



Newsletter

Year 02 Edition 12 - May, 2023

The value of representation

There is no doubt how vital representation is for immigrant communities. The more visibility, the greater and faster our achievements are. With this in mind, the Brazilian Worker Center works tirelessly to be part of the most significant number of events, groups, meetings, coalitions, and partnerships. This is necessary to stay up-to-date and ahead of the curve. In this way, we contribute not only to the growth of the Brazilian community that lives in Massachusetts but of all others that join the fight for more political, racial, economic, and social justice.

In April, we had many opportunities to exercise this work philosophy. In this newsletter, we highlight our participation in the Latino Empowerment Council, created by Governor Maura Healey. It is with pride that we join this selective group of 40 Latino organization leaders.

It was also with great pleasure that we collaborated on the "Strategy and Practice in the



Labor Struggle" panel at Harvard Law School, sharing our daily experience at the BWC and a recent study on the effectiveness of the Domestic Workers Act in Massachusetts.

We wish you a great month of May and will continue to count on your support in fighting for the common good.

Lenita Reason
Executive Director
Brazilian Worker Center



BWC talks about labor laws at Harvard

On April 1st, the Brazilian Worker Center participated in the "LPE Conference Panel: Strategy and Practice in the Labor Struggle" at Harvard Law School. The event discussed strategies and practices in the labor struggle and had our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, as one of the guests. She spoke about the work of the BWC and highlighted a recent study developed in partnership with Boston College Law School that looked at the effectiveness of the Domestic Workers Act in Massachusetts.

Panelists also shared their experiences in the labor movement and how activities interact with the legal system. Panelists emphasized the importance of employers obeying the laws and the government's responsibility to supervise and ensure compliance. Gizele Bombardier, André Coco, and André Simões from the BWC team were also present.

We are part of the Latino Empowerment Council

Latino representation grows increasingly in Massachusetts, and the Brazilian Worker Center is proud to be part of this history. In early April, our director was officially announced as part of the Latino Empowerment Council, created by an executive order from Governor Maura Healey.

Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, attended the ceremony at the Government Headquarters and is now part of the board of 40 people who lead Latino-focused organizations. The goal is to break down systemic barriers and expand access opportunities, prioritizing education, professional training, entrepreneurship, and accessibility. "We are pleased to be part of this new council and continue to fight to give more visibility to our community", said Lenita Reason.





[LEARN MORE ABOUT DREAMERS](#)

Dreamers Fellowship is in its seventh edition

In April, the Brazilian Worker Center started the seventh class of the "Dreamers Fellowship," Spring 2023 edition, with 15 teenagers from the Brazilian immigrant community. The program was developed by BWC, Centro Presente, and the Caribbean Youth Club in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) - City of Boston.

During the first month, participants took classes on different topics such as community service, perspectives on the future, self-leadership and personal development, and financial freedom. Five program students, aged 18, will receive specialized training to prepare for the summer project, including hands-on activities.

Rights of Workers and Driver's License on the BWC Podcast

More episodes of the BWC Podcast aired in April, highlighting helpful information for the Brazilian community. The podcast episode about Domestic Workers' Rights in Massachusetts had the participation of Lorryne Reiter, Coordinator of the Department of Domestic Workers' Rights.

In the chat, Lorryne explained, among several topics, the most common labor violations for domestic workers and what people can do if they are or get injured.

Another episode that had a high interest in the community, explained and clarified the latest information about the implementation of the Driver's License in Massachusetts. The Executive Director of the BWC, Lenita Reason, Vice President of the coalition working on the implementation of the law, discussed official information about the application of the law, which will come into effect on July 1st, 2023.



[DOMESTIC WORKERS RIGHTS](#)

[DRIVERS LICENSE IN MASSACHUSETTS](#)



BWC participated in the "Power in Listening"

At the end of April, the Brazilian Worker Center was at the "Power in Listening," held by the Leah Zallman Center at the Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts in Cambridge. "Research, Strategy, and Immigrant Health" were the event's central themes, allowing participants to interact with researchers, partners, and community leaders. The gathering also featured music and food from immigrant-owned restaurants.

The BWC integrated three roundtables, one co-facilitated by our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and Cristina Aguilera, speaking on "Policy and Advocacy."



Symposium at Tufts focused on immigrant health

On April 26, Tufts University Department of Community Health hosted a symposium to share research and practice about the health and well-being of immigrants, focusing on the Brazilian community. The symposium "Building Collaborations to Support the Health and Well-Being of Brazilian Communities in the USA" was aimed at leaders, community members, physicians, and researchers.

BWC Executive Director Lenita Reason and Cristina Brinkerhoff Ph.D. BWC board member and Boston University researcher presented on the panel. Lenita cited the study in partnership with Boston College, which investigated the law's effectiveness and enforcement in protecting domestic workers' rights. She pointed out that the lack of rights or non-recognition of rights can directly affect mental health. One of the examples cited was the Driver's License, which is considered an excellent achievement for the community, as now people will be able to drive without worrying about not having a permit or fear consequences of driving without a permit such as deportation.. Dr. Brinkerhoff's presentation was part of her dissertation "Brazilian Immigrant Mother's Social Networks: Implications for Mental Health and Wellbeing."

APRIL IN MOMENTS



Workshop on Labor Rights

promoted regularly by the BWC, answers questions and shares information about your rights, regardless of immigration status

Podcast at Home

Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, participated in the Podcast at Home. To watch, click here:



WATCH THE FULL EPISODE



MAPS 2023 Awards

We participated in the MAPS 2023 Awards to honor the Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese Speakers



André Côco
Dreamers Fellowship Volunteer

MEET OUR STAFF

The highlight of this month's staff is our volunteer André Côco. Born in Palmital, in the interior of São Paulo, he has a passion for learning and developing.

He graduated in Marketing from the University of Marília (UNIMAR) and has strategy, planning, and communication skills. His professional career includes experiences as a travel agent, flight attendant, and entrepreneur in education, as manager and owner of a language school.

At the Brazilian Worker Center, André leads projects such as the Dreamers Fellowship and contributes to developing and implementing other programs. At Personal Life, he focuses on social and community issues, looking for ways to make a positive impact.

He enjoys watching documentaries, listening to podcasts, traveling, and exploring new restaurants in his spare time. André is known for his ability to adapt to different situations and face challenges enthusiastically and determinedly.

CONNECT TO THE BWC

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow our podcast

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Follow our social networks and stay on top of the news

  /brazilianworkercenter

Learn more about the BWC on our website

www.braziliancenter.org

Talk to us:

 (617) 783-8001  info@braziliancenter.org

DONATE