



## PHOTO EXHIBITION

### SEX(ED) PISTOLS: 16 PORTRAITS ON VIOLENCES AGAINST WOMEN

Every year, from 25th November to 10th December 2010, is celebrated the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. This year's campaign theme is "Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence Against Women!".

The photo exhibition "Sex(ed) pistols: 16 portraits on violences against women", promoted by the Observatory on Gender and Armed Violence (OGiVA/CES), which will be held during the 16 days of activism at the Centre for Social Studies (University of Coimbra), aims to reveal one of the faces of the militarisation of the lives of women and girls. The 16 photos document the insecurities affecting women and girls as a result of small arms and light weapons dissemination worldwide, in particular in Portugal, Brazil and in El Salvador as well as the experiences of anti-violence activism that emerge in these scenarios.

According to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, guns kill annually 400 thousand people. Only 25% of these deaths are registered in war or armed conflict settings, affecting mostly civilians. Firearms are also responsible for the death of 240 thousand people every year in peace contexts as a result of homicide, intentional killings and suicide. In these contexts the majority of guns are in civilian hands, surpassing those under the control of the State and security forces.

Despite the fact that women and girls do not constitute the majority of the (direct) victims of guns – worldwide 90% of the agents and victims of gun violence are male – are affected disproportionately in several ways.

Armed domestic violence or gendered war strategies (systematic sexual crimes, femicide, forced displacement) in war, post-war and even in formal peace contexts are some of the examples of the impacts of guns in the lives of women.

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