

Beacon of Hope: Three Aspects of Brazilian Life



An Exhibition of Photographs from
North Eastern Brazil by
Trish Gant

Contributors

Trish Gant Photographer

Having been in Commercial Photography in London for over ten years, Trish has had many varied commissions for Design Groups, Mail Order companies and Government Bodies.

'Beacon of Hope' is a departure from her usual work and a project very close to her heart.

'Visiting Brazil was a complete eye-opener for me. It's a land of extremes. What impressed me was the Brazilian sense of community and refusal to give up in the face of adversity. The Crèche Amadeu Barros Leal illustrates the good work which often goes ignored. I felt the pictures had to be seen and the Opening for the Centre for Brazilian studies was the perfect vehicle.'

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Alda Miranda Master of Laws

Alda came to England in 1995 with a scholarship from the British Council to study her Masters Degree in Public International Law. Previously she had worked as a Legal Aid Advisor for the Ministry of Justice and a Lecturer in Laws at the Lutheran University in the State of Para, Amazon, Brazil.

Alda felt a strong responsibility to promote her country while in England. Alda and Trish met through a mutual friend deciding to travel together to Brazil. Having specialised in Human Rights, she had always looked for a way to get involved in social issues. Gant's journalistic style seemed the ideal way to promote a unique project involving the rights of women in prison: Crèche Amadeu Barros Leal, whose founder is Alda's close associate. Nowadays she is working as a volunteer at CHANGE, a women's rights organisation with consultative status with United Nations, based in London.

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Dr. César Barros Leal Founder of the Crèche Amadeu Barros Leal, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil

A unique project aiming to reduce the misery of overcrowding in women's prisons and deal with its resulting problems. The crèche is a non-profit making organisation administered with the support of the community, making it possible to employ teachers and child minders. It is purely to house children who are born in prison or who are living their mothers' sentences with them. It is the only crèche outside a prison building which does not belong to the penal system. This way it remains independent. Lately, it has been catering for 30 youngsters up to 6 years of age.

Dr. César Barros Leal is a State Attorney and Master of Laws at the Federal University of Ceará. He is a titular member of the National Council of Criminal and Penitentiary Policy and Scientific Adviser of the Latin American Institute of the United Nations for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of offenders (ILANUD).

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