



Community engagement

Being in contact with the community daily, understanding their needs, and contributing in different ways is one of the missions of the Brazilian Worker Center. We do this through service in our office in Allston through various programs, and we also visit the community at fairs, events, and meetings, in addition to responding to university invitations.

During October, we had several of these opportunities where we could share some of our work and learn from other leaders and organizations.

In addition to our daily work, our team is always ready to go into the field, which only enriches our experience and motivates us to continue working for the good of the community.

There were many activities in October, including the start of the ninth class of the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program and BWC's participation in the symposium organized by The Boston Foundation. We also attended an event promoted by the Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI-USA) and responded to the invitation of a professor from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of



Technology) to give a special class on immigration policies.

These are some examples of our daily lives, including service at the Family Welcome Center. This newsletter provides more details about all these initiatives and how you can engage with them. Let's fight together for more social, economic, and political justice.

Lenita Reason
Executive Director
Brazilian Worker Center



Youth Program prepares you for the job market

Classes for the ninth cohort of the Fall 2023 Immigrant Youth Advancement Program began in October. The program is carried out through a partnership between the City of Boston's Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) and the Brazilian Worker Center.

In this edition, which runs until December, 15 teenagers are learning essential skills for the job market.

According to the Leadership Development Program Manager Gizele Bombardier, the BWC invited young people who stood out in the previous edition to continue learning in this class. Classes occur three times a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and include theoretical and practical activities. As an incentive for participation, the youth receive materials, food, and financial assistance.



Boston Foundation Symposium Highlighted Affirmative Action

The Brazilian Worker Center's Immigrants Defense Program Manager, Lorraine Reiter, and the Workers Rights Program Manager Andre Simões participated in the symposium "Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action: Exploring Potential Implications & Opportunities for Nonprofits," organized by The Boston Foundation.

The event addressed the new Supreme Court decision that considers affirmative action illegal in the United States. Participants discussed the strategies the organization has been adopting to deal with the new legal context and the implications of this decision for the future of social organizations. Among those invited to discuss the topic were Beth Chandler (President & CEO, YW Boston); Malia Lazu (CEO & Founder, The Lazu Group); Iván Espinoza-Madrigal (Executive Director, Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston); Elaine Ng (President & CEO TSNE - Moderator) and Carla Reeves (Director, Goulston & Storrs).



BWC attended the Immigrant Family Services Institute event

The Brazilian Worker Center also participated in the fundraising event and screening of the documentary "Del Rio, Two Years Later," produced by the Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI-USA). BWC was represented by its Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and Immigrants Defense Program Manager, Lorraine Reiter.

The featured film highlights compelling stories of the Haitian immigrant's journey from South America to the southern border of the United States.

To engage the participants in the topic, IFSI members presented a musical performance, and a panel discussion on the current immigration crisis took place.

The funds raised during the event were allocated to the IFSI New Arrival Fund and will be used to assist newly arrived immigrants.

MIT class on Immigration Policy

Our Interaction with prestigious American universities underscores the importance of our work with immigrant communities. It is always an honor for us to share some of the daily activities we engage in. In the last week of October, for instance, our Coordinator of the Brazilian Worker Center's Immigrants Defense Program Manager, Lorryne Reiter, represented Executive Director Lenita Reason in a special class at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

The invitation came from PhD professor Karlyn Crockett. During the class, Lorryne discussed immigration policy reform and how organizations like BWC contribute to public policy in the field.



"My admiration for BWC only increases with this opportunity to learn firsthand from such powerful leaders as you. Your advocacy, care, and compassionate vision for justice gave each of my 70+ students a lesson they will not forget," said the professor in gratitude for our participation.

Grant Guidance Susan Harwood - OSHA



In October, the Brazilian Worker Center participated in the Susan Harwood Grant Orientation, which funds the Fall Prevention Training program in Civil and Residential Construction. BWC has been offering this program for 12 years, and the annual orientation is conducted to provide specific requirements for programmatic and financial reports at the end of the period. During the meeting, information was provided regarding the audit procedures for organizations.

This orientation involved numerous organizations from across the country. Lenita Reason (Executive Director), Libby Hanna (Accountant), and Gizele Bombardier (Leadership Development Program Manager) represented BWC.

The grant's resources are used to qualify workers, enabling them to prevent accidents and understand the work environment's demands so that they feel safe. To give you an idea of the program's impact, between January and October of this year, we trained over 800 workers, including Brazilian and Spanish speakers, in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.



Meeting on immigration crisis in MA

The Brazilian Worker Center recently participated in a meeting with DHS Assistant Secretary (Department of Homeland Security/Office of Partnership and Engagement) Brenda Abdellal at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building in Boston. According to Lorryne Reiter, BWC Immigrant Defense Manager, present at the meeting representing BWC, the purpose of the meeting was to provide the secretary with an overview of immigration policy, given the emerging situation of newcomers in Massachusetts. Assistant Secretary Abdellal listened to what local organizations and lawyers reported about the current situation in the state.

Harvard Panel on Immigrant Health

The Executive Director, Lenita Reason, participated in a panel at Harvard Medical School on immigrant health in early October. The invitation was made by Jéssica Santos, Director of the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research, and Professor Rose Molina. The panel discussed the impacts of inequalities and structural determinants (legal status, labor exploitation, etc.) on health.



The topic is being incorporated into the Harvard curriculum for the Social Medicine course. In her participation, Lenita spoke to the students about the work carried out by the Brazilian Worker Center about workers' health and safety.

OCTOBER IN MOMENTS



COMMUNITY EVENT

The Brazilian Worker Center attended the “Everett Public Schools 2023 Fall El Family Night” at Lafayette School. There, families could learn more about school services and access information from different community organizations.

HEALTH SUPPORT

Every year, the Brazilian Worker Center team supports "Pink October" activities to highlight the importance of prevention and early diagnosis of breast cancer. The health and well-being of Brazilian women must be priorities in our community, which is why we always promote events, mainly through the Women Winners project.

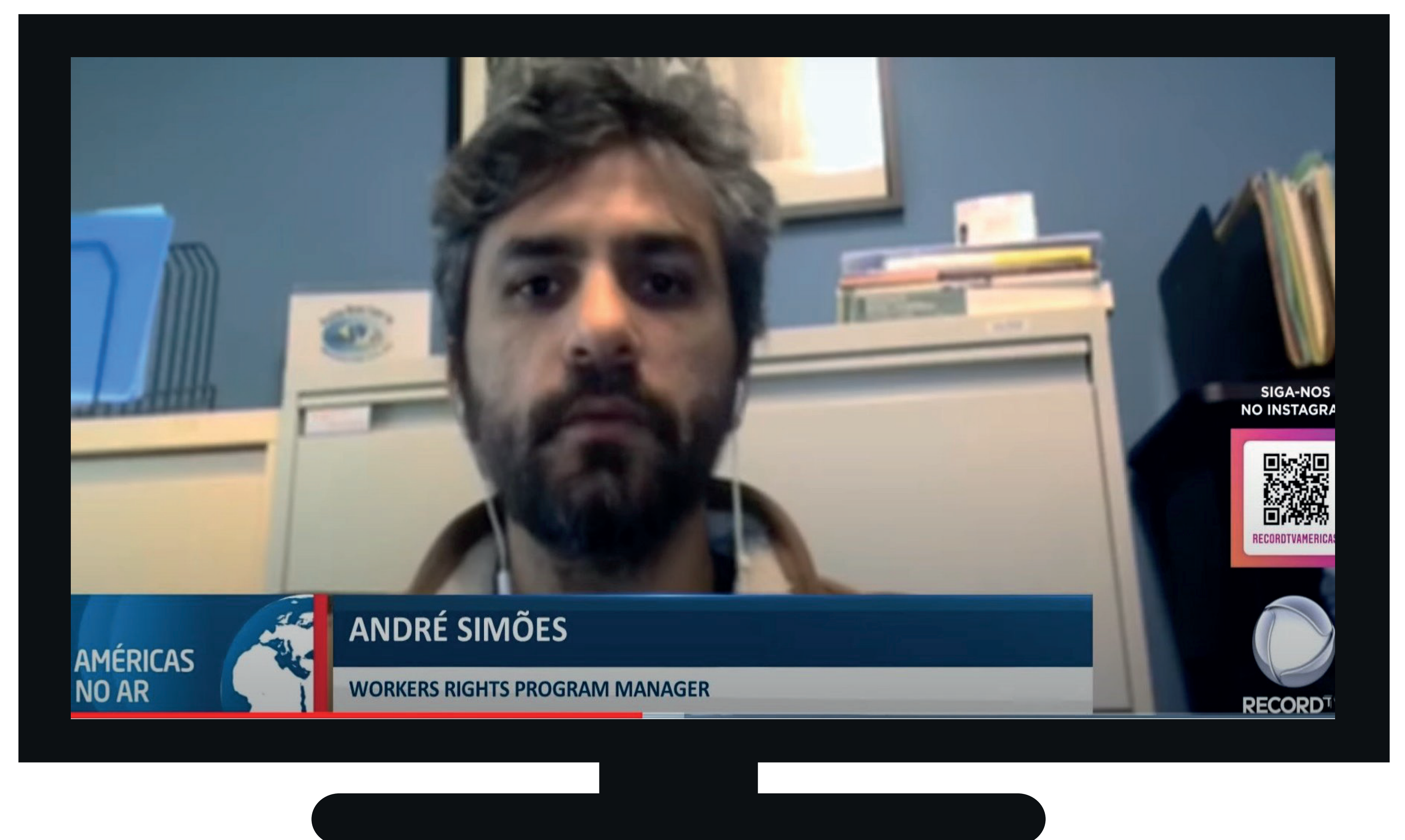


OCTOBER IN MOMENTS

FEATURED ON TV

The Brazilian Worker Center was highlighted in Record Internacional, with the participation of the Workers Rights Program Manager André Simões. The report addressed wage theft, and he explained how workers can avoid it and also seek their rights regardless of immigration status.

[CLICK TO WATCH!](#)



HALLOWEEN

Students in the ninth class of the Fall 2023 Immigrant Youth Advancement Program, carried out in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) at Boston City Hall, had a surprise on Halloween. They received a sweet kit and participated in relaxed moments with the Brazilian Worker Center staff. Executive Director Lenita Reason visited the Family Welcome Center, where she also handed out candy and interacted with children and their families.

WE NEED DONATIONS FOR THE FAMILY WELCOME CENTER

Daily, Dozens of immigrant and refugee families come to the Family Welcome Center for help taking their first steps in Massachusetts.

The program is offered by the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) 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.

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