

Activity Report 2025

conectas

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Letter from the Director

In a world of rapid transformations and increasingly intense disputes regarding the future of democracy, climate justice and fundamental rights, 2025 underscored the conviction that has guided Conectas' work for over two decades: defending human rights requires constant presence, the ability to build alliances and a commitment to structural change.

Over the course of the year, we addressed violations on several different fronts. We brought allegations and recommendations before international organizations, expanded our work in the courts, strengthened civil society networks and produced knowledge to inform public debate. We also stood alongside Indigenous communities, *quilombolas*, and human rights defenders, social movements and our partner organizations in developing responses to the challenges facing Brazil and the world.

The climate emergency was central to this agenda. In a year marked by COP30 in Belém, we stepped up our advocacy for a just energy transition, monitored emblematic cases of socioenvironmental violations and contributed to consolidating understanding that the climate crisis is primarily a human rights issue. At the same time, we followed historic decisions by international courts that reinforce recognition of States' obligations in the face of the climate emergency.

We also continued our work addressing institutional violence, structural racism, and the inequalities that disproportionately affect Black people, Indigenous people, communities living on the peripheries, women, girls and LGBTQIA+ communities. Advocacy was aimed at increasing mechanisms to hold the State accountable, strengthen public policies, and defend rights that are often threatened by legislative and institutional setbacks.

Given the rapid expansion of digital technologies, we further expanded our work on artificial intelligence and facial recognition, advocating that innovation and human rights always go hand in hand.

It is also important to mention that the year was marked by important

advances in judicial cases in which Conectas participated, particularly as *amicus curiae*. At the Federal Supreme Court (STF), invasive strip searches in prisons were declared unconstitutional; a series of measures to curb police lethality in the state of Rio de Janeiro was established under the ADPF of the Favelas; and in the state of São Paulo, an agreement was signed with the state government on the implementation of body cameras for the Military Police force. Although all these decisions raise issues and require constant monitoring, they demonstrate the importance of a sustained litigation strategy to protect fundamental rights.

None of this would have been possible without the trust of those who support Conectas, as well as our partnerships with social movements, civil society organizations, researchers, journalists, human rights defenders and the communities that transform resistance into collective action on a daily basis. These alliances make our work stronger and expand our ability to create an impact.

It is these alliances that show how a range of strategies—from litigation to international advocacy, as well as communications and institutional strengthening—complement each other in promoting rights, amplifying voices, and strengthening democracy.

Enjoy the read.

Camila Asano
Executive Director of Conectas Human Rights



About Conectas

Conectas exists to protect, implement and expand human rights

Conectas is more than just a non-governmental organization; it is part of a living, global movement that upholds the fight for equal rights. It is connected to an extensive network of partners across Brazil and around the world. Conectas is present and making voices heard in a wide range of decision-making spaces, contributing to the advancement of human rights from the perspective of the Global South. In its work to protect and expand the rights of all people, especially the most vulnerable communities, it offers solutions, prevents setbacks, and reports violations, all of which contribute to transformative change.

Our Mission

To implement 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 address injustices and prop.ose solutions to make a positive impact on people's lives, particularly the most vulnerable.



Photo: Jeferson Batista/Conectas

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Democracy and the Human Rights Movement

Conectas works to defend democracy, combat authoritarian, anti-rights movements globally, and promote human rights in the digital sphere. Through strategic partnerships and events such as the **International Human Rights Colloquium** *and the* **Ideas Fair**, *it seeks to strengthen the field of human rights. As such, Conectas´ international work amplifies reports of violations and fosters transnational solidarity for justice and equality.*

Toward a plural digital ecosystem

Mass disinformation, hate speech, and online harassment put the integrity of electoral processes and the right to vote at risk, particularly for people who have been historically marginalized. This was the warning issued by Conectas, and by Artigo 19 in a document submitted to the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression. The report stressed how these phenomena affect political participation and public life, as well as drawing attention to the need for regulation of the business model of large digital platforms. The organizations recommended measures to promote a more plural information ecosystem aligned with human rights. At the beginning of the year, Conectas also joined over 180 Brazilian civil society organizations in taking a public stand on changes to the content moderation rules of one of the leading digital platforms, Meta, warning of the risks posed by the new policy to digital security and human rights



Photo: Jaque Silva/NurPhoto/NurPhoto via AFP

Connecting perspectives on AI and the regulation of the digital environment

Throughout 2025, Conectas organized online meetings to promote exchanges between Brazilian organizations and organizations from other countries on artificial intelligence (AI) and regulating digital platforms. One of these meetings brought together partners from Latin America and Asia to discuss the impacts and challenges of AI from the perspective of the Global South. In collaboration with *Digital Action*, an international meeting was also organized on the approval of the "ECA Digital" (The Digital Statute of Children and Adolescents), presenting the process underway in Brazil and highlighting the participation of civil society in developing this regulatory framework.

Addressing challenges to electoral integrity

With the 2026 elections approaching, Conectas produced evidence-based input to contribute to the debate on the "New Electoral Code" in the National Congress. Among the main concerns were the risks posed by the use of generative artificial intelligence in spreading disinformation and exacerbating gender- and race-based political violence.

Conectas advocated for the incorporation of measures that have already been adopted by the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) into the legislative debate, such as restrictions on the boosting of advertising campaigns in the period leading up to the elections, identification of AI-generated content, and a ban on the use of deepfakes for election campaigns.

In parallel, and in conjunction with a group of organizations concerned about the integrity of the electoral process, Conectas initiated conversations with international actors on the importance of the 2026 elections and the risks of attacks on democracy and the electoral system. During these conversations, focus was also placed on the need to move forward with the regulation of artificial intelligence and digital platforms to protect the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

Sovereignty under threat

Together with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Conectas condemned measures by the United States government against

Brazil, characterizing them as attacks on the democratic rule of law. The measures included the imposition of 50% tariffs on Brazilian products, levied for political reasons, and the unprecedented use of the Magnitsky Act against a Brazilian justice of the Federal Supreme Court (STF). It was also highlighted that these actions interfered with the independence of the Judiciary and took place at a time when the country was conducting legal proceedings regarding the attempted coup d'état in 2022.

International Solidarity

Based on experience gained through exchanges over the years, participation in a variety of meetings and events was organized in order to promote collective action and the sharing of strategies and lessons learned across a wide range of organizations.

One of the highlights of the year in this regard was the "Urgent Regional Human Rights Meeting", organized jointly by Conectas, Dejusticia (Colombia), and CELS (Argentina). Over the course of three days, more than 20 organizations—with leaders from Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay, Chile, the United States, El Salvador, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, and other countries—exchanged knowledge and experiences and reflected on strategies to address the common challenges in the region. The meeting was held in Buenos Aires in September.

In 2025, Conectas continued significant exchanges and collaborations with a group of organizations from the United States. In August, some of these partners visited Brazil for a meeting organized by Conectas, with the aim of promoting dialogue and mutual learning between US and Brazilian organizations that work in the areas of human rights, democracy and the internet.

Defending Socioenvironmental Rights

Conectas supported Indigenous peoples and traditional communities in defending their rights, promoting socioenvironmental and racial justice, and seeking to hold companies accountable for human rights violations. Work was divided into: sustainable development strategies; business and human rights; and climate justice, with a view to building a fairer and more inclusive future together with these communities.

A HISTORIC MILESTONE FOR THE PLANET

In a series of decisions considered to be historic, international courts strengthened the responsibility of States in addressing the climate crisis.

At the beginning of July, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, linked to the Organization of American States (OAS), stated in "Advisory Opinion No. 32" that the climate emergency compromises human rights and imposes concrete legal obligations on States. Conectas actively participated in the process with contributions and advocated for a just energy transition, stressing the impact on communities such as the Serra dos Rafaéis Quilombola community, in Piauí.

A few weeks later, on July 23, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in The Hague, stated that States have a legal obligation to reduce emissions and protect the climate system. The advisory opinion, requested by the UN General Assembly, recognized the climate crisis as a threat to human rights



Foto: Tânia Rêgo/Agência Brasil

and indicated that failure to act could lead to international accountability. All these decisions together establish a new global legal framework in which climate action is no longer merely a political commitment but is now a legal duty of States.

Beyond promises

During the 62nd session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP), in Bonn, Germany, over 200 civil society organizations and representatives of Indigenous peoples issued an appeal for urgent reforms to the climate negotiations. Conectas was among the signatories. The document "United Call for Urgent Reform of the UN Climate Negotiations" criticized the stagnation of the process for three decades, a period in which global pollutant emissions continued to be high. The text also warned of the growing influence of polluting companies at the COPs and proposed five areas of reform: fairer negotiations; an end to corporate interference; greater transparency; respect for human rights; and strengthened global climate governance.

Conectas at COP30

Conectas was at COP30, in Belém, with an agenda that included ten side events, over the twelve days of the event and also carried out strategic work in all areas of debate. In the Blue Zone, it followed official negotiations and raised issues such as just energy transition and climate adaptation. In the Green Zone, which was open to the public, it took part in debates on resistance and rights. And in the Yellow Zone—a space run by civil society—it strengthened mobilizations with movements and organizations. In addition to handing out kits to partners and key figures in the fight for climate justice and socioenvironmental rights, we were also active on social media.

Despite the challenges, such as the limited number of credentials and the high cost of accommodation, the organization emphasized the need to ensure the quality of participation and the safety of activists, particularly those from communities and territories most impacted by the climate crisis.

Just energy transition

One month before the start of COP30, civil society organizations released the "Just Energy Transition for the People" letter, warning that it was possible Brazil would not have met climate leadership expectations before the start of the event. The document was signed by over 50 organizations, including Conectas, and proposed more ambitious targets for emissions reductions and the replacement of fossil fuels. The organizations stated that the country would only be demonstrating leadership if it promoted just energy transition, with transparency, social participation, and respect for human rights and the territories.

Alliance for the planet

Conectas joined the *Climate Action Network* (CAN), the world's largest network of civil society organizations working to defend the climate and human rights. It joined both the regional and international networks, simultaneously joining CAN Latin America (CAN-LA) and CAN International—following a recommendation by *Observatório do Clima* and *Geledés*. With over 1,900 members in more than 130 countries, CAN



Foto: Cris Faga/NurPhoto via AFP

works on technical cooperation, advocacy in climate negotiations, such as UN conferences, and on strengthening local capacities. Conectas' Executive Director, Camila Asano, highlighted the importance of this move: "At a time when climate change is deepening inequalities, it is fundamental to strengthen global and regional alliances to ensure that the voices of the Global South are heard in decisions that will shape the future of the planet."

THE BIGGEST ATTACK ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The National Congress drastically changed environmental licensing in Brazil. According to *Observatório do Clima*. This was the biggest attack on environmental legislation since the publication of the "National Environmental Policy", in 1981, four decades ago.

Conectas reported the attack on environmental rules proposed in the bill to UN Special Rapporteurs. "In irresponsibly prioritizing licensing exemptions and self-licensing, the proposal will exacerbate environmental degradation, posing a grave threat to fundamental human ri-

ghts," the letter submitted to the Special Rapporteurs states. The UN's response came at the end of May in an official communication signed by five Rapporteurs and two working groups. In the document the experts expressed their "profound concern" about the impacts of the bill on the rights to life, health, water, sanitation, and a healthy environment, particularly for Indigenous peoples, and quilombola and traditional communities.

Conectas' Director of Litigation and Advocacy, Gabriel Sampaio, spoke to *Folha de São Paulo* about the erosion of public participation in the licensing process: "The alliance of interests behind this proposal continues to challenge STF rulings and the safeguarding of fundamental rights in the name of an extractivist model that dates back to the colonial period".

Wind turbines and rights

In the Chapada do Araripe region of southern Piauí, the expansion of wind farms has affected the Serra dos Rafaéis Quilombola community. There have been reports of dust, noise, cracks in homes, health issues, and instability in the electricity supply. The project "Centralized wind energy model and participatory socioenvironmental mapping as a contributing element to governance in the Serra dos Rafaéis quilombola community—Piauí", supported by Conectas, identified shortcomings in the environmental licensing process, including the violation of the community's right to prior consultation, as provided for in Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO). This initiative, which ran from 2023 to 2024, involved participatory mapping and led to the creation of an energy governance guide, strengthening community organization and serving as a reference for other territories.

Bitter coffee

"How much is a woman's life worth on a coffee farm?" asked Elisabete Vitor, a member of the Articulação dos Empregados

Rurais do Estado de Minas Gerais (Adere-MG) (Articulation of Rural Workers in the State of Minas Gerais), during the launch of the study "Trabalho escravo no café: das fazendas às multinacionais" (Slave Labor in the coffee industry: from farms to multinationals). The study is the third part of a partnership between Conectas and the global project "Mind the Gap", led by the Dutch organization SOMO. The research mapped the coffee production chain and gathered evidence of recent violations, especially in working and living conditions. It also pointed to connections between these practices and the global market, highlighting reports by Conectas and Adere-MG seeking to promote accountability, good practices, and reparation for victims.

Access the research



Foto: Lela Beltrão/Repórter Brasil



Awaiting the removal of illegal occupants

The Uru Eu Wau Indigenous Land, in Rondônia—home to the Jupaú, Amondawa, Oro In, Cabixi, and Oro Nao peoples, as well as four peoples living in voluntary isolation—has faced years of conflict due to invasions by non-Indigenous people. On September 22, Txai Suruí reported the violations to the UN Human Rights Council and called for pressure on the Brazilian government to ensure the removal of illegal occupants from the territory, as ordered by the Federal Supreme Court in 2020, but only initiated in September 2025. The speech was delivered in association with the Kanindé Association, the Jupaú Association, and Conectas.

Development for whom?

BNDES, Brazil's leading public development bank, was established in 1952, but only gained the letter 'S' and its focus on "social" issues in 1982, which shows the extent to which this issue is often given secondary importance. A document published by Conectas demonstrated precisely this point. The Brazilian version of the report "*Desmistificando o Financiamento do Desenvolvimento: como os Bancos Públicos de Desenvolvimento impactam os povos e o planeta*" (Demystifying Development Finance: How Public Development Banks Impact People and the Planet) gathered evidence that these institutions often reinforce the concentration of economic power, undermine local communities, and support projects linked to human rights violations. The document, produced together with members and allies of the Coalition for Human Rights and Development, a global network of civil society movements and organizations, questioned the official narrative of "sustainable development".

Access the report

Photo: Mauro Pimentel/AFP





Foto: Taniara Nagot/Conectas

In favor of the climate and the truth

Surveys by the Information Integrity Observatory and the Climate Action Against Disinformation coalition showed that, in August, content containing disinformation about COP30 had more than twice the reach of the average over the previous seven months. To address this scenario of climate denial, organizations working in this field, including Conectas, released the "*Guia para Atuação Jurídica pela Integridade da Informação Climática*" (Guide to Legal Action for Climate Information Integrity). The guide is divided into four sections: key concepts and disinformation strategies; impacts on human rights–such as access to information, health, and the environment–especially in vulnerable populations; legal frameworks and relevant cases; and coordination among legal and institutional actors to strengthen the response to the problem.

The Little Dictionary of Climate

According to the Ipsos-Ipec survey, although 64% of Brazilians were in favor of COP30, 55% of those interviewed said they had no information about the event. In response to this situation, Conectas launched the "Little Dictionary of Climate and Human Rights", bringing together concepts that are central to understanding the debate around climate justice. The first part, launched in August, contained information about the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The second and final part focused on terms such as climate governance and greenwashing.

Fighting Institutional Violence

Throughout 2025, Conectas worked to protect freedom and combat torture, calling for accountability for public security forces and the strengthening of justice policies. Conectas also work on decriminalization of abortion and access to safe abortion, advocating for reproductive rights and people's autonomy, while paying close attention to racism and its intersections with other forms of discrimination.

Federal Supreme Court bans humiliating strip searches in prisons

The Federal Supreme Court (STF) declared humiliating strip searches of family members and other people visiting prisons to be unconstitutional. The decision prohibits practices such as requiring people to undress and carrying out invasive examinations that subject visitors to humiliating situations.

According to the Court, proof obtained through this type of search is inadmissible, except under exceptional circumstances determined by a court. Strip searches can only take place when body scanners and x-ray equipment cannot be used and when there are robust, verifiable indications that the person may be in possession of prohibited objects. The decision also establishes that the State will have 24 months, as of the



Foto: Paulo Pinto/Agência Brasil

publication of the minutes of the ruling, to install body scanners and metal detectors in prison facilities.

Conectas acted as *amicus curiae* in the case, contributing to combating longstanding abuses committed against family members of incarcerated people. Alongside collectives of family members and movements that advocate for the rights of people deprived of liberty and their families, Conectas also strengthened the mobilization to overcome humiliating practices in the prison system.

The decision marks progress in the protection of human dignity and the recognition of the rights of the families of incarcerated people, reaffirming that security in the prison system cannot be guaranteed at the cost of humiliation and rights violations.

Body cameras in public security

In 2025, Conectas continued its work advocating for the expansion and improvement of the use of body cameras by public security police forces.

Alongside over 150 civil society organizations and research groups, the organization signed an open letter addressed to the Federal Government, National Congress, and state governments calling for the adoption of this technology throughout the country. The document provided evidence of the results of this policy in São Paulo where it has been in place since 2021, one of which was a reduction in police lethality.

Conectas also worked on the Injunction Suspension (SL1696) before the Federal Supreme Court (STF), which discussed parameters for the use of body cameras by the Military Police in the State of São Paulo. In May, the STF approved an agreement which established measures for the continuation and expansion of the policy, including an additional 15,000 devices and prioritizing new equipment in battalions with the highest rates of police lethality.

The debate on incarceration

Conectas took part in the event "*A política nacional sobre drogas: um novo paradigma*" (The National Drug Policy: a new paradigm), hosted by Brasil 247 TV 247, and *Consultor Jurídico* in Brasília. During Panel 5, focusing on the debate surrounding racism and mass incarceration, Gabriel Sampaio, a lawyer and Director of Litigation and Advocacy at Conectas, discussed the impacts of drug policy on the Brazilian criminal justice system: "We cannot understand the dynamics of our drug policy, its impact on the criminal justice system, and mass incarceration if we do not understand racism in our society".

Access the full study

May Crimes: 19 years on

In the 19th year following the May Crimes, Conectas published a special report recalling the massacre that left 564 dead, telling emblematic stories of the victims and outlining the principal measures adopted over almost two decades. Despite efforts to preserve memory and seek justice, no significant accountability has been achieved. According to Gabriel Sampaio, Director of Litigation and Advocacy at Conectas, the gravity of the crimes means the cases are not subject to the statute of limitations.



Foto: Paulo Pinto/Agência Brasil

"Even if this were not the case, it is inadmissible that the Brazilian government has still not provided a consistent response, given that there were more than 500 deaths in a context of violations," he said.

In partnership with Conectas, *Iniciativa Negra por uma Nova Política de Drogas* (The Black Initiative for a New Drug Policy) and Amnesty International, *Movimento Independente Mães de Maio* (May Mothers Independent Movement) also organized the "International Seminar: State Violence in the May Crimes – The Right to Memory, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition". In addition to public demonstrations and educational activities, the event also featured the launch of the book *Tecendo Resistências* (Weaving Resistance) by social worker, intellectual, and May Mothers activist Francilene Gomes Fernandes; and the launch of the "*EnfrentAção*" project, a study carried out in partnership with Unifesp based on listening to victims' mothers and other members of their families.

In the same month, a complaint concerning the May Crimes reached the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Members of victims' families in the Parque Bristol area and Conectas submitted the case to the Inter-American system in 2009.

In early September, the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) began hearing an appeal that seeks recognition of the May Crimes as grave human rights violations, making them exempt from the statute of limitations in civil

proceedings and providing for measures to prevent recurrence. The appeal was filed by the São Paulo State Public Defender's Office, supported by Conectas and the May Mothers Independent Movement, as *amici curiae.* Gabriel Sampaio, Director of Litigation and Advocacy at Conectas began his oral arguments focusing on the stories of the mothers and other members of the victims' families: "We are talking about the State's actions and omissions concerning the death of Rogério, a street cleaner and Débora Maria da Silva's son, who was working for the State cleaning up the dirt left on the streets by society. He was executed. We are talking about Ana Paulo who was nine months pregnant, the daughter of Verá Lúcia. In addition to the bullet that cut short the lives of their children, these women have been subjected to every kind of humiliation the State could inflict." The trial was interrupted in 2025 after Justice Marco Aurélio Bellizze requested to review the case.

Mothers against Violence

Together with the May Mothers Independent Movement, CAAF/Unifesp, and the University of Manchester, Conectas organized the international event "Strengthening the Reach and Impact of Human Rights Movements in Brazil." The event brought together leaders of social movements, researchers, and representatives of civil society from several different countries in the Americas for debates on democracy, reparation, memory, and justice.

Two years since Operation Shield

Conectas and other civil society organizations held the event "*2 anos da Operação Escudo: Debates sobre Memória, Justiça e Reparação*" (Two years since Operation Shield: Debates on Memory, Justice, and Reparation), with activities at the Baixada Santista campus of the Federal University of São Paulo (Unifesp) and the Law School of the University of São Paulo (USP). The program included the launch of a report by Geni-UFF on the forensic analysis of cases related to Operation Shield and the release of a technical note by Amnesty International on the oversight of police forces by the Public Prosecutor's Office, focusing on the debate surrounding memory, justice, and reparation.



Foto: Luiz Silveira/Agência CNJ

Operação Contenção: a state massacre

On 28 October, 2,500 military and civil police officers were deployed in the Rio de Janeiro state capital to carry out a huge operation in the Alemão and Penha complexes. Dubbed *Operação Contenção*, the operation resulted in 117 deaths, according to data from the Rio de Janeiro government and was described by organizations and public bodies as the deadliest in the history of the state.

An open letter, signed by 27 human rights organizations, including Conectas, denounced the illegitimate use of force, structural racism embedded in public security, and the adoption of a war doctrine as a model of public administration. The letter also noted that Governor Cláudio Castro was responsible for four of the five most deadly operations recorded in Rio de Janeiro to date.

The organizations also criticized attacks by the governor on the Claim of Non-compliance with a Fundamental Precept 635 (ADPF 635), known as the ADPF of the Favelas—in which Conectas acts as *amicus curiae*. The organizations noted that: "[..] what the governor describes as the largest operation in Rio's history is, in fact, a massacre carried out by the Brazilian state".

In an alert sent to the UN and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), ten organizations, including Conectas, called for immediate action to be taken. According to the organizations,



Photo: Thamy Frisselli/Acervo Nem Presa Nem Morta

"*Operação Contenção*" reflects a context of summary executions perpetrated by the state itself, reinforcing a deliberate policy of extermination in low-income areas with a majority Black population." The organizations responded to the appeal by condemning the operation and demanding independent investigations.

Following a visit to Brazil, the IACHR issued a formal report in March 2026 criticizing the lack of proportional effectiveness of the action and recommended that the investigations into police conduct be the responsibility of external, impartial bodies. In addition, the report by the Inter-American Commission pointed to grave human rights violations, including indications of extrajudicial executions, disproportionate use of force, and structural racism.

Reproductive rights

On his final day as a member of the Federal Supreme Court, Justice Luís Roberto Barroso voted in favor of decriminalizing abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. According to the Justice: "Termination of pregnancy must be treated as a public health matter, not one of criminal law." Some days earlier, he had received a letter signed by hundreds of organizations, among them Conectas, asking him to cast his vote in three cases concerning reproductive rights in Brazil.



Photo: Rovena Rosa/
Agência Brasil

A CITY UNDER SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance technology is multiplying with no transparency or regulation, in Brazil, where experts and activists came together at the event "Reconhecimento Facial e Impacto nos Territórios" (Facial Recognition and its Impact on Communities), organized by Conectas in partnership with Artigo 19 Brazil and South America and the Núcleo Especializado de Cidadania e Direitos Humanos (Specialized Citizenship and Human Rights Unit) of the São Paulo Public Defender's Office. The event was part of the agenda of Gina Romero, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, on her official visit to the country. On this occasion, the Rapporteur highlighted that vulnerable groups, such as Black people, low-income people, Indigenous people, and migrants are the most affected and she drew attention to something she observed in São Paulo: the proliferation of surveillance totems and points throughout the city, collecting information on the population without transparency

Litigation

In 2025, Conectas strengthened the protection of human rights through strategic litigation in Brazilian courts and international bodies, working on issues such as police violence, structural racism, the prison system, Indigenous rights, the rights of girls and women, and accountability for serious violations.

Public security, police violence, and racism

Conectas worked on the Claim of Noncompliance with a Fundamental Precept 635 (ADPF of the Favelas), which resulted in measures by the Federal Supreme Court to reduce police lethality in Rio de Janeiro, and ADPF 973 (Black Lives ADPF), concerning structural racism, police violence, and incarceration. It also monitored Injunction Suspension 1696, regarding body cameras in São Paulo and ADPF 1059, concerning police violence against the Guarani Kaiowá people.

The prison system and combating degrading practices

Through Extraordinary Appeal with Interlocutory Appeal (ARE 959620), the STF ruled invasive and degrading strip searches of visitors to prisons to be unconstitutional. Conectas took part as amicus curiae, alongside organizations of the Rede Justiça Criminal (Criminal Justice Network), contributing to the protection of the dignity and rights of people deprived of their liberty and their families.Memória, verdade, justiça e responsabilização do Estado.

Indigenous peoples' rights

Conectas worked as amicus curiae in the Direct Action for the Declaration of Unconstitutionality (ADI 7582) and on related cases related to Law 14.701/2023, against restrictions on Indigenous land rights. The organization argued that



Photo: Antonio Augusto/STF

the so-called timeline thesis is unconstitutional and defended the protection of rights guaranteed under the Constitution and international norms.

Memory, truth, justice and State accountability

In Special Appeal (REsp 2.172.497/SP), concerning the 2006 May Crimes, Conectas and the Independent May Mothers Movement participated as amici curiae in proceedings concerning accountability and reparation for serious human rights violations, which began and were interrupted by a request for more time to review the case in 2025. The organization also worked on cases related to the Amnesty Law and the case of Rubens Paiva.

Girls' and women's rights

Conectas incorporated REsp 2.196.252/SP, the case of Fabrícia Leal, pending before the Superior Court of Justice, into its litigation strategy. It also worked on actions related to the campaign Criança Não é Mãe (A Child is not a Mother), including Public Civil Action (ACP 1026594-77.2025.4.01.3400), aimed at protecting the rights of girls and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence and guaranteeing their access to rights.

Global forum

At the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, Conectas co-hosted the side event "*Mulheres afrodescendentes e justiça reprodutiva*" (Afrodescendant Women and Reproductive Justice), connecting Brazilian legal strategies with international human rights tools. It also held the *Laboratório de Aprendizagem em Litígios* (Litigation Learning Lab), in partnership with organizations from different continents. The Lab's first event took place in Brazil in October 2025 and focused on democracy and racial justice. The organization also contributed to the Inter-American Human Rights System, providing input on democracy and the protection of human rights.

International Advocacy

In 2025, Conectas expanded its international advocacy through statements and participation in UN and Inter-American Human Rights System discussions and mechanisms, addressing matters such as police violence, environmental licensing, the rights of Indigenous peoples, and criminal justice. The organization also delivered nine oral statements at international forums, bringing issues such as slave labor, sexual and reproductive rights, artificial intelligence, State violence, and environmental protection. This work highlighted Conectas' commitment to the use of multilateral spaces to denounce violations, call for accountability by the Brazilian State, and strengthen the defense of human rights. See the highlights here:

Bodies, territories, and resistance

During a side event at the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, Conectas discussed the impacts of structural racism on Black women and defended an intersectional approach in advocating for sexual and reproductive rights.

Girls at the center of the debate

During the 58th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, Conectas presented data on child pregnancy in Brazil and obstacles to accessing rights in a context of the risk of rollbacks in sexual and reproductive rights.



Photo: Lian Yi/XINHUA/Xinhua via AFP

When the algorithm makes a mistake

During the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, Conectas warned about racial bias in the use of facial recognition and recommended regulation, social and judicial oversight, and the participation of affected populations in the formulation of artificial intelligence policies.

No data, no climate justice

In Bonn, Germany, Conectas took part in a discussion on the Global Goal on Adaptation, arguing that climate indicators should incorporate race, gender, and age to produce more precise assessments and fairer public policies.

The case of Marco Aurélio

Conectas and the parents of Marco Aurélio, executed by a military police officer in 2023, delivered an urgent appeal to the UN regarding police violence in São Paulo. The organization also held discussions on police lethality and external oversight of police activities.

Unprotected childhoods

Following the review of Brazil by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Conectas submitted data on police lethality, child and adolescent deaths, and pregnancies among children. The Committee recommended, among other measures, body cameras, independent investigations, and guaranteeing access to legal abortion.

The body in dispute

At the invitation of Conectas and civil society organizations, the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls carried out a mission to Brazil to discuss setbacks in sexual and reproductive rights and the impacts of the criminalization of abortion.

The UN as a platform for raising alarm

During the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Conectas warned about the impacts of changes to environmental licensing on Indigenous peoples, *quilombolas*, and traditional communities and advocated for the participation of affected communities in decision-making processes

Warning to the IDB

A coalition of thirteen organizations, including Conectas, sent a letter to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) regarding the lack of transparency and participation in the South Connection Program. The organizations recommended holding public consultations, ensuring free, prior, and informed consent and the participation of civil society.

The grief the State failed to redress

During the 60th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Conectas denounced the lack of accountability and reparation for violations committed by the Brazilian State against Black people and Indigenous peoples, including the May Crimes.

Is AI going unchecked?

Conectas expanded its international work countering the risks of facial recognition in public security, denouncing the lack of transparency and discriminatory biases. It also contributed to UN debates on AI as well as to the report "Eyes on the Watchers," produced within the framework of INCLO.

International engagement and human rights

Conectas accompanied visits by UN Special Rapporteurs to Brazil and participated in BRICS+ activities, the Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, and the Democracia *Siempre* meeting in Chile, focused on strengthening democracy and addressing extremism.

Unite to Resist

In an article published in *Folha de São Paulo*, Camila Asano of Conectas and Ana Gimena Sanchez of WOLA advocated for the strengthening of solidarity among human rights defenders in Brazil and the United States in the face of possible setbacks.

Minerals, silence, and war

Conectas published an interview with Pedro Borges, of *Alma Preta Jornalismo*, on the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its relationship with strategic mineral exploitation, seeking to increase the visibility of the conflict and its impacts on the population.

Communications

Communications played a strategic role in increasing the visibility and impact of Conectas' work in 2025, in coordination with the Advocacy and Litigation teams and with national and international networks and coalitions. The organization's participation reaffirmed its commitment to freedom of expression, journalism, and the defense of democracy.

Vladimir Herzog Award

Conectas was a co-organizer of the 47th edition of the Vladimir Herzog Journalism Award for Amnesty and Human Rights, which marked the 50th anniversary of the journalist's legacy The edition had a special category dedicated to the Defense of Democracy.

Scan the QR code to see the winners

Campaigns and mobilization

Campaigns on climate justice, the regulation of digital platforms, and the defense of human rights broadened the reach of Conectas' causes, mobilizing new audiences and strengthening the organization's relationship with people who are interested in following and supporting its work.

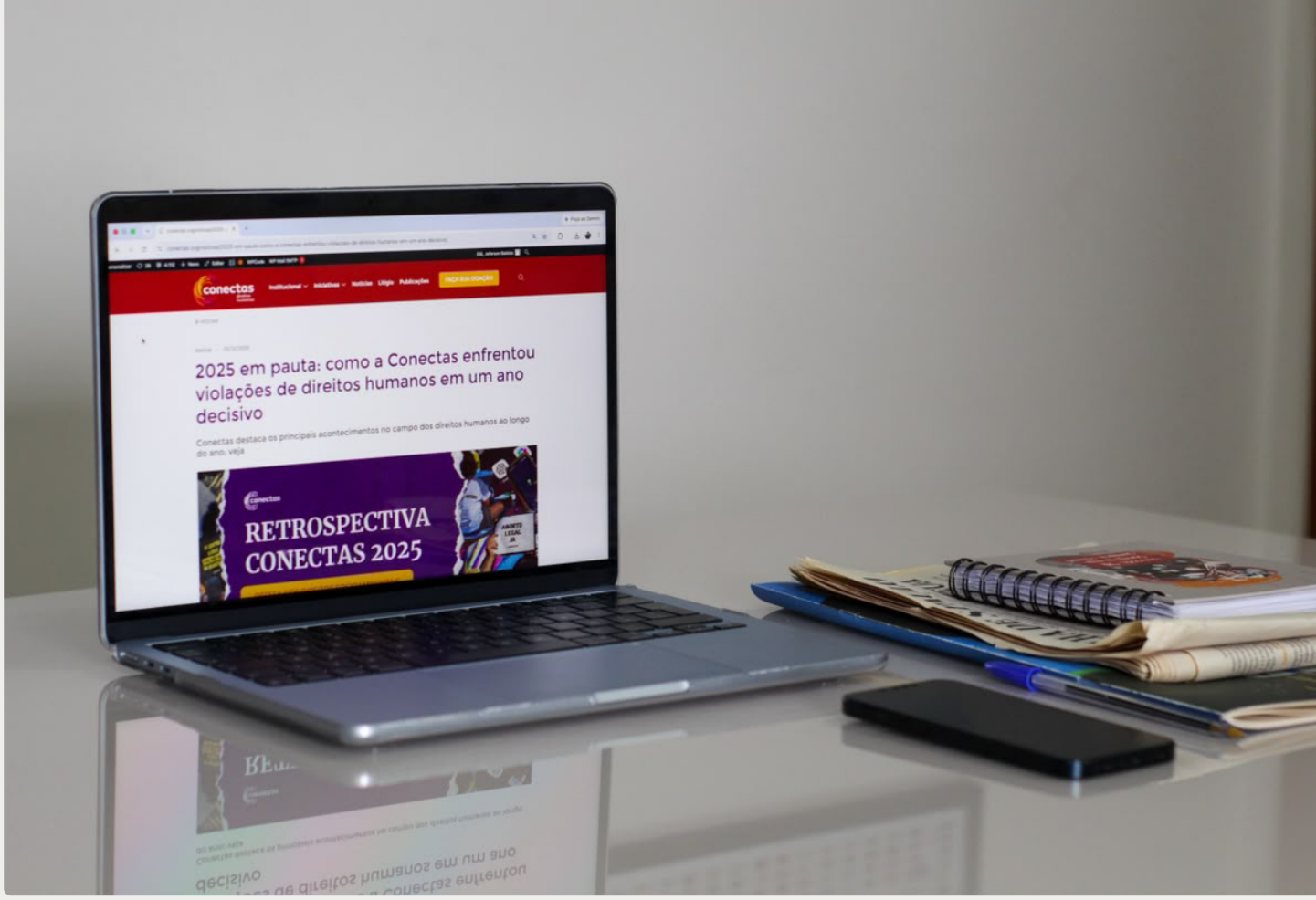


Photo: Jeferson Batista/Conectas

Media relations

Conectas consolidated its presence in the public debate particularly on issues such as police violence, with its work on this theme gaining the most coverage. The May Crimes, the case of Marco Aurélio, police lethality in São Paulo, environmental licensing, and people living on the streets also gained traction.

Site and social media

Conectas' institutional site received 500,000 visits throughout the year. On social media, Conectas' content reached 17 million views, widening the circulation of information and analyses on human rights and bringing different audiences closer to the organization's causes.

Institutional

When Justice is innovative

Conectas was a finalist in the 22nd edition of the Innovare Award, one of the most important awards in the field of law in the country, which recognizes innovative practices aimed at improving the justice system. The organization competed in the category Justice and Citizenship with its "Strategic Litigation in Human Rights" practice, alongside eleven other finalists in different categories. Conectas was the organization honored in this category in 2025.

New paths for governance

Cassio França joined Conectas' Audit Committee. França, a political scientist who did his undergraduate degree at Unicamp, his doctorate at the Getúlio Vargas Foundation, and post-doctoral studies at the London School of Economics, has built a career in the areas of philanthropy, public management, and strengthening civil society. At Conectas he will be working alongside Heloísa Motoki and Luigi Puntel, contributing to strengthening the organization's institutional governance.

Ideas Fair

Conectas held the 8th edition of the Ideas Fair in partnership with Sesc





Fotos: Algazarra

24 de Maio. The event was part of the activities for International Human Rights Day and brought together initiatives from different regions of the country aimed at promoting and defending rights. Over the course of two days, the public saw twenty projects displayed on exhibition tables, an audiovisual showcase, and a visual exhibition, addressing themes such as migration, the climate crisis in the Amazon, women's incarceration, religious diversity, Indigenous cultures, and social inclusion. The program also included discussion circles, meetings with representatives of civil society, and a musical performance by the band Libertat.

Access the of Feira de Ideias

The team

Institutional development: strengthening people and processes

In 2025, Conectas continued to strengthen its institutional development, focusing on people's well-being, staff development, and organizational learning.

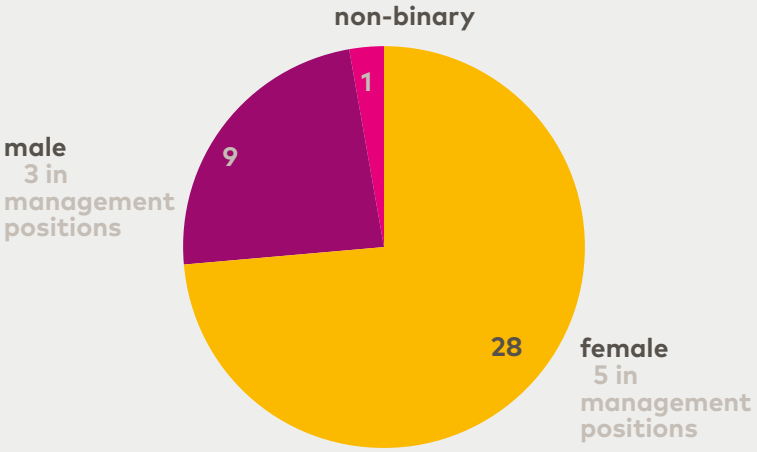
In the first half of the year, it carried out an institutional assessment of racial and diversity issues and started a personal and professional development program for its collaborators, focusing on communication, time management, and behavioral skills.

In terms of governance, it restructured the Ethics Committee and held workshops on communication and conflict management, strengthening active listening and collaboration. It also improved operational processes and made progress on the institutional memory project for the organization's 25-year anniversary, with strategic and budgetary assessments, dialogue with partners, and organization of the institutional archive.

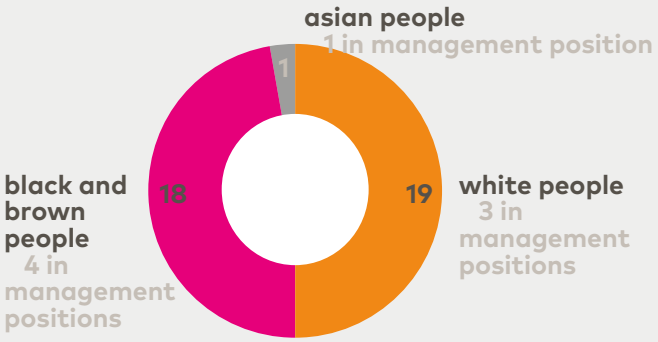


Photo: Conectas

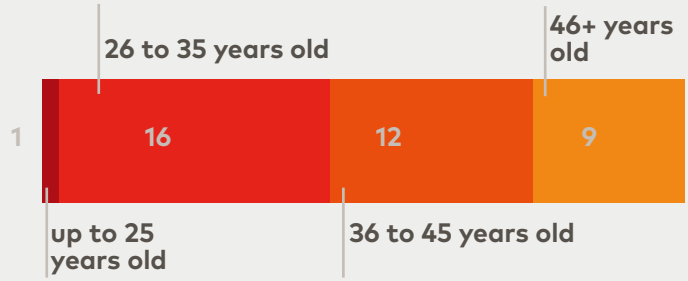
Gender of the people employed



Racial diversity



Age range



Transparency

Desenvolvimento institucional: fortalecendo pessoas e processos

Throughout the year, Conectas received support from a number of foundations, institutions, and individuals in order to develop its work in a nonpartisan, responsible, and transparent way. This support was fundamental in guaranteeing the continuity of its work defending human rights. Below is the financial statement for the year, which reflects the careful management of funds and the organization's commitment to transparency.

Revenue received in 2025: **R$ 31.225.577**

Funds were used for activities in 2025 in the following areas: the Defense of Socioenvironmental Rights Program, the Addressing Institutional Violence Program, the Department for the Strengthening the Human Rights Movement, the Litigation and Advocacy Department, Communications, Institutional Development and Fundraising, and the Administrative and Finance Department. Resources not used for activities throughout the year were allocated to the organization's reserve fund.

List of supporters (in alphabetical order)

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)
Credit card donations (individuals)
Embassy of the Netherlands
Ford Foundation
Brazil Human Rights Fund
Instituto Betty & Jacob Lafer
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Luminate Foundation
Marin Community Foundation
Oak Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Stiftung Auxilium (Porticus)
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)



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