



EDITORIAL

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRAZIL: POLICIES, PRACTICES AND STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

Introduction

This Dossier brings together studies that critically examine the relationship between human rights, public policies, and structural inequalities in contemporary Brazil. Entitled *Human Rights in Brazil: Policies, Practices and Structural Challenges*, the collection articulates debates from different fields of knowledge and regions of the country, converging around three central axes: human rights education, public security and mental health policies, and the relationship between the State, social justice, and vulnerabilities.

The dossier opens with the article *Human Rights Education: Perspectives and Challenges in Brazilian Basic Education*, by Aldemir dos Santos Dias, Rodrigo de Moura Reis, and Wellington Sérgio de Souza, which discusses the tensions between international norms and the reality of Brazilian schools, highlighting structural barriers to the consolidation of a democratic culture. In the same vein, Weysller Matuzinhos de Moura examines, in *The Importance of Human Rights Education in Technology Degree Programs as a Mechanism for Guaranteeing Citizens' Rights*, the impacts of human rights education on citizenship training in programs traditionally distant from the humanities, emphasizing the role of interdisciplinarity in promoting egalitarian practices.

The group of articles devoted to public security and mental health presents important diagnoses regarding psychological distress in the sector. Pedro Filipe Cruz Cardoso de Andrade discusses, in *Psychological Illness and Occupational Health in Public Security*, the organizational determinants that shape the professional experience of security agents. Emerson Puche Bueno deepens this discussion by examining, in *Between Human Dignity and Stigma: Organizational Culture and Mental Health of Military Police Officers*, the organizational culture of military police forces and the psychosocial impacts of this hierarchical structure on their members. Subsequently, Bruno Patrício de Azevedo Campos presents, in *Programs, Actions and Challenges in Promoting Well-Being and Mental Health among Military Police Officers in Brazil*, a comparative analysis of national policies and initiatives. Edmilton Ricardo Emanuel Marques dos Reis and Wilquerson Felizardo Sandes discuss,



in *Hospitality and the Quality of Life and Work of Public Security Professionals*, the relationship between institutional support, recognition, and material working conditions.

The dossier broadens the debate by including reflections on the role of the State in addressing social inequalities. In the article *Public Finance and Human Rights: The Tax State as an Instrument for Promoting Social Justice*, Bruno Vilarinho Pires examines the distributive function of the tax system and its relationship with the realization of fundamental rights, addressing tensions between fiscal policy, public budgeting, and constitutional guarantees.

The dossier also incorporates discussions on technologies applied to public security. In *Body-Worn Cameras: Complementary Tools for the Preservation of Fundamental Rights and Guarantees in the Democratic Rule of Law*, Rachid Diniz Ferreira Sallé and Helena Esser dos Reis analyze the potential of operational video recording to prevent violations and strengthen institutional transparency, highlighting recent empirical evidence from the Brazilian context.

The final section of the dossier is dedicated to the challenges of protecting children and adolescents. The article *Youth Violence in the Capital of the State of Amazonas: An Analysis of the Progressive Increase in Criminal Occurrence Records*, by Juliana Tuma Gouveia Tavares, Maurides Macêdo, and Jéssica Painkow Rosa Cavalcante, presents a study on the increase in violence records and their correlation with socioeconomic factors and public policies designed to address them.

Complementing the volume, the **Articles Section** brings together three contributions that broaden the thematic scope of this issue and reinforce the interdisciplinary nature of the *Journal of Socio-Environmental Law*. In *The Economic Dimension of SADC: A Perspective Toward the Materialization of Economic Policies in Southern Africa*, João Luís Araújo analyzes the challenges of regional integration within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), discussing the limits and possibilities of economic policies aimed at cooperation and regional development.

Next, Matheus de Mendonça Gonçalves Leite, Joyce Machado Reinoso, and Carlos José Andrade Silveira present the article *Modernity, Coloniality and Mining: Neo-Extractivism and the Resistance of Traditional Peoples and Communities*, which investigates the links between coloniality, the expansion of mining frontiers, and human rights violations, demonstrating how contemporary socio-environmental conflicts are connected to the persistence of historical structures of domination and the resistance of traditional peoples and communities.



Closing the issue, Pedro Henrique Corrêa Guimarães, in *Yanomami Territorialities: Margins Between Geography, Literature, and Law*, offers an interdisciplinary reflection on the multiple conceptions of territory present in Yanomami cosmology, bringing together contributions from cultural geography, literature, and law to challenge traditional legal interpretations of Indigenous territories and reaffirm territory as a space of identity, memory, and resistance.

The texts gathered here reflect the thematic, methodological, and territorial diversity that characterizes contemporary studies on human rights, social justice, and socio-environmental issues. They constitute relevant contributions to understanding the complexity of structural inequalities, the effects of state action on people's lives, the challenges of protecting vulnerable groups, and the possibilities for building public policies committed to human dignity, democracy, and socio-environmental justice.

Editorial

Celebrating twenty-five years of the Interdisciplinary Center for Research, Teaching, and Extension in Human Rights at the Federal University of Goiás goes beyond recalling trajectories; it is about reframing a political, ethical, and academic commitment that has become a national reference in critical education and interdisciplinary production in human rights. The XV *Pensar Direitos Humanos*, held in 2024, was conceived precisely as this act of active memory, capable of bringing together past, present, and future in a collective reflection on the meaning and scope of human dignity in times of crisis.

Since its inception, the NDH has understood that thinking about human rights in Brazil requires confronting a reality marked by deep-rooted inequalities, persistent forms of violence, and a political culture that oscillates between democratic openness and authoritarian tendencies. In this context, the Center has consolidated itself as a space for epistemic reception and interdisciplinary articulation, affirming that no valid interpretation of reality can dispense with the encounter between knowledge, practices, and territories. The celebration of its 25th anniversary reaffirmed this vocation: it was not a nostalgic event, but a public reaffirmation that the university must remain a place of resistance, dialogue, and innovation.



The 2024 *Pensar Direitos Humanos* honored this trajectory through what has always constituted the strength of the NDH: critical debate, rigorous intellectual exercise, and openness to a plurality of voices and experiences. In its panels, roundtables, and presented works, it once again became evident that interdisciplinarity is not a conceptual ornament, but a necessary condition for understanding problems that cut across Brazilian society in multiple dimensions. Human rights education, mental health of public agents, citizen security, fiscal justice, child and youth violence, culture, religion, and media are not isolated topics; they are parts of the same mosaic that reveals the contours of a country in continuous dispute over meanings of humanity.

It is from this atmosphere of reflection, institutional maturity, and public commitment that this dossier emerges. The articles gathered here not only echo the theoretical depth that marked the commemorative activities, but also project possible paths for the renewal of democratic practices. They reveal that human rights remain a field of dispute, but also a fertile ground for political and social reconstruction. In all of them, we recognize the same pulse: it is not enough to diagnose the present; it is necessary to envision what can be transformed.

The studies on education reaffirm the centrality of schools and academic training as spaces of resistance in a country marked by recurring attempts at silencing and pedagogical control. Research on public security and mental health highlights the urgency of rethinking institutions historically marked by violence, proposing practices and policies that unequivocally defend the dignity of workers and the population. Analyses of public finances, body cameras, and child and youth violence show, each in their own way, that human rights permeate state management, the use of technologies, and the protection of children and adolescents, demanding institutional responses that combine justice, transparency, and care.

By bringing together these reflections, the dossier pays tribute to the formative spirit of the NDH: an institution that, over a quarter of a century, has nurtured the conviction that the defense of human dignity must be a collective endeavor, inseparable from the dialogue between university and society. As Paulo Freire reminds us, the hope that mobilizes action is not passive expectation; it is movement. In this sense, this dossier is an expression of this active verb that has marked the history of the Center: *to hope in action*.

May the twenty-five years of the NDH inspire us to continue building, inside and outside the university, research, teaching, and extension practices committed to democracy, solidarity, and the



struggles for social justice. And may the reflections gathered here continue to nourish this journey, keeping alive the commitment that sustained the XV *Pensar Direitos Humanos*: to think critically about the world in order to transform it.

Morrinhos, 30 de abril de 2026.

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This version was originally submitted in Portuguese and translated into English with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence.