



# Newsletter

Year 01 Edition 08 - October, 2022

## Welcome to the Brazilian Worker Center!

In every newsletter, I bring you the summary of the events that the Brazilian Worker Center participated in during the previous month. While our month has been filled with amazing experiences and professional opportunities engaged by members of our team, I would like to take this opportunity first, thank you for being an ongoing supporter of our work.

It is because of many supporters like you, that we can continue to work on our mission to promote social, economic, and political justice for all.

The month of September was a very busy month for us. As you go through this newsletter, you will be able to see how much we have accomplished. It is important to remember that this work can only be accomplished by working together with a variety of people, partnering organizations and members of our community.

For this reason, the Brazilian Worker Center believes that the betterment of our immigrant communities cannot be dissociated from the betterment of our Massachusetts community. And this brings me to my next point. On November 8th, vote YES on question 4.



By voting YES, you will consolidate your commitment to our mission, our work and our MA communities, and help us ensure that everyone who is eligible to receive a drivers' license will have the opportunity to drive safely and act as productive members of our community. Families and workers across the state deserve their peace-of-mind and your vote will help us secure this for all. Thank you to all the people who continue to support us over the years and who join our fight. Our ongoing efforts and success can only be made possible because of you.

Check out our newsletter to learn more about the Brazilian Worker Center and our accomplishments.

### Lenita Reason

Executive Director of Brazilian Worker Center





## Worcester Sox Game

On August 31st, the Brazilian Worker Center was honored by the organizers of the Wood Sox Game that took place in Worcester. It was an honor to hear the names of every team member of our organization being called in the field and receive congratulations for our work from the illustrious organization behind this game. Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, was also invited to join a brief radio interview held during the game and had the opportunity to talk to the audience about our organization and the services that we offer to our immigrant community. Thank you again for this opportunity and we look forward to joining future Sox games in the future!







## Building Work Power All Day, Every Day

On September 5th, the Brazilian Worker Center team participated in the Labor Day 2022 - Building Worker Power All Day, Every Day event organized by the Greater Boston Labor Council (AFL-CIO). The event took place at Park Plaza Hotel and was graced by the presence of important members of our community and leaders, including the mayor of Boston, Michelle Wu, the General Attorney of Massachusetts, Maura Healey, and the Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris. Representatives, senators, unions, and workers also joined the event. After breakfast, we joined a march that walked from the Boston Public Garden to Downtown. The march supported Workers at the Hyatt Centric, who have been negotiating for their first contract for a year and a half.

## Celebrating Brazil's Bicentennial

On September 8th, the Brazilian Consulate in Boston conducted a lyric recital in celebration of Brazil's bicentennial. The Brazilian Worker Center attended the event alongside other members of our Brazilian community in Massachusetts. Local authorities, business representatives, and various community leaders who are allies of our community were also in attendance. In addition to the musical performance by Natalia Hubner, the event was composed of a cocktail reception during which our Brazilian Consul and Ambassador acknowledged the value of the contribution of a few Brazilians to our community. Our BWC Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and our Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, Lorrayne Reiter, attended the event on behalf of our organization. The Brazilian Worker Center is proud to be a part of our Brazilian immigrant community in Massachusetts and we would like to extend our warmest gratitude to our General Consul, Mr Benedicto Fonseca Filho for inviting us to join this amazing event.





# Brazilian Independence Festival



It is a well known fact that Brazilians are masters in creating memorable celebrations and, on September 11th, the Brazilian Independence Festival lived up to the hype. The event took place at 1175 Soldiers Field Road and it represented an invaluable opportunity for us to connect with our immigrant community and celebrate our culture. Five members of our BWC team joined us in the event, our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, Director of Development, Anna Barbosa, Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, Lorraine Reiter, Community Outreach Coordinator, Paula Correa and the Dreamers Project Coordinator, André Côco.

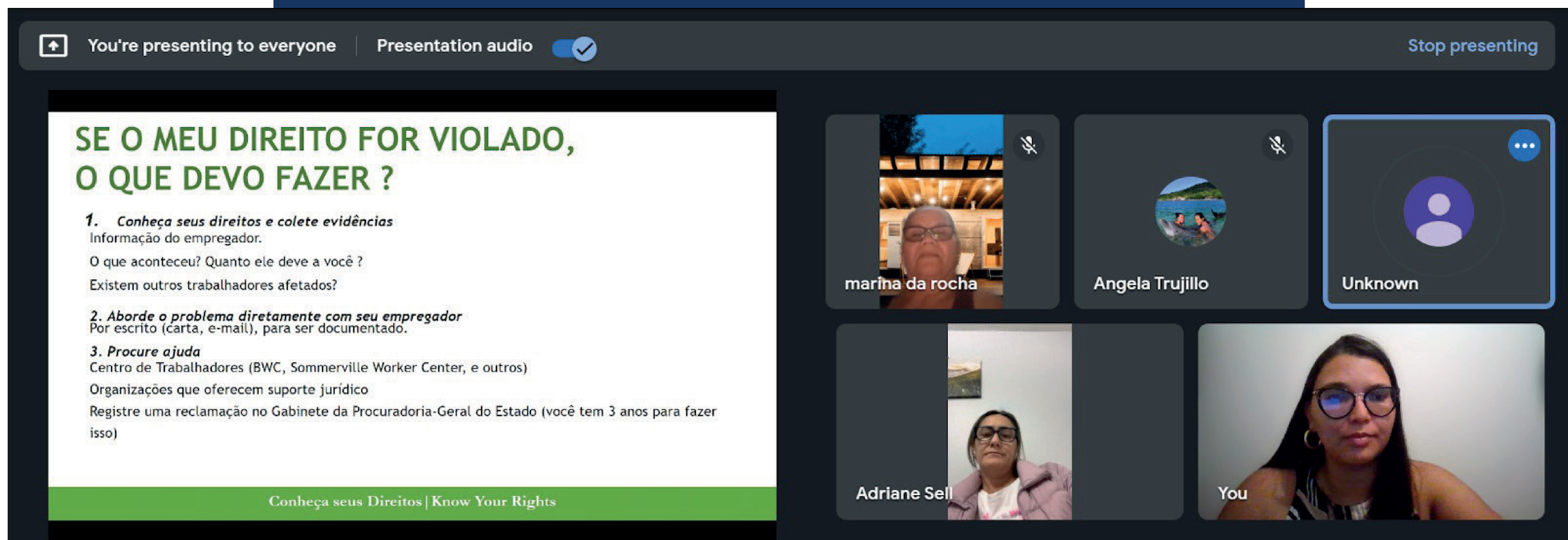
# Biden Visits Boston

On September 12th, the Brazilian Worker Center was invited to join our President, Joe Biden, upon his arrival to Boston, as he delivered remarks on several issues that impacted our Massachusetts community. President Biden's visit to Boston was part of his approach to promote the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which will disperse a significant amount of funds to improve roads, bridges, public transportation among other infrastructure projects. We attended our president's speech at Logan International Airport among a few carefully selected organizations that also work for the betterment of our immigrant communities. We are proud to have been invited to join this special occasion and our fellow organizations and endorse President Biden's remarks.





# Domestic Workers' Training



On September, 15th, Lorraine Reiter, Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, conducted a Zoom training for 10 domestic workers. During the online session, the participants learned about how to advocate for better working conditions, about workers' rights as domestic workers, minimum salary in Massachusetts, and how to formally submit a complaint against employers who don't respect labor rights. Our Domestic Workers' Training happens every month and gathers female working professionals who work with cleaning services, babysitting, elderly caretakers and others. Our Workers' Rights programming represents the cornerstone of our work and we are proud to continue to serve our immigrant community with the necessary tools and resources needed to empower themselves as productive members of our communities. If you are interested in joining our next Domestic Workers' Training, visit us at 14 Harvard street, 2nd floor, Allston, MA or call us at (617) 783 - 8001.



## Soccer Tournament

On September 17th, the Brazilian Worker Center had the pleasure of participating in the Independencia Centroamericana Soccer Tournament at Riverside Park. The tournament was organized by the Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores - New Bedford (CCT) and it was attended by BWC's Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, André Simões, the Building Justice committee, Hélio, Julio Jamirez and Thomas Smith, among other attendees from our Latino community. This tournament was an opportunity for us to strengthen our bonds to one another, enjoy traditional Guatemalan food and music, as well as cheer for the soccer team presents. We would like to congratulate the Building Justice Committee for winning third place during the tournament. The event was also meaningful due to the opportunity to dialogue with local police who attended the event. The Brazilian Worker Center recognizes the importance of this type of social event for strengthening the bonds between local organizations and workers and we look forward to participating in future events.





# National Domestic Workers Alliance

Between September 17th and 19th, our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and our Outreach Coordinator, Paula Correa participated in the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) Conference in Washington, DC. The BWC has a long history promoting the rights of domestic workers across the state and it was the leading organization responsible for the passing of the Law that protects the rights of workers in this professional category. We were proud to have attended NDWA's national conference and to have engaged in rich conversations with our fellow workers and partnering organizations. Joining this type of conference is imperative to maintaining our knowledge up-to-date and making sure that our services reflect the most current information to our beneficiaries. Thank you NDWA for having us there!





# This was Not a Drill

On September 21st and 22nd, Anna Barbosa, Director of Development, and André Simões, Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, participated in the 27th Annual Massachusetts Fire and Life in Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center. This was a local fair that gathered firemen and police officers from various cities in the state and it represented an unique opportunity to present the BWC's services to local professionals and offer BWC as an option for future referrals in their respective communities. We would like to thank Matthew Brennan, Coordinator of the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at the Department of Fire Services, for the invitation to participate in this event and we hope to join in future editions.



## 2022 Community Health & Resource Fair

The 2022 Community Health & Resource Fair happened in Everett and was attended by Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, Lorraine Reiter and the Dreamers Project Coordinator, André Côco. On September 22nd, several local groups participated in the event, such as members of our local fire department and police leadership in Everett, and offered a variety of services such as setting up ITIN numbers, testing for infectious diseases, and vaccinations.

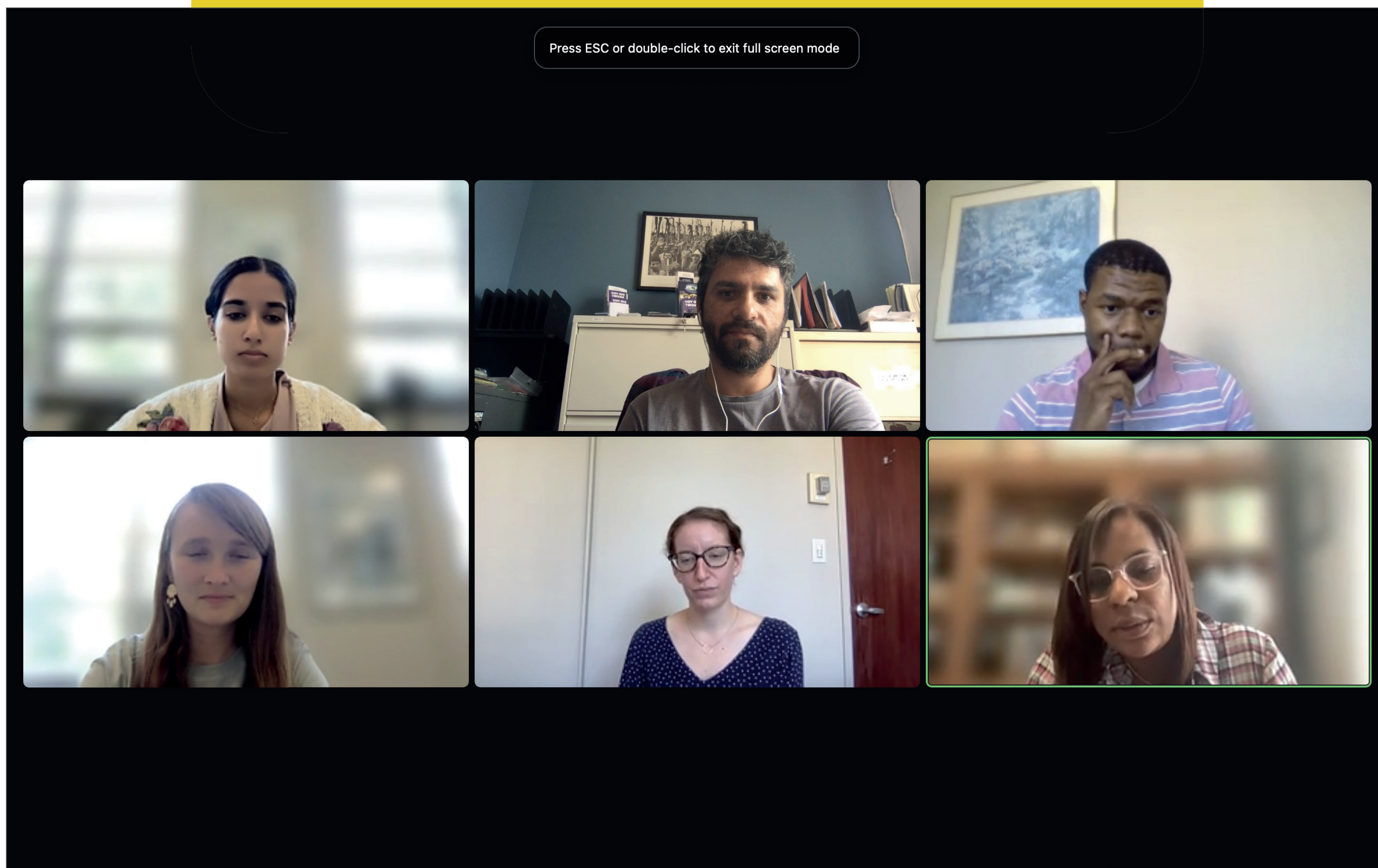
## Planning for our Future

On September 22nd, 2022, the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) was invited to participate in a meeting hosted by the IFSI-USA. This was a very important moment for the organizations that compose the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative (MIC), such as the BWC, because it represented the first in-person meeting held with our group members after two and a half years. During the pandemic, our group has maintained our activities through virtual meetings and continued to fight on behalf of immigrants in our state. The meeting on the 22nd was, therefore, a much needed and appreciated opportunity to reconnect in-person with our peers and discuss our future plans for the organization. It is an honor for us to be a part of this incredible and resilient group of immigrants and supporters and, together, we will continue to advance our agenda for social, economic, and political justice for all. Thank you to everyone who made this in-person meeting a reality and a special thank you to Dr. Gabaue for the warm reception.





# BC Civil Rights Clinic



The Brazilian Worker Center believes that a multi-layered and systemic approach to workers rights' is the best and most reliable way of transforming social injustices in our state. For this reason, we collaborate with local partners to research issues associated with workers rights and social justice. As part of this commitment, the BWC has been partnering with Boston College's Civil Rights Clinic, since 2020, to better understand the impact of the Law that protects domestic workers on our immigrant community in MA. This Law passed due to the BWC's coalition work and this research will provide us with important information that will serve to guide our continuous efforts to contribute to our local community. On September 23rd, our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and BWC's Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, André Simões, attended the virtual conference organized by the BC-CRC-BWC research group. We are excited to share our findings with the community and continue to fight for domestic workers rights!

## U54 Core Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting



Also on September 23rd, the Brazilian Worker Center joined another virtual conference, this time organized by the BWC, Dana Farber Institute and UMass. This meeting aimed to reinforce the research and health interventions that the UMB-DF/HCC group has led with members of our community. This partnership greatly contributes to the BWC's ability to comprehend the needs of our community and to address these needs via health interventions and tailored actions. We would like to thank our Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, André Simões, for attending the meeting on behalf of the organization and we look forward to joining our next session.



# Engaging with our Community

The Brazilian Worker Center is proud of our long history as active members and advocates for our local immigrant workers in Massachusetts. As part of our efforts to promote the betterment of our community, we engage in social actions around the state, during which we have a chance to expand our community outreach and bring our services to various locations around the state. On September 25th, Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, André Simões, and Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, Lorraine Reiter participated in a social action at a local Baptist church in Everett. During this social action, the community benefited from the distribution of food, vaccines, testing for infectious diseases, processing of Brazilian passports among other services. Lorraine and André provided community support services to individuals attending the event, such as sharing information about how to proceed when having an immigration court scheduled with the Department of Justice via EOIR system, as well as general information about the BWC's training for immigrant workers.



## Women First

As part of the Brazilian Worker Center's commitment to women empowerment, we make sure to attend local events that aim to reinforce this agenda, particularly those held and organized by local institutions and organizations. On September 27th, our BWC staff, Paula Correa, Community Outreach Coordinator and Lorraine Reiter, Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, participated in the event organized by the Brazilian Center in Boston with local women who are leaders in our community. During this event, the organizers discussed about Setembro Amarelo, and provided testimonies from survivors and health professionals to promote ways of preventing depression and suicide. We would like to thank Fernanda Alves, who lectured during the event, as well as the organizers who made this event possible. We are sincerely grateful for this opportunity and we are excited to join future editions.





## The Power of Labor

On September 28th, Lorraine Reiter, BWC's Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, participated in the Power of Labor meeting held in MCLE New England. During this meeting, Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh talked about the importance of the labor movement in Massachusetts, as well as its impact on the advancement of workers rights. Among topics discussed, he mentioned future projects that are included in the federal government's pipeline. The event was also attended by local leaders from different professional fields who presented relevant information about workers' rights successful cases in Massachusetts.

## The Workers' Voice Summit

During three days in September (27th, 28th, and 29th), the Brazilian Worker Center joined workers, organizations and worker rights advocates to engage in deep and rich conversations with members of the Department of Labor. From discussions about the global community, how to build new relationships and brainstorming sessions to solve workers' issues, this three-day conference offered us relevant information about topics that are part of our day-to-day operations at our center. The summit took place in Washington, DC, and it was hosted by the department of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in collaboration with other agencies. We were very excited about the opportunity to learn alongside our fellow workers and share our experiences about how to work safely.





# BWC Yoga



Mindfulness can be accomplished through many actions, including via activities that center the body, like yoga. As part of the BWC's commitment to promoting mental health and wellbeing among members of our community, we now offer yoga classes to members of our own BWC team to promote our individual and collective health. Taking care of our bodies is an important task and it can greatly impact our ability to care for other people in our families and communities. This is why the BWC is proud to announce that our staff can now benefit from Hatha Yoga sessions held at the center. Thank you to our instructor and to the team for joining us!

## Visit Our New Website [www.braziliancenter.org](http://www.braziliancenter.org)

We are excited to have launched our new website which includes updated, insightful content to help you find out more about us and what we can do to help you.

We have created a clean, modern design and improved site navigation to help our users find exactly what they're looking for and better represent who we are as an institution.







On November 8th, please **don't forget to vote yes on Question 4** to keep the work family mobility act law in place.

