

The role of the state of Tocantins in preventing and combating violence against women

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INTRODUCTION

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 1948) states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. However, these basic rights of every human being, when it comes to women, are constantly violated. According to the World Health Organization (2021), one in 3 women suffers some type of violence. In Brazil, the number of crimes against women grows every year, and this is a reality in the State of Tocantins (Brasil Popular, 2021). In view of this alarming scenario, with the objective of verifying the institution and execution of programs/projects/actions related to the public policy to prevent and combat violence against women by the State of Tocantins, in 2021, an exploratory research was carried out, of a predominantly qualitative nature, based, mainly on public documents, obtained from official websites of the Government of the State of Tocantins.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the documentary research, based on the state legislation, obtained from the website of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tocantins, it was sought to identify programs, projects, actions and campaigns related to public policy eventually instituted by the state entity that were related to the research theme, through the descriptors "public policy", "combat", "prevention", "violence", "against", "woman", associated or not. Subsequently, in order to verify the formal existence of public policies on the subject in public planning instruments, an analysis of the Multiannual Plan (PPA), Budget Guidelines Law (LDO) and Annual Budget Law (LOA), regents of the year 2021, was carried out, which were obtained from the website of the Legislative Assembly and the website of the Secretary of Planning of the State of Tocantins, the same as those described in the search. The data regarding budget and financial execution were extracted from the accountability report made by the Governor of the State, for the year 2021, available on the e-Contas website, maintained by the Court of Auditors of the State of Tocantins, in the Report for Monitoring Budget Programming and Execution (Annex 11), which contains information on the execution of the year. In addition, information was sought on actions, campaigns, and events carried

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out by the State of Tocantins with the agencies responsible for the implementation of concrete actions to protect women, such as the Secretariat of Citizenship and Justice of the State of Tocantins.

RESULTS

From the planning instruments of the State of Tocantins, more precisely the triad of public planning, it can be observed that there are no programs, objectives or actions that deal directly with the researched theme. The PPA that governed the 2021 financial year, Law No. 3621/2019, did not indicate a specific program and/or actions that had as their theme the fight against and prevention of violence against women, despite the fact that the issue of violence against women is considered the 3rd priority, in the thematic axis Security, Social Assistance and Human Rights, in the public hearings held in the State (Tocantins, 2019, p. 10). In the program 1160 – Citizen Security, under the responsibility of the Secretariat of Public Security, no objectives or actions that objectively dealt with the researched theme were visualized. Related to the researched theme, it was found that the PPA, in the part that deals with the Autonomous Powers Essential to Justice, in the program 1173 – Justice, under the responsibility of the Attorney General's Office, for the objective "to promote the defense of the legal order, the democratic regime and the unavailable social and individual interests", includes an action "aimed at combating domestic violence". It should be noted that, only in 2022, in the revision of the PPA, instituted by Law No. 4,077/2022, the goal of "Carrying out Studies for the implementation of a 24-hour specialized women's police station in Araguaína" was inserted, with a direct relationship with the researched topic. The LDO, instituted by Law No. 3,742/2020, established for the theme "security and human rights", the priority of the "project together for Citizenship", which aimed to promote "in partnership with other bodies, Lectures on: (...), violence against women, (...)" (Tocantins, 2020). It should be noted, therefore, that the LDO was limited to providing for lectures on the subject, informative and pedagogical actions. In turn, the LOA, established by Law No. 3,781/2021, established two projects within program 1145 - Maintenance and Management of the Court of Justice, under the responsibility of the Court of Justice of the State of Tocantins, namely: project 2393 - Promotion of practices to combat violence against women, in the budgeted amount of R\$50,000.00 (Tocantins, 2021, p. 110); and project 4493 - Promotion of practices to combat violence against women – FUNJURIS (Tocantins, 2021, p. 159), also with a budget of R\$50,000.00. It should be noted, therefore, that the budget for the 2021 fiscal year did not establish appropriations in an objective and direct manner aimed at combating and preventing violence against women by the State Executive Branch. Even in the face of the meager actions, *lato sensu*, provided for in the public planning instruments, when they were executed, according to the Report for Monitoring Budget Programming and Execution - ANEXO11 of Law No. 4,320/64, attached to the Rendering of Accounts for the year 2021, it was found that, even though a budget was provided for the projects "Promotion of



practices to combat violence against women", in the budget of the Court of Justice, there was no implementation in the budget. Outside the field of public planning, it was observed that the State of Tocantins carried out thematic actions with the aim of raising awareness, preventing and confronting violence against women, directly or indirectly, such as: *a)* Lilac August, a campaign created by Law No. 3,637/2020, which provides for mobilization actions, lectures, debates, meetings, pamphlets, events and seminars aimed at providing information on what domestic and family violence is and how to confront it; *b)* establishment of testimony rooms for victims of domestic violence, through cooperation between the Secretariat of Public Security and Citizenship, the Court of Justice and the State Public Prosecutor's Office, to assist children, adolescents and victims of sexual violence, open 24 hours a day; *c)* Maria da Penha Patrol (PMP), under the responsibility of the State Military Police, initially operating in Palmas, has contributed significantly to the fight and prevention of violence against women (Tocantins, 2021) and; *d)* Webinars and social activities, highlighting the "Network to Combat Domestic and Family Violence", carried out by the Management of Policies and Protection of Women of the State Secretariat for Citizenship and Justice (Tocantins, 2021) and actions alluding to Lilac August, which counted on the action of several bodies, such as the Court of Justice, through the State Coordination of Women in Situations of Domestic and Family Violence (Cemsvid), such as walks, lectures, blitz and dissemination of informative media, in the municipalities of Tocantins.

FINAL THOUGHTS

In the present work, it can be verified that the State of Tocantins has few programs/objectives/projects/actions foreseen in the public planning instruments (PPA, LDO and LOA) whose theme is the combat and prevention of violence against women, and that the few projects for which appropriations were allocated were not executed. However, it was found that, even without the specific destination for actions (broad sense) that contemplated the researched theme in a clear and objective way, it was found that the state agencies promoted actions related to the prevention and combat of violence against women, especially with regard to the preventive character, through lectures and social events. Thus, in view of the results presented, it is understood that the objective set for the research had been achieved.

Keywords: Violence against women, Public policy, Acting, State of Tocantins.



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