



Newsletter

Year 02 Edition 10 - March, 2023

Togheter we move further

One of our favorite moments of the month is preparing our newsletter. At this time, we can think back about the work we have done during the month and feel an immense sense of gratitude for the opportunity to continue to fight for social, economic, and political justice.

With the contribution and dedication of each member of our team and all associated collaborators, the Brazilian Worker Center continues to support the community in its needs and achievements.

We had many activities this month of February, and we want to share the main ones with you in this newsletter. Our podcast continues to grow, and we continue to educate our community by addressing important topics that can impact their families, their work, and their lives.

We also highlight the role of our labor workshops to prevent salary theft and help workers fight for their rights.



Finally, check out our participation in the closing of **the "Dignity Unity and Power Institute" organized and implemented by** the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Finally, find out the latest news about obtaining a Driver's License in Massachusetts.

Lenita Reason
Executive Director
Brazilian Worker Center



Workers learn about rights in workshops

Knowing labor rights is essential for immigrants to avoid being victims of salary theft and other rights violations. With that in mind, we conduct our Know Your Rights Workshop every two weeks to answer questions and share information about workers' rights, regardless of their immigration status.

This year, the BWC has already held four workshops attended by 40 workers, who also use this opportunity to share issues that occurred in their workplace. According to André Simões, coordinator of the Department of Labor Rights, in addition to receiving instructions about how to conduct themselves in the workplace, some participants also filed a labor lawsuit to recover salary theft.

Held in person at the BWC headquarters, the workshops have attracted workers from different parts of Massachusetts, such as Brockton, Allston, Framingham, Malden, Stoughton, Everett, Revere, and Boston, among others.

The workshops are open to anyone who wants to learn about labor rights, even if they are not having problems at work. To participate, call the BWC and secure your spot, Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm ET, phone 617-783-8001

The podcast highlighted how to avoid wage theft

Wage theft, mainly among immigrants, was the subject of the second episode of the Brazilian Worker Center Podcast, held in partnership with the Brazilian Times. The chat, coordinated by Alexandre Simões, highlighted this as one of the main problems that affect Brazilian workers.

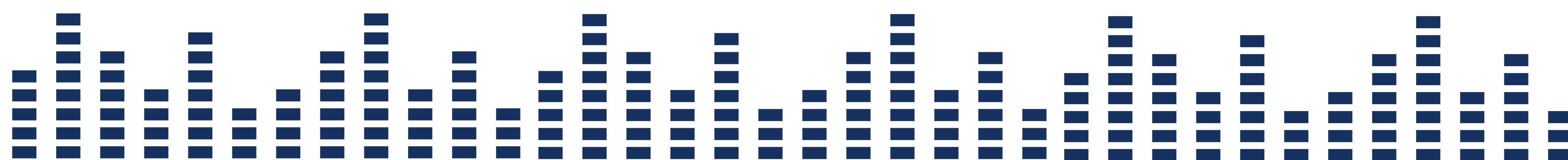
The guests on the podcast were André Simões, Coordinator of the Workers' Rights Department at BWC, and Hélio Moreira, a volunteer at the Workers' Committee at BWC Building Justice. During more than an hour of conversation, we described what characterizes wage theft and how



workers can prevent this problem or seek resolution when their rights are violated. One of the podcast's highlights was how workers could record hours worked.



CHECK IT OUT



Here are some tips from André Simões:

- Make a table on your cell phone or write it down periodically in a notebook: day of the week, month, entry and exit times, breaks, and hours worked in the day.
- Weekly, add up all hours worked
- It is possible to calculate the value of hours and overtime from the weekly hours.
- Also, remember to write down company information such as name, owner's name, manager, address, phone number, and address where you work.
- Tip: There are cell phone apps to record time, such as an electronic point. One of them is DOL:

Click here to access a timesheet template.

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD

The BWC Achieved Certification in Training from NDWA

The Brazilian Worker Center obtained a graduation certificate for participating in the last stage of the "Dignity, Unit, Power Institute" retreat in Austin (Texas), promoted by the National Domestic Workers Alliance. A certificate was delivered to Executive Director Lenita Reason, who participated in all virtual training sessions throughout 2022. The retreat had its last in-person and closing session in Austin, TX. Our Domestic Workers' Rights Department Coordinator, Lorrayne Reiter, accompanied our director for this last session.

The training brought together leaders from dozens of organizations across the country. On occasion, the participants reviewed the concepts that were discussed in previous phases of the training, with emphasis on areas such as leadership development, organizations, and movements.

The retreat also covered new practices for transforming leadership that can support the development of future community organizers. In the end, there was a graduation ceremony.





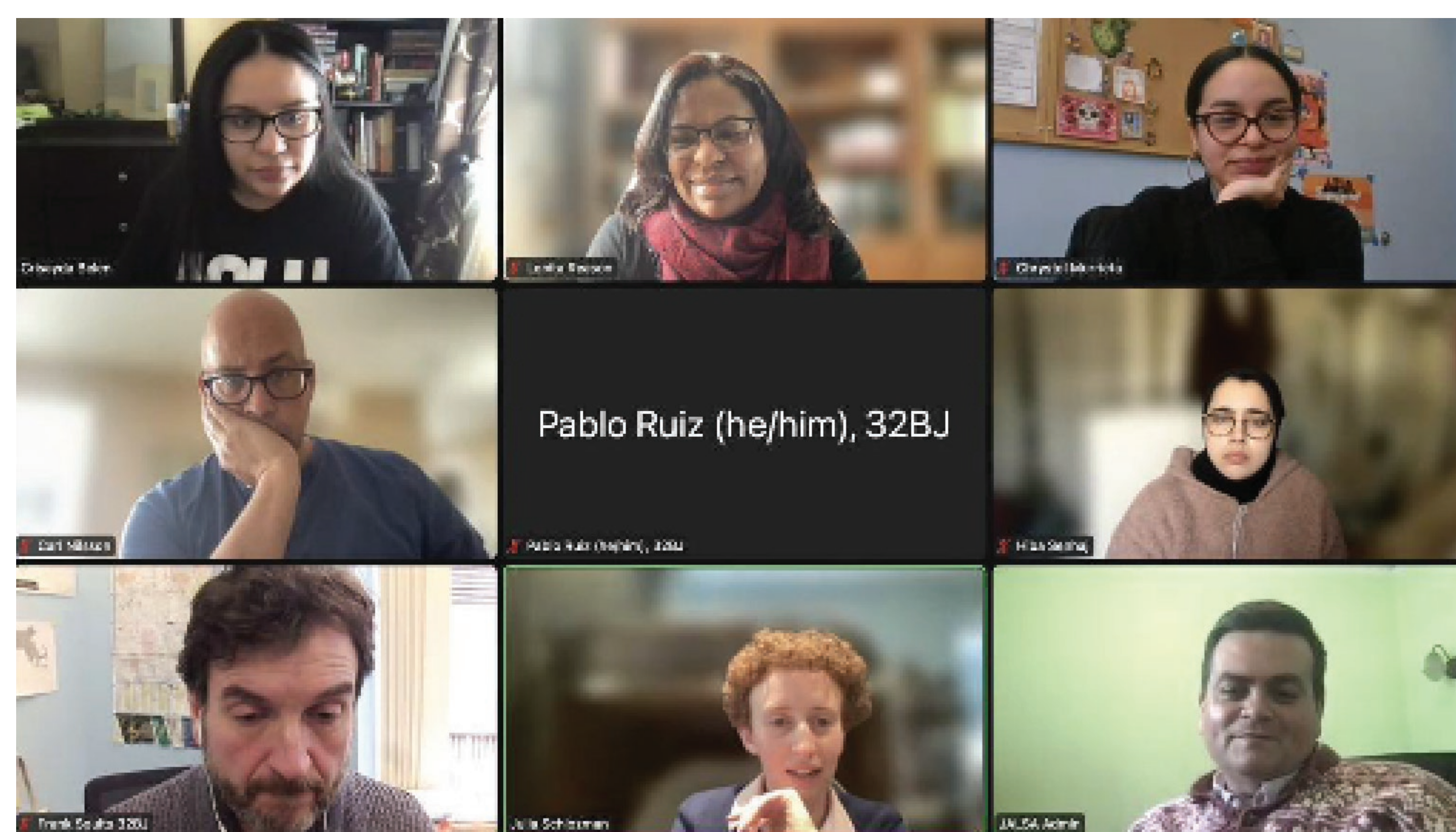
Our Tribute to woman

When International Women's Day is celebrated in March, the Brazilian Worker Center honors women, of all races, backgrounds, and social classes, for their fight, drive, and determination. Undoubtedly, all women, especially immigrant women, deserve all our appreciation, as they are dedicated workers and mothers who contribute daily to our community's growth and this country's development. At the Brazilian Worker Center, we proudly serve hundreds of women monthly in support of their education, and via our Know Your Rights programs. Through our daily services, the Mulheres Vencedoras project, and the Department of Domestic Workers' Rights, we provide assistance, welcoming and directing them to obtain the needed help. To all women, our gratitude and tribute: Long live women!

Implementation of The Driver's License

Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, continues to serve as Co-Chair of the Driving Families Forward coalition, participating in weekly executive committee meetings to ensure we successfully implement the law.

In February, she participated in an important meeting with the Attorney General's Office transition team and already has a meeting scheduled for the first week of March with the RMV. Coalition lawyers are preparing an explanatory pamphlet, and with the help of BWC and SEIU, 32BJ will be translated into Portuguese and Spanish. Our goal is to make a version in other languages.





Gizele Bombardier
Office Manager

MEET OUR STAFF

This month's staff highlight is our Office Manager, Gizele Bombardier, a Brazilian Worker Center team member for two and a half years. Gizele was born in Rio de Janeiro and has a degree in Accounting, with an MBA in Auditing and Controllershship from the Federal Fluminense University of Niterói - RJ.

Among her main professional experiences before moving to the United States five years ago are the functions of Customer Service and Finance (Jornal O Globo) and Accounting Analyst in a multinational oil company, both in Rio de Janeiro.

She started working at the BWC in the finance area and gradually began working on different projects, meetings, and campaigns. Key ones include Dreamers Fellowship Youth programs; RAFT (Relief Assistance Family in Transition); ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program), in addition to managing the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) program. She worked as the Financial Coordinator and was part of the Food Pantry Project. Since January of this year, she has held the position of Office Manager. Gizele likes hiking trails in different Massachusetts regions and watching documentaries in her spare time. A personal characteristic that everyone notices is your optimism and disposition.

FEBRUARY IN MOMENTS



NEW BILL

Meeting with Deputy Adrian Madaro, with the participation of Patrícia Montes (Centro Presente), Lenita Reason, and André Coco (Brazilian Worker Center). The meeting discussed the SIM (Stories Inspiring Movements) and the new law proposal for "Tuition Equity" by Adrian Madaro and Michael Moran.

RECOGNITION

In recognition of the work done in the community, the Brazilian Worker Center received a card from Vice President Kamala Harris. This gesture is a great honor for us, and we are grateful for the Vice President's support of our efforts to improve workers' lives.



FEBRUARY IN MOMENTS

IMMIGRATION

Immigration to the United States was the theme of our podcast on the 27th of February. The chat was conducted by Alexandre Simões, with the participation of Lorraine Reiter, Coordinator of the Immigrant Defense Project.

To watch, click here:

WATCH NOW



MEETING WITH PARTNER



On the 28th of February, the Brazilian Worker Center team meets with Lawyers for Civil Rights, a law firm that fights for the community's rights and is a longtime partner of the BWC. Executive Director Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal and two team members, Jennifer Cardoso and Katherine Montas, participated in the meeting.

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