

## Apoyo a estudiantes y profesores de Brasil

Quisiéramos dedicar unas palabras a la situación de ascenso antidemocrático en Brasil, cuya figura principal es el recientemente electo presidente de la República Federativa, Jair Bolsonaro, al que se suman aliados del Partido Social Liberal (PSL), al cual pertenece el futuro presidente.

En este contexto se han registrado amenazas a profesores y estudiantes a través de diferentes medios de comunicación (cartas, internet, panfletos). Uno de los textos, dirigido a miembros de la Universidad de Pernambuco, incluye una lista titulada «Doutrinadores e alunos que serão banidos do CFCH-UFPE em 2019»,<sup>1</sup> donde figuran nombres de profesores y estudiantes a quienes se intimida en razón de su orientación sexogenérica o de su pensamiento político. Por otro lado, en Youtube se pueden encontrar videos de Bolsonaro incitando a los alumnos a grabar y denunciar a sus profesores, a lo cual se suma la apertura por parte de una diputada del PSL de un canal en internet para denunciar a los docentes.

En relación con este escenario, desde el equipo editorial de *Encuentros Latinoamericanos*, Sección Estudios de Género, repudiamos los actos de violencia, persecución y discriminación y reafirmamos la libertad académica como derecho fundamental. Defendemos la realización de actividades de investigación, enseñanza y extensión con un enfoque crítico acerca de todos los temas de interés universitario en condiciones de protección de nuestros derechos.

A continuación, reproducimos el comunicado realizado por un profesor e investigador en Estudios de Género LGTB+ de la Universidad de Pernambuco, quien aparece mencionado en la lista:

1 «Adoctrinadores y alumnos que serán expulsados de CFCH-UFPE (Centro de Filosofía y Ciencias Humanas de la Universidad Federal de Pernambuco) en 2019» en <https://www.folhape.com.br/noticias/noticias/cotidiano/2018/11/07/NWS.86786.70.449.NOTICIAS.2190-CARTA-AMEACA-PROFESSORES-ALUNOS-UFPE.aspx>

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As some of you may know, Mr. Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right, homophobic, racist and misogynist is the new president-elect of Brazil. His dirty campaign was based on indiscriminate use of fake news; LGBT+, women and Human Rights activists were continuously attacked - and some have been subjected to physical violence. Since his victory on Oct. 28, there has been a widespread use of intimidation, harassment and physical and symbolic violence toward teachers and professors throughout the country. They have been accused of communist indoctrination and spreading the so-called «gender ideology».

Three days ago, November 6, I myself was a victim of those attacks. A letter was left at the Centre of Philosophy and Human Science of the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE). The letter accuses me of being «the leader of an army of faggots, trannies, feminazis, prostitutes and all the kinds of degenerates who are against the family». It also states that in 2019 we (as mentioned on the letter: leftists, socialists, communists, gender ideologists, indoctrinators) will all be banned from the University of Pernambuco. Some of my colleagues from the Department of Sociology and from the Department of History were also mentioned in the letter, but the targets were me and my post-graduate students working on LGBT+ issues. We all have our names clearly stated in that letter. The threat and intimidation were crystal-clear.

I want to share with you my indignation and repudiation regarding the attack and my concerns for my physical integrity. The threat is real. I no longer feel safe in Brazil. The UFPE dean has legally accessed Federal Public Prosecutors and the Federal Police. Unfortunately, for different reasons I will not discuss now, they cannot guarantee my safety. Moreover, the Brazilian Judiciary has been extremely politicized over the past two years by far-righter politicians and other conservative groups, which means I do not feel safe in accessing the Justice system because I am afraid of the backlash.

Please share this message in your academic and personal networks to publicize what is going on in Brazil. The Brazilian mainstream media is either minimizing the facts or simply ignoring the struggles the LGBT+

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community is enduring at the moment. We have to draw the world's attention to the increasing authoritarianism, sexism and homophobia in Brazil. LGB lives matter.

Best Regards,

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