

PRIZE TERESA ROSMANINHO 2020

"In a confined world we continue the Soroptimist mission"

SOROPTIMIST INTERNACIONAL UNIÃO DE PORTUGAL (SIUP)

Philosopher José Gil warns: "this confinement is not a leisure. Even if some people manage to turn this time into leisure time, collectively this is impossible. The turmoil and catastrophe that descends upon our country and the world every day cannot fail to distress us. However, beyond what the transformation of daily life brings back to the individual - who often discovers a new (but never quiet and free) life - another space of communication between people is forming. E-mails, poems, more personal and close messages, texts, phrases never before possible are exchanged. This implies an action - which reveals itself to be necessary, at times, in the closure we are in. This collective space of communication (which is not a public or public opinion space) will develop and, perhaps, modify a little the relationships between people"... (Público, cit.).

Philosophy is not a set of ready-made knowledge, a finished system, closed in itself, but it is a way of thinking and it is also a posture before the world.

In the words of the great philosopher, anything that could be added here would be useless!

And it is also because of those wise words that it is imperative that the members of the Soroptimist Movement continue to share the commitment of making the world a better place for women and girls: we serve, we laugh, we lead, we celebrate, we accept challenges - we make a difference! Together, we can make dreams come true, and that is why we must continue and not retreat into a mere introspective state - let us contribute in such a way that in this "collective space of communication" we can continue our mission!

The Soroptimist Movement was founded in 1921 in Oakland, United States of America, in a very troubled period of the world, so it will not be now that we will "cross our arms"!

TERESA ROSMANINHO

THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER SOROPTIMIST

The TERESA ROSMANINHO PRIZE was instituted in honor of Teresa Rosmaninho by the initiative of Luísa Ramires, her friend and admirer.

Luísa Ramires is also a Soroptimist and a woman with "the arms opened to the world". Physician, specialist in ophthalmology, she joined in 1985 the first Soroptimist Club in Portugal, the Lisbon Founder, at the invitation of an exceptional woman, the clinical psychologist, Maria de Lurdes Bettencourt, who worked with Egas Moniz. Luisa Ramires was President of the Soroptimist Union of Portugal, among other high functions she held in the Soroptimist Movement, and was the godmother of the Porto Invitca Club, which had Teresa Rosmaninho as its first president.

Luísa Ramires refers to Teresa Rosmaninho as a "STRONG, DETERMINED and COMMITTED" Woman.

Teresa Rosmaninho, left us at 56, after a long illness, but put a strong mark in her time with a great commitment to women's rights and with a fundamental role in the fight against all kinds of injustices and gender discrimination.

A convinced activist, she entered the Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada, in Lisbon, and embrace a revolutionary process, accepting challenges and assuming responsibilities, always committed to a more just country.

She was considered a pioneer in the defense of victims of domestic violence and opened the first nucleus of the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) in Porto. Between 1983 and 1996, she worked in the Institute of Social Reinsertion. She headed the INOVAR Project;she trained PSP and GNR in the area of domestic violenceand opened rooms to assist victims of violence.

Along with her exceptional performance, she had been doing voluntary work in the SI for a long time, and in her last years she has dedicated her life, in an exceptional way, to pave the way in the defense of women.

Teresa Rosmaninho was responsible for the foundation of the important *Casa Abrigo* in Porto to support the victims of domestic violence, also promoting services of proximity with the municipalities. This project became a reality thanks to the collaboration of the Social Services of the Porto City Hall, whose presidency greatly admired Teresa's work in support of the victims.

She also launched one of the first programs to promote gender equality in schools.

The daughter of Teresa Rosmaninho, Catarina Seabra Côte-Real, also a human rights defender and Soroptimist for seven years, spoke to us about Casa Abrigo, in operation since 2004. Catarina told us about her special dedication to Casa Abrigo, to give continuity to that important institution. Besides several important positions in SI - Porto Invicta Club, where she is currently president, she has a lifetime position as Director of Casa Abrigo/Porto d'Abrigo, thus ensuring the good and normal functioning of the

projectand giving continuity to her mother's hard work and great commitment to Casa Abrigo.

To better illustrate how important Casa Abrigo has been for many women who found a shelter and a home in this institution, we transcribe a meaningful testimonial from one of those women, who was forwarded to us by Catarina Seabra Côrte-Real:

"Porto d'Abrigo: so many tears on the arrival, so much tightness and anguish. A strange place, all new, so much pain... then the affection, the coexistence of all the hours, and all the women on the same level...pains, suffering, memories, a whole past shared, until we got up and started to believe in life again and that we are still Women and Mothers with capital letters..."

PRÉMIO TERESA ROSMANINHO 2020 - UNIÃO SOROPTIMIST DE PORTUGAL

SI Union of Portugal awards the prize money to a Young Leader aged less than 40 years at the time of election, whomdistinguished herself in associative activities and/or social projects.

The appreciation and decision of Patrícia Moreno, President 2019-2021 of SI-União de Portugal, in the awarding the Teresa Rosmaninho 2020 Prize, after unanimous approval by the delegates/representatives of the Soroptimist Clubs of Portugal, was attributed to the young Filipa Raimundo, from Setúbal, to whom this merit was recognized by her life journey that we summarize in the following.

Filipa's initial shelter was the "Pequena Grande Mãe" Life Support Centre project, thathas been supported by the Soroptimist Club of Setúbal, a work presently carried out by Maria João Ferro, President 2019-2021.

A LITTLE GIRL'S STORY:

Filipa Raimundo is a young woman, now 29 years old, who had a tumultuous journey in a dysfunctional family, with many difficulties at the economic level.

She was first accompanied at the "Little Big Mother" Life Support Centre of Caritas Diocesana in Setúbal in March 2008, at the age of 17, when she was discovered to be 7 months pregnant, without any medical supervision, until then.

This pregnant girl, alone, without the support of her family, as reported by Caritas Diocesana de Setúbal, showed great fragility and emotional instability when she was housed at the "Little Big Mother" Support Centre of that Institution.

All this happened when she had broken her relationship with the boyfriend, because she was a victim of his violence. The boyfriend questioned his paternity and refused to assume the corresponding responsibility. The paternity was later confirmed.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Filipa, after those years of pain and suffering, raised and educated her beautiful boy, named Salvador.

But Filipa is a winner because, besides having helped her mother in a serious illness, which turned out to be fatal, without a lap, misunderstood by young girls of her age, she began to work in the restaurant area in the morning and cleaning services in the afternoon. After work, she attended a course in education and photography, because that was her passion, finally giving her equivalence to the 9th grade of schooling. And all that, without neglecting the care of her son.

She continued to fight to improve her life project, always demonstrating great responsibility and capability. Those characteristics led her to be hired to work at Caritas, where she complete a new training in the area of multimedia, which gave her equivalence to the 12th grade. But this young woman continues with a dream: to go on with her studies and to be able to get advanced training in the social area.

Presently, the insecure and fragile girl with difficulties in relating to adults, has become a responsible woman and mother, concerned, intervening and struggling, motivated to improve her life and the life of her child.

Very cherished, she continues to maintain a close relationship with the health technicians and all those who helped and accompanied her in the difficult times.

Faced with her journey of life, she has become a fundamental voice to contribute, with her intervening actions, to improve the lives and status of women and girls, encouraging them to learn and to be educated, to reach their individual and collective potential, aiming at a job and gender equality. Fight for the improvement of the conditions of women and girls with local organizations, sensitizing them to associate themselves to the help of women and girls in need, a situation so recurrent in our society.

Filipa Raimundo is a great example that will certainly honor the memory of TERESA ROSMANINHO, because she has shown herself to be an entrepreneur and spokesperson, with the local society, to become in the future a true leader in the defense of the issues and principles that are part of the great mission "SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL".