

MARIA DE JESUS SIMÕES BARROSO SOARES

Maria de Jesus Simões Barroso Soares has a degree in Historical and Philosophical Sciences from the Faculty of Arts, Lisbon and the course of Dramatic Arts from the National Conservatory.

While studying at the university, she performed in the National Theatre for four years but was later removed as a result of her political positions as member of the Democratic Opposition to the regime of Salazar. Even though qualified to do so, during the regimes of Salazar and Marcelo Caetano, she was forbidden to teach, even in private schools.

She always had an active role in cultural life, mainly through her recitals of Portuguese and foreign poetry.

In 1949 she married her university colleague, Mário Soares, with whom she has two children: Isabel and João. She has five grandchildren from her son.

She was the Democratic Opposition's candidate for Member of Parliament in 1969, during the regime of Marcelo Caetano. She participated in the 111 Congress of the Democratic Opposition in Aveiro in 1973. She was present in Bad-Munstereifel at the time of the foundation of the Socialist Party. Having participated in all the electoral campaigns since April 25th, she was elected Member of Parliament for the districts of Santarém, Oporto and Algarve. For many years she has run a private school "Colégio Moderno", founded by her father in law, João Soares, a teacher.

Over ten years, from 1986 to March 9th 1996, as wife of the President of the Republic, she has been involved in activities aimed at supporting the areas of culture, education and family, childhood, social solidarity, female dimension, health, the integration of the disabled and the prevention of violence.

In Portugal, she has instigated reflection and discussion on media violence, having vehemently condemned all situations in which human rights are violated. She has aided and defended the welfare and causes of victims of war, starvation, racism, xenophobia, of abused women and children and social delinquents. She has never forgotten the people of Timor.

APEV (Association for the Study and Prevention of Violence), Emergência Infantil (Child Emergency) and the Foundation Pro Dignitate are some of the many institutions she has founded or helped to create.

Since March 9th 1996 the extent of her activity has remained unchanged on both at national and international level. It is as if society has taken possession of her as one of its more humane, dynamic and illustrious members, to ensure her protagonism in truly essential areas of life.

In a structured manner and according to areas of intervention, we will now go on to refer to the more prominent aspects of Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares' activity, as well as to the academic and honorary distinctions she has been granted.

ACADEMIC AND HONORARY DISTINCTIONS

- Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Aveiro
- Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Lisbon
- Doctor Honoris Causa by Lesley College, Boston
- Honorary Professor of the Society of International Studies – Madrid
- Grand Cross of the Order of the Polar Star ,Sweden
- Grand Cross of the Order of Fransisco de Miranda, Venezuela
- Grand Cross of the Order of Carlos III, Spain
- Grand Cross of the Order of Merit, France
- Grand Cross of the Order of Rio Branco, Brazil
- Grand Neckband of the National Order of Zaire
- Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit of Columbia
- Grand Cross of the Civil and Military Merit Adolf de Nassau from Luxembourg
- Grand Cross First Class of the Order of Merit of Germany
- Grand Cross of the Order of the White Rose, Finland
- Grand Cross of the Order of the Orange House , Holland
- Grand Cross of the Order of Malta
- Grand Cross of the Order of Liberty (Portugal)
- Award "Impegno Per La Pace" of the Association Insieme per la Pace – Rome
- Award "Beca" by the Colégio Mayor Zurbaran – Madrid
- Gold Medal for Distinct Service from the League of Portuguese Firemen
- Medal of Solidarity from CNAF
- Medal of the Red Cross of Merit
- Silver Medal of the Alcuin Award
- Gold Medal from FERLAP
- Gold Medal from the City of Ovar
- Gold Medal from the City of Olhão
- Gold Medal from the City of Faro
- Personality of the Year 1998 in the area of solidarity by the Magazine Revista Gente e Viagem
- Algarvia (lady from the Algarve region) of the Year 1997 by the Association of the Algarve's Regional Press
- Most Elegant Woman of the Year 1998 – Magazine Revista VIP
- Neckband of the International Academy of Portuguese Culture
- 'One in ten women of the year 1999' Prize - Brazil
- D. Antónia Ferreira Prize
- Prestige Prize
- Manus Cais' Trophy

- 'Lonely Life' Prize – Radio central FM, Leiria

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH SHE BELONGS

- President of the Special Olympics Movement in Portugal
- President of the Very Special Arts Movement in Portugal
- Founder and President of the Council of Social Solidarity of the Foundation for the Study, Prevention and Treatment of Drug Addiction
- President of the Commission of Honour of UNICEF in Portugal
- President of the National Commission of the Institute of Child Emergency
- Founder and President of the General Assembly of the Association for the Study and Prevention of Violence – APEV
- Elected Member of the Board of Opinion for RTP
- Member of the Committee of Honour of the Special Fund for Health in Africa of the World Health Organisation
- Member of the Commission of Honour of AMI – International Medical Assistance
- President of Honour of AIEPS – Association of Information, Education and Health Promotion
- Member of the Foundation Idálio de Oliveira
- Member and founder of the "Association pour la Convention Théâtrale Européene" – France
- President of Honour of the Portuguese New Philharmonic Orchestra
- President of the Commission of Honour of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Lisbon and the National Superior Orchestra Academy
- Member and founder of the Association Miastenia Gravis and Neuro-Muscular diseases
- Member of the Banyan Fund Board of Directors
- Patroness of the Masungulo Project – cultural project of humanitarian support to the refugees of Mozambique, created by Father Jean-Pierre Le Scour
- Involved in the project of Integration of the refugees of Mozambique- Ressano Garcia
- Member of the Jury of the Alcuin Award of the EPA (European Parents Association)
- President of Honour of the Association for the Prevention of Child Related Accidents
- Honorary Professor of the 38th Course of Advanced International Studies - Madrid (Society of International Studies Madrid – Spain)
- President of Honour of the Magazine Cais (of the homeless)
- Founder of the Association Return of the Caravels
- President of the Administrative Board of the Institute Rodrigues Lapa
- Member of the Advisory Board of the Catholic University
- Founder and President of the Foundation PRO DIGNITATE – Foundation for Human Rights and Against Violence
- Member of the Board of Directors of the "Angola Education Assistance Fund"
- Member of the Special Olympics –Europe Eurasia Board

- President of the Commission of Honour of the Portuguese Physically Disabled League
- Past President of the Portuguese Red Cross (1997/2003)
- Member of the International Academy of Portuguese Culture
- President of Aristides Sousa Mendes Foundation
- President of the ‘Aristides de Sousa Mendes Foundation’
- Member of the ‘D. Ximenes Belo Foundation’
- Member of the ‘Portuguese Foundation of Cardiology’
- Benefactor Member of the National Association of the Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- Member of the jury of the ‘Dupont Prize’
- Member of the Portuguese Delegation of the ‘Bioethics International Organization’
- Member of OIDEL – Organisation Internationale pour le Droit à l’Éducation et la Liberté d’Enseignement)
- Member of the Council of Curators of the ‘Global Ethics Forum’
- Member of National Decorations Order (Conselho das Ordens Honoríficas Portuguesas)
- Honorary President “Asociación Ibero-Americana de Medicina y Salud Escolar y Universitaria”

ACTIVITIES ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE

- PRIDE Conference – United States – 1986
- Commission of Homage to Queen D. Catherine of Bragança- New York 1991
- Visit to the war refugees of Mozambique as guest at the Episcopal Conference of Austral Africa – 1991
- European Conference "Parents and School, Partners in Orientation" – Lisbon, 23rd to 25th of March 1992
- Banyan Fund Meeting – U.S.A. 14th to 16th of October 1992
- Conference at the Brown University – Y.S.A. 23rd of May 1993
- Conference at Lesley College – Boston, May 1993
- European Seminar " What Education in the European Union Today?" – Lisbon – 18th of December 1993
- Cerimony of Homage to the 25th of April in the Pompidou Centre, Paris – 22nd to 27th of May 1994
- LIMNOS Congress – Greece- 16th to 18th of September 1994
- Insieme Per la Pace – Rome 1986, Madrid 1991, Rome 1997
- Conference of the Pontifical Health Council – Vatican 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997
- European Parent Association – EPA – and Jury of the Alcuin Award – Dublin 1991, Madrid 1992, Antwerp 1993, Lisbon 1994, Copenhagen 1996, Paris 1997, Stockholm 1998, Weimar 1999
- Participation in the "World Conference of the Women" – Peking September 1995
- Participation in the "Forum of Childhood" – Paris, November 1995
- Patroness of the Good Hope Mission
- She presided in the International Congress " Stress and Violence in the Child and Adolescent" – Lisbon, September 1995
- "World Congress against Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children" – Stockholm 27th to 31st of August 1996
- Presentation in the Conference "Parents are lifelong learners for themselves and their children" – Santiago de Compostela 12th and 13th of July 1996
- Presentation in the Conference "Biology and Sociology of Violence" – Valência 16th to 19th of September 1996
- Humanitarian Visit to Angola "Peace and Reconciliation Campaign" – 22nd to 26th of September 1996
- Presidency of the Unesco Congress "Education Against Violence" – Sintra 19th to 22nd of May 1996
- Participation in the Launching of the Family/School Calender – Rotterdam 11th and 12th of September 1996

- Presentation in the Congress "Stress and Violence in Childhood and Adolescence" – Barcelona 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th of December 1996
- Presentation in the Congress " The Child and Violence" – Fondation pour L’Enfance – Paris, 12th and 13th of December 1996
- Presentation in the Burkina Faso Conference "Droits de l’Enfant, Éducation et Developpement" – 17th to 21st of February 1997
- Participation in a Jury for the attribution of an award for Short Films – Mónaco, February, 1997
- International Meeting of the Focolari in Rome (9th to 11th of May 1997)
- International Red Cross – Meeting with the International President of the Red Cross – Geneva, 26th to 28th of September 1997, Meetings of the International Red Cross- Athens, 29th of September to 5th of October 1997 and Seville 20th to 27th of November 1997
- Presidency of the World Forum of the Child "- Faro 6th to 11th of October 1997
- Presentation in the International Seminar "Media Violence2 Valência 2nd to 4th of November 1997
- Presidency of the Jury of the Autumn Painting Salon – Placência 14th and 15th of November
- Participation in the Portuguese Delegation to the "Convention Against Anti-Personal Mines", Ottawa 1st to 4th of December 1997
- Invited by the European Commissioner Emma Bonino, she participated in the Press Conference on the situation of the Afghan women, held in the headquarters of the European Commission, in Brussels, 3rd of February 1998
- Participation in the V Meeting of the Presidents of the Iberian-American International Red Cross (1st July 1998)
- Participation in the Homage to Mother Teresa in Rome (4th to 8th of September 1998)
- Invited by Cardinal Poupard, she was the only Portuguese woman to participate as a conferee in the preparatory Symposium of the Synod of European Bishops on culture which was held in the city of the Vatican from the 11th to the 14th of January 1999
- Official Visit to the Spanish Red Cross (15th and 16th of February 1999)
- Participation in the meeting of the Euro-Asia Committee of the Special Olympics, in Athens (11th to 13th of May 1999)
- She presided in the closing session of the International Seminar "To be Born to Live in the 111 Millenium", initiative of the World Organisation for Pre-School Education (15th of May 1999)
- She presided over a table of the Assises International du Bébé, in Marseilles (3rd to 7th of June 1999)
- She presided at the Press Conference for the disclosure of the Association of Guinean Pictures and Students in the Diaspora (30th of June 1999)
- Official Visit to the Red Cross in China (5th to 17th of July 1999)

- Presentation in the Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress of Lubango – Angola (20th to 25th of July 1999)
- Visit to Timor (3rd to 9th of October 1999)
- Participation in the meeting of the International Red Cross in Spain (18th to 20th of October 1999)
- Alcuin Award – Weimar (27th of November 1999)
- Invited by the Queen Sophie Centre, she participated in the International Seminar on the Biology and Sociology of Violence "Psychopaths and Serial Killers" (Valência – 16th to 18th of November 1999)
- Meeting with the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Human Rights, Mrs Mary Robinson and a delegation of Angolan women in favour of peace in Angola (18th of November 1999)
- Participates in the International Meeting of the Red Cross, Brussels, February 29th – March 3rd 2000
- Participates in the International Meeting of the Red Cross, Nice, May 11th, 12th 2000
- Participates in the General Assembly of the International Red Cross, Madrid, November 2nd 2001
- Participates in the International Meeting of the Red Cross, Geneva, November 7th - 9th 2001
- Participates in the jury meeting of the ‘Alcuin Prize’, November 24th 2001
- Participates in the Press Conference and in the Sakharov Award Ceremony, Strasburg, December 11th, 12th 2001
- Participates in the European Conference of the International Red Cross, Berlin, April, 14th – 18th 2002
- Travels to Cape Vert invited by the Cape Verdian Red Cross, May 12th – 17th 2002
- Travels to Angola and in the framework of the ‘ Defeat Hunger, Consolidate Peace – 2002’ Campaign, Madame Barroso Soares delivers 52 tons of foodstuffs, July 21st – 28th 2002.
- Madame Barroso Soares travels to Strasburg (March 8th – 13th, 2003)
- Sponsors the ICCROM meeting, April 3rd 2003
- Madame Barroso Soares flies to Brazil to participate in a tribute to Aristides de Sousa Mendes, April 13th – 17th 2003
- Participates in the ‘União Latina ‘ meeting in Rome, June 11th – 12th 2003
- Sponsorship of the ICCROM meeting, June 25, 2003
- Madame Barroso Soares participates in the Jury meeting of the DuPont Award, Santiago de Compostela, September 4th and 5th 2003
- Sponsors the CPLP Ambassadors meeting, September 9th 2003
- Participates in the I Congress ‘The time and the voice of the migrant women’, Toronto, September 14th- 21st September.

- Participates in the Colloquium 'My second homeland' at the Italian Embassy in Lisbon. This colloquium was organized in the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II, September 25th 2003
- Participates in the Congress 'Towards a Culture of Peace' and in the Anniversary Ceremony of the 'Alexandrine Library', in Egypt, October 10th – 13th 2003
- Attends the 'Queen Sofia Award' presentation to Sofia de Mello Breyner, in Spain, October, 28th – 29th 2003
- Participates in the Jury Meeting and in the Presentation Ceremony of the ALCUIN Award at Vienna, Austria, November, 21st – 23rd 2003
- Attends the Jury Meeting of the 'DuPont Award', April 27th – 28th 2003, Bilbao
- Goes to the Vatican in order to attend the launching of Cardinal Paul Poupard's book, as part of his jubilee celebration May, 20th, 2004
- Participates in the 20th anniversary celebration of the 'Association des Conseillères Municipales et autres élues du Puy de Dôme'. Clermont Ferrand October 23rd 2004
- Is a member of the Portuguese Delegation to the 'Health Pastoral Meeting' in the Vatican, November 10th – 14th, 2004
- Travels to Cape Vert in the Framework of the 'Radio – School Project', December 8th – 12th 2004
- Participates in the 'Women's Partnership for Peace in the Middle East – Towards Justice and Reconciliation' Congress in Jordan, December 15th – 18th 2004
- Attends and participates in the concert organized by Jorge Chaminé to pay Tribute to Aristides de Sousa Mendes at the UNESCO, Paris May 11th 2005
- Delivers a lecture in the 'Conference on women', London May 23rd 2005
- Participates in the 'Congress on Education', sponsored by 'OIDEI', Santiago de Compostela, September 10th 2005
- Participates in the Jury Meeting of the DuPont Award, October 4th 2005
- Participates in the 'Encounters for Citizenship and Equal standing for men and women in the Portuguese communities', in Argentina, November, 10th – 13th 2005
- Participates in the 'Health Pastoral' in Rome, November, 16th – 20th 2005