



## Another year of progress for our communities

Two thousand and twenty-three is ending, and the word that most expresses our feelings about this year is GRATITUDE. These were months of intense work marked by consolidating very important achievements for our communities.

We can say that 2023 will be marked in our history by the entry into force of the Driver's License Law for Immigrants. The Brazilian Worker Center is proud to have been at the forefront of this fight, co-chairing the coalition that fought for the law's approval.

This year, we were also pleased to see Tuition Equity become a reality, expanding the chances of a better future for students, with equity in the cost of studying at universities in Massachusetts.

I also completed two years as the Executive Director of BWC, a great satisfaction for me to see the work in our organization in constant evolution.

But we know that no one achieves anything alone. So, on behalf of the board and staff, we thank everyone for the continued contributions we receive from our donors, sponsors, and organizations who believe in our work.



We have prepared a special magazine highlighting some of what has happened over the last two years. I invite you to learn more about our work by clicking on the links below.

[Click to read the Worker's Magazine](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year full of achievements!

**Lenita Reason**

Diretora Executiva  
Brazilian Worker Center



## Conference addressed Labor and Human Trafficking from Portuguese-speaking Countries

The Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, Lenita Reason, attended in November, as a panelist, at the “First International Conference on Labor and Human Trafficking for Portuguese-Speaking Countries” at Boston University School of Law. The event focused on strengthening efforts to respond to the demand for all forms of human trafficking. Based on the knowledge and experiences of the participants, four panels addressing labor and human trafficking were held.



The conference was an initiative of Lídia Ferreira, President of IEE Educação and Organizer of Workers' Rights at Grupo Mulher Brasileira, in partnership with the Immigrant Rights and Human Trafficking Program at Boston University School of Law. The goal was to bring together organizations and experts on the subject to share experiences and discuss joint actions to combat and prevent human trafficking. Participants also made suggestions for supporting victims, including undocumented immigrants.

Also present for BWC were Lorryne Reiter, Manager of the BWC Immigrant Advocacy Program (panel moderator), and Gizele Bombardier, Manager of the BWC Leadership Development Program.

## BWC was part of a panel on Immigrant Health at Harvard



The Brazilian Worker Center was also present at Harvard in November. At the invitation of Jéssica Santos, Director of the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research, and Professor Rose Molina, our Executive Director Lenita was part of a panel at Harvard Medical School on immigrant health.

The panelists discussed the impacts of inequalities and structural determinants (legal status, labor exploitation, etc.) on health. Due to its current relevance, the topic is being incorporated into the Harvard curriculum in the Social Medicine course.

In her participation, Lenita shared with the students about the work done by the Brazilian Worker Center in relation to the health and safety of immigrant workers.

Lenita is also a member of the LZC Advisory Council.





## NDWA Florida Retreat Highlights Leadership Skills

The Brazilian Worker Center participated in the Dignity United Power Institute Retreat in Orlando (Florida), represented by Gizele Bombardier (Leadership Development Program Manager) and Nélia Cristina (Family Welcome Center). The event, held by NDWA (National Domestic Workers Alliance), brought together 60 organizers from 35 affiliations.

According to Gizele, the program included topics related to community organization skills and the exploration of strategic campaigns.

The training adopted politicized somatics, which is a methodology that uses body intelligence (feelings, sensations, and thoughts) to practice Embodied Leadership, a style that aligns actions and values. The first session was in person, and the sequence will be virtual sessions.

**CLICK TO READ  
WORKER'S MAGAZINE**  
DOWNLOAD



**Thank you for the donations  
received in November**



Solidarity and support are fundamental to fulfilling our mission at the Brazilian Worker Center. Therefore, on behalf of the board, staff, and community, we thank you for the donations received in November. Among them, we highlight the donations made by a group of students to the Family Welcome Center.

The girls organized a team to collect baby food and winter clothing for families, and the donations will be distributed by FWC.

We also received donations of gallons of paint from the Model Hardware store next door to the BWC. The FWC Manager, Andre Coco, received the material that will be used for the internal renovation of the center's facilities. We thank everyone for their valuable collaboration!



# NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN MOMENTS



The Brazilian Worker Center held another exclusive event for women. In November, an afternoon coffee was offered to women who contribute to the diversity and cultural richness of the community. The program included body exercises taught by Piera Varin, and a chat about Labor Rights. led by Cristini Abreu. There was also a discussion about mental health with psychologist Nélia Cristina and raffles.



## DANCE FOR JUSTICE

BWC Workers' Rights Program Manager André Simões represented BWC in the traditional "Dance for Justice," promoted by Justice at Work. The event featured organizations such as Masscosh (Massachusetts Coalition For Occupational Safety And Health) and Lawyers for Civil Rights, among others

The goal was to support the work of Justice at Work, which provides legal services and training to Massachusetts organizations.



# NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN MOMENTS



## CHRISTMAS

Students from the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program, a partnership between the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), Boston City Hall, and BWC, participated in the "Brighton Center Tree Lighting." The unveiling of the Christmas lights and the arrival of Santa Claus was attended by the Mayor of Boston, Michele Wu.

## MAKE YOUR DONATION TO THE FAMILY WELCOME CENTER

Every day, dozens of immigrant and refugee families come to the Family Welcome Center looking for help taking their first steps in Massachusetts.

The Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) offers the program in partnership with the Office for Refugees and Immigrants.

To help, make your donation through the Amazon Wish List. Access the list we created and be part of this chain of solidarity.

**WISH LIST AMAZON**





**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

At the Brazilian Worker Center, we believe in the power of connection and the collective fight for a fairer society. Together, we can create positive changes for our community, greatly impacting quality of life and respect for rights. We count on you!

## MAKE YOUR DONATION

- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000

OUTRO VALOR

Use the QR Code or  
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14 Harvard Ave #2, Allston, MA 02134

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