

# Working Title: "The Stay-at-home paradox; urban narratives of domestic violence in the Central District of Honduras during COVID-19"

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**Abstract:** Confined and often neglected, peri-urban settlements in the Central District of Honduras served as scenarios for social conflicts, food shortages, water cutbacks and a predominant increase in violent acts against women during the Corona virus pandemic. For many women in urban settlements the "stay at home" policies implemented to reduce the spread of the virus did not represent the safer option, quite the opposite, it increased their risk of domestic violence.

The ongoing research attempts to illustrate how urban households transform into unsafe spaces for women and girls by exploring the structural conditions that put them at greater risk of domestic violence in urban settlements during the Corona virus pandemic. Specifically, the study will 1) identify women's experiences and living conditions during the Corona virus pandemic 2) Examine how the pandemic affects women and girls differently 3) Explore the effect of lockdown and official measures in the increase of domestic violence 4) Generate a deeper understanding on protection alternatives for women and girls, by identifying the embodied social intersections that influence and are affected by the way women live, experience and resist violence in the urban settlements of the Central District of Honduras.

The study conducted 70 phone and video interviews from March 1st to July 10<sup>th</sup> of 2020 directed to: a) survivors of domestic and gender-based violence b) Residents of the *San Miguel* and the *Los Pinos* peri-urban settlements and finally, c) experts and domestic violence front line workers of Central District of Honduras. Through a feminist intersectional lens, the research critically analyses how the embodied genders of women and men, and the traditional roles and responsibilities assigned to them, foster the way we live, experience, transit, resist and survive all social implications, conditions, and dynamics. The research serves to unravel the effect of lockdowns in low-income urban settlements to ensure safe interventions for populations exposed to diverse axis of oppression and inequality. Specifically, it is imperative to explore the impact of this health crisis on reports of gender-based violence, as this can provide important information for professionals caring for victims of domestic violence, the public health sector as well as national and International agencies working for the protection of women and girls' rights in Honduras.

## Objectives of the Doctoral Research Stay:

1. Foster contributions and collaboration with other research fellows pursuing like-minded research and conceptualizing related topics concerning the social phenomena of interest.
2. Receive advise and constructive criticism from experts in the field of gender transdisciplinary topics and research concerning methodologies, theoretical and conceptual frameworks.
3. Maximize the use of the collected data, to enhance and improve its utilization and presentation.
4. Access available resources, to enhance research goals and improve the process of data management and writing.