

\*\*For immediate release\*\*

# Women Resisting Violence Podcast release

Weekly episodes from 25 November - 9 December, 2021



*'Behind every victory we have, there is a fight led by women who make it happen'*

Eliana Sousa Silva, Redes da Maré, Brazil.

Latin America Bureau and King's College London release a brand new podcast series, based on Latin American women's extraordinary experiences of supporting one another and mitigating gender-based violence in Guatemala, Brazil and the UK.

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**One in three women in Latin America have experienced gender-based violence over their lifetime – the highest rate in the world.** This incidence has increased during the coronavirus pandemic, with governments and civil society recognising the urgency of addressing the phenomenon.

Latin American women's organisations are actively resisting and mitigating this violence with multiple strategies. Through collective action they commemorate the dead and care for the living, through arts they draw attention, through protest and lobbying they denounce and forge change.

Aligned with the **Global 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence** (25 Nov to 10 Dec), Latin America Bureau and King's College London will release three podcasts in which women tell their own stories of social change. By championing their innovative work, the podcast aims to share important learnings in order to positively influence broader policies around violence against women, both within and beyond Latin America.

The podcast will be available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese on all podcast platforms.

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# Podcast



[wrv.org.uk/podcast](http://wrv.org.uk/podcast)

**EPISODES**

**Nov**

## **Women Resisting Violence: 1. Mourning the 56 in Guatemala**

**25**

*'The government wants to erase our children's memory and I can't allow it as a mother looking for justice'*

On 8 March 2017, 56 girls were locked in a classroom of their state-run children's home just outside Guatemala City when a fire broke out, only 15 survived. Four years later no one has been sentenced for these crimes. This episode focuses on the enduring work of Ocho Tijax, a women's group caring for the girls' families and the survivors as well as fighting their case in the courts. We also hear from Vianney, the mother of Ashly Angelie Rodríguez Hernández, who lost her life in the fire.

**Dec**

## **Women Resisting Violence: 2. Rio's Trailblazing Women's House**

**02**

*'If Black women in Brazil are the ones who suffer the most from gender-based violence, it is these women that have to be there drawing up public policy'*

Located in one of the largest favelas in Brazil, in Rio de Janeiro, and founded by Eliana Sousa Silva and her colleagues from the Redes da Maré, the Casa Das Mulheres provides much needed education around gender violence, and support for those leaving abusive relationships, in an area where the police refuse to intervene. It's been a lifeline for many during Covid, when many favela residents lost their jobs, providing work and distributing food to starving families as well as dealing with a huge rise in domestic violence.

**Dec**

## **Women Resisting Violence: 3. Step Up Migrant Women**

**09**

*'If you don't have the right to request emergency help from public services, how are you going to survive?'*

Gil migrated to the UK from Brazil with her partner and two children as a tourist, and subsequently became undocumented. When she fled abuse, she was met with hostility by UK police and ended up homeless with a child. Finding the Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS) changed her life and Gil now works on the group's Step Up Migrant Women Campaign to highlight the vulnerability of migrant women with insecure immigration status in situations of domestic abuse. LAWRS also works with Migrants in Action (MinA), a community theatre group dedicated to Brazilian women in London who have experienced gender violence. Through theatre, they create a safe space for women to share stories, identify violence and heal.