

Women and Human Rights

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Association for the Reinsertion of People Affected by Leprosy

Introduction

- Freedom, justice and peace in the world, is based on the recognition of dignity, and equal right of each member of the human family

In Africa

- Women have no human rights in Africa!
- Men are heard, not women
- Women suffer injustice and discrimination
- They strive to raise and educate their children
- They bow their head and accept all humiliation imposed on them
- They easily give reason to men's arguments!

Women affected by leprosy suffer even more prejudice than other women

- In Angola we created an Association for the Integration of people affected by Leprosy to
 - **Encourage,**
 - **Bring hope**
 - **Develop solidarity**
- ARPAL stands for
- **« A world of justice with love and without leprosy »**

Story of Suzana

- Because she had leprosy, she was expelled from her house and abandoned by her husband.
- She was heard and received from ARPAL a small fund to start selling fruit and nuts.
- With the savings she was able to pay rent, feed her child and herself.
- The husband then wanted to come back and she told him , « No, thank you! »
- She became able to face the challenges of life with her own strength and her head raised.

Conclusion

- In Angola today women affected by Leprosy have a place where:
- They have a voice
- They take part in decision making
- They exercise their rights as citizens and as human beings

Conclusion

- Women today need to raise their head, take action and speak out in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity
- Women can do everything!
 - **With love and justice, all becomes possible!**
- Thank you!