

News form a friend -Maria Marta Travieso

A good friend;

A great mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt;

A wonderful and beautiful person that has positively influenced many lives, some in the ILO;

An intellectual, passionate about a range of topics, from art to the future of work;

A lawyer, and a strong believer and defender of workers' rights;

A fantastic colleague that always focuses on the positive;

An accident survivor.

I am introducing Maria Marta Travieso, that many in the ILO consider a good friend. After a severe accident with enormous impact on her health, she reconnects with ILO staff through the article here under. Written by herself to share the story of what happened to her in her own words, illustrating the way she now sees herself in the world.

Maria Prieto, friend and colleague.

Introducing the main character

Introduction to Pampa

Introduction to the situation

The accident

Main consequences

The hospital

Drize

My desire to go home

Going home

Maria Marta is a lawyer and works (P4) at the International Labour Office. She is married and has three daughters (Eugenia, 28, a lawyer, Eva, 25, a doctor, and Lucia, 19, who spent a year in Germany and is now studying artistic analysis). Maria Marta does a lot of gymnastics.

Every day, as soon as she gets up, she goes for a walk with her dog Pampa. Every day, they take a different route (Veyrier, Sierne, the riverside, the fields). Pampa is a bearded collie. She's very good.

One day, Maria Marta and Pampa went out to Veyrier and Maria Marta was hit by a car that she didn't even see. An ambulance took her to hospital. She lay unconscious for several months. She finally woke up, but it took a long time for her to regain full consciousness. She underwent surgery on her spine, knee and face. Cosmetic surgery. She was in hospital for many months. The ILO, where Maria Marta works, forced her to resign because she had not returned to work for a long time. Maria Marta is in court against the driver of the car that hit her.

Maria Marta spent several months in hospital, then in a rest home called Drize, where she made a lot of progress after undergoing numerous tests.

Maria Marta cannot drink liquids because she risks choking. She drinks liquids that have been thickened and takes several medications. She cannot walk and uses a wheelchair. Two physiotherapists train her to walk. Maria Marta is doing everything she can to get home. She dreams of being able to walk on her wedding anniversary.

Her family comes every year. They walk a lot and each time they choose a place to travel to. One year, they went to Paris and visited the Louvre. Every evening, they went to a bar and drank beer. In

Paris, Maria Marta bought lots of clothes and gifts for her daughters and husband. She and her family often dined in a popular restaurant.

On 6 May, it will be 30 years since she got married. The physiotherapists think that by then she still won't be able to walk. Eva is Maria Marta's carer, but on one occasion they had a row because Eva wouldn't accept Maria Marta not taking a drug which, according to Maria Marta's prescription, was intended for the psychologically unstable.

In April, Maria Marta returned home. She argued a lot with Juan, her husband. Before the accident, they never argued. Juan had their house fitted out so that Maria Marta could move back in. There are two assistants who are there from midday to eight o'clock. A psychiatrist comes once a week. On one occasion, all the people who come into contact with Maria Marta got together to share their experiences with her. Maria Marta said that she didn't want to take the medication. The psychiatrist offered her another drug which is authorised in France. The psychiatrist brought the prescription for this drug one day when Maria Marta was with friends.

Maria Marta takes care of herself. She found an old recipe book from a time when there was no internet. Maria Marta was able to make a sweet ricotta cake and found other recipes for lunches in the book.

Maria Marta goes to a specialised workshop for disabled people, the "Foyer Handicap". On Mondays she practises speaking, on Tuesdays singing and on Thursdays painting. She copies the paintings of her father, who was a painter. She was told that there was room in other workshops, in particular the cookery workshop on Thursdays. Maria Marta therefore had to change her painting dates.

Maria Marta reads and writes in her diary, and does physiotherapy and logotherapy every day. She takes Pampa for a walk.

The psychiatrist comes. The medication prescribed by the psychiatrist never arrived. Maria Marta has been depressed ever since.

Maria Marta went to her daughter Eva's medical graduation and they went out to lunch to celebrate. Back home, she saw a photo of Eva as a little girl and told Juan that this little girl was now a doctor.

Maria Marta wrote a story about the accident she had suffered.