

SOCIAL

October 6, 2024

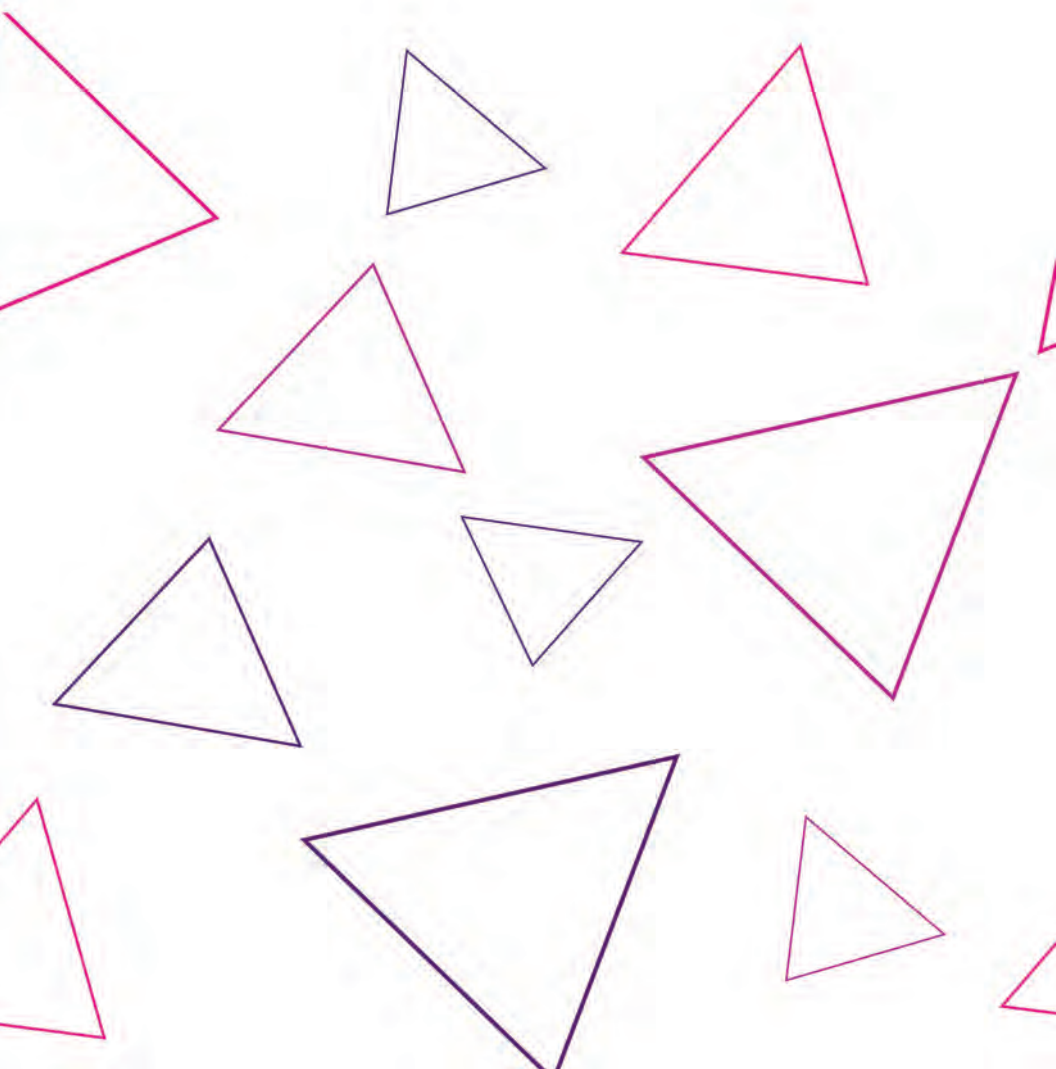
# Justice magazine



Brazilian Worker Center

**next**  
**freela**

Join our **movement.**



## **Running for Justice: Our Collective Commitment**

On behalf of the Brazilian Worker Center, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you—our supporters, partners, and participants. Today, we are surrounded by individuals, companies, and organizations who have come together not just to run or walk, but to stand in solidarity with our cause. Your presence here is powerful and reminds us that we are not alone on this journey.



**Lenita Reason  
Executive Director**

This is our first edition of this event, and I feel immense pride in what we are achieving together. What started as a simple idea to gather people for a run and walk has transformed into something much greater. Our walk today is a symbol of our ongoing struggle for justice, equality, and dignity for all workers, especially those in marginalized communities.

We know these struggles are not new. For years, we have fought against inequality, exploitation, and injustice. Each step we take today brings us closer to the vision of a world where every worker is treated fairly, where human dignity is honored, and where justice prevails.

I am incredibly proud to stand here today, witnessing this collective movement. Together, we are making history, and I am honored to be on this journey with all of you. Thank you for your unwavering support.

**FIGHTING TO  
ADVANCE  
OUR COMMUNITY'S RIGHTS**

# Brazilian Worker Center: Defending Immigrant Workers' Rights

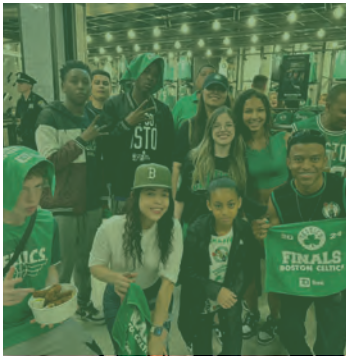
The Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) plays a crucial role in defending the rights of immigrant workers in Massachusetts, standing as a key advocate in the fight for social justice. Over the years, the organization has become a vital support hub, providing essential services and education to ensure that immigrant workers have their rights protected and their voices heard.

The BWC offers a wide range of programs and services focused on the protection and empowerment of immigrant communities. Key initiatives include legal support, workers' rights workshops, the Immigrant Youth Advancement program supporting immigrant youth, advocacy for better conditions for workers, and efforts to combat wage theft and other forms of exploitation. The organization is also actively involved in public campaigns and legislative actions, working to strengthen laws that protect immigrant workers.

BWC



BWC's commitment to providing comprehensive support and fostering a more just and inclusive community reflects its long-term mission: to guarantee dignity, equality, and opportunities for all immigrant workers. Through its various support programs and participation in social justice campaigns, the Brazilian Worker Center remains a strong and active voice in defending the rights of those most in need.





# UNITED SAFETY NET OSHA SAFETY TRAINING



## ABOUT US

United Safety Net provides specialized, engaging safety training for construction workers, led by award-winning expert Rony Jabour. With a focus on clear communication, they ensure workers understand crucial safety practices for workplace protection.

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# IMMIGRATION

The immigration landscape has changed dramatically. Immigration policy has become more open, and as a result, more people have begun to come to the United States and seek assistance from our organization.

As a result, the Immigrant Defense program at BWC has become increasingly in demand. In addition to providing day-to-day services, the department has participated in training and community events, reinforcing its commitment to staying up-to-date and sharing useful information for immigrants.

The Immigrant Defense program at BWC aims to capacitate families to understand their current immigration status and possible eligibility for different immigration processes or adjustment of status and assist them in completing such applications. Our objective is to assist families navigate legal documentation, educate migrant families about legal rights, and initiate applications for immigration processes, as eligible.

In the last 2.3 years BWC assisted more than 7,859 individuals with immigration-related matters. Serving the community with locating family members at the US border, with the ICE locator tool, ICE check ins, immigration hearing checks, change of address for newly arrived family, attorney referrals and assisting families in ways that they can better navigate the immigration legal field.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

From 2019 to 2023 the Brazilian Worker Center negotiated over \$2.2 millions of dollars in stolen labor wages. These wage theft cases involve the majority Latinx workers, especially Brazilians in Massachusetts. Therefore we obtained over 590 wage theft complaints.

We developed a strong methodology to support workers, and this methodology has been applied systematically over the years. We promote by-weekly Know Your Rights sessions and Fill out complaints to negotiate on behalf of workers. Those complaints became an important tool to understand the wage theft issue.



# ADULT FOSTER CARE



## Mantendo as famílias unidas no conforto de suas próprias casas

### VISÃO GERAL

O Adult Foster Care, também conhecido como AFC, é um programa para idosos ou deficientes físicos que não conseguem viver sozinhos com segurança. Com a AFC, esses indivíduos vivem com cuidadores qualificados que recebem uma bolsa sem impostos duas vezes por mês de nossa agência. Cuidadores fornecem assistência com cuidados pessoais, supervisão geral, bem como ajuda nas atividades domésticas diárias. Cada cliente recebe uma enfermeira registrada para supervisionar suas necessidades e criar planos de cuidados personalizados, bem como um gerente de caso para apoiar o cuidador, manter a comunicação com o pessoal médico e de seguro, advogar quando necessário e fornecer acesso aos recursos. Também oferecemos serviços bilíngues, se necessário.

### ELEGIBILIDADE

Precisa de dicas, assistência ou supervisão de UMA ou mais Atividades de Vida Diária  
Deve ter pelo menos 18 anos de idade  
Deve ter MassHealth Standard, MassHealth CommonHealth ou Senior Care Options.

### BENEFÍCIOS

-  ESTIPÊNDIO NÃO TRIBUTÁVEL
-  PLANO DE CUIDADOS PERSONALIZADO
-  ENFERMEIRA REGISTRADA ATRIBUÍDA
-  SUPORTE AO CUIDADOR
-  PERMANEÇER EM CASA
-  SUPORTE DE SEGURO
-  SERVIÇOS BILÍNGUES



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# Domestic Workers

Domestic Workers As a co-founder of the Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers ( MCDW) the Brazilian Worker Center has a commitment to ensure that domestic workers have worker's rights in the same level as the other industries. We worked tirelessly to pass the domestic workers law in in 2014. And have been working since then to ensure that the law is enforced daily. Domestic Workers have a central role in the economy but they do not have the same level of response of the enforcement agencies as other industries.

The BWC have been fighting for dignity, organizing workers and recovering wage theft for the workers that are brave enough to seek justice, most of them immigrant womens, who suffer from stigma, racism, classism.



## Eu sou Gabriely Jabour, advogada de imigração, e esses são alguns dos processos com os quais trabalhamos:

-  Pedido de Green Card
-  Petições Familiares
-  SIJS (Visto Juvenil)
-  T-Visa e U-Visa
-  VAWA (Violência Domestica contra homens e mulheres)
-  Aplicação para a Cidadania Norte-americana
-  Remoção de Condições do Green Card
-  Processo Consular
-  Visto de Noivo(a)
-  Pedido de Permissão de Trabalho (e Social)
-  Pedido de Perdão
-  Renovação de DACA

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 Woburn, Massachusetts



BUILDING  
JUSTICE

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Building Justice is a workers committee formed by the Brazilian Worker Center and Justice at Worker. The committee has been supporting workers who experienced wage theft ,plus other forms of exploitation at the workplace and together they want to take direct action to recover their wages. The project focuses on organizing workers to fight collectively, empowerment and raising the voices of workers.

The Building Justice Committee has been engaged in creating the best sense of justice, offering different spaces for workers to join it, understanding their rights, participating in the leadership program and being engaged. We Have two Annual big events, the Workers Forum, and the Soccer & Solidarity Tournament. These events reuning around 180 people every year to share experiences, update/learn new tools to continue our journey toward a more just society.

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The Wage Theft Program at the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) plays a vital role in addressing the widespread issue of wage theft, which continues to affect many immigrant workers in Massachusetts. Wage theft occurs when employers fail to pay workers what they are legally owed, including unpaid overtime, withheld wages, or paying below the minimum wage.

To combat this, the BWC offers a range of services through the program, including workshops designed to educate workers on their rights and provide them with practical tools to protect themselves from wage theft. These workshops are crucial in empowering workers to recognize violations and take action to defend their legal rights.

In addition to legal assistance and helping workers recover unpaid wages, the program works alongside community organizations and advocates for stronger labor protections. The BWC aims to ensure stricter enforcement of labor laws, creating long-term solutions that benefit all workers, especially those in vulnerable positions.

The Wage Theft Program is a core part of the Brazilian Worker Center's mission to ensure justice and fair treatment for immigrant workers, helping them secure the wages they rightfully deserve while raising awareness of their legal protections.

# Brazilian Worker Center Offers Free ESOL Program for Immigrants

The Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) is offering its English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program to help non-native speakers improve their English skills. This beginner-level course, held twice a week in the evening, allows participants to practice real-life conversations, expand their vocabulary, and build confidence in a supportive, inclusive environment.

Currently offered in person, the program will soon include a hybrid format, providing greater accessibility for those who may have difficulty attending in person. Open to Massachusetts residents aged 18 and older., the ESOL classes are completely free.

This initiative aligns with the BWC's mission to empower immigrant communities through education and access to essential resources. For more information or to register, interested individuals are encouraged to contact the BWC directly and take the next step towards improving their English skills.



# **Safety & Health**



Our workers' rights project is the core program of BWC and serves as the foundation for all initiatives, activities, educational sessions, and training conducted at the organization. Our programs are all focused support our community not only in solving workplace issues but also organizing and educating them about their rights and offering tools to defend themselves. From 2011 to 2023, we trained more than 8,000 Brazilian and Latino construction workers in safety regulations to prevent falls, with over 40,000 hours of training provided.

Courses are offered in both Portuguese and Spanish at BWC in Woburn, MA, as well as other community locations throughout the region.

The in-person training sessions for this project were conducted in the New England Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT), which operates under a state plan. The most common location for face-to-face training is the Woburn, MA office of United Safety Net, a training company led by our Chief Trainer, Rony Jabour.



# IMMIGRANT YOUTH ADVANCEMENT

The Immigrant Youth Advancement Program, an initiative of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement and the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC), is designed to empower young immigrants by providing them with the tools and resources needed to overcome challenges and achieve success. In an era where immigrant youth often face unique barriers in education, employment, and social integration, this program offers a crucial lifeline, helping them navigate these hurdles while fostering personal growth and leadership development.

Through mentorship, educational workshops, and career guidance, the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program equips participants with skills that not only enhance their prospects but also encourage them to become active contributors to their communities. The program's holistic approach ensures that these young individuals receive support in key areas such as academic achievement, legal rights, and workforce readiness.



By addressing both immediate and long-term needs, the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program is creating pathways for immigrant youth to thrive, building a foundation for their future success while reinforcing the Brazilian Worker Center's broader mission of social justice and empowerment for all immigrants. This initiative is not just about education and career development; it's about nurturing a generation of leaders who will advocate for the rights and dignity of immigrant communities.



Massa Viana Law congratulates the Brazilian Worker Center for always leading in the pursuit of justice.

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# FAMILY WELCOME CENTER

Across the globe, countless individuals face grave threats to their basic human rights, compelling them to leave their homes in search of safety. Forced migration is never an easy choice, but for many, it is the only option to protect their families and themselves. The Family Welcome Center (FWC) has emerged as a critical lifeline for these displaced individuals, offering essential support and a nurturing environment to help them rebuild their lives.

In the past year, the FWC has assisted a total of 16,429 individuals, including 5,082 families from 15 different countries. Unlike shelters, the Family Welcome Center focuses on providing an organized and respectful space where each person is valued. Here, families receive legal guidance, housing support, food assistance, and a range of other services designed to promote their independence and facilitate their transition into new communities.

The mission of the Family Welcome Center is clear: to create a safe, supportive environment where displaced families can begin to reclaim their sense of stability and hope. While the challenges faced by these individuals are immense, the FWC remains committed to providing the resources necessary to help them thrive.

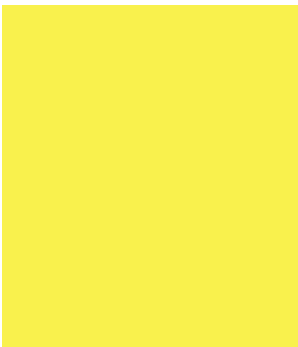


# Brazilian Worker Center Partners with Health Care For All to Expand Health Care Access

The Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) is collaborating with Health Care For All to enhance support for immigrant communities seeking health care coverage. As part of this partnership, BWC staff members will undergo training to become Certified Application Counselors (CACs). These trained staff will be equipped to assist and guide community members in enrolling in MassHealth and navigating the MA Health Connector website.

The initiative aims to empower individuals by helping them make informed decisions about their health care options, ensuring they have access to the services they need. By offering personalized assistance, the BWC ensures that community members can better understand their choices and access affordable, culturally competent health care.

This partnership reflects the BWC's commitment to improving health care access for the immigrant population, recognizing that comprehensive and affordable health care is essential for the well-being of the communities it serves.





## ***GRUPO MULHER BRASILEIRA***

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### **Projetos:**

**Direitos dos imigrantes**

**Direitos trabalhistas**

**Cooperativa Vida Verde**

**Festival da Independência do Brasil**

**Engajamento cívico e político**

**Acesso à educação e à saúde**

**E muito mais**

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# FIGHTING TO ADVANCE OUR COMMUNITY'S RIGHTS

- Workers' Rights
- Safety & Health
- Building Justice
- Domestic Workers
- Immigration
- ESOL Program
- Immigrant Youth Program
- Family Welcome Center



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