

annual activity REPORT

2024



17º COLOQUIO INTER
DIREITOS HUM



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06	LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
07	ABOUT Conectas
08	DEMOCRACY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT
10	DEFENDING Socioenvironmental RIGHTS
12	FIGHTING Institutional Violence
14	LITIGATION
15	INTERNATIONAL Advocacy
16	Communication
17	HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024
18	INSTITUTIONAL
20	Transparency

Letter from the Director

Conectas Human Rights presents its 2024 Annual Activity Report. This report reaffirms our commitment to the defense of human rights in a challenging national and global context. The year was marked by efforts on key issues such as institutional violence, the defense of democracy and socioenvironmental rights.

We actively supported Indigenous and traditional peoples in the fight for their territorial rights, with particular focus on mobilization against the timeline thesis, being debated in the National Congress and the Federal Supreme Court (STF). Furthermore, the 2024 elections revealed the challenges facing democracy, especially in tackling disinformation and the abuse of economic power on digital platforms. The defense of constitutional values in the development and implementation of public security policies was also a focal point of our work, as demonstrated, for instance, by our participation, alongside social movements and other human rights organizations, in the Supreme Court ruling on the ADPF of the Favelas case.

The 17th edition of the International Human Rights Colloquium was among the most noteworthy events. It brought together over 100 activists from 18 countries to discuss the impacts of global authoritarianism. The event was hosted by Conectas and

strengthened partnerships and fostered connections that are essential to the international human rights agenda.

This report is a summary of our actions and achievements in collaboration with social movements, institutions, and communities, firmly upholding our commitment to ensure a future in which human rights are fully respected.

Enjoy the read!

Camila Asano
Executive Director of Conectas
Human Rights



Photo: Conectas

ABOUT Conectas

We are more than a non-governmental organization; we are part of a living global movement that is dedicated to the fight for equal rights. We are connected to an extensive network of partners across Brazil and around the world and are present and make our voices heard in a number of decision-making spaces that contribute to advancing human rights from the perspective of the Global South. We work to safeguard and increase the rights of all people, especially the most vulnerable. We offer solutions, prevent setbacks and report violations in order to bring about change.

Our Mission

To carry out and expand human rights and combat inequalities to build a just, free and democratic society, from the perspective of the Global South.

Our Vision

To tackle injustice and propose solutions that have a positive impact on people's lives, particularly the most vulnerable.

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Democracy and the Human Rights Movement

In 2024, Conectas worked to defend democracy and fundamental rights in the face of challenges such as disinformation, attacks on the electoral system, the misuse of technology and repression of civil society. The organization emphasized the importance of civic engagement and institutional regulation in safeguarding democratic integrity in Brazil and on the international stage.

"Fundamental rights and democracy go hand in hand. There can be no fully functioning democracy without an active and vigilant civil society. There continue to be challenges in Brazil that demand a firm collaborative response from organizations, institutions and society as a whole," says Julia Neiva, Director of Strengthening the Human Rights Movement at Conectas.

On the subject of 8 January, Conectas supported the launch of the Strong Democracy Agenda, which proposes guidelines to strengthen the democratic rule of law. They worked with the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) on discussions about electoral rules, advocating for tackling fake news, manipulation by artificial intelligence and improving transparency.

In the debate on artificial intelligence, they raised concerns about risks to privacy and civil rights. They also spoke out against projects that compromise the security of the electoral system, such as the proposal to adopt paper ballots.

The organization participated in the UN "Summit of the Future" raising concerns about the need to safeguard the spaces in which civil society operates and advocating for a safe and responsible information environment.



Foto: Mateus Bonomi/AGIF via AFP

Also in the international arena, Conectas, and other organizations, reported the lack of transparency in the Venezuelan presidential elections and called on the Brazilian government to take a firm stand in defending democracy and the rights of asylum seekers.

At the G20, they contributed proposals on themes such as social justice, combating inequality and strengthening global governance. At the invitation of the Supreme Federal Court (STF), they took part in the official publication of the J20, reinforcing the importance of the judiciary in promoting inclusion and fundamental rights.

They also followed the Marielle Franco case, reaffirming their commitment to justice and to honoring the memory of victims of political violence.

Finally, the year was marked by the strengthening of international partnerships to confront the rise of authoritarianism and the repression of civil society, advocating for a free and democratic civic space.

PUBLICATIONS IN THIS area – 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Conectas' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE J20 Summit

They focused on the role of the legal system in promoting more accessible and inclusive justice, committed to equality. They addressed topics including: strengthening the rule of law; overcoming systemic barriers to accessing justice for vulnerable groups and strategies to increase social inclusion via judicial institutions.

Defending Socio-environmental Rights

Brazil faced serious socioenvironmental challenges in 2024, such as violence against Indigenous peoples, the persistence of slave labor in rural areas, the impacts of the climate crisis, and setbacks in public policy and legal frameworks. Against this backdrop, Conectas worked on reporting violations, engaging with affected communities, conducting political advocacy, and producing data and reports to influence decisions made at home and abroad.

“We continue to tackle socioenvironmental rights violations, especially those caused by the unchecked exploitation of people and natural resources,” says João Godoy, coordinator of the Defending Socioenvironmental Rights program. “We have been witnessing ongoing efforts to undermine fundamental social and environmental rights in the Legislature, representing very specific economic interests, but also in the judiciary itself, as can be seen in the current debate concerning the timeline thesis.”

The subjects addressed throughout the year included: attacks on Indigenous territories, particularly in southern Bahia and Mato Grosso do Sul; exploitation of workers in the coffee supply chain; the effects of floods and extreme weather events in the context of the climate crisis; the risks posed by the timeline thesis; and the need for a just and inclusive energy transition. Also of note were discussions regarding the accountability of businesses and banks in rights violations and Brazil’s role in multilateral arenas, such as COP29 and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The actions involved mobilizations, participation in international forums, developing studies and recommendations, community engagement and pushing for legislative and regulatory changes, the focus being promoting social and environmental justice.



PUBLICATIONS IN THIS area – 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Pests in the Plantation Report

A denunciation of ongoing slave labor in the global supply chain of Brazilian coffee. The report provides evidence of the failure of voluntary certification and reporting mechanisms. It advocates for the urgent need for mandatory due diligence laws.

Slave Labor in the Coffee Industry – Part 1

This analysis examines corporate strategies to avoid accountability for human rights violations. It provides an overview of the Brazilian legal framework and offers recommendations for both the public and private sectors.

Slave Labor in the Coffee Industry – Part 2

This expands the analysis to beyond the coffee industry, addressing sectors that are vulnerable to slave labor. The focus is on gaps in corporate governance and the link between profit and rights violations.

For a JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

This outlines an exchange between the Quilombo Serra dos Rafaelis (PI) and communities from Paraíba on community energy governance, including visits and discussion circles at local cooperatives.



> Read the report “**Pragas na Lavoura**” (Pests in the Plantation)



> Read the study “**Trabalho escravo no café**” (Slave labor in the coffee industry)

FIGHTING InSTITUTIONAL Violence

Legislative setbacks, escalating police violence, and attempts to criminalize civil society were some of the challenges in tackling institutional violence. The organization worked alongside social movements, victims, and experts to advocate for public security policies rooted in human rights and to combat authoritarian and discriminatory practices.

There was strong opposition to initiatives seeking to undermine the role of civil society organizations. In the field of drug policy, Conectas advocated for approaches based on harm reduction and human rights.

The organization also reaffirmed its commitment to justice and to honoring the memory of victims of institutional violence, supporting training programs and advocacy efforts with grassroots movements fighting for justice.

Conectas participated in mobilizations defending mechanisms aimed at public security policy that respects constitutional rights, such as demanding transparency in the use of body cameras. They took legal action in the fight against torture and pushed for the creation of state-level prevention mechanisms. The organization also denounced setbacks in reproductive rights, including attempts to equate legal abortion with homicide, and worked to reopen well-regarded services that were suspended.

On the international front, the organization submitted reports to the UN on racism, public security and reproductive rights. They took



Photo: Divulgação Secretaria de Segurança Pública de São Paulo

part in the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and highlighted the fight against institutional racism as a cross-cutting priority.

The organization welcomed the Supreme Federal Court decision to decriminalize the possession of marijuana for personal use and accompanied the judgement of the ADPF of the Favelas, which calls for structural measures against police violence in peripheral regions of the cities. They also worked on and accompanied cases, in the role of *amicus curiae*, that challenge the use of military justice in cases involving civilians.



Photo: Jeferson Batista/Conectas

- > ADPF das Favelas: Families of victims of police violence, favela movements, and human rights organizations closely followed the trial at the Supreme Federal Court (STF), demanding a public security policy grounded in constitutional values and respect for human rights.

LITIGATION

In 2024, Conectas used strategic litigation as a tool to ensure the enforcement of rights set out in the Federal Constitution and in international treaties, advocating for structural changes through legal action against the state and corporations. They worked on a number of fronts, particularly at the Supreme Federal Court (STF), on matters such as the rights of the Indigenous peoples, public security, and the prison system. Many of these actions were developed in partnership with civil society organizations, social movements, and Public Defender's Offices. In total the organization is monitoring 130 cases.

On issues related to criminal justice and addressing institutional racism, Conectas worked on HC 208240, among other cases, which led to recognition of the illegal nature of racial profiling in police stops; and on RE 635659, in which the Supreme Federal Court (STF) decriminalized the possession of marijuana for personal use.

In the arena of defending Indigenous rights, Conectas took part in: ACO 1100, which challenged the redrawing of the boundaries of the Ibirama-La Klãnõ reserve; in RE 1017365, which debated the timeline thesis; and in ADI 7582, which contested a new law that sought to reinstate the thesis. The organization also continued to work alongside the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to expand safeguarding for the Guarani Kaiowá community, in response to renewed attacks in Mato Grosso do Sul.

Conectas also joined the ADPF 760, in which the Supreme Federal Court (STF) acknowledged structural failures in the protection policy of the Legal Amazon. In the arena of memory and justice, the organization acted in the Merlino case, defending the non-applicability of statutes of limitation to violations committed during the military dictatorship, and in the criminal appeal of the Evaldo and Luciano case, seeking to ensure accountability for the military personnel convicted in the killing of two civilians in Rio de Janeiro.

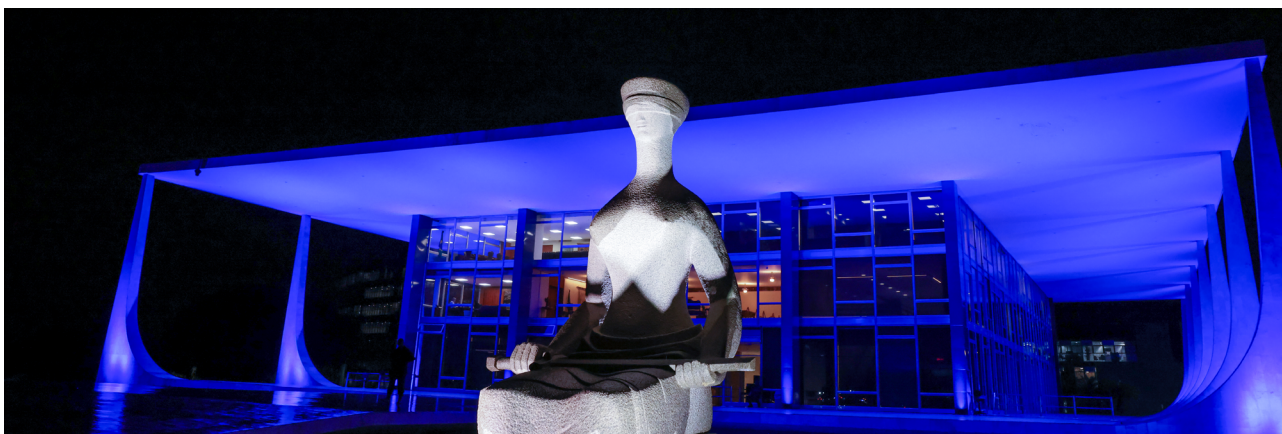


Photo: Antonio Augusto/STF

International Advocacy

In 2024, Conectas reported human rights violations at international forums. At the UN Human Rights Council, it raised concerns about key issues such as slave labor in Brazil. Among other matters, they also called for regulation of body cameras worn by security agents and criticized the legislative proposal that tightens the drug policy and disproportionately impacts on the low-income Black population.

At the G20, they advocated for a more accessible justice system committed to fundamental rights. Through this work, the organization reaffirmed its commitment to defending human rights and its demand for a response from the authorities. There were a total of nine speeches at the UN Human Rights Council, four urgent appeals sent to international bodies, as well as other communications and submissions at international events.



Photo: Fabrice Cofrini/AFP

Communication

Communication was a central tool for expanding Conectas' outreach and impact in 2024. The team worked in close coordination with the Advocacy and Litigation areas to bolster strategic projects, support professional journalism, foster public debate and collaborate with networks and coalitions. These efforts led to over 5,370 media mentions, 1,865,898 accounts reached on social media and 582,000 visits to the institutional website, reaffirming the organization's commitment to raising the visibility of critical human rights issues.

In the electoral context, the "Elections without Disinformation" campaign informed the public about the role of municipalities in promoting rights and reached over 320,000 views, supported by influencers and journalists. Three campaigns aimed at supporter engagement were also noteworthy: "Against Disinformation"; "Climate Justice," which encouraged reflection on the effects of climate change and promoted donating as a form of action; and "Dia de Doar", a version of the global Giving Tuesday movement tailored to Conectas' audience.

The organization was also involved in large-scale communication initiatives. It participated in the documentary *Who's Afraid of Body Cameras?* in a partnership with UOL, which received Honorable Mention at the 41st Human Rights Award. Furthermore, at the Vladimir Herzog Award, supported annually by Conectas, the Communication Coordinator, Morgana Damásio paid tribute to journalist Luiz Eduardo Merlino, who was tortured and killed during the military dictatorship.



Campaign promotional material "Elections without Disinformation"

HIGHLIGHTS

From 4 to 8 November 2024, Conectas hosted the 17th edition of the International Human Rights Colloquium in São Paulo, bringing together 123 participants from a number of different countries. Since its creation in 2001, the Colloquium has become one of the leading spaces for dialogue and coordination on human rights and has welcomed more than a thousand people from around 90 countries during the different editions.

The 2024 program addressed key issues such as the rise of global ultraconservatism, the challenges of disinformation and the role of social media, while also reflecting on ways to strengthen the field of human rights given recent setbacks. A new feature of this edition were the thematic tracks which provided immersive activities with organizations working on defending human rights, fostering exchange and collective strategy building.

Thirty-nine guests participated in the event, as well as members of the Conectas' team and board, partners and social movements. Visits to institutions and organizations complemented the program, strengthening exchanges across different contexts.

In addition, Conectas received the Doar A+ Seal, the highest certificate awarded by Instituto Doar, which recognizes best practices in management, transparency and disclosure in the nonprofit sector. This is recognition of the organization's commitment to ethics and accountability in the use of resources to promote human rights in Brazil.



Photo: Diáspora

The team

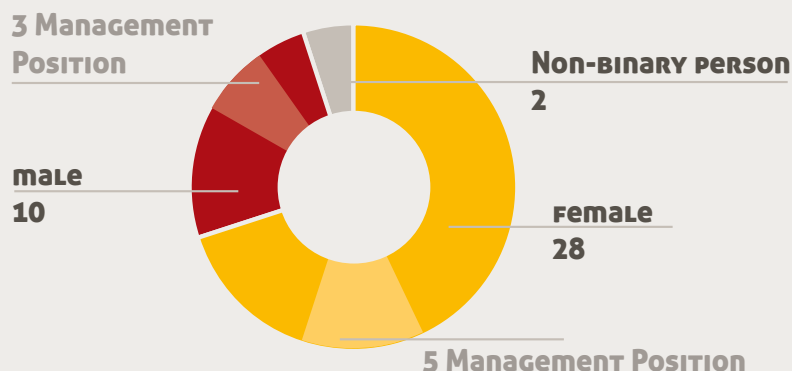
In 2024, Conectas carried out its Strategic Planning process, engaging the entire team in defining guidelines for the next five years. The process included a review of the Institutional Principles, reinforcing a culture of care and a commitment to antiracism.

Building on these guidelines, the organization hosted the “LGBTQI+ Pride” Conversation Circle, discussing advances and challenges in the rights of the LGBTQI+ community. It also reserved positions specifically for Black people and conducted internal training sessions on structural racism. Additionally, Conectas carried out a diversity census of its team and sustained the actions of the Anti-Racist Working Group, which organized a visit to the exhibition “*Lélia em nós: festas populares e amefricanidade*” and reviewed the Charter of Principles.

To strengthen the organizational culture, Conectas held external meetings, conducted one-on-one listening sessions, and improved the onboarding process for new team members, ensuring their adaptation aligned with the organization’s core values.

These initiatives reaffirm Conectas’ commitment to becoming a more diverse and inclusive organization dedicated to social transformation.

EMPLOYED PEOPLE



Age Range

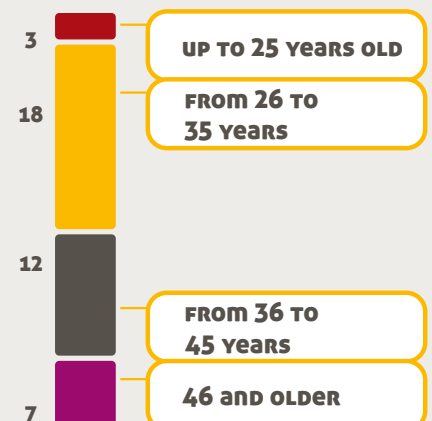
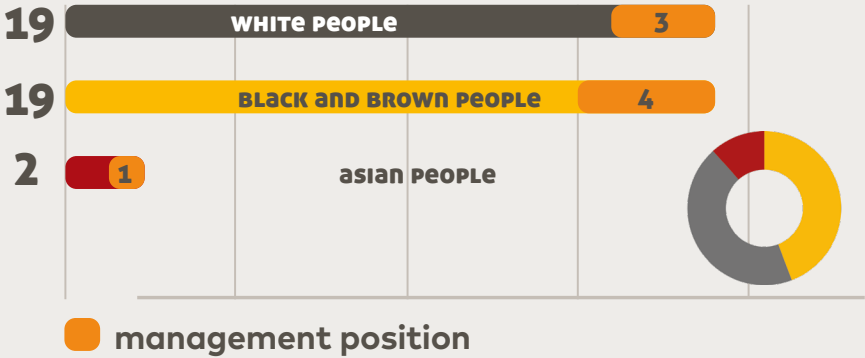




Photo: Gabriel Guerra/Conectas

RACIAL DIVERSITY



Transparency

Conectas has received support throughout the year from various foundations, institutions, and individuals to carry out its work in a nonpartisan, responsible, and transparent manner. This support is essential to ensure the continuity of actions in defense of human rights. Below, we present the financial report for the year, which reflects the careful management of resources and the organization's commitment to transparency.

Income received in 2024: R\$ 29,419,050.00

The funds were used for the activities carried out in 2025 by the Defending Socioenvironmental Rights Program, the Tackling Institutional Violence Program, the Strengthening the Human Rights Division, the Litigation and Advocacy Division, Communication and the Administration and Financial Department. Any resources not used in activities throughout the year were allocated to the organization's reserve fund.

LIST OF SPONSORS IN 2024:

- > Betty & Jacob Lafer Institute
- > Brazil Human Rights Fund (Fundo Brasil de Direitos Humanos)
- > Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- > Climate and Society Institute (Instituto Clima e Sociedade)
- > Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)
- > Embassy of the Netherlands
- > Ford Foundation
- > Galo da Manhã Institute (Instituto Galo da Manhã)
- > Individual donations
- > Luminate Foundation
- > Marin Community Foundation
- > Oak Foundation
- > Open Society Foundations
- > Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- > Stichting Onderzoek Multinationale Ondernemingen (SOMO)
- > United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)



