



JUREMA PINTO WERNECK – ENGLISH VERSION

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Abstract: Jurema has a degree in Medicine from the Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF). She holds a Master's degree in Production Engineering from the Coordination of Graduate Engineering Programs / COPPE / UFRJ. In addition, she also holds a PhD in Communication and Culture from the School of Communication at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). She is the Executive Director of Amnesty International Brazil, a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Fund of Women, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Brazil Human Rights Fund. And she is a co-founder of CRIOLA, a non-governmental organization that works to defend and promote the rights of black women.

Keywords: biography; medicine; black women.

JUREMA PINTO WERNECK

Resumo: Jurema é graduada em Medicina pela Universidade Federal do Fluminense. É Mestre em Engenharia de Produção pela Coordenação dos Programas de Pós-graduação de Engenharia/COPPE/UFRJ. Além disso, também é Doutora em Comunicação e Cultura pela Escola de Comunicação da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. É Diretora da Executiva da Anistia Internacional Brasileira, integrante do Board of Directors do Global Fund of Women, presidente do Conselho de Administração do Fundo Brasil de Direitos Humanos. E é co-fundadora do CRIOLA, uma organização não governamental que atua na defesa e promoção dos direitos das mulheres negras.

Palavras-Chave: biografia; medicina; mulheres negras.

JUREMA PINTO WERNECK

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Resumen: Jurema es Licenciada en Medicina por la Universidad Federal del Fluminense. Posee una Maestría en Ingeniería de Producción de la Coordinación de Programas de Posgrado en Ingeniería / COPPE / UFRJ. Además, también tiene un doctorado en Comunicación y Cultura de la Facultad de Comunicación de la Universidad Federal de Río de Janeiro. Es la directora ejecutiva de Amnistía Internacional Brasil, miembro de la Junta Directiva del Fondo Mundial de Mujeres, presidenta de la Junta Directiva del Fondo Brasil de Derechos Humanos. Y es cofundadora de CRIOLA, una organización no gubernamental que trabaja para defender y promover los derechos de las mujeres negras.

Palabras-clave: biografía; medicamento; mujeres negras.

JUREMA PINTO WERNECK

Résumé: Jurema est diplômée en Médecine par l'Université Fédéral de Fluminense. Est maîtrise en Ingénierie de Production par la Coordination des Programmes du Troisième Cycle d'Ingénierie/COPPE/UFRJ. Jurema est aussi Docteur en Communication et Culture par l'École de Communication de l'Université de Rio de Janeiro. Elle est aussi la directrice exécutive de l'Amnistie Internationale Brésilienne, fait partie du Board of Directors do Global Fund of Women, le Conseil d'Administration du Fond Brésil de Droits Humains. Jurema est co-fondatrice du CRIOLA, une organisation non-gouvernementale qui est engagée à la défense et promotion des droits des femmes noires.

Mots-clés: Biographie; Médecine; Femme Noire;

INTRODUCTION

Born in Morro dos Cabritos, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, the story of Jurema Werneck recalls the story of many black women of the same generation: she comes from a poor family composed of domestic workers and low-paid workers, but who saw education as the only escape from poverty and the only way to seek social ascension.

She recalls her first remarkable experience with racism at age of six, when she was assigned a white boy as a partner for the June party at school. The boy not only refused to hold her hand but hid a nail between his fingers to stick it in if she touched his hand.

Even living during the dictatorship period, Jurema lived in a family environment with a critical awareness of what it was to be black and being a black woman in Brazilian society. She understood that she had to be part of the anti-racist struggle that people had been fighting for a long time. Thus, she learned, since she was eight years old, to be an activist through the stories of her family and the people she knew.

Regardless of all the family commotion for her to study, Jurema had adaptation problems at school and dealt with the attention deficit. However, always encouraging her, her parents presented her many examples of black women who studied, so she had Leci Brandão and Angela Davis as inspirations.

Jurema faced the problems arising from her economic situation, mainly related to food, clothing and education, and had all the support and encouragement from her family and neighbourhood to continue studying.

Tragically, at the age of 14, she saw her mother die from a brain aneurysm, neglected by the medical staff who attended her. She grew up carrying the suffering of losing her mother - she was quiet and spoke very little until she was 19 years old. During her graduation, she participated in a community health action group in Niterói, and joined the student movement, taking on functions such as speaking in front of classrooms, conducting meetings, and raising funds for events, which made her uninhibited. At the university she also met feminism and joined black women.

Jurema Werneck graduated in medicine from Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) in 1986. She was one of the founders of the NGO Criola (1992), focused on the work of black women to fight racism, sexism, and lesbophobia. She earned a master's degree in Production Engineering (2000) and a doctorate in Communication and Culture (2007), both from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). She represented the Articulation of Brazilian Black Women Organizations - AMNB in the vacancy for the black movement in the National Health Council from 2007 to 2012 and was general coordinator of the 14th National Health Conference in 2011. In addition to that, Jurema integrates the Technical Committee for Health of the Black Population of the Ministry of Health (CTSPN) and UN Civil Society Advisory Group (United Nations) Women Brazil. And, she was also an alternate member of the Economic and Social Development Council (2003 to 2005).

She is the author of several works that contemplate the health of the black population, especially of black women, such as “Health of Black Women: Our Steps Come from Far Away”, published in 2006 and organized together with Evelyn C. White and Maisa Mendonça. There is plenty more! Jurema is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Fund for Women and of the Board of Directors of the Brazil Human Rights Fund, and is also the executive director of Amnesty International Brazil.

As a companion in the struggle of city councilwoman Marielle Franco (working on human rights and the rights of favela pops), Jurema stresses the importance of pressing for answers about Marielle's murder and that civil society, as well as Amnesty International charging the responsible authorities to answer who ordered the killing of Marielle Franco and Anderson Gomes and the reason behind it.

In an interview granted to Adriana Ferreira Silva, from Marie Claire Magazine, Jurema maintains that “Marielle and I came from the same place and are the result of a collective project. We have the same story, with personal and family differences. But we are not the only ones. Benedita da Silva is the most striking example, but there are others. We are part of an overwhelming minority. The favela and the people who live there prepared us so that we were ready when it was necessary to appear. I am the result of the slum and the work of black women”.

Amid the pandemic of the new corona virus, the human rights organization that Jurema Werneck directs launches the campaign Our Lives Matter, demanding measures from the authorities to ensure the protection against Covid-19 of vulnerable and neglected populations. Since the highest lethality of the disease among black men and women, whether they are from the periphery, on the street or in incarceration, is related to historical discrimination.

Throughout her career, Jurema Werneck has worked in the defence of the black population, especially black women, with a focus on anti-racism, human rights, health of the black population, health inequities, public policies for gender and race equity .

Figure 1: Jurema Pinto Werneck



Source: Jurema's social media

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