

Publication of the book:

Visibles y transgresoras. Narrativas y estrategias visuales para la paz y la igualdad (Visible and Transgressive. Narratives and visual strategies for peace and equality)

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Explaining peace from a positive perspective that includes the contributions of both men and women is still a transgressive approach. Often when talking about peace is made from war and violence. Peace is rarely addressed as a positive process aimed at peacefully transforming a conflict, seeking equality, justice and respect for human rights.

There are numerous peace initiatives throughout the world that deserve to be told and known. Many of them have been carried out by women who, individually or collectively, have chosen to work for peace and contribute to a better world. However, many of these stories have been overshadowed and ignored and few women have been recognized for their actions on behalf of peace.

We can contribute to shaping reality by our narration of it. Giving visibility involves showing new realities through a visual and descriptive message, recognizing that women have played and play a key role in the prevention of war, in sustaining life during conflict and in the processes of reconciliation and peacebuilding.

Images have the extraordinary capacity of conveying ideas and shaping perceptions of reality. There is an excess of images that show women from a stereotypical and reductionist perspective, that victimize them and generate compassion. Developing new narratives requires also paying attention to the visual codes that describe reality in an unstructured way but that also provide a lot of information. In this book we have focused on the analysis of the images that are used to show women and peace. Although it is a new field that needs to be further developed, there are some very interesting initiatives. The book offers a selection of images related to the values that define women and peace: collectiveness, feelings, equity, diversity, dynamism, dialogue, freedom, creativity, empowerment, courage, resilience, strength, joy and hope, amongst others.

Our proposal is to talk about peace by focusing on women and their contribution while leaving the narrative of violence and aggression aside. This leads us to a different paradigm, to other values and approaches that are reconstructive and transgressive as they offer new perspectives and alternatives. It is about challenging the reductionist views that normalize the low presence of women in decision-making spaces; which normalize the objectification of women's bodies or reinforce roles as mothers or prostitutes as if they were female mandates.

This implies, on the one hand, decoding these stereotypical images of women, as a first step to demand narratives and images that are closer to the aspirations of women as whole human beings whose desires and actions must

be taken into account. And secondly, to create a new form of visual and narrative discourse that promotes the empowerment of women, incorporating their knowledge and acts to generate a culture of peace with everyone's contributions.

In this publication we identify some key visual and narrative patterns that give visibility to women working for peace and development. This is very relevant because of its educational and transformative potential, teaching us to look at reality in a more comprehensive way that incorporates and engages the acts of both men and women in the achievement of social change.

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