



Newsletter

Year 02 Edition 11 - April, 2023

Working for the community

March was an intense month. Our team has worked hard on our projects and has also participated in various events.

In this newsletter, we share important moments such as our participation in a panel at the Boston College; the female entrepreneurship event at the Brazilian Consulate in Boston; the Science Café hosted by the BWC; and the ITIN Number class for the Dreamers Fellowship students. Here, we are also sharing some information about the Building Justice Committee; our participation at the Women's Gathering in Somerville; our presence at the State House during the Immigrant Day; our participation as a guest speaker at the UMASS Boston - Department of Labor Studies, and two new episodes of the BWC Podcast.

We attended many meetings and implemented services to cater to our community's numerous needs. Finally, we are excited to share the latest updates about the actions leading to the implementation of the Work and Family Mobility Law, which will begin on July 1st.



Lenita Reason

Diretora Executiva

All this work has been done by a team committed to offering the best for our community.

We are confident that we can achieve anything when we unite and work towards our goals. We thank you and we count on your support to continue to our work.

Lenita Reason
Executive director
Brazilian Worker Center



Panel "Protecting Workers' Rights in Massachusetts", at Boston College

On March 1st, the Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, Lenita Reason, participated in the Panel "Protecting Workers' Rights in Massachusetts," organized by the Rappaport Center Law and Public Policy of the Boston College Law School. The event was moderated by Reena Parikh, (Assistant Professor and Director of the Civil Rights Clinic at Boston College Law School), and was attended by Harris Freeman (Professor and Researcher of Law at Western New England University School of Law), and Jeffrey Nelson (Director of Research).

Panelists addressed legal and practical issues related to worker protection. And one of the highlights of the panel was the presentation of the research report by the Brazilian Worker Center and the Boston College Law School, which investigates how the Domestic Workers Protection Act has been applied in Massachusetts.





BWC at the Entrepreneurship Day at the Consulate

The Brazilian Worker Center was present at the International Women's Day celebration, an event promoted by the Consulate of Brazil in Boston, on March 3rd. The Consulate held a closing cocktail party for the 2nd Women's Entrepreneurship Day at EMUB (Espaco da Mulher Brasileira).

The BWC was represented by the Domestic Workers' Rights Department Coordinator, Lorryne Reiter. Two days earlier, Lorryne and our Executive Director, Lenita Reason gave an online lecture about Labor Rights, highlighting how women entrepreneurs can protect their businesses.

During the meeting at the Consulate, Lorryne spoke about the services offered by the BWC. The closing event was attended by several women from the Brazilian community, including three members of the BWC Domestic Workers group: Priscilla Martins, Vívian Souza, and Neusa Santos. They also received certificates and shared their stories during press interviews.

Science Café discussed access to American universities

Access to American universities, regardless of immigration status, was one of the themes of the “Science Café” on March 10th. The event was hosted by the Brazilian Worker Center in partnership with the U54 Outreach Core UMASS/Dana Faber/Harvard.

The meeting featured interactive discussions between young people from the Brazilian community and university students from various institutions about the challenges Latin immigrants face in gaining access to and completing university courses.

The “Science Café” had the participation of Jaques Pinto (Fiocruz/Harvard); Marina Teixeira (Boston University); Maria Franco (Lesley University and SIM); Karen Ham (YES); and students from UMASS, Tufts and MCPHS. Also in attendance was Sara Minsky, Associate Director of the Dana-Faber Cancer Institute.

Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, took the opportunity to talk about the bill that aims to improve the conditions of access and retention of immigrant students in academia.



Dreamers learn about US taxes



Teenagers who participate in the Dreamers Fellowship program, a partnership between the City of Boston and the Brazilian Worker Center, Centro Presente, and Caribbean Youth Club, were actively engaged with educational activities on different topics. In March, they attended a workshop at the BWC on ITIN Number (Individual Taxpayer Identification). The content was taught by Angela Divaris from Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) and it was attended by Renato Castelo from the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA).

During the 2-hour class, they had an overview of how taxes work in the United States and how they finance public services. They also learned about the ITIN system, a number used to pay taxes for those without Social Security.

In addition to the Brazilian Worker Center, Centro Presente, and Caribbean Youth Club, another ten organizations benefit from the project.

Building Justice Committee plans tournament and workshops

The Building Justice Committee, a Brazilian Worker Center and Justice At Work project, is planning different activities for this and next year. In a recent meeting, members discussed events such as the August soccer tournament and workshops in cities around Boston to explain how collective labor actions work.



The committee also discussed about the Workers' Forum, which should take place in early 2024, with the participation of other workers' organizations. The meeting was attended by: Eli Almeida, Alexandre Simões, André Simões, Renato Trombini, Thomas Smith (Director of Justice at Work), Julio Ramirez, and our Executive Director, Lenita Reason.



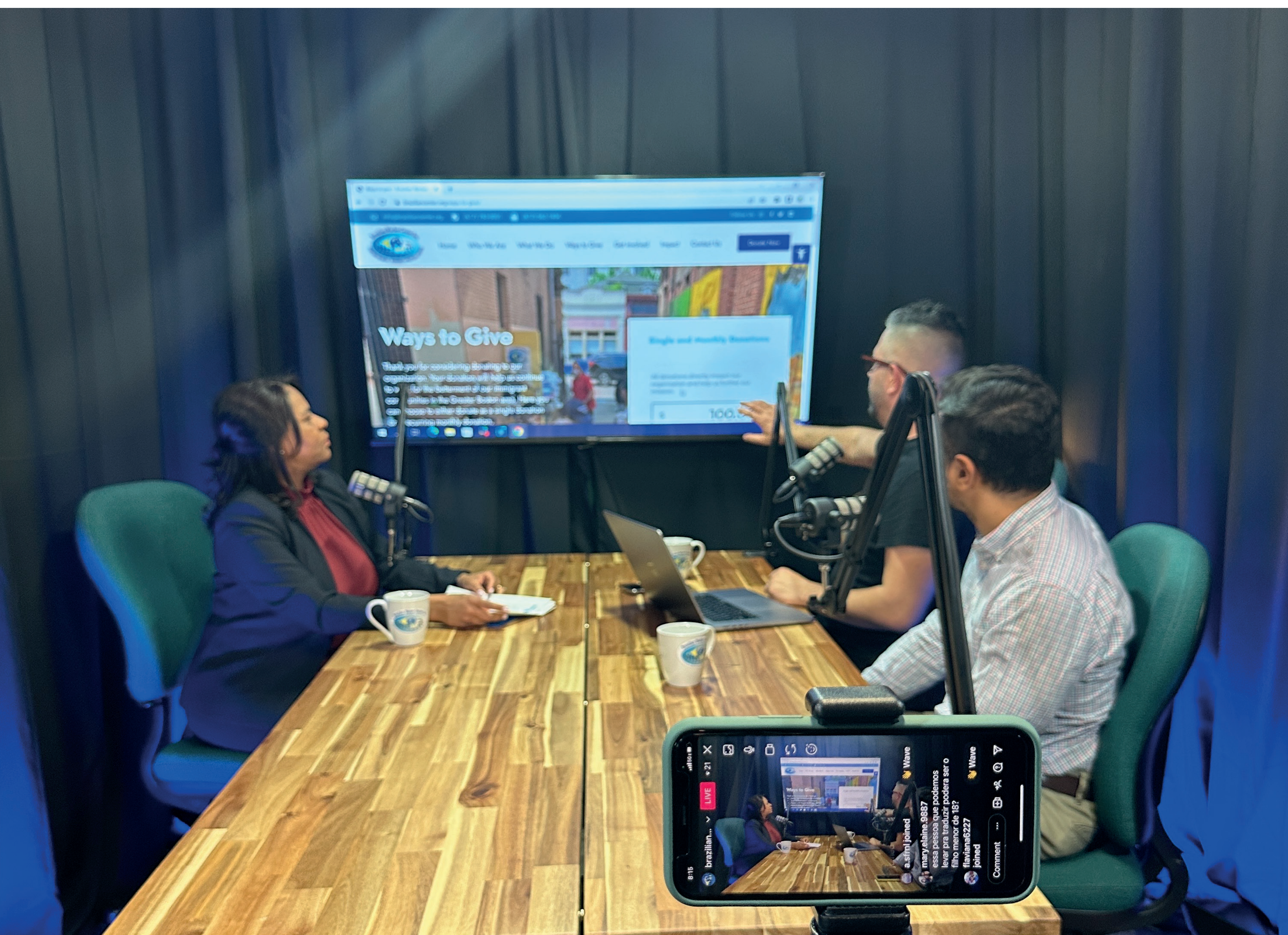
Connecting with women in the Brazilian community

Contact with the community through face-to-face events has been an excellent opportunity for the Brazilian Worker Center to introduce our projects and reinforce the defense of workers' rights. During the last week of March, our staff attended the Women's Meeting at the Santo Antônio Church in Somerville.

Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, spoke about the Rights of Domestic Workers, referring to a recent study that highlighted the lack of knowledge among these workers about the law that protects them. Also representing the BWC were Gizele Bombardier (Office and Finance Manager), Lorrayne Reiter (Coordinator of the Domestic Workers' Rights and Immigrant Defense Departments), and Cristini Abreu (BWC Receptionist).

The meeting participants asked several questions about the new Driver's License Law and its implementation in Massachusetts. They were invited to watch the BWC podcast to learn more about it.





Podcasts highlighted Immigrant Women and Drivers License

Two more episodes of the BWC Podcast aired in March. One of them celebrated Women's Month and featured immigration lawyer Gabriely Jabour and psychologist and coach Claudia Farias. The conversation was mediated by our Office & Finance Manager, Gizele Bombardier.

Another episode highlighted updates about the Work and Family Mobility Law and its implementation in Massachusetts. In it, the Executive Director of the BWC spoke about the documents required for the application.



CHALLENGES OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN



DRIVERS LICENSE UPDATES



Coalition will fight for equity in universities

On March 23rd, the Brazilian Worker Center hosted a meeting of the "Massachusetts Tuition Equity Coalition" formed by BWC, Centro Presente, and SIM (Stories Inspiring Movement). Jonathan Paz, from MIRA, participated in the meeting to understand how the coalition is being structured. He mentioned that although this project was not on MIRA's priority list, they would like to support the coalition.

Soon, the "Massachusetts Tuition Equity Coalition" will decide on the next steps and an action plan. The following individuals attended the meeting: Lenita Reason (Executive Director) and André Coco (both representing the BWC); Patricia Montes and Daniela Carvajal (Centro Presente); Sabrina Barroso and Cristian Dubon Solis (SIM) and Jonathan Paz (MIRA).



Supporting Immigrant Day at the State House

The Brazilian Worker Center participated last March 29th in "Immigrant's Day, held by the MIRA Coalition at the State House of Massachusetts. The meeting brought together representatives of more than 20 organizations and Representatives and Senators.

BWC staff who attended this event were Lenita Reason (Executive Director), Gizele Bombardier, Lorrayne Reiter, André Simões, André Coco, and Cristini Abreu.

During the program, several immigrants shared their stories and the event was also graced by the presence of and speeches from Brazilian representatives Danilo Sena and Rita Mendes. After the ceremony, guests had the opportunity to visit the legislators' offices to discuss public policies that impact the lives of immigrants.

Executive Director teaches a special class at UMASS Boston

On March 30th, our Executive Director, Lenita Reason attended a special class at UMASS Boston led by Professor Nicole Aschoff. Lenita was invited as a guest lecturer by the Department of Labor Studies. A few years ago, she was a student in the same department (Labor Resources Center - LRC). During her lecture, she spoke with university students about the challenges associated with mapping out our immigrant community's needs, identifying problems that impact the community, and the entire problem-solving trajectory until the problem is resolved through the passing and implementation of new laws.

Lenita commented on recent research into the effectiveness of enforcement of the Domestic Workers Act in MA and explained the process of passing the Work and Family Mobility Law in the state.





Lorryne Reiter

Coordinator of the Domestic Workers' Rights
and Immigrant Advocacy Departments

MEET OUR STAFF

This month's staff highlight is our Domestic Workers' Rights and Immigrant Advocacy Department Coordinator, Lorryne Reiter. Lorryne holds a degree in Law from Fundação Educacional do Nordeste Mineiro (FENORD) and has been a lawyer since 2017, specializing in Public International Law from Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV).

In her professional trajectory, she had different experiences. In Brazil, she taught English in public and private schools. She also worked at the Public Defender's Office in

Minas Gerais as an advisor and public servant in Criminal Execution and Family and Succession Law. She also advocated in the areas of Labor Law, Family Law, and International Law.

Lorryne has lived in the United States for four and a half years and has worked in restaurants, factories, and coffee shops. Her journey at the Brazilian Worker Center began three and a half years ago as a volunteer. Afterward, she assumed the Coordinator of Labor Rights and Immigrant Defense positions, where she worked until May 2022. Currently, her focus is on the rights of domestic workers and continuing in the Immigrant Defense program.

On the social side, Lorryne has experience as a humanitarian leader, having worked as a rescuer, creator, and executor of projects to reconstruct community spaces.

She led the redesign of the UNIDOS project, a socio-humanitarian initiative that empowers young people to act as first responders and help communities in areas with urgent needs. She also supported the implementation of UNIDOS in several cities in Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, and London.

In her spare time, Lorryne enjoys watching inspiring series, traveling, and discovering new restaurants. A personal characteristic that everyone notices about her is her dedication and commitment.

MARCH IN MOMENTS



WOMEN'S DAY

Our staff paid special tribute to women on International Women's Day with a Facebook post and a special podcast.

ST PATRICKS DAY

St. Patrick's Day: On March 12th, the BWC participated in a breakfast celebrating St. Patrick's Day with State Representative Mike Moren, Boston Mayor Michele Wu, and Governor Maura Healey.



SPECIAL VISIT

We received a visit from activist Rene Silva, founder of the Voz das Comunidades project, from Complexo do Alemão (RJ), for an exchange of experience on social projects.

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