

## Mailza Assis, a woman on the rise



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### ABSTRACT

This article aims to explain a little about the history of Acre, its political formation and the phenomena that took place during the political consolidation of Mailza Assis. It is argued that Acre is a State whose growth process took place in a migratory manner, and in this situation, political formations, parties and coalitions began and little by little they identified their political leaders and embedded them in society. In this circumstance, Mailza Assis sees an opportunity in the political space to provide changes to Acre society, and begins to redefine its goals, so that its work reaches people, through public policies. In this way, he deepens his participation in political spaces and his journey has been marked by ethics and understanding of the State's social issues.

**Keywords:** Acre, Politics, Woman.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This article aims to outline a historical context of the migratory process of the State of Acre, in order to portray the period that Mailza Assis arrived in the State and its consolidation in the political space, through her performance as a public manager, and the path to the beginning of her political life.

Thus, it is important to mention that in the midst of all these events, she played the role of mother, woman and representative of all other women who wanted to express their needs, but without a voice in the political sphere. By entering these spaces with a lot of struggle, she proved that women can be political leaders and managers.

## 2 MIGRATION TO ACRE

In the Amazon, and specifically in Acre, the history of occupation and social development is permeated by the presence of migrants and immigrants. Firstly, with the migrants from the Northeast who were marching towards the unknown in search of survival, and they were joined by foreign immigrants and migrants from different regions of the country who helped in the construction of the State.



The protagonist's parents, originally from Minas Gerais, migrated to Mato Grosso do Sul, the city of Mundo Novo, the place of her birth. His history of migration begins at an early age, in 1977, when his family migrates to the State of Rondônia, city of Espigão do Oeste and in 1997 migrates to Acre. In 2003 he settled in Senador Guiomard, a city commonly known as Quinari.

Mailza's story is similar to that of so many women who migrated and made Acre their new home and, when they arrived in Aquiria,<sup>1</sup> began to contribute to the improvement of their community. This is the portrait of countless women scattered in Acre and is the figure of women who with much sacrifice toil to survive. (MORAIS, 1993).

A major challenge faced by the states is the mobilization of women and the expansion of their participation in the formulation of public policies, because for such policies to make sense for this population, it is essential that they have an active voice in the process.

According to the records, the history of Acre is marked by an economy based on plant extractivism (rubber, nuts, wood) and highly concentrated income, inappropriate settlement projects, geographic isolation, lack of adequate infrastructure for basic social services and production activities, and great distances from urban centers. This picture is reflected in the women from Acre who act in this conjuncture as protagonists of the families and, in many cases, are the providers of the family nuclei.

According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE, in 2022, the population of the State of Acre is 830,026 people and more than half are women, therefore, it is possible to infer that this population group plays an important role within society in terms of the political, economic and social sphere. Their rise in management spaces grows gradually, however, this visibility faces several barriers.

It is important to highlight that, if women are the majority in Acre society, their cry for independence needs to be heard, as they are clamoring to access what is rightfully theirs. They are capable of remaking their stories, as they have the potential and capacities to help build a fairer and more inclusive society.

Referring to the context presented, Acre has an economic and social history that has made it a state with great challenges. This reality is also reflected in the still low rates of public policies aimed at women.

It is in this conjunction, of growth and conquest of space, especially in the issue of gender, that Mailza becomes an exponential for so many invisible, in addition to understanding the specificities of this audience.

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<sup>1</sup> Aquirianas: The term is a tribute to the women of Acre and to the Acre River, called Aquiri by the indigenous people.



### 3 HER TRAJECTORY AS A WORKER AND IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

According to Borges 2013, in the various societies, in general, at least two models of life trajectory are produced, one for each sex. Women's life trajectories are generally distinct from men's trajectories as a result of the logic of different social participation, i.e., the institutionalization of different social roles for men and women and the attribution of different characteristics and functions to men and women.

In the twentieth century, various social movements contributed to the expansion of the concept of Citizenship and new subjects who until then were not recognized were incorporated, having their rights recognized, workers, blacks, illiterates and above all women who did not have equal rights and duties in public and private spaces. This access began to be legitimized with the 1988 Constitution, but the struggle continues for it to actually be effective, since we drink from the source of a culture permeated by great social inequality, exploitation and domination.

Based on this theoretical scope, we consider it important to reflect on Mailza's social participation in Acre. She joins so many women who make a notable contribution in different social and professional roles in the administration, management, planning or execution of public policies. The woman under analysis broke barriers and is part of the generation that assumed the leading role, supported by ancestral women of strength. In Mailza's case, the women who sustain her work are her maternal grandmother, Jandira Assis, in *memorian*, and her mother Cleusa Assis, who led her to break through the domestic space and insert herself in the political scene.

Mailza's career as a public manager began in 2009, where she held the position of Municipal Secretary of Administration of the municipality of Senador Guiomard.

In 2012, in the same municipality, she assumed the position of Municipal Secretary of Social Assistance, remaining until 2013. As a manager in the municipality, she was the author of two important projects: City Hall in the Neighborhood, where professionals from different areas were taken to the neighborhoods to serve the community, and Merry Christmas, a traditional party organized to welcome vulnerable families.

In 2014 she was a candidate for senator of the State of Acre, stayed as an alternate and in 2019 took office, since senator-elect Gladson Cameli, won the campaigns for the governorship of Acre.

When she was a senator, she worked tirelessly for the State of Acre, through projects of her authorship, several Parliamentary Amendments were approved, bringing benefits to the municipalities.

With the resources from the Amendments, it was possible to invest in basic sanitation, construction of Support Houses, City Council, works and investments in several cities.

In 2022, she is a candidate for vice-governor, alongside the already governor Gladson Cameli, having won the elections, taking office in 2023.



#### 4 MAILZA IN THE POLITICAL CONTEXT OF ACRE

In Brazil, despite the advances related to the participation of women in socio-political life, it is perceived that it is a challenging process, despite the existence of actions aimed at the insertion of women in the various fields of activity. We have a very high rate of women who live in historical invisibility.

It should also be considered that if women are the majority in Acre's demographic, however, the representativeness of this population in the political scenario is timid. Contrary to this reality, the woman under analysis has built a path of struggle and insertion in spaces occupied mostly by men and, currently, exercises a prominent social function and promotion of public policies.

In this sense, Brazilian women have sought their insertion in the labor market, in universities and, still, at a slow pace in politics.

The trajectory of women's struggles has achieved important victories, being protagonists and subjects of their history. Mailza Assis represents this class masterfully. A woman, mother and leader has been standing out in the political scene of Acre.

Since entering public spaces and politics, Mailza has been assuming an important role in society, certifying that women can have representation and that female participation is fundamental in democracy.

Through her work, and her active voice, women from Acre have been having a breadth in the political scenario, being seen and respected.

In addition, Mailza is sensitive to the causes that the municipalities of Acre deal with and through his knowledge and actions, develops strategies that enable them to move forward and bring resolution to society.

Women's performance is different and they need to deal with the limits and benefits of their actions, but power combined with capital expands the space for intervention and influence. A common factor related to women's performance is the process that triggers the exercise of leadership. Initially, it is necessary to have social recognition addressed to them, because, to the extent that others authorize them to exercise leadership, this power is exercised and, in fact, recognized by them and by social groups. (GONÇALVES, 2013)

As mentioned above, Mailza, due to her history, has gained social and political recognition, corroborating that women can indeed be seen as political leaders, even though it is a challenging and transformative role.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

The migratory process of the State of Acre took place irregularly, with families coming from several other states of the country, looking for new opportunities and quality of life.



With this growth, there is a need for a political organization and with that came the first political leaders of Acre, mostly male and with little female participation.

Among the new participants and political supporters, Mailza begins to enter the activities as a public manager and with her prominence, since there was a positive impact on the conduct of her activities and the proportionality that arrived.

In this way, he is able to enter politics in an equal way, showing that through the occupation of political office he will have the opportunity to make important decisions for all citizens.

Certainly, this is the beginning of Mailza de Assis's performance in Brazilian and Acre politics, his disposition and criticality makes the population feel welcomed and represented in the midst of so many bargains, which unfortunately, today, is very common in this environment.



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