TRANSFORMAÇÂO
LUTO EM LUTA

MARIELLE FRANCO
PRESENTE
letter from the directors  03

institutional violence  04

development and socio-environmental rights  07

strengthening democratic space  10

SUR Journal  13

institutional transparency  18
On March 14th, 2018, sad news shocked Brazil and the rest of the world. In an ambush, which has yet to be fully explained, Rio de Janeiro city councillor, Marielle Franco, and her driver, Anderson Gomes, were shot to death. Born in the Maré favela complex and holder of a master’s degree in public administration and sociology, Marielle stood out as an activist who fought hard for black women and the residents of favelas and neighbourhoods on the outskirts of the city. A staunch defender of human rights, she was elected city councillor in 2016 and had been working to denounce police violence against the poorest classes.

If this barbaric crime was intended to silence her voice and discourage women like her from taking action and getting involved politically, it did not work. Marielle’s story and struggle travelled around the world and inspired thousands of people to engage in acts of resistance and protests in the defence of human rights.

Conectas joined forces with others to demand justice for Marielle and a prompt investigation into the case. We denounced the activist’s murder at the UN, demanded answers from the state and supported the meeting between Marielle’s partner, Mônica Benício, and representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner.

During the electoral race, the polarization of the country was expressed in the form of hate speech against minorities and violence in the street. Conectas took a firm stand on this issue and pointed out the dangers that this behaviour poses for democracy, especially when encouraged by candidates. We also supported civil society initiatives that sought to make the electoral process more transparent and democratic. Among these initiatives, we would like to highlight “Pacto pela Democracia (Pact for Democracy) and “Me Representa” (“They Represent Me”)

Public recognition and the guarantee that we would be able to continue participating in mechanisms to combat rights violations breathed new life into our work to protect the most vulnerable. We received the 2018 Best NGOs Award and were re-elected as an alternate member of the CNDH (National Human Rights Council) with a two–year mandate to monitor public policies on human rights. Conectas was also elected as the civil society representative to the CNPCT (National Committee for the Prevention and Combat against Torture), which is responsible for monitoring and preventing abuse in institutions of deprivation of liberty.

The political context that has unfolded since the elections in Brazil raises enormous challenges for the entire human rights movement. Now more than ever, it is important to remain alert and ready to respond to any attempt to restrict rights. Furthermore, this context reinforces the importance and the role of organisations like Conectas in safeguarding human rights and protecting the democratic rule of law to ensure that the respect for diversity and the promotion of equality are guaranteed.
In February 2018, the federal government issued a decree announcing its intervention in public security in Rio de Janeiro. It was the first time the government had taken this kind of action since the return to democracy. The measure remained in effect until December 31. There was a record number of police killings during this period: the number of cases was 39% higher than the previous year, according to data from the state’s Institute of Public Security.

Even though the Constitution establishes that positions in public office must be filled by civilians, the decree stipulated that a military official was to head the intervention. Conectas questioned the measure and demanded that the Attorney General of the Republic, Raquel Dodge, take a stance on this issue.

In March, Conectas, the Mothers of May Movement and Gajop (Office of Legal Advice to Popular Organisations) denounced the high number of deaths caused by the São Paulo Military Police at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. According to data from the Brazilian Public Security Yearbook, police officers are responsible for one in every five homicides in the state. On the same occasion, these organisations demanded that the investigation into the “Crimes of May” be reopened. The Crimes of May are a series of crimes in which hundreds of civilians were murdered in 2006 and that have yet to be resolved.
Right to protest

After 23 people involved in protests in 2013 and 2014 were sentenced to prison, Conectas submitted a complaint to the UN in June that showed how the charges against protestors were, in fact, an attempt to criminalise the right to protest. During the same period, Conectas invited the UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, to come to Brazil. He participated in the seminar “Repression and criminalisation of the right to protest and human rights” held in São Paulo to discuss the importance of the right to protest in society and how the justice system has been acting in this area.

Debate on abortion at the Federal Supreme Court

In August, the STF (Federal Supreme Court) resumed the debate on the decriminalisation of abortion in Brazil during a public hearing.

In 2018, Conectas actively participated in the debate on the decriminalisation of safe abortion in Brazil. Conectas and ITTC (Land, Labour and Citizenship Institute) co-authored and submitted an amicus curiae brief defending safe abortion in support of Case no. 422. At the public hearing organised by the STF on August 6, Conectas defended the argument that criminalisation violates individual rights and discriminates mainly against poor and black women.
A country behind bars

Platform developed by Conectas consolidates data on Brazil’s prison system.

With the third largest prison population in the world, Brazil is recognised by international organisations as one of the countries with the most severe case of chronic failure in the prison system. There are nearly 730,000 people behind bars in the country.

Difficulties in obtaining and analysing data related to Brazil’s prison system led Conectas to develop ‘Carcerópolis’, a free online platform that cross references data from Infopen (the National Survey of Penitentiary Information) in order to offer a more exact portrait of the situation in the country’s penitentiary system.

Carcerópolis cross referenced data from the last four Infopen reports to produce analyses on the system’s growth and a profile of the prison population, prison facilities and prisoners’ legal situation. Available on the platform, this information is essential for the elaboration of public policies and the identification of serious violations.

A limit on the imprisonment of the socio-educational system

In August, the STF imposed a limit on overcrowding in facilities for youth in conflict with the law. In an unprecedented decision, STF Minister Edson Fachin ruled that socio-educational centres must not exceed 119% of their occupancy rate. The ruling was handed down in response to the petition for a writ of habeas corpus submitted by the DPE-ES (Public Defenders’ Office of the State of Espirito Santo), with the support of Conectas, IBCCRIM and the Alana Institute. The Public Defenders’ Office objected to overcrowding in the Northern Regional Detention Unit in Linhares for youth in conflict with the law: even though it only has capacity for 90 people, the unit housed 250 at the time.

Access the Carcerópolis.
Brazil currently grows close to a third of all the coffee in the world. Minas Gerais produces close to 1,700 tonnes, which makes the state the largest coffee bean producer in the country. However, part of this production is obtained at a high cost: systematic violations of the rights of rural workers, such as debt bondage and degrading working conditions. The Ministry of Labour identified these violations during inspections it carried out over the past four years. Based on the accounts of 37 rural workers rescued from 17 farms in the southern part of the state, Conectas and ADERE–MG (Articulação dos Empregados Rurais do Estado de Minas Gerais) lodged a complaint with the OECD’s NCP (National Contact Point) in Brazil. Composed of representatives from several public bodies, the NCP has the mandate of implementing and promoting the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises – a set of standards aimed at making company conduct more responsible.

From international reference on the fight against slave labour to international showcase. The number of inspections in Brazil has fallen drastically. As a result, the number of workers rescued from conditions analogous to slavery dropped to an all-time low in 20 years. This is due to the repeated attacks on the dirty list by organisations representing the agrobusiness and civil construction sectors, among other sectors, not to mention the federal government itself.
Socio-environmental impacts monitored closely

Throughout 2018, Conectas was directly involved in monitoring the socio-environmental impacts of recent disasters in Brazil.

In May, Conectas launched the Follow-Up Report on the Recommendations by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights to Brazil. At the launch, various civil society organisations, public officials, businesspeople and academics met to discuss the actions that the government and the private sector are taking to implement the recommendations elaborated by the UN experts following their mission to Brazil in 2015.

During the 3rd Annual Meeting of the New Development Bank (NDB) in Shanghai (China), Conectas released a study that presents proposals on how this financial institution linked to the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) can help improve legal standards and local capacities to guarantee the sustainability of infrastructure projects.

Then, Conectas published a study on nearly two years of activities of the BNDES (National Development Bank), which was focused on the institution’s support for the export of engineering goods and services and their impacts on the environment and human rights. The report was based on case studies carried out in four countries (Ecuador, Peru, Honduras and Mozambique).
November marked the three-year anniversary of the destruction left behind by the collapse of the Fundão dam in Mariana, MG, which caused severe social and environmental impacts. In partnership with universities, organisations and the Public Defenders’ Offices of the state of the Espírito Santo and the federal government, Conectas sent a report to six UN Special Rapporteurs and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights to draw their attention to the disregard of the corporations involved and the lack of compensation for the victims. Based on an analysis of international standards on the right to an effective remedy, Conectas elaborated a proposal on compensation for damages to the victims, which was presented to the corporations and the government.

“O Amanhã é hoje” (Tomorrow is today)
A documentary on how climate change has affected the lives of Brazilians

The impacts of climate change on people was also one of the focuses of our work in 2018. During the UN Climate Conference in Poland, Conectas launched the documentary “O Amanhã é hoje – o drama de brasileiros impactados pelas mudanças climáticas” (Tomorrow is today – the drama of Brazilians affected by climate change). The film was the result of a partnership between Conectas and six other Brazilian organisations: Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil, Artigo 19, Engajamundo, Greenpeace, Alana Institute and Instituto Socioambiental.

Three years after the Rio Doce disaster

Civil society submitted a proposal to the UN on compensation for socio-environmental damage in the region of Mariana in 2015

November marked the three-year anniversary of the destruction left behind by the collapse of the Fundão dam in Mariana, MG, which caused severe social and environmental impacts. In partnership with universities, organisations and the Public Defenders’ Offices of the state of the Espírito Santo and the federal government, Conectas sent a report to six UN Special Rapporteurs and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights to draw their attention to the disregard of the corporations involved and the lack of compensation for the victims. Based on an analysis of international standards on the right to an effective remedy, Conectas elaborated a proposal on compensation for damages to the victims, which was presented to the corporations and the government.

Read Conectas’ report: A proposal for governance reform to remedy the Doce River disaster
Civil society organisations took the case of Marielle Franco, the Rio de Janeiro city councillor assassinated in March, to the UN and demanded answers from the justice system.

It was with deep sorrow that Conectas and Brazilian society in general received the news on March 14 of the murder of city councillor Marielle Franco and Anderson Gomes. A few days later, in a joint statement, Conectas denounced the assassination of the activist at the UN and demanded answers on the case.

Together with other civil society representatives, Conectas also attended the meeting between Marielle’s widow, Mônica Benício, and UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kate Gilmore; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard; and members of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women’s teams.

CNDH drafts recommendations on the reception of Venezuelan migrants for the government

Following a mission to the municipalities affected the most by the increase in migration flows in the states of Pará, Amazonas and Roraima, the CNDH (National Human Rights Council) prepared a series of recommendations for the federal, state and municipal governments on the reception of migrants from Venezuela. Conectas is a member of the CNDH.

The federal government responded by recognising the situation of social vulnerability in the neighbouring country and established measures to offer emergency assistance to these people. However, the government later authorised the use of the armed forces to guarantee law and order in Roraima – a move that clearly goes against civil society’s demand for a non-militarised response to migration. In April, the government began to relocate migrants to cities in other Brazilian states that are better equipped to receive them in a process it calls “interiorisation”.

#MariellePresent

#30daysforMarielle:
see the video produced by Conectas.
Civil society mobilised to fight against hate speech by pushing for a democratic electoral debate

During the election period, civil society organisations and groups all over the country mobilised to create initiatives aimed at democratising the political debate in the country. Conectas supported and participated in five initiatives:

- **Rights are worth more!**
  
  - No to social cuts!
    
    a coalition that formed to fight against the implementation of austerity measures and to repeal the constitutional amendment that imposed a cap on public spending;

- **Drugs are a case for policy action**
  
  a network that mapped and promoted candidates committed to the decriminalisation of drugs;

- **#Elections WithNoTricks**
  
  a campaign that provoked the electorate to question proposals offering easy solutions to complex issues such as public security;

- **Pact for Democracy**
  
  a group formed by civil society actors with the goal of strengthening dialogue and tolerance in the political debate;

- **They Represent Me**
  
  an online platform that identifies men and women candidates who are committed to issues of racial and gender equality and the defence of LGBT groups.

Network for Training on Refugees and Migrants

Between July and September, Conectas and other organisations that are part of the Rede de Capacitação de Refugiados e Migrantes – such as UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) and ESMPU (Higher School of the Public Prosecution Service), among others – provided training to close to 300 professionals who work with migrants upon their arrival on issues such as the Migration Act, the fight against xenophobia, interculturalism and integration. As a member of the network, Conectas offered communications workshops for civil society organisations, as well as workshops on the rights of migrants and refugees for journalists in the cities of Belém, Manaus and Roraima.
### International advocacy

In 2018, Conectas attended all three sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. In addition to signing public declarations, Conectas organised side events together with other Brazilian organisations to discuss the most pressing issues related to rights violations in Brazil. Conectas also participated in four thematic hearings held at the IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights). A summary of Conectas’ international advocacy work follows below.

#### Denunciations at the UN

- Cancellation of the visit of the independent expert on foreign debt and human rights
- Federal intervention in RJ (decree ordering the intervention)
- Regulation of the Migration Act
- Approval of the resolution on the drug policy and human rights
- Assassination of city councillor Marielle Franco
- Austerity policies/caps on public spending
- Protection of local communities’ rights from the impacts of large-scale projects
- Situation of Venezuelan refugees
- Police and army operations in the Mar
- Federal intervention in RJ and the lack of answers on Marielle’s case

#### IACHR Hearings

- Crimes of May (extra-judicial killings by police)
- Human rights situation of persons deprived of liberty in Brazil
- Business and human rights in the Americas
- Militarisation of public security
- Human rights defenders in Brazil in the context of the assassination of Marielle Franco
- Federal intervention in public security in Rio de Janeiro
- Due diligence, prevention and access to justice for communities affected by human rights violations committed by companies
- Migration of Venezuelans in the Americas
- Austerity measures in Latin America
- Human rights defenders in Brazil

#### UN Side Events

- Militarisation of public security in Brazil and Mexico
- Venezuelan refugees in the Americas
- Federal government intervention in Rio de Janeiro and the assassination of Marielle Franco
In a year where the outcome of the presidential election in Brazil was defined by campaigns on the Internet, the Sur Journal placed the issue of the impacts of the world wide web on democratic processes in countries all over the world at the centre of the debate. Produced in partnership with Internet Lab, an independent think tank, and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, this edition brought together some of the most prominent authors and thinkers on this subject.

The issues addressed included the development and use of political propaganda designed to target specific social media users groups (a topic at the heart of the Cambridge Analytica scandal in the first half of 2018); virtual wars and polarization; the use of the Internet for political discussion and activism; and the relation between the Internet and the emergence of new social actors.
The 28th edition of the Sur Journal brought together contributions from activists involved in the struggle against racism in Brazil and other parts of the world with the goal of placing the issue of race at the core of the debate on human rights.

Black feminist historian, Sueli Carneiro (Geledés), co-edited this edition. Seventeen articles written by 23 authors from six countries who are renowned internationally for their work on racial issues were published in this edition. These authors included researchers Juliana Borges, Thula Pires and Nathália Oliveira and UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, E. Tendayi Achiume.

The goal of this edition was to promote a debate among academics and human rights activists on how race structures inequalities today and how movements have waged the battle against racism. Conectas offered writing fellowships to black men and women authors in partnership with Geledés – the Black Women’s Institute.
The ones who make a difference

In partnership with SESC Pompeia, Conectas brought organisations, groups and activists to the 4th edition of the Ideas Fair, an event held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The 4th edition of the Ideas Fair was held at SESC Pompeia in December. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this year’s edition of the fair selected 27 projects, of which eight were submitted by organisations that had been invited to participate in the event. A total of 89 applications were received. Open to the public, the event had the support of the British Embassy.

40th Vladimir Herzog Prize

In 2018, Conectas was part of the Organising Committee for the 40th Vladimir Herzog Journalism Prize for Amnesty and Human Rights, awarded to the authors of the best journalistic work in the field of human rights. In this edition, 402 articles in the categories art, photography, audio, video, text and multimedia were submitted, approved and passed on to the jury. The selection and announcement of the winners took place in a public session held in the Tiradentes room in the São Paulo City Hall. Fourteen awards were handed out to both winners and honourable mentions.
Human rights on journalists’ agenda

Between September and November, Conectas offered the 5th Training Course on Journalism and Human Rights. Promoted in partnership with OBORÊ and IPFD (Instituto de Pesquisa, Formação e Difusão em Políticas Públicas e Sociais), with the support of Abraji (the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism), the course was held in São Paulo and is part of the Reporter of the Future project. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Conectas offered the 1st Online Human Rights Course for journalists in November, in partnership with Abraji. This was the first free training programme for professionals in this field and it lasted for four weeks. The course addressed issues such as the Brazilian government’s position in international organisations, issues related to the Brazilian prison and criminal justice system and corporations’ responsibilities for environmental and social impacts. Due to the course’s success and the high number of applicants, a second edition is planned for January 2019.

Conectas is re-elected to the National Human Rights Council

Conectas was elected once again for a two-year mandate as an alternate member of the CNDH (National Human Rights Council), together with another 21 representatives of civil society and the government. The CNDH was created to supervise and monitor public policies on human rights and the national human rights programme.

Best NGOs Prize 2018

This year, Conectas was elected one of the 100 best NGOs in Brazil – a prize awarded by Instituto Doar and Rede Filantropia. The winners were chosen based on criteria on management and transparency, such as best organisational and good governance practices. From the 1,700 applications, 100 were selected as the top non-profit organisations. This is the highest award for the third sector in the country.
30th anniversary of the Federal Constitution

Conectas held the seminar “30 years of the Citizens’ Constitution: Advances and Setbacks” to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Brazilian Constitution. Attended by academics, jurists and civil society representatives, the event was held in São Paulo in partnership with the Folha de S.Paulo newspaper and the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) School of Law and in Rio de Janeiro, in partnership with FGV.

70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In yet another partnership with the Folha de São Paulo, Conectas published a series of reports to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The special edition was highlighted in both the printed and online versions of the newspaper. It touched on issues such as the Mexican Supreme Court’s historical ruling on the biggest mining disaster in the country and the project in São Paulo that turns common women into human rights defenders.

Check out all the publications produced by Conectas this year and listed in this report:

- Sur Journal 27;
- Sur Journal 28;
- Tomorrow is Today documentary;
- Carcerópolis;
- National Bank, Global Impacts: The BNDES’s support for the export of engineering goods and services and their impacts on the environment and human rights;
- Country Systems and Social and Environmental Safeguards in Development Finance Institutions;
- A proposal for governance reform to remedy the Doce River disaster;
- Recommendations of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights to Brazil: Status of implementation by the government and businesses.
Conectas is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that exists to protect, enforce and extend human rights as a path to a fairer world. We present below are our figures related to the year 2018.

Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>total number of employees</th>
<th>28</th>
<th>female</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>male</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>volunteers</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>managerial positions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>non brazilians employees</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Range

| up to 25 years old | 2 |
| from 26 to 35 years old | 14 |
| from 36 to 45 years old | 7 |
| from 46 to 55 years old | 5 |

Diversity

| White | 15 |
| People of color | 11 |
| Yellow | 1 |
| Not declared | 1 |
Who believes in our work

Our work is supported by donations from national and international private foundations, as well as development agencies and individuals who believe in our causes and in the impact of our work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Expenses 2018 (BRL)</th>
<th>Initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and finance</td>
<td>653,732</td>
<td>Administrative and finance 653,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>381,726</td>
<td>Fundraising 381,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional communication</td>
<td>641,432</td>
<td>Institutional communication 641,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional development</td>
<td>182,502</td>
<td>Institutional development 182,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional violence</td>
<td>1,658,356</td>
<td>People deprived of freedom 680,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Control of police activity 339,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Drugs law 350,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Right to protest 287,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen democratic space</td>
<td>1,715,580</td>
<td>Civil society in decision-making spaces 389,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laws restricting the work of civil society 224,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SUR Journal 715,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Migration 385,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and social/environmental rights</td>
<td>1,517,616</td>
<td>Financing development 444,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Right to justice 245,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>International arms trade 281,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Corporate responsibility 310,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Climate litigation 234,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,750,944</td>
<td>6,750,944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incomes 2018</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ford Foundation</td>
<td>2,504,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Society Foundations</td>
<td>1,600,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Foundation Ltd</td>
<td>781,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigrid Rausing Trust</td>
<td>714,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonimous</td>
<td>442,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>196,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>184,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Stewart Mott Foundation</td>
<td>184,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Global Human Rights</td>
<td>104,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derecho, Ambiente Y Recursos Naturales - DAR</td>
<td>92,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tides Foundation</td>
<td>64,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulate General of Canadá</td>
<td>36,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Protocol to The Convention Against Torture – OPCAT OHCHR</td>
<td>36,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands Embassy</td>
<td>29,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instituto Betty e A. Jacob Lafer</td>
<td>22,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instituto Clima e Sociedade</td>
<td>20,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundo Socioambiental CASA</td>
<td>16,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grupo de Institutos, Fundações e Empresas - GIFE</td>
<td>15,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editora In house Ltd</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,047,462</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>