

## ACADEMIC PRODUCTION ON THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE EMERGENCE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS A RESULT OF SOCIAL ISOLATION

### *A PRODUÇÃO ACADÊMICA SOBRE A QUESTÃO DA VIOLÊNCIA CONTRA A MULHER NA EMERGÊNCIA DA PANDEMIA DA COVID-19 EM DECORRÊNCIA DO ISOLAMENTO SOCIAL*

### *PRODUCCIÓN ACADÉMICA SOBRE LA CUESTIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CONTRA LA MUJER EN EL SURGIMIENTO DE LA PANDEMIA COVID-19 COMO RESULTADO DEL AISLAMIENTO SOCIAL*

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**ABSTRACT:** The COVID-19 pandemic, a disease caused by the new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), has been widely reported in newspaper headlines and on social media, for taking countless lives daily. Causing chaos and the collapse of the health system in many countries, it has been one of the main challenges that has already resulted in thousands of deaths worldwide and huge impacts on the economy and education. The objective of the present study is to carry out a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), based on articles and scientific essays on the impacts of social isolation on the increase in domestic violence against women, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in this first semester of 2020. The research resulted in 10 articles and essays published since the beginning of the year 2020, collected on the Google Scholar database. It is evident that the pandemic, through social isolation, only made visible pre-existing issues such as: the increase in violence against women, the effects of social inequality and rights between genders. Women are even more burdened, as they work in domestic care, in the care of children, husbands, partners, family and community, and are also the majority in the front line in the health system. The hardest hit is on the poor, black, brown and disabled women. In addition, female researchers are harmed in relation to their academic production.

**KEYWORDS:** Pandemic. Systematic literature review. Social isolation. Domestic violence. Violence against women.

**RESUMO:** *A pandemia da COVID-19, doença causada pelo novo coronavírus (SARS-CoV-2), tem sido amplamente noticiada nas manchetes de jornais e nas redes sociais, por ceifar inúmeras vidas diariamente. Causadora de caos e colapso do sistema de saúde de muitos*

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*países, tem sido um dos principais desafios que já resultou em milhares de mortes em todo o mundo e enormes impactos na economia e na educação. O objetivo do presente estudo é realizar uma Revisão Sistemática de Literatura (RSL), a partir de artigos e ensaios científicos sobre os impactos do isolamento social no aumento da violência doméstica contra a mulher, no contexto da pandemia da COVID-19, nesse primeiro semestre de 2020. A pesquisa resultou em 10 artigos e ensaios publicados desde o início do ano de 2020, colhidos na base do Google Acadêmico. Evidencia-se que a pandemia, por meio do isolamento social, apenas visibilizou questões preexistentes como: o aumento da violência contra a mulher, os efeitos da desigualdade social e de direitos entre os gêneros. As mulheres estão ainda mais sobrecarregadas, pois trabalham no cuidado doméstico, no cuidado dos filhos, maridos, companheiros, família e comunidade, sendo também maioria na linha de frente no sistema de saúde. As mais atingidas são mulheres pobres, negras, pardas e com deficiência. Além disso, as pesquisadoras são prejudicadas em relação a sua produção acadêmica.*

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** *Pandemia. Revisão sistemática de literatura. Isolamento social. Violência doméstica. Violência contra a mulher.*

**RESUMEN:** *La pandemia de COVID-19, una enfermedad causada por el nuevo coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), ha sido ampliamente difundida en los titulares de los periódicos y en las redes sociales por cobrarse innumerables vidas diariamente. Causando el caos y el colapso del sistema de salud en muchos países, ha sido uno de los principales desafíos que ha dado lugar a miles de muertes en todo el mundo y a enormes repercusiones en la economía y la educación. El objetivo de este estudio es llevar a cabo una revisión sistemática de la literatura, basada en artículos y ensayos científicos sobre los efectos del aislamiento social en el aumento de la violencia doméstica contra la mujer, en el contexto de la pandemia de COVID-19, en este primer semestre de 2020. La investigación dio como resultado 10 artículos y ensayos publicados desde principios del año 2020, recopilados en base a Google Academic. Es evidente que la pandemia, debido al aislamiento social, sólo abordó cuestiones preexistentes como: el aumento de la violencia contra la mujer, los efectos de la desigualdad social y los derechos de género. Las mujeres están aún más sobrecargadas, ya que trabajan en el cuidado doméstico, cuidando de los niños, los maridos, las parejas, la familia y la comunidad, y también están en primera línea en el sistema de salud. Las más afectadas son las mujeres pobres, negras, morenas y discapacitadas. Además, los investigadores se ven perjudicados en relación con su producción académica.*

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** *Pandemia. Revisión sistemática de la literatura. Aislamiento social. La violencia doméstica. La violencia contra las mujeres.*

## **Introduction**

Since the 1970s, contagious pathologies such as Herpes, AIDS, Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-COV) and, currently, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID - 19) disturb and impact the world population. Emergency health situations have been seen before and COVID-19 is no different (VALENTIN *et al.*, 2019; ARSHAD *et al.*, 2020; JONES, 2020). The current world scenario

is one of health chaos, also impacting the economic, educational and family sectors. The new coronavirus and COVID-19 have been the subject of discussions in all areas of society, deepening differences between scientists, doctors and the population in general, especially in Brazil, in which the President of the Republic himself disregards the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), persisting in a discourse that divides opinions and population. In the midst of the crisis, there was an exchange of two ministers in the Health portfolio and, currently, the position has been vacant for more than a month, hindering coordinated action among the federated entities, making Brazil one of the countries most contaminated and affected by the disease.

This research has a bibliographic nature and proposes to make a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), exposing especially the indices of violence against women, in this pandemic context, and other significant impacts and not yet fully dimensioned on society.

Social isolation is a measure to protect human life, but there has been an increase in cases of domestic violence against women. One of the causes mentioned is the greater permanence of women in the coexistence with the aggressors, as recently published by the Observatory of Women against Violence (OMV), linked to the Senate Transparency Secretariat, in the bulletin “Domestic violence in times of Covid-19” (BULLETIN-SENATE, 2020). The social isolation imposed by the pandemic of COVID-19 brings out, in a potentiated way, some worrying indicators about domestic and family violence against women.

On the other hand, it is necessary to reflect on the contributions of academic production, which could, in theory, identify and contribute to the fight against violence against women in times of pandemic. The new coronavirus pandemic is the biggest public health emergency facing the international community in decades. In addition to concerns related to physical health, it also brings concerns related to psychological suffering that the general population and health professionals may experience. Thus, the objective of the present study was to systematize knowledge of the psychological, social and economic impacts related to the new coronavirus pandemic. Results are presented on the impacts of the pandemic on mental health, identification of priority groups and guidance on interventions, considering the particularities of the population in general and health professionals.

## **Pandemic and domestic violence**

Domestic violence is an extremely relevant topic in times of a pandemic, first of all, because the current socioeconomic situation tends to accentuate it. Job losses due to the crisis

particularly affect women, who are concentrated in the service sector, which is most affected by the crisis. In Brazil, women are more subject to informality than men, more than 90% of workers. The majority of economically vulnerable families in the crisis are women and more than 70% are black, indicating the greatest job insecurity.

Butler (2015 p. 46-47) points out that the precarious condition designates the politically induced condition, in which certain populations suffer from deficient social and economic support networks and are exposed differently to violations, violence and death. These populations are more exposed to disease, poverty, hunger, displacement and violence, without any protection. The precarious condition characterizes the politically induced condition of precariousness for populations exposed to the arbitrary violence of the State, which often has no option but to resort to the very State against which they need protection.

Regarding gender violence, Saffioti (2002, p. 2) discusses the concept in a broad way, covering victims such as women, children and adolescents of both sexes. In the exercise of the patriarchal function, men have the power to determine the conduct of the named social categories, receiving authorization or, at least, tolerance from society to punish what appears to them as deviation. Although there is no attempt, on the part of potential victims, to follow paths other than those prescribed by social norms, the execution of the project of domination/exploitation of the social category men requires that their command capacity be aided by violence.

The overload of household chores and care functions can also impair the performance of women who have successfully adopted remote ways of working. For this reason, the situation resulting from the pandemic can disproportionately penalize many workers, causing a greater burden of women dismissed from their jobs. Silva (2012) and Silva and Fonseca Neto, (2014), indicate that, in another economic crisis, such as that which occurred in 2008 in Brazil, women were the ones who suffered the most from dismissal processes. Therefore, a structure is described in which women become more financially dependent on their partners and it is, in this moment of quarantine that families spend all day in the same environment, in a forced coexistence, which can exacerbate tensions becoming a factor that contributes to domestic violence.

Escaping the situation of violence is made even more difficult by the restriction of services and quarantined movement, due to a possible decrease in income and due to the uninterrupted and daily contact with her aggressor. This scenario is reflected in statistics from around the world: in China, complaints of domestic violence increased three times during the pandemic period, and in France, complaints increased by 32% (BIANQUINI 2020). In Brazil,

the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights found an increase of almost 9% in complaints made on dial 180, due to complaints of domestic violence (BINQUINI, 2020). The Justice of the State of Rio de Janeiro reported that over 50% of cases were registered domestic violence since the moment when confinement became inevitable (BERTON, 2020). Silvia Federici (2019) approaches that reproductive work is understood as the complex of activities and relationships through which our life and work are reconstituted daily (p. 20). According to journalist Letycia Bond (2020), one case of aggression is recorded every four minutes. In 2018, 145,000 cases of violence were recorded - physical, psychological, sexual - in which the victims survived. The Brazilian Forum on Public Security (FBSP) at the request of the World Bank, updated the report where cases of femicide grew 22.2%, between March and April 2020, in 12 states of the country, compared to last year. Entitled “Domestic Violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic”, the document is based on data collected from the security agencies of Brazilian states.

### **Combating domestic violence in the national context of the pandemic**

In Brazil, measures to deal with this type of violence are more urgent, given our dismal position in the world statistics on domestic violence and femicide. The femicide directory is responsible for 2.3 deaths per 100,000 women worldwide and 4 deaths per 100,000 women across Brazil (BIANQUINI, 2020). In other words, our rate is 74% higher than the world average. The Latin American region, in general, is the most dangerous for women outside war zones, according to the UN (BIANQUINI, 2020). And for every three victims of femicide in Brazil, two were murdered at home, despite the tightening of the rule under the Maria da Penha law - Law 11,340/2006 - and the law on femicides - law 13,104/2015 the State cannot contain the increased violence against women. Thus, in the view of Foucault (1996), docile bodies are disciplined by machismo.

Russell, in 1976, at the International Court of Crimes against Women, used the term femicide to denote a crime committed violently by men against women, because they are women, that is, a crime against the female gender. Years later, Russell (2006) called femicide a murder motivated by hatred, contempt and a sense of ownership of women's bodies. Lagarde (2006, p. 221), responsible for introducing the term “femicide” in academia, has chosen in his studies for it to include the impunity factor, due to legal absences and government policies, which generate an insecure coexistence for women, putting them at risk and favoring the set of crimes committed for gender reasons.

According to Lagarde (2006, p. 221), femicide is not just violence exercised by men against women, but by men in a position of social, sexual, legal, economic, political, ideological and all kinds of supremacy over women in conditions of inequality, subordination, exploitation or oppression, and with the particularity of exclusion. The author also states that “[...] Femicide is forged in the structural inequality between men and women, as well as in the domination of men over women, who find in domestic violence, a mechanism for the reproduction of the oppression of women”<sup>4</sup> (LAGARDE, 2006, p. 221). The author adds to Russell's concept the aspect of impunity in society and the gender inequality produced by patriarchy, and typifies the crime as a “State crime”. Lagarde also adds that crime manifests itself at all times, in times of war or peace.

## **Method**

This research uses a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), as recommended by Morandi and Camargo (2015) and systematized by Brizola and Fantin (2016), to find scientific articles related to domestic and gender violence in the context of the COVID- 19. The bibliographic search included works published in the beginning of January until the first half of June 2020, in the Google Scholar database. The choice of this database was made by gathering, in a single search, other databases of national domain. Only one theme was defined, as pointed out by Brizola and Fantin (2016). The definition of the central theme requires an understanding of the scope of the review to be carried out, in this case, with a less extensive scope, addressing a specific theme: domestic violence against women in the context of COVID-19. The Boolean descriptors and operators used were: "violence" AND "domestic" AND "gender" AND "woman" AND "covid-19" AND "2020". This search was carried out according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria previously determined.

The conceptual framework was used to determine inclusion and exclusion criteria (BRIZOLA; FANTIN, 2016). The inclusion criteria used in this SLR were: articles and scientific essays published in Portuguese, articles and essays published in scientific journals or platforms, articles and essays published from January to the first half of June 2020, complete articles and essays and articles and essays relating the themes: domestic violence, violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The exclusion criteria used in the

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<sup>4</sup> “[...] Femicídio se forja na desigualdade estrutural entre homens e mulheres, bem como na dominação dos homens sobre as mulheres, que encontram na violência doméstica, um mecanismo para a reprodução da opressão das mulheres”

literature review were: studies in which the defined inclusion themes did not appear in an articulated manner or were secondary in the article, duplicate articles, articles not available for access in full, project documents, booklets, opinion articles, bulletins, news, announcements and technical notes.

Analysis of results: 113 results were generated from the descriptors. The number of articles was refined considering the inclusion and exclusion criteria determined, a first reading of the abstracts was made, analyzing whether they were compatible with the proposed themes; 22 articles were found. However, after a second floating reading of the texts, 2 full articles were discarded, as they did not contemplate the objectives proposed in the research, 10 articles did not have the full text available, only an abstract or expanded abstract. There were then 10 texts, 7 articles and 3 essays. After a third reading, the main points of the text were highlighted. Subsequently, a fourth full reading of the texts was carried out, producing a summary of its main points, as mentioned in the table below:

**Table 1 – Research and articles on the interface of gender violence and pandemic**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s) / Year</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Results</b>
<b>1. Violence against women and femicide in Brazil - impact of social isolation by COVID-19<sup>5</sup></b>	OKABAYASHI, N. Y. T.; <i>et al.</i> 2020	Bibliographic survey of the theme “violence against women” establishing relations between this violence and the complication of COVID-19 in Brazil.	Complaints have increased, but do not become police reports. All data showed an increase in femicide in Brazil. New laws have been implemented in this context.
<b>2. Domestic violence during the quarantine of COVID-19: between romance, femicide and prevention<sup>6</sup></b>	MARANHÃO, R. A. 2020	From a case study with a qualitative approach, violence against women was investigated during the quarantine period of COVID-19.	The research concludes that quarantine, in the context of the pandemic, in Brazil and in other countries, potentiated feelings such as: power, desire, domination, hatred, stress, discord, obedience, submission and, ultimately, femicide.
<b>3. Pandemic is a woman's thing: brief essay on coping with a disease based on female voices and silences inside homes, hospitals and in academic production<sup>7</sup></b>	PIMENTA, D. 2020	Reflect from a comparative study of the Ebola epidemic in Africa with the current pandemic. Notes were made on issues of race, gender and social class and the role of women, the most affected during the crisis, their voices and silences.	Epidemics and pandemics affect way more women (black, peripheral and disabled people), there is a physical and psychological burden, as they are responsible for caring for the sick, managing domestic resources and tasks. Women researchers also feel these impacts, reducing research, thus causing another type of silencing.

<sup>5</sup> Violência contra a mulher e feminicídio no Brasil - impacto do isolamento social pela COVID-19

<sup>6</sup> A violência doméstica durante a quarentena da COVID-19: entre romances, feminicídios e prevenção

<sup>7</sup> Pandemia é coisa de mulher: breve ensaio sobre o enfrentamento de uma doença a partir das vozes e silenciamentos femininos dentro das casas, hospitais e na produção acadêmica

<p><b>4. Covid-19 and gender pandemic an analysis from the perspective of the constitutional principle of isonomy<sup>8</sup></b></p>	<p>SIQUEIRA, H. C. B. <i>et al.</i>  2020</p>	<p>Demonstrate the contradiction between rights theory and practice in Brazilian society in relation to gender inequality, especially at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.</p>	<p>Gender inequality is even more evident in times of crisis, such as the current pandemic. In legal discourse, there is formal equality between women and men, but in practice it does not happen. The law should be the tool for claiming equality and guaranteeing the exclusion of discriminatory norms.</p>
<p><b>5. Intersectionality and other views on violence against women in times of pandemic by the covid-19<sup>9</sup></b></p>	<p>BARBOSA, J. P. M.; <i>et al.</i>  2020</p>	<p>Discuss the increase in domestic violence during social isolation in times of pandemic. To highlight the dynamic relations that go through the increase in violence, from the tension between gender and other intersections.</p>	<p>Thinking care territories beyond the health-disease processes in a perspective of complexity analysis: affections, empathies, solidarity, sorority, emancipation, liberation of women and men in the pandemic context, denouncing violence in Brazilian patriarchal society. From the perspective of intersectionality, uniqueness and difference are valued, understanding the different flows that women go through in pandemic times. It is possible to reformulate and architect ways to inaugurate new possibilities.</p>
<p><b>6. Global economic governance and gender inequality: an agenda for Brazilian legal research in the post-crisis period of COVID-19<sup>10</sup></b></p>	<p>DURAN, C. V.  2020</p>	<p>It addresses a theme still little explored by Brazilian legal research: the intersection between law, global economic governance and gender equality addressed by economic cooperation organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF.</p>	<p>The pandemic deepens existing inequalities and exposes women's social, legal and economic vulnerability, magnified by the impact of the crisis. Brazilian legal research has an urgent gender agenda to be developed. An analysis of empirical studies and theoretical currents in political economy was constructed in combination with currents of feminist and legal institutionalism, configuring a robust theoretical framework for Brazilian legal research.</p>
<p><b>7. Work and health in times of pandemic by the covid-19: self-care and women's right to self-protection<sup>11</sup></b></p>	<p>SANTOS, G. B. M.; <i>et al.</i> 2020</p>	<p>Analysis and problematization of care policies bringing to the scene the right to self-protection of women, health professionals, during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Health professionals are at the forefront of the pandemic, are becoming infected and need to leave work. Most of them are women, giving rise to female overload and a crisis due to the relations of capitalism and gender domination, corroborate the naturalization of the role of women in care. The pandemic made evident the heavy and unequal responsibility for unpaid</p>

<sup>8</sup> Pandemia de covid-19 e gênero uma análise sob a perspectiva do princípio constitucional da isonomia

<sup>9</sup> Interseccionalidade e outros olhares sobre a violência contra mulheres em tempos de pandemia pela covid-19

<sup>10</sup> Governança econômica global e desigualdade de gênero: uma agenda para a pesquisa jurídica brasileira no pós-crise da COVID-19

<sup>11</sup> Trabalho e saúde em tempos de pandemia pela covid-19: cuidado de si e direito à autoproteção das mulheres



			care work as well. Foucault's self-care breaks with the conception taught to women, with the distorted idea that care implies renouncing oneself, so as not to appear selfish. To affirm the production of self-care as a creator of value and respect for the life of everyone, demystifying care to see, from the crisis of care, the female body immersed in the political field.
<b>8. Staying at home requires a home: challenges for homeless women in times of pandemic</b> <sup>12</sup>	NUNES, R. A.; SOUSA, P. C. S.  2020	Reflect on the challenges facing homeless women in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic. In the context, the discussion of poverty, social inequalities and the socio-assistance conditions of this population is brought up.	Decision making to tackle the pandemic among women on the streets is a humanitarian issue. There are no special public policies or measures at this time. In-depth knowledge of this population is needed, favoring feeding using public equipment, transferring income, facilitating registration, increasing vacancies in shelters, providing sinks and chemical toilets for hygiene. Women are more affected, depending on the solidarity actions of people and groups from civil society, instead of governments. It is necessary to reflect public policies with society that are not only emergency, but definitive for the recognition of these people as subjects of rights.
<b>9. Event covid-19: so what?</b> <sup>13</sup>	2020, SILVA, M. C.; <i>et al.</i>	To problematize the meanings produced by the pandemic and the dimension of an ethics of responsibility towards the world, which calls us to think "what we are doing" of and in the world.	There is an illusion that the virus kills equally, regardless of class, however, there are lives that matter, precarious lives and not lives. The virus called for a closer look at inequalities and processes of exclusion. Women are in the group most affected by the consequences of the pandemic, they are in intersectional collision, black, poor, informal workers, living in precarious conditions, suffering domestic violence. They are caregivers and are the majority on the frontline in health.
<b>10. Right to the city: revisiting Henri Lefebvre's concept from a feminist Marxist</b>	2020, GALETTI, C. C. H.; DRUMOND, N.	Based on Henri Lefebvre's work on the "Right to the City", the work seeks to deepen the debate about gender relations and how they constitute	The concept of sexual division of labor was inserted in the impact of the conformation of urbanity in the Lefebvrian perspective to identify the place of women in what defines the right to the city. The notion of reproductive work

<sup>12</sup> Para ficar em casa é preciso ter casa: desafios para as mulheres em situação de rua em tempos de pandemia

<sup>13</sup> Acontecimento covid-19: e daí?

perspective <sup>14</sup>		power relations in and from the urban space.	is central to the discussions related to the procreation, maintenance and expansion of life performed by women, most of the time, unpaid. These relations determine and are determined through the way they experience the city and the conflicts that arise from there. The contact of Lefebvre's theory with feminist theory enables an analysis of gender symmetries, class and race contradictions expressed in urban space now in the context of the pandemic.
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Source: Organized by the authors

For Brizola and Fantin (2016), from the synthesis of the primary results selected by the researchers, they are expected to generate new knowledge that does not exist in the studies selected for the review. Thus, it becomes necessary to make a relation between the texts searched, the existence of standards and data integration. In qualitative reviews and in this one, specifically, ecological triangulation was chosen, in which it is understood “[...] that the different issues addressed in the study are interdependent and that is why they propose that a phenomenon should be studied from different points of view”<sup>15</sup> (BRIZOLA; FANTIN, 2016, p. 14).

Some regularities were observed in all articles analyzed. The first is the indisputable relation between the increase in domestic violence, mainly related to gender violence and social isolation, a strategic and preventive measure adopted in a WHO convention for the non-proliferation of the virus during the pandemic. The second regularity points out that the aggressor is always someone close, a partner, husband, boyfriend living in the same house as the victim. A third regularity is the fact that there was a reduction in the safety net, the impossibility of contact, due to social isolation, and the stoppage of services due to the pandemic. The articles and essays also brought the statistics produced by national and international institutions and bodies, pointing to the increase in all indicators of domestic violence and femicide in several countries and, mainly, in Brazil, in states and capitals. However, it should be noted that even before the pandemic, these numbers were already growing in Brazil.

The profile of women portrayed in most articles is very clear and opens up social and

<sup>14</sup> Direito à cidade: revisitando o conceito de Henri Lefebvre sob uma perspectiva marxista feminista

<sup>15</sup> “[...] que as diferentes questões abordadas no estudo são interdependentes e por isso propõem que um fenômeno deve ser estudado sob diferentes pontos de vista”

gender inequality: poor, black, brown, from the peripheries, neighborhoods and slums, with low education and informal work. In this sense, most articles and essays also point to the overload of tasks and the double shift, domestic and work. In addition, women in epidemics are caregivers for their partners, children, families and community. They have a higher risk of contagion and, if they get sick, they will probably be cared for by other women. One of the articles emphasizes the post-pandemic and what legacy these women will face, that is, it considers the loss of rights, jobs, children born in this context and the worsening of inequalities.

The articles also showed possible prevention and action strategies and measures to minimize domestic violence and against women. Among them, the use of other experiences, with other endemics or epidemics; increasing the protection network and training of health professionals to deal with diversity; alternative communication channels for reporting such as websites, applications, messaging programs, among others; alternative places to report in times of pandemics, for example, establishments of essential services (supermarkets and pharmacies, for example).

In 4 articles the media was addressed. In the second article, Maranhão (2020) presents three cases of violence against women, in the context of the pandemic, exposed in the news, newspapers and others. In the third text, a scientific essay, Pimenta (2020) shows how the media built a global image for the pandemic: “the pandemic with the face of women”. In the fifth text, another essay, Barbosa *et al.* (2020) question the role of the media in fragmenting the increase in violence against women in a causal relation with the pandemic, resulting in a possible emptying of a historical and social analysis involving gender violence. We see the same hypothesis of historical and social emptying in the case of two other texts, in Maranhão (2020), in the second article, indicating that the traditional media has not stopped reproducing hegemonic discourses, naturalizing violence, but without discussing it; and in the second case, in the third text (PIMENTA, 2020), the face of women in the pandemic was racialized, insisting on the western white face. Finally, in the ninth essay, Silva *et al.* (2020) say that the media reverberates “the invisibility” of those in limbo, between the social vulnerability band, served by income transfer programs, and those of the poor-middle class, the autonomous, invisible to the State. For Gregolin in an interview given in 2018, the media, in a Foucaultian perspective, is the main device that agency and produces subjectivities (DIAS DE OLIVEIRA; OLIVEIRA; NOGUEIRA, 2018).

In the legal field, it points out in all texts some ways of thinking about the issue of women's rights, women as a subject of law, whether in international agreements and initiatives such as Human Rights, UN Women, or nationals, as in the Constitution of 1988 and laws such

as the Maria da Penha Law (Law no. 11, 340/2006) and the Feminicide Law (Law no. 13,104/2015) and the Bill of Laws PL 1,796/2020 urgency of proceedings, non-suspension of procedural acts in causes that evolve domestic or family violence and PL 1,798/2020, allowing the registration of the occurrence of domestic and family violence against women to be carried out through the internet or emergency telephone number.

The first article, Okabayashi et al. (2020), historically contextualizes how the struggles and milestones took place for the development of laws against violence suffered by women: in the 1970s, the conferences held by the UN; in the 1980s, in Brazil, an important milestone, the Federal Constitution and gender equality; in the 2000s, the Maria da Penha Law; and, finally, only in the middle of the decade of 2010, a Law of feminicide, the authors also present two Bill of Laws PL 1,796/2020 that puts urgency in domestic and family violence processes and PL 1,798/2020 giving the possibility denunciation by internet or telephone of these crimes. Maranhão (2020), in the second article, discusses how these laws, especially those specific to women, were passed late in Latin America, being the first one in Costa Rica in 2007. Brazil stands out as the last country to have a specific law against the murder of women - Law no. 13,104/2015, enacted only in 2015.

Pimenta (2020), in the third text, a scientific essay, does not address the issue of women's rights from a formal point of view, but by comparing her experience in the field of studies with the Ebola epidemic in Africa and the current pandemic, collecting reports by those women, reflects on their “duty” to be at the forefront of this new crisis by being “the face of the pandemic”, but without having the right to a voice. In the fourth article, Siqueira *et al.* (2020) address the constitutional principle of isonomy from a gender perspective, the authors claim that this equality only exists in theory, not happening in practice and in everyday life, thus, it is clear that the pandemic only gave greater visibility to the pursuit of these conquered and, at the same time, denied rights. For the authors, the law is an instrument of social transformation, only if it ceases to be only a guarantor of rights, it is necessary to convert them into effective protection of women over their basic rights and needs, the authors set in motion a liberal feminist critique of isonomy discourse and exposes the false understanding that the changes were made in society, only in the letter of the law, in this case the discourse has not been converted into discursive practice (FOUCAULT, 1997).

The fifth text is another scientific essay, in which Barbosa *et al.* (2020), from another perspective, that of intersectionality, address issues of rights, singling them out and criticizing homogenizing models that do not consider the historicization of violence and processes, that is, highlighting patriarchy as a system of domination. Still, in the field of rights, Duran (2020), in

the sixth article, proposes to discuss, based on law and isonomy, combined with feminist institutionalism, the elaboration and expansion of national legal theory within the scope of global economic governance; however, the theoretical basis is based on neoliberalism, with external prescriptions from international institutions and bodies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Thus, the economic is emphasized, women have a fundamental role in the recovery of the economy in the post-pandemic, therefore, the articulation of this legal research with the line of feminist institutionalism is an aspect of liberal feminism (RAGO, 2012, p. 71).

In the seventh article, Santos *et al.* (2020), part from the right to women's self-protection, self-care, in Foucauldian terms, the right to life and protection. In order to transform public policies, the authors propose to outline the care crisis that we are going through in the current pandemic. Questioning the naturalization of care as if these were attributes only of the feminine, at the same time they propose to shift the ethics of knowledge-power to the possibility of other aesthetics of existence, more just for women and men. Even if not mentioned directly, the authors work from the perspective of intersectionality.

Nunes and Sousa (2020), in the eighth article, do not reflect on the creation of more rights, but on the crisis of constituted rights: disrespect, dismantling, lack, access, among others. This fact occurs mainly with women on the street. Inequality and violence against women is a constant in all articles, and one of the themes chosen for this research is domestic violence, so how can we talk about domestic violence in an article about homeless women? The answer is that one of the biggest causes of these women going to the street is the possibility, sometimes the only one, of breaking ties with their aggressor. The article occasionally discusses the structure of violence in an unequal society. It does not address feminism, but touches on issues of intersectionality.

In the ninth text, a scientific essay, Silva *et al.* (2020), treat the law in relation to the pandemic based on the common illusion: “that we are all equal before the virus”, thus eliminating the basic inequalities. It is interesting to highlight the “right to breath” in Mbembe (2020), where subjects and peoples were already coming, before the pandemic, in a process of suffocation through extermination, colonization and objectification and how the current government continues to represent the withdrawal of rights and the precariousness of others.

The tenth article, Galetti and Drumond (2020), speak of the right of women to the city, from the perspective of Lefebvre's work. A feminist criticism of the patriarchy is inserted, the limitation of this French author's concept of not taking gender issues into consideration. It is about gender inequality from the perspective of the urban experience of women in mobility,

spaces and territoriality.

It is necessary to highlight the first (OKABAYASHI *et al.*, 2020), fourth (SIQUEIRA *et al.*, 2020) and sixth (DURAN, 2020) texts, since these have the liberal issue in common, even when they address feminism. In these articles, there was also no reflection on what structures the inequalities of power between women and men in society, thus, cultural aspects were naturalized. However, in the fifth (BARBOSA *et al.*, 2020), seventh (SANTOS *et al.*, 2020), eighth (NUNES; SOUZA, 2020), ninth (SILVA *et al.*, 2020) and tenth (GALETTI; DRUMOND, 2020) articles, there is another view on rights, and the discussions of these authors, in each context, point out as a central issue the form of construction and structuring of our society, therefore, they explore a historical-social perspective of sexuality. It is emphasized that only the second text (MARANHÃO, 2020), among all analyzed, was written by a man, the author also brings up the issue of patriarchy.

In all articles it is evident, in the statistics presented, the inequality and the increase of gender violence after the application, by the authorities, of the strategy of social isolation. Statistics show that laws exist to curb crimes, but there has been no decrease in this violence, even before the pandemic. Thus, it is believed that the emphasis on social inequalities and, especially, gender inequalities, simply reproduce the historical-social structure of our society founded on patriarchy, as according to Tiburi (2018), this statement seems strange, but reflects the system organized around favoring one by forcing others to submit. Still, according to the author, machismo was introjected and became embedded in the macro and microstructure, in objectivity and subjectivity, which is why it is even reproduced by many women.

Finally, we highlight the third essay by Pimenta (2020), in which the author talks about the existing inequality between researchers. Even within academia and universities, this fact is reproduced, because it is an existing discourse in culture, so it crosses all institutions. There is a ban on women, their visibility and their voice. It is proposed in some articles, as an action strategy, to consult community leaders and local girls and women, in this way it is possible to build public policies involving the whole of society, but giving voice and protagonism, especially to those who feel this harsh reality in their bodies.

### **Final considerations**

The analyzed studies made it evident, with statistics from various national and international bodies and organizations, that violence against women is widespread and, in the period before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was already on an increasing trend. What is more

aggravating is that, in most cases, the aggressor lives with the victim, preventing the report, for this reason these cases are always underreported. In this sense, even with the use of the tools of the law, above all, laws against domestic violence and, tougher, such as the laws of femicide, these are not able to inhibit and much less contain the tendency to increase these crimes. This research work and scientific production are essential to describe, identify, plan and carry out actions. It is important to recognize that some initiatives are being carried out by the government, such as two Draft Laws, one not to stop domestic violence processes in this pandemic period and the other that facilitates the denunciation and registration through channels such as the internet and telephones because of the Social isolation. In these works, a range of possibilities for expanding the protection network for women was proposed, with some experiences of other endemics and epidemics and actions carried out by other countries.

The issue of intersectionality also crossed all the works, even if they did not address it, because in the pandemic women are the most affected, however, for many of them, there is an overlap of this inequality when they are poor, black or brown and disabled. They have precarious, informal jobs, the burden of double shifts at work, at home. In addition, they are the ones who take care of everyone, in the care of partners, husbands, boyfriends, children, parents, family and community. They are on the front line of the pandemic, as they are the majority of health professionals. Therefore, more exposed to the disease and to precarious and vulnerable conditions. However, the condition of care relegated exclusively to women is an issue that goes beyond what legal tools can equalize. These conditions are structured in the way the subjects, women and men are seen within a patriarchal and sexist society like the Brazilian one. People's ways of being and their worldview are not simply broken with laws instituted in times of crisis. Women are killed because they are women and this quarantine enhanced these affections. All this crisis deepened by the context of a government with an authoritarian, misogynist and sexist base discourse, now trivializing deaths and the severity of the disease.

Measures aimed at reducing the effects of inequality and exclusion and, above all, at empowering women with public policies, depend on the formation of an awareness and a self-criticism of power relations, breaking with patriarchal logics. Thus, the COVID-19 pandemic only evidenced, through social isolation, a scenario of pre-existing issues that came on a continuum, of increased statistics on domestic violence against women, workload and informal work. However, in addition to this reality, the work also showed that there are resistances and other possibilities of being in the world. Care territories can be thought beyond the health-disease processes, inserting a perspective of empathic affections, solidarity, sorority and

emancipation/liberation of women and men in the pandemic context, escaping crystallized protocols. In addition to this patriarchal structure, the capitalist system that atomizes, individualizes and privatizes the suffering of women is questioned, spreading through institutions and the State.

We emphasize the need to also break the ban on women's voices, both in the academy, since the profusion of texts produced by men in this pandemic surpasses that of women and the various social scientists in the northeast region of Brazil, with research on endemics and epidemics such as zika virus, dengue, malaria, are not highlighted and do not appear, when in society, as it is necessary to listen to the voices of women in homes and communities to develop studies and, from these, design fairer public policies. Although the objective of this work has been achieved, identifying, through SLR the main causes of domestic violence and against women aggravated in the context of the current pandemic, based on these considerations, new research can be done, thinking about the possibilities of resistance to the patriarchal and sexist culture, exploring the role of education, mainly, of a sex education systematized in academia and basic education and the role of media discourse in the reproduction of this structure.

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