



A Word by Lenita Reason Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center

It is with great pleasure that I come here today to welcome you to the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC). After working as a project coordinator with our organization for the past 12 years, it is an honor to have been appointed as BWC's new Executive Director in September of 2021. It is a privilege to continue to fight for the betterment of the quality of life of our immigrant community in Massachusetts.

The year of 2022 has just started but we already have some very exciting news to share with you about the work that BWC has been engaged in and which will benefit our entire immigrant community.

As BWC's Executive Director, I was also appointed as co-chair of the Driving Families Forward coalition. This coalition is engaged with advocacy efforts on behalf of the passing of a bill that allows all qualified members of our community the right to drive. Since the bill was initially proposed, I have been actively involved in supporting the coalition with the organizing of virtual briefings, meetings, dialogues with politicians, representatives of immigrant groups from diverse backgrounds and nationalities among other activities held by the group



with key stakeholders from our community, including representatives from Faith, Health and Business sectors and groups.

These gatherings marked an important historical moment for social justice as they demonstrate an increase in community endorsement towards the Work and Family Mobility Act bill. Our coalition's dedication and hard work over several years was crowned with the passing of the bill by the Massachusetts House of Representatives on February 16th, 2022. Thank you to Rep. William Straus, the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, the House Speaker Ron Mariano, representatives Michael Moran, Christine Barber, and Tricia Farley-Bouvier, and all of our supporters who made this dream possible today!

I am excited to continue to share the progress of our work and impact in the Greater Boston area in the coming months.

Warm regards,
Lenita Reason
Executive Director of Brazilian Worker Center

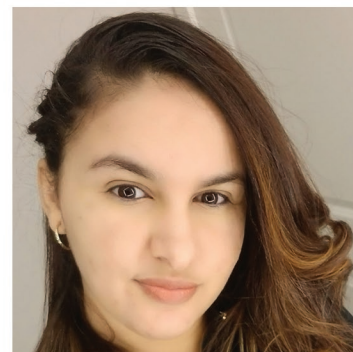
Meet our Brazilian Worker Center team!

Lenita Reason is our Executive Director. Before taking over the role of ED, Lenita acted as OSHA-Susan Harwood Outreach Coordinator at BWC. Lenita has acted as a researcher in diverse academic projects, as a coordinator and supervisor of the workers' rights project, as a host of the Know Your Rights project, which was recorded by BNN and transmitted by Comcast on Thursdays. Lenita co-founded and co-directs the BWC's "Building Justice" innovative worker committee which monitors and takes action on wage theft cases in the community.



Anna Barbosa is our Development Director. Anna is responsible for identifying new donors, foundations and various funding opportunities to support the BWC's projects and operations; managing donor databases and relationships with foundations; donor stewardship; grant and report writing; strategic development planning and implementation; and organizing fund-raising events.

Paula Correa is our Intake Casework Coordinator. Paula is in the forefront of our operations with the public and she is responsible for receiving, processing, and referring each individual case to each sector as well as supporting our organizing efforts. Paula is responsible for all the tasks associated with the purchasing of food from local providers, which is distributed to members of our community during our food pantry events. She is also proficient in Spanish.



Gizele Bombardier is our Bookkeeper and Project Health Safety Coordinator for OSHA. Gizele manages our accounting, monitors the usage of funds and supports our account reconciliation in collaboration with our accountant. Gizele is also responsible for coordinating the OSHA-Susan Harwood Falls Prevention project. She is responsible for scheduling training sessions with the instructor, workers, and partner organizations. She also collaborates with the Executive Director and Director of Development to compose reports associated with each project for their respective funding agencies.

Lorrayne Reiter is our Worker's & Immigrant's Rights Coordinator. Lorrayne is responsible for processing multiple cases, from wage theft complaints to supporting immigrant workers with learning about their rights. When processing cases, Lorrayne intervenes between immigrant workers and their employers and supports the resolution of disputes associated with wages and other issues. She also leads Know Your Rights workshops for workers in Massachusetts.



Vanessa Liberato is our Office Support Assistant. Vanessa contributes to managing the centers' front desk and walk-in visitors, handling calls, and supporting general interface with the public. She also helps organize and maintain office common areas, and performs general office clerk duties, such as scheduling appointments with lawyers, updating system entries, performing errands and other supplemental administrative tasks as needed.

André Coco is our volunteer and he is responsible for completing tasks assigned by BWC's Executive Director, collaborating with other staff as needed, maintaining a high degree of professionalism, and supporting the center's overall mission, work and general operations.



Updates

Driving Families Forward

The Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) is very proud of the work that our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, co-chair of the Driving Families Forward coalition, has effectively carried out. Following the organization of three coalition-led virtual legislative sessions with representatives from key sectors on the 25th, 31st of January and 1st of February, the Work and Family Mobility Act (Driver's License Campaign) received unprecedented support both inside and outside the State House, including endorsement from Law Enforcement representatives from several cities in the State.

With this endorsement and the support of Rep. William Straus, the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, the House Speaker Ron Mariano, representatives Michael Moran, Christine Barber, and Tricia Farley-Bouvier, and other members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, we have witnessed the highly anticipated passing of the Work and Family Mobility Act on February 16th. This represents a major step for all qualified Massachusetts residents to obtain permission to apply for a standard state driver's license.

We are working tirelessly to get the Senate leadership to put the bill to a vote as soon as possible. The Driving Family Forward coalition led by our director Lenita Reason and the SEIU 32 BJ Union is working to secure the approval of this project, which will greatly benefit the lives of families and all residents in the state.



Brazilian Worker Center

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