

# #SheisWe

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## Clovis Silva

Cabo Verde – She is safe, We progress

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It starts with positive masculinity and ends with gender equality. Clovis Silva believes empowering women and girls is an essential weapon to promote social development. #SheisWe #EDD18

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### Story

“We try to change the world when we should change the people first.” If Clovis Silva has always been driven by this motto, it is first and foremost because he changed. He went from a violent childhood, made of various petty crimes and drugs to being a successful law student, before ultimately becoming a judge in his country.

“I believe that other people can be changed too. That is why I left my career as a judge to become a social activist. This is what gets me out of bed.” With other activists, Clovis founded “Laço Braco” in 2009. “Our job consists in training boys and men to learn what "positive masculinity" is,” Clovis advocates. At home, at school, in prisons and beyond, his work leads to lasting change against gender-based violence, gender imbalance and in the deconstruction of a distorted view of masculinity.

Among other results, his advocacy work led to the adoption of a new law against gender-based violence in Cabo Verde. “I started this "path" when I realized that gender equality is not only a human rights issue, but a weapon to promote social development,” Clovis recalls. Gender-based violence impacts and costs society at all levels: in health, education, justice etc. Clovis’ fight is to shift these resources from a punitive system to one that will allow everybody to live in a better and safer society. She is We.