

Pedagogical Note

Fighting violence against women: the struggle between old values and new patterns of public policies

By Sonia Naves David Amorim (2012)

This case study was prepared for utilization in the distant education course on Ethics in Public service, offered at National School of Public Administration (ENAP). The course aims to address the ethical dimension in the activity of public agents in a democratic State, the main body for promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of citizens.

The application of this case intends to create a learning situation in which the student, facing a solid fact of ethical misconduct, is capable of identifying and analyzing them on basis of the theoretical points seen beforehand and also to advise solution alternatives.

The case focus lies in not much visible and little publicized ethical aspects, covering old cultural values, especially sexism and racism, that are opposite to democratic values and that constitute huge obstacles to the implementation of policies to uphold the human rights. The discussions aim to broaden the ethical discernment and self-consciousness of the students.

The case study will illustrate especially the modules 2 (Ethics and public life) and 3 (Conduct in the public service), in which are emphasized the State's role in promoting the rights of citizenship and the responsibility of occupants of public office.

One suggested implementation method is the reading of the case study by the students at the end of the course and the concomitant opening of the discussion forum. The discussion forum may have, as a starting point, questions elaborated by the teacher about the reported situation which could have reference to the ethical values of a democracy, the human rights, the rights and duties of the State and the Society, the construction of the State in Brasil, and the role of transparency, social control and the accountability of public agents for the results.

A few guiding questions

- On analyzing the case, do you notice any progress in the field of public ethics on the implementation of policies to fight violence against woman? What are they?

- The legal framework to fight racial discrimination and promote racial equality are sufficient? What else needs to be done?

- If Ana Carolina were a white woman, would the treatment have been different? Justify your answer.

- Based on the account of Ana Carolina, tell the main difficulties regarding the implementation of policies for safeguarding women's rights in Brazilian society.

- What are the main ethical misconducts that you identify in the described situation and what are their impact on the implementation of the policy?

- What violations did the agents commit in relation to the code of conduct for public servants? Why do you think they happened?

- If you were the police chief Paulo Roberto, what would you do to answer to the accusations of the prosecution and ensure that victims of violence receive an effective service? Point out the actions to be developed in the short to medium term.

These questions are posed by way of suggestion, acknowledging that a pedagogical note is a tool in development, which should be reviewed based upon teaching experience.

The case includes, as attachment, the Maria da Penha's law (Law No. 11.340/2006), the law No. 7.716/1989 and the Racial Equality Statute (Law No. 12.288/2010).

This case study can also be used in courses that address the relationship between the State and citizens and issues of race and gender inequality. With a few adjustments, it could also be applied in courses of public policy implementation. Therefore, it shall be prepared teaching notes directed to the focus on each course.

Note

¹ Case prepared in partnership with the Secretariats of Policies for Women (SPM / PR) and of Policies for Promotion of Racial Equality (Seppir / PR), National School of Public Administration (ENAP) and the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP), under the Interagency Program for Promotion of Gender, Race and Ethnicity Equality, implemented in Brazil by the United Nations (UN).