

Editorial

Equal rights, regardless of sex or gender (ethnicity, race, class), are fundamental elements of the legitimacy of a nation; if for no other reason than their explicit acknowledgement in constitutions. The idea of nationality possesses a strong symbolic-ideological aspect, and, in this sense, lends great import to the social struggle of women as the builders of the nation, reclaiming their political participation and their complete citizenship, amongst other conquests.

Albeit in its nascency, one can observe the relevance of female authors in academia, who have postulated on the association between feminist movements of emancipation and nationalist demonstrations (JAYAWARDENA, 1986), as well as the sexualised nature of international institutions (ENLOE, 1989). This debate has also been gaining momentum in public institutions, chiefly those in the national States that adopt legislations targeting gender violence and discrimination.

However, the reality shows that, socially speaking, women are still considered inferior to men. The many types of discrimination that they suffer extend across multiple sectors: occupational, educational, familial, amongst many others. The differences between the sexes interacts with national structures, as pointed out by Sylvia Walby (2000), professor and researcher known for her studies in the areas of patriarchy, gender relations, and nationalism.

In this context of extreme vulnerability in typically patriarchal societies, the fight against oppression persists, be it physical, mental, or patrimonial. The image of women, which casts them in a fragile light, as an object of possession, as less qualified, intensifies and legitimises the several types of violations they suffer, especially femicide; death for simply being a woman. In spite of grave social injustices, women resist, and persist in amplifying, each day, their active presence in public spaces and private circles.

It is with great satisfaction that World Tensions launches their first edition themed around Women and Nation, by offering a variety of perspectives on the role of women in contemporary times. While focusing on the links between feminist movements and national process together with hegemonic disputes in a global scope, the authors approach the following topics: a) female representation in war; b) mobilisation of women in the countryside; c) female sexuality; d) African women and black women.

We start the first set of articles with a study by Gisele de Oliveira, Cláudia Antunes, and Andréa Costa about gender politics in regards to national and international defence, with a discussion on the women that make up the aviator officers of the Brazilian Air Force. Ana Luiza Drummond, Maria Luiza Batista, and Cristiano Mendes focus on a little-known topic: the Female Defence Units (in Kurdish: *Yekîneyên Parastina Jin/YPJ*), a military organisation composed of female Kurdish combatants. They examine how these fighters are represented in British media, with an emphasis on mistaken concepts in regards to gender and on a westernised ideological judgment. The changes in the role of women in U.S. society, taking into account the impact of the feminist movement and of World War II, from the point of view of national security and defence, are analysed by Camila Perdoni and Tamires Souza, who divulge results from their research. With a focus on Latin America, Meire Mathias and Nicolle Montalvão have, as an empirical field, the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua (1979 – 1990), an emancipatory process in which women participated in an organic way. They conclude that the revolution's triumph owes much of its success to the active presence of Nicaraguan women, including in the battlefield.

The second set of articles highlights the mobilisation of women in the countryside, bringing out the theme of ecofeminism from different perspectives. Adriella Silva, Rubia Giordani, and Islandia Bezerra deal with the conceptions of gender and nature, and interconnect ecofeminisms with agroecology and with dietary sovereignty. The ecofeminist vision in the strengthening of familial agriculture and sustainable development in Latin America, based on the case study of the Polochic zone in Guatemala, is the subject of the article composed by Nikaelly Freitas, Arnelle Peixoto, and Arkaitz Martin. As a stage of resistance and rural territorialities

in the struggle for permanence on a land, the Brazilian cerrado is presented as a scene for the protagonism of women in the protection of ways of life and socioenvironmental relations, as revealed by the qualitative investigation authored by Maria Aparecida de Souza and Flávio Barros.

In ethnical and national processes, one of the ways through which women might get involved is in their capacity as biological reproducers (YUVAL-DAVIS; ANTHIAS, 1989). As such, the third set of articles in this edition is aimed towards the female figure and sexuality. Kelly Menezes, Diana Géssica Abreu, Luenya Maciel, and Rafaela da Costa analyse how the themes of gender and sexuality were represented in the educational policies of the 90s in Brazil. The discourse on sexual and reproductive rights, based on an ordinance issued by the Ministry of Health on obstetric violence, is the focus of the article authored by Sílvia Elaine da Silva, Helena Gasperin, and Felipe Pontes. This debate has been gaining momentum among women that suffer, while silenced, mistreatment in obstetric care. In the next article, Maria Luísa Mundim, Milena de Souza, and Vitor Gama portray the transformations surrounding the menstrual cycle and the different perceptions between generations, reinforcing the need for breaking down stigmas that still remain. The case of sterilisations in Puerto Rico, a grave practice of human rights violations, is studied by Marcela de Proença and Lincoln Secco, who reflect on imperialist logic and the eugenic discourses and neomalthusianists that have guided this process.

Afterwards, we publish two works by colleagues of the University of the Afro-Brazilian Lusophony International Integration (UNILAB). The data collected through field work by Eduardo Machado, Peti Gomes, and Regina da Silva, have allowed the observation of the protagonism of young African post-secondary students in a university campus in the state of Ceará, especially in collective mediations for everyday conflict resolution. In their research, of a bibliographic nature, Ricardo Ossagô and Medilanda Tubento discuss the African matriarchy, holding the writings of female authors that deal with decoloniality as a theoretical reference point. In this article, there is an interesting, albeit not often evident, comparison between the African and the Afrocentric perspectives.

A crucial aspect when speaking about the feminist struggle is the intersectionality of class, race, and gender, which is experienced in an extremely unequal Brazil. Lindinalva Rodrigues and Vlândia Soares scrutinise musical lyrics about mulattas, especially those produced for carnival celebrations. The authors assess that it is in this moment of sensual exaltation that stereotypes affect women most strongly. Violence against black women makes up the theme of a critical reflexion by Mirla Cisne and Nayara Araújo, who, with support from decolonial feminist theory, show the deadly consequences of a singular thought for a multitude of voices and lives. With a similarly decolonial path, the work of Amanda Torres and José Geraldo Poker deal with the representability of women in politics, highlighting the importance of their presence in this arena to the decisions of public policy.

The multiple studies presented herein are intended to elucidate on the comprehension of nationalism in light of a new corpus of feminist theorisation. We hope that the articles that make up this edition may contribute to the invigoration of academic and political debate with the goal of supporting women's fight against all types of violence which still persist in our societies.

We wish you a pleasant reading!