of 2000. The cases of sexual abuse and exploitation against children and adolescents continue to be alarmingly high. CEPIA, in coordination with FEPETI/RJ and the CMDCA/RJ, joined the organisation of various initiatives which took place around May 18th.

CEPIA is part of a working group, gathering representatives of governamental and non governamental organization, responsible for the elaboration of the *Rio de Janeiro Municipal Plan to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents*. Along the year a series of meetings and

workshops were held, including the workshop *Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents: the right to prevention*, and the seminar *Different Views on the Impacts of Covid-19 on sexual violence against children and adolescents*, with a debate on how public health services, social assistance and other essential services for children and adolescents in situations of sexual violence are acting in the Covid-19 context.

CEPIA, together with the CMDCA-Rio and *Redes da Maré* organised the workshop *Straight talk in the round: youth and protagonism*, bringing together adolescents from 12 to 17 years of age, aiming to listen to and learn from them on their expectations, fears and suggestions on how to prevent sexual violence. CEPIA was a facilitator of this workshop bringing reflections from the proposals presented by adolescents, at the XI Municipal Conference of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, 2018. Read more about this event.

Another youth initiative in which CEPIA took part, the webinar *Surfing distracted - (Un)Safe Digital Spaces?*, was developed by FIOCRUZ, within its *Orange Plus Girls Agenda* displaying various projects aimed at the safe use of social media by youth. In this webinar CEPIA presented its various strategies adopted for this end.

Human rights, access to justice and violence against women

This program includes the training of professionals in the areas of security, justice and social assistance, as well as women from various segments; advocacy actions for laws and public policies and for access to justice; research; production and dissemination of knowledge and information in social networks and the mainstream media; participation in national and international commissions and forums focused on the fight against gender violence, among other activities.



In face of the pandemic, most of the activities developed under this Program took place on the online format. One of the first webinars organized by CEPIA was *Dialogues: women, violence and vulnerabilities in times of Covid-19*, gathering experts on violence against women and sexual and reproductive health and rights to debate on the impacts of Covid on women.

During the event the film *More Guns, More Femicide*, idealized by the feminist group 4D, *4 Decades of Feminism*, with the support of the group *Agora é Que São Elas* and direct participation of CEPIA in all stages of production, was shown.

As a member and as an expert of the *Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará* (MESECVI), CEPIA was active and attentive during 2020. Among the initiatives of the *Committee* were the following:

The *Organisation of American States* (OAS), through the *Inter-American Commission of Women* (CIM), released the document *Covid-19 in the lives of women: reasons to recognise differentiated impacts*. The document, which responds to the needs that CIM raised from meetings with Gender Ministers and High Authorities, Experts from the *Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará* (MESECVI) and women's organizations, offers a broad overview of the differentiated impacts on women, paying special attention to the most vulnerable groups. It also proposes lines for the design of actions and public policies based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination of women and the need to implement affirmative action measures. The document is available in Spanish and English.

The MESECVI released the document *Violence against women in the face of measures aimed at reducing the spread of Covid-19*, expressing to the States of the region its concern about the measures they would

be taking to mitigate the consequences of Covid-19, considering the impacts of the pandemic on women. The *Committee* highlighted some necessary recommendations to prevent and combat violence against women and girls during this stage. CEPIA, as a member of MESECVI, participated in the meeting of the *Advisory Board of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women*, defining the issues to be taken to the *XVII Meeting of the Committee of Experts*.

The *United Nations Population Fund*, in the framework of its *Spotlight Regional Programme*, the MESECVI and the CIM of the *Organisation of American States*, held a webinar on *Renewing commitments to close the gaps in care for women and girls who suffer violence – gaps in State capacities for attention to violence against women and girls*, in the framework of the *16 days of activism* and the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*, with the aim of identifying

some of the gaps in the *States Parties of the OAS* in prevention, health services, including mental health and sexual and reproductive health, social services, and police and judicial services, based on the *Third Hemispheric Report on compliance with the Convention of Belém do Pará* prepared by the *Committee of Experts - CEVI* of the MESECVI with the framework of responses to violence against women and girls.

The *Committee of Experts - CEVI* of the MESECVI, at its XVII Meeting decided to initiate the *Fourth Round of Follow-up on the Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations to States Parties* that will emphasize the right to access to justice for women in the region, from a gender and diversity perspective. Read more about this [meeting](#).

The *National Feminist Consortium on Maria da Penha Law*, of which CEPIA is a member, was very active in monitoring the implementation of the Law and in

celebrating its 14th anniversary. The following are some of the activities in which CEPIA was engaged:

Meeting, in March 2020, at the *Feminist Centre for Studies and Advice*, CFEMEA's headquarters in Brasília, to share the survey of bills in Congress that alter the Maria da Penha Law. At this meeting the concerns of the members of the *Consortium* with regard to the content of these bills were discussed, as well as a joint strategy for action priorities.

The *Consortium*, aiming to contribute to the initiatives of parliamentarians to confront violence against women during the Covid-19 global pandemic, has prepared a *Technical Note on the bills in Congress on measures to combat domestic and family violence, in the context of social distancing, due to the existence of the State of Public Calamity*, highlighting the importance of the draft laws, analysing the content of each one, making recommendations for improvement and greater scope of the proposed measures and, finally, making

themselves available for dialogue with Parliament.

Also as part of the *Consortium's* activities, CEPIA participated in the webinar *Gender Education as a Police Force for the Prevention of Violence*.

The 2nd Meeting of the webinar *Dialogues on Maria da Penha Law* also discussed the institutional and feminist movements' actions of resistance to the fundamentalist discourse of the "gender ideology" and "school without party" that are obstacles to the proper implementation of the prevention axis and condemn girls and women to live in situations of violence. Access the full text of the event.

The *Maria da Penha Law Consortium* was part of the Interministerial *Working Group* that, together with the Federal Executive, presented the Bill 4559/2004 to the Chamber of Deputies. The *Consortium* was committed to drafting a law that corresponded to international recommendations for the defence of women's rights

and collaborated to foster a new organisation of the Justice System to respond in a manner compatible with due diligence and consider the urgency, gravity and complexity of gender violence against women, configured as domestic and family violence. The *Consortium* closely follows the legislative movements that alter the Maria da Penha Law and place its integrity at risk. Access the full text of the Technical Note.

CEPIA also participated in the 4th Webinar Meeting Dialogues on Maria da Penha Law reserved to discuss the vision of sectors that understand the Maria da Penha Law as a merely punitive proposal; map the forms of co-optation of the area of confrontation to violence against women as a gateway to institutionalize a police state, violator of constitutional guarantees and genocidal of the black and indigenous population; and know the criticisms of abolitionist feminism to the Maria da Penha Law in order to build dialogic and intersectional responses for better implementation and/or revision of the norm. Videos can be accessed.

The 5th Meeting of this webinar debated with instances of the justice system to evaluate the effectiveness of the current practice of the Courts for access to justice for women in situations of violence and answer the question *Where is the hybrid jurisdiction of the Courts for Domestic Violence against Women?* [Acesse the event.](#)

Still in the commemoration of the 14 years of the Law Maria da Penha, the *Consortium Maria da Penha Law* promoted the webinar [*The feminist juridical project in Brazil the Maria da Penha Law and the Law of Femicide*](#). CEPIA was present as mediator. Watch the [webinar](#) in full.

The 14th Meeting of the [*Permanent Forum of Criminal Justice - Criminology and Gender*](#) - of EMERJ counted with the participation of CEPIA debating about the public health policy and the decriminalization of the abortion. The Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina was present at the meeting.

The *National School for the Training of Magistrates* (ENFAM), on the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*, promoted the Webinar *Gender and Women's Human Rights*, with the participation of CEPIA talking about the Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women and the World Conferences of Cairo and Beijing, highlighting the advances in the defense of women's human rights and pointing to the current context of setbacks that put at risk these rights. Learn more by accessing the [link](#).

The partnership with the School of Magistrates of the State of Rio de Janeiro (EMERJ) and the Research Group on Gender, Race and Ethnicity (NUPEGRE) of EMERJ remained very active throughout 2020.

On January 16th, 2020 EMERJ promoted a seminar *Reflections on Gender and Law* with the presentation of the final works of the students of the Post Graduation Gender and Law of EMERJ. CEPIA, which

has a teacher and coordinator of one of the modules, was present coordinating one of the tables of the Seminar.

The NUPEGRE of EMERJ, with institutional support from the (Fonavid), held the seminar *The History of Women and Women in the History of Brazil*, with the participation of CEPIA, which presented the theme *The construction of the Maria da Penha Law*, in the panel *The achievements of Feminism in Contemporary Brazil*. This event paid a posthumous tribute to Minister Nilcéa Freire, who played an important role as head of the *Secretariat for Women's Policies* (SPM) and played a leading role in the approval of the Maria da Penha Law.

The Ministry of Women, Gender Policies and Sexual Diversity of the Buenos Aires Province promoted the webinar Indispensable *Dialogues - Reflections on gender violence from feminism in the Southern Cone* with the aim of rescuing the genealogy of local feminisms and problematize what seem to be

certainties in the field of approaches to gender violence. This event was attended by CEPIA.

CEPIA also was a speakers on a series of webinars and seminars promoted by partners institutions, including:

UN Women promoted two meetings with its advisory group, which also includes CEPIA and representatives of CEDAW about the country reports to CEDAW.

The *Webinar Violence against Women*, promoted by the *Superior School of Law* (ESA/Brazilian Bar Association) had the participation of CEPIA as a speaker on the theme *Maria da Penha Law and the Convention of Belém do Pará*, highlighting the advances in the struggle of Brazilian women against gender violence, the importance of the Convention in declaring that violence against women is a violation of human rights, the importance of Maria da Penha Law and the dangers of setbacks in the rights of women to a life without violence.

The *Paraná Bar Association, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)* and *Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM)* promoted the Webinar Access to Justice and Gender Stereotypes. CEPIA was present as an exhibition panelist discussing the various difficulties encountered by women to have access to justice, including prejudices of race and ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation among others, and the persistence of the use of gender stereotypes present in the institutions of justice which ends up re-victimizing women, highlighting the importance of Recommendation N. 33 of CEDAW aimed at women's access, in its diversity, to justice and the elimination of gender stereotypes.

The *Law and Gender Studies Group of the Brazilian Bar Association of Rio Grande do Sul*, through the *Higher School of Law (OAB/RS)*, invited CEPIA to speak about the affirmation of the human rights of women in Brazil, through the Constituent Assembly, and about advocacy

actions to guarantee the effectiveness of these rights.

In commemoration of the 14 years of the Maria da Penha Law, Jandira Feghali, Federal Deputy and rapporteur of Maria da Penha Law talked with CEPIA. The event can be accessed through this [link](#).

CEPIA also participated, as an exhibitor, in the live promoted by the NGO SER ELA, making a historical review of the development of the Maria da Penha Law. To access the [full live](#).

CEPIA also participated in the *Webinar Domestic Violence and Mediation – Use and Challenges*, on the limits of mediation practices that cannot be used in cases of domestic violence against women, as provided in the Maria da Penha Law and the relative possibilities of being used in Family Courts. Access the [event](#).

In conversation with the *50-50 Independent Movement of Women Lawyers of Rio Grande do Sul*, CEPIA talked about the participation of women in the Constituent Assembly, and the experience of Jacqueline Pitanguy as president of the *National Council of Women's Rights (CNDM)* at that moment of affirmation of human rights and equality. View the [conversation here](#).

CEPIA also participated in the Round of Discussion *The Rights of Women in the 1988 Federal Constitution-32 years of the Women's Letter to the Constituents*.

CEPIA participated as an exhibitor at the live broadcast *A conquest of women: 14 years of the Maria da Penha Law*, promoted by the *Beth Lobo Women's Association* and the *Forum for the Prevention and Confrontation of Violence against Women*, in addition to several other feminist groups in the city of Volta Redonda.

CEPIA was present in the conversation circle: structural and institutional racism, femicide and gender violence. How can we support ourselves? presenting its publication Violence Against Women: a guide for defense, guidance and support with information on services in the areas of health, justice and security available in the state of Rio de Janeiro to assist women victims of violence.

As a member of the *Inter American Dialogue* (IAD), an organisation that promotes dialogue and debates on important political, economic and human rights issues in the Americas, along the year CEPIA participated in various webinars promoted by IAD, including the Covid-19 and Human Rights in Latin America with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, who was President of Chile and also a member of the IAD.

CEPIA was also present at the first IAD Virtual Forum bringing together its members for a dialogue on the

impacts of the Covid-19 crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean. Topics addressed included democracy and militarization, populism and science, access to sexual and reproductive health, economics and social inequality. To learn more about the Forum click [here](#).

The *United Nations Population Fund* (UNFPA), in conjunction with *Brazilian Association of Population Studies* (ABEP), organized the webinar *Gender Violence and Covid-19: evidence, surveillance and attention*. CEPIA was present in this event. Click [here](#) to access the event in youtube.

UNFPA launched the [Safe Women Platform](#), which aims to inform, strengthen networks and facilitate women's access to services to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls. The project is supported by the Canada Fund and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. CEPIA is a partner in this initiative and was responsible for the production of videos about domestic violence and a tutorial about online violence, which can be accessed [here](#).

UN Women organized a virtual consultation on its *Strategic Plan*, in which suggestions were made considering the challenges of the current social and political situation of the countries aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting highlighted the importance of the role played by this UN agency in the current context of Brazil. CEPIA is part of this group of advisors and participated in this meeting.

CEPIA participated in the *4th International Conference on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems* which brought together more than 800 participants from 89 countries, online, to advance, within the context of COVID-19, the access to justice for all. The event was held by the *Public Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro*, the *International Legal Foundation (ILF)*, the *Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI)*, the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*, the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*, the *National College of General Public Defenders of Brazil (CONDEGE)*, the *Office of the Union Public Defender*

and the *National Association of Public Defenders of Brazil* (ANADEP).

CEPIA was present at the first planning meeting and presentation of RAAM Network – *Support Network for Women Victims of Violence in Maré*, which aims to empower professionals who attend women victims of violence in Maré, as a way to exchange experiences and ways for these professionals to act according to what the victim wants at the time or after the assistance. The goal is to support professionals in their referrals.

CEPIA's PARTICIPATION IN CLASSES AND COURSES

Along the year of 2020 CEPIA's team was invited to give lectures on the following initiatives:

* On the online graduate course *stricto sensu Democracy, Inequality and Rights of the Common Knowledge Project* aimed at giving visibility to the achievements of civil, political and social rights in Brazil and the involvement of social movements in this process, lectured on *Women's Movements in the Fight for Rights*. The course was broadcasted by TV ALERJ, of the Legislative Power of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and can be accessed through this [link](#).

* On *Sexual Violence Against Girls*, especially for young teenage students and teachers from the Centro Educacional Anísio Teixeira - CEAT, highlighting the importance of sexual education in school and the role of teachers in identifying violence and welcoming children and adolescents.

* On *Gender Violence in the Regional Perspective – Inter-American Convention of Belém do Pará*, in the optional chair *Law, Gender and Equality*, of the Law School of the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo – PUC/SP.

* On the *Training Course of Assistance to Victims in Crimes of Femicide promoted by the Center for Legal Studies (CEJUR)*, of the *Public Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro*, highlighting the long journey of Brazilian women for the end of gender violence against women and the international and national legislative advance that allowed the approval of the Maria da Penha Law.

* On the course promoted by the Rio de Janeiro State Council for Women's Rights (CEDIM/RJ) giving classes on *Women's Human Rights*, with participation of approximately 700 people among which representatives of public policy agencies, municipal councils of various municipalities of Rio de Janeiro and other states and municipalities.

* On the webinar *Gender Violence* promoted by the *Police Academy of the State of Rio de Janeiro (ACADEPOL/RJ)* lectured on *Women's Human Rights* to Civil Police officers.

* On the *Cycle of debates and training in Gender, inequalities and law: theories, methods and policy(ies)*, promoted by the *Center for Studies in Law and Inequality* and the group of access to justice of the *Law School of Ribeirão Preto, USP*, with the theme *Feminist Theories of Law – historical and conceptual aspects*. Access the [full lesson](#).

CEPIA's CAMPAIGNS

CEPIA re-launched the Start Listening Campaign, in the context of isolation as a result of Covid-19, where cases of domestic violence have increased greatly in Brazil and around the world. The Campaign alerts people to the difference each one of us can make.



In the month in which *Mother's Day* is celebrated, CEPIA launched the *Matriarchs Campaign*, with the support of EMpower, to pay tribute to real women, mothers, matriarchs, our female references. In an unfair society and often with questionable priorities, CEPIA took advantage of the sensitive moment of social isolation and invited its partners to spread love through social networks. We published photos with phrases, poems and texts by real women, paying homage to the matriarchs who mark and have marked their lives. #diadasmatriarcas

On the *International Day Against Violence Against Women*, the International Campaign of *16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women* began. CEPIA added to the multiple initiatives developed in Brazil and in other regions to put an end to violence against women. One of our initiatives was the collection of phrases produced by women participating in the *Training of Facilitators: Empowerment and Promotion of Political*

Participation of Women, a partnership between CEPIA and the international network WLP and which were published in CEPIA's Youtube.

Stories without Masks - 16 days of activism for the end of violence against women - this is the title of the campaign that CEPIA posted on its social media, stories of women who have suffered gender-based violence, women victims of femicide and women activists for the end of all forms of violence. The videos can be accessed on CEPIA's youtube channel or on our instagram @cepiacidania.

CEPIA's MANIFESTOS

Black lives matter!

CEPIA is in solidarity with all those who, like George Floyd, could not breathe because structural racism makes the air toxic, asphyxiating and lethal. It is in solidarity black Brazilians who also cannot breathe submitted to police violence, poverty and discrimination whose daily deaths are only reported, become statistics and are dismissed, denied, justified. The revolt of the crowds that took the streets of the United States for the racist and cowardly murder of George Floyd makes the silence of the Brazilian society more resounding. Black lives matter!

The international organisation *Women's Learning Partnership* (WLP), of which CEPIA is a member, also issued a Note in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

CEPIA expressed its repudiation of the murder of João Alberto Silveira Freitas, who was beaten to death in the Carrefour supermarket in Porto Alegre. The murder of João Alberto, which occurred on the eve of *Black Consciousness Day*, is added to many other crimes of racist violence such as Rafael, João Pedro, João Victor, Rodrigo, Iago, Vinícius and many others who were murdered for being black. The murder of João Alberto is a daily murder of black people. The impact of racism reflects on the lives of all people. CEPIA manifests itself in support of the anti-racist struggle and in the fight against violence.

CEPIA expressed its solidarity with the 10 year old girl victim of rape by her uncle and warned about the extent of sexual violence against girls in Brazil and the helplessness and vulnerability of these victims who are prevented by religious forces and secular extremists to terminate their pregnancy forcing them to suffer pregnancies that violate their dignity and physical and mental health. Since 1940 it has not been a criminal

offence to terminate a pregnancy in these circumstances. However, since 1940 women and girls continue having their rights to health doubly violated: by the rapist and by judicial and health institutions that refuse to obey the law. Enough is enough!

CEPIA, which has been fighting for women's reproductive rights for 30 years, celebrated the victory of Argentinean women who achieved the approval in Congress of the law decriminalising the interruption of pregnancy up to 14 weeks. This victory symbolises the recognition that the right to abortion is a fundamental right to health and to reproductive autonomy, and represents encouragement for women in Latin American countries such as Brazil, which still has the most restrictive legislation in the world.

Cepia expressed its repudiation of all forms of violence against women, especially in its most serious form, which are the crimes of femicide, an expression of a macho and patriarchal culture that persists in our

society. The feminicide of a judge, in front of her daughters, on Christmas night, reveals how much this culture is present in all social classes. Society as a whole must mobilise against these crimes and show solidarity with the victims' families.

CEPIA IN MEDIA

In January 13th the Folha de São Paulo published the article *Sex and Gender: the fabrication of the danger*, of Jacqueline Pitanguy, from CEPIA, and Carmen Barroso about the establishment of a new paradigm in Brazil, fruit of a growth of the religious fundamentalism.

Leila Linhares Barsted, from CEPIA, was interviewed by Poli Magazine, in the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation's issue No. 69 – Mar./Apr. 2020, about violence against women and the emergence of the *Specialized Police Stations for Attendance to Women* (DEAMs). Leila made a retrospective of the feminist movements' struggle against this violence and the emergence of the DEAMs in the 1980s. To read the full text of this interview, click on this [link](#).

The publication, *Weaving the Network for the Protection of Children and Adolescents in Situations of Sexual Violence*, is a joint effort, coordinated by the Rio de Janeiro CMDCA. It includes texts by various authors, including an article by Andrea Romani, from CEPIA, who reflects, from a gender perspective, on the space of the home as a place of safety and risk for children and adolescents.

Among the initiatives for reflection on May 18th, which marks the struggle for the human rights of children and adolescents in the fight against sexual violence, the Rio de Janeiro CMDCA prepared a special edition of its monthly newsletter. Andrea Romani, from CEPIA, was one of the interviewees addressing the issue of the culture of domestic violence and the impacts of social isolation. To access the Newsletter click [here](#).

On June 23rd, the legal electronic magazine *Justificando - Minds that think Law* published an article on *Shared Custody in Covid-19 times*, written by the lawyers Leila Linhares Barsted and Mariana Barsted, from CEPIA, bringing a retrospective of how the custody of children occurred in Brazil, starting with the Civil Code of 1916, passing through the Civil Statute of the Married Woman, the Divorce Law, the Constitution of 88, the Civil Code of 2002 and the Shared Custody Law, analysing the recent jurisprudences and the new arrangements in families during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sputnik Brazil, in an article published on August 19th, dealt with the case of the 10-year-old rape victim who had her legal right to terminate her pregnancy denied by a university hospital in Espírito Santo and interviewed Jacqueline Pitanguy. To follow the full interview click [here](#)

In August 14th, the Jornal da Cultura presented article about disrespect to women on the part of authorities of the Brazilian government, resulting in an Action of the Federal Public Ministry compelling the Union to carry through campaigns to repair the damages caused to the women for the prejudiced statements of the President and some of its ministers. Jacqueline Pitanguy, of CEPIA, was interviewed to comment the situation. The article can be accessed [here](#).

CEPIA, through the president of its Board of Directors, Comba Marquês Porto, Jacqueline Pitanguy and Leila Linhares Barsted, Executive Coordinators of CEPIA, were present in the conversation with professor Heloísa Buarque de Holanda, of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, that inaugurated the series of Canal Brasil *What do women want*. The program aired on August 26th dealt with the struggles and conquests of feminism in the 70s, the 1988 Constitution, other advances and current challenges.

Brazil's foreign policy has allied itself with ultraconservative Islamic countries with regard to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of Brazilian women. Jacqueline Pitanguy addresses this issue in her article *A crusade against Brazilian women. In whose name does Brazil speak when adopting such positions at the United Nations?* published in the Folha de São Paulo newspaper on September 9th.

The newspaper El País published the article *Defence of honour "in 2020? The STF cannot turn its back on women*, by Fabiana Cristina Severi, Leila de Andrade Linhares Barsted and Silvia Pimentel. To read the article in full, click [here](#).

University of Rio Grande do Sul (UNISINOS) interviewed Jacqueline Pitanguy about domestic violence and social isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic. Access the complete interview [here](#).

In an article on the increase of the femicide cases in Brazil, on October 31st, the newspaper O Globo and the newspaper Extra published an article with an interview with several specialists in this subject, among them Leila Linhares Barsted, of CEPIA, that pointed the relation of control and possessiveness of the authors of femicide as one of the elements in the motivation of these crimes. Access the complete article in this [link](#).

The newspaper O Globo published, the article *Architecture of reproductive rights and threats to safe legal abortion*, by Jacqueline Pitanguy and Silvia Pimentel. The article provides a historical overview of the conquest of sexual and reproductive rights by Brazilian women and points out the risk of setbacks, concluding by reinforcing the importance of resistance and vigilance actions to guarantee reproductive rights for girls and women. To read the full article, click [here](#).

The Goethe Institute, through an initiative called *The Women's Century*, interviewed women from Latin America about sustainability and role models of men and women, social visibility and communication, as well as the centrality of mass media communication in the roles of passive victim and aggressor on issues of domestic violence. Jacqueline Pitanguy talked about these issues with the Institute.

Praia dos Ossos is a podcast produced by Radio Novelo that in 8 programs, recovers the murder of ngela Diniz by her partner Doca Street, in 1976, and raises fundamental questions about patriarchy, machismo, women's sexuality and the justice that condemns the victim in the name of morality and customs. Revista Rosa organized a Roundtable Conversation about this podcast and counted with the participation of CEPIA. Several rounds of conversation took place to talk about this theme, also with the participation of CEPIA.

The *Latin American Advisor* is a daily publication of the IAD and in the October edition the emergency aid and the increase of the poverty in Brazil in the context of the pandemic was discussed by its members, that includes, among them, CEPIA. See the comments in the [link](#). In another edition it published considerations of Jacqueline Pitanguy, of the CEPIA on the participation of the women in the politics and the barriers that they face and that make Brazil one of the countries with the worse indices of presence of women in local and national spaces of power in the continent. See the publication in [full](#).

On November 17th, TV Justiça interviewed Jacqueline Pitanguy, from CEPIA, in the program *Law without Borders* on the occasion of the celebration of the international day of human rights. The program discussed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the human rights of women in this and other international treaties and conventions.

Jacqueline Pitanguy and feminist Hildete Pereira de Mello talked about the historical moment of the Constituent Assembly and the conquests of women in the special episode of the podcast Novo Normal (New Normal), promoted by the group *Agora é que são elas*, presenting a historical retrospective of Brazilian feminism, as a political movement in the country, since the 70s, until the conquest of constitutional rights in 1988.

Comba Marque Porto, President of the Board of CEPIA, wrote the article Ordinance 2.282/MS and the dismantling of women's rights, presenting legal arguments to demonstrate that the Ordinance is a disrespect to the rights of women. The theme was debated in a live broadcast promoted by the Centre of Studies FNM 74 of the Hospital School Francisco de Assis, HESFA, in a special program in honor of 100 years of UFRJ.

MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

In September 2020, CEPIA held its first Ordinary Assembly, online, presenting to its Board of Directors and its associates the activities and projects undertaken, as well as its financial balance sheet, which was fully approved.

The members of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors reviewed and approved the financial balance sheet, after being approved by the Financial Committee.

GOVERNANCE

According to CEPIA's Statutes, its governance is composed of a General Assembly, made up of civil society members of recognised legitimacy, and a Board of Directors. CEPIA's governance body is diverse and plural, an asset to the fundamental democratic principles that guide the institution. The Executive Coordination is nominated by these governance instances for a three years renewable mandate.

CEPIA also works with an independent accountability firm and its Financial balance is audited by an independent audit firm and analysed by its financial Committee.

CEPIA's TEAM

Throughout 2020 the CEPIA's team met continuously to evaluate the activities and projects developed in 2019, follow up on ongoing activities and outline new goals and activities in light of its Strategic Planning.



From February to March, CEPIA's team had the presence and contribution of Janne Bonn, a Danish student from the *Global Nutrition and Health* course at the University of Copenhagen, working on projects with themes of puberty and sexual and reproductive health.

The team also participated in the demonstrations that took place in Rio de Janeiro for the *International Women's Day* celebrating the struggle of women in defence of women's rights. #8M. It was the last participation in outdoor manifestations.

Since March 15th CEPIA operated on home office and the team held constant meetings to follow up the implementation of the various Programs as well as to share difficulties and challenges in dealing with the Covid-19 isolation and its effects on many dimensions of life, sharing experiences, reflections, fears and hopes.

CEPIA also invested in staff training with the support of EMpower, The Emerging Market Foundation, which promoted for its partner organizations in Latin America, 4 virtual meetings, taught by the Argentine organization Faro Digital on topics related to digital space, digital citizenship, cyberbullying, grooming and privacy, focusing on the use of this space by adolescents. Experiences, challenges and strategies on how adolescents and young people have been using the digital space in terms of potentialities, limitations and risks were shared.

One of the key lessons learned was the importance of investing in social communication as a strategic tool for advocacy and articulation.

The communication team along with the youth team was very active in promoting a number of online events and in producing a series of digital tools.

As part of its investment in building the capacity of its staff, CEPIA participated in the Strategic Communication Capacity Building programme of the Social Sector Accelerator and OAK Foundation bringing opportunities to learn about new approaches, techniques and tactics of strategic communication and how to apply them. Also attended a training initiative offered by Emerging Market Foundation on Digital Citizenship and Security.

CEPIA's team is composed by:

Board of Directors

Comba M. Porto (Presidente)

Branca Moreira Alves

Miriam Ventura (Vice Presidente)

Rosana Heringer (Diretora)

General Assembly

Branca Moreira Alves

Comba Marques Porto

Debora Thomé

Leilah Borges da Costa

Miriam Ventura

Nair Jane

Regina Morel

Richarlls Martins

Rosane Reis

Rosana Heringer

Sandra Azeredo

Financial Committee

Mauro de Andrade

Sérgio Almeida

Executive Coordinators

Jacqueline Pitanguy

Leila Linhares Barsted

Senior Program Officers

Andrea Romani

Mariana Barsted

Program Associates for Communication

Juliana Grisolia

Karla Oldane

Administrative

Fernanda Pires

Marina Damião

Program Assistants

Débora Silva

Débora Pinheiro

Kézia Yasmin

Lucas Marçal

Funders

Canadian Embassy

EMpower – The Emerging Markets Foundation


Fundo Elas/ Criola

Gestos / EU

International Planned Parenthood Federation-
IPPF/WHR


OAK Foundation


Women's Learning Partnership – WLP


 www.cepia.org.br


 [CepiaCidadania](#)

 [Partiu.Papo.Reto](#)

 [PartiuPapoReto](#)

 [CepiaCidadania](#)

 [CEPIACidadania](#)

 cepiacidania@gmail.com