



Alianza Latina en contra la Agresión Sexual
(Latina alliance against sexual violence)

Palabras de Lucha: a 6th anniversary
offering of poemas by ALAS members

February 2010

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La lucha (Febrero 2010)

Aunque se rían de mi acento
o pretendan no entenderme
Yo sigo en la lucha.

Aunque me den tareas extras por ser la única
que habla español
Yo sigo en la lucha.

Aunque no me apoyen, ni me den lo necesario
para hacer mi trabajo
Yo sigo en la lucha.

Aunque me cambien de posición y terminen mi programa -
para llegar a mi gente
Yo sigo en la lucha.

Aunque me tengan solo como voluntaria
y no me den trabajo permanente
Yo sigo en la lucha.

Aunque me tenga que resignar por falta de apoyo
buscare otro camino
para seguir en la lucha.

Porque trabajo por un futuro
en donde TODA víctima es atendida sin prejuicios.

Porque trabajo por un futuro
en donde *"I don't speak Spanish"* no puede ser una excusa.

Porque trabajo por un futuro
en donde nuestra orientación sexual no es una condena.

Porque trabajo por un futuro
En donde todo hombre asume esta lucha.

Porque trabajo por un futuro
En donde este trabajo ya no es necesario.

¡Seguimos en la lucha!"



*Un poema escrito en
conmemoración del 6°
aniversario de **ALAS** por:
Laura Zárate con
contribuciones de Rosa Herrin
y Elisabet Mateos*

Speaking Out

Clara Galván Lindstrom

December 1, 1995

When we are oppressed and told to be quiet
because we are women,
and demanded to keep everything
within the family.

All the time
we are called foul names,
told we have no value
battered,
abused and Raped.

We should no longer buy into such nonsense and belief,
for we have and need to continue
to speak out against such violent acts
directed towards women and children
Latinas, Chicanas, African, Asian and Native sisters.

It is not necessary
to have an audience
to speak to,
to hear our words and our outrage.

What is important is to first
hear our own voice
say the words
imprisoned
deep within
our own body.

For it is then
that the next step
will seem easier,
even though, we are scared,
legs shaking and voice quivering.

This poema appeared in Women's Press October/November issue, Vol. 10, No. 5, 1980.

Third World Mothering

Clara Galván Lindstrom

A third-world mother has a difficult time raising a child when she is divorced and miles from any family support system. To raise an only child when she comes from a family of nine children is definitely a contrast. But to raise an adopted minority mixed child in a middle class environment when she comes from the "barrio" of East Los Angeles is like emerging into an alien world. Not only are the values different but there are cultural differences, including the language. In this middle class environment, emphasis is based on competition instead of cooperation. i.e., be the best, get the most. These attitudes embrace life styles that are profoundly materialistic and racist.

The type of housing in whichs/he lives, as well as the kind of car s/he drives, are of utmost importance to the child brought up in this type of society. The racist attitudes and the subtleness by which they are conveyed are hard to deal with on a continual daily basis.

When a child of color in elementary school runs home crying because peers have cursed him with words he has never heard, what is a third world mother to say? When the Boy Scout master allows the boys in the troop to harass her son, what is that mother to say? When the mother confronts the scout and he admits, "I have allowed such (racist) behavior," what is a mother to say? When the anger is accompanied with overwhelming feelings of helplessness, what is a mother of color to say to her child who looks with bewildered eyes to her for help, support and reassurance? What is the answer for those trusting eyes filled with tears?!!!

Esta canción se escribió para una campaña de concientización de BECA: Base Educativa y Comunitaria de Apoyo - una agencia que ayude formar para niñas en Paraguay.

Las niñas de hoy

Laura Zárate, 1994

Las mujeres del mañana
somos las niñas de hoy.

No violen nuestra inocencia
no nos condenen al dolor.

Las madres del mañana
Somos las niñas de hoy.

No nos roben nuestro derecho
de hacer los hijos con amor
sin violencia o vergüenza.

Somos las niñas de hoy
no violen la inocencia.

Somos las niñas de hoy.
Somos las niñas de hoy.



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The ALAS Mission Statement adopted in April 2006

The Alianza Latina en contra la Agresión Sexual (ALAS) is a national Latina-led membership network of victim advocates working to address and prevent sexual violence. Through collaborative efforts and cyber activism, ALAS promotes the leadership of Latina victim advocates and develops models, resources and policies to empower communities and eliminate access barriers for survivors. ALAS honors the diversity of the Latin@ culture by respecting the similarities and differences of our languages and histories.

For more information visit **www.arte-sana.com**