

## Lica

Lica (Lilian Carolina de Macedo Tito) — a social activist and musician from Brazil — was a Trust Fund grantee through links with Cemina, a Brazilian NGO committed to spreading information on gender, health and human rights.

Lica's relationship with Cemina began in 2002 at the World Social Forum, where she performed with an all-female hip hop troupe called La Bella Mafia. Cemina then invited her to host a local radio program in Porto Alegre, in which she used her popularity with youth to advocate Cemina's socially conscious themes. In 2005, Lica was instrumental in uniting 40 Brazilian girls to express their views on violence against women, resulting in a collection of songs with a powerful anti-violence message.

Lica turns her lyrics into action. In 2001, she helped to establish an educational group to run hip hop workshops in schools, community organizations and juvenile correctional facilities. She hosted a Community Radio Programme, profiling a disadvantaged neighbourhood in Porto Alegre. A passionate activist, Lica has organized music festivals to combat racism and to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Having succeeded in the male-dominated world of hip hop, Lica embodies the goal of women's strength and empowerment. Her song "Peleia," awarded the Prêmio Açorianos de Música Gaúcha, is the first song fusing rap and traditional music from her region ever recorded by a woman. Another defining moment in her career as a female hip hop artist came in 2006, when she was invited to perform at the Soccer World Cup in Germany.

Lica is a vibrant voice condemning violence against women. But beyond this, her work helps other young women to unleash the power of self-expression. She says, "I'm not afraid to be controversial; we need to face reality! When every woman refuses to stay silent, the situation is going to change."



Lica and guitar accompanist Gunter Fetter perform a hip hop piece during the Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, 16 February 2007, ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters. (Photo: UNIFEM/Malcolm Linton.)