

KOINONIA Presença Ecumênica e Serviço

30 years generating nondenominational solidarity and interreligious dialogue, providing services to groups that are historically and culturally vulnerable and those in process of political and social emancipation.



Founded in 1994, KOINONIA was created after its Associates Assembly, attended by historical activists on the fight or democracy and affirmation of values from the Non-Denominational Movement in Brazil.

Also in the late 1990s,
KOINONIA was
consolidated and took a
standout position among
non-denominational
organizations in Brazil,
strengthening its
interventions in different
work areas.



KOINONIA, on its service calling, is a political player from the nondenominational and inter-religious movement that provides services to the social movement

To generate solidarity and provide services to groups that are historically and culturally vulnerable and those in process of political and social emancipation

- Ecumenism and Interreligiosity
- Solidarity Ethics Human Rights





in the nondenominational arena,
 it enable the
 ecumenical and interreligious (national and
 international)
contribution to Brazilian
 society



In the same period, the institution conducted educational actions and for promotion of human rights from vulnerable populations at Vale do Paraíba, in São Paulo, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, and in the northeast states of Alagoas, Bahia and Pernambuco.



The teams also
worked with
traditional urban
and rural Black
communities, small
family agriculture
farmers, urban and
rural youths, and
religious and
ecclesial groups.



Throughout these 30 years, we have worked with different audiences, conducting educational actions and promotion of human rights with vulnerable populations.

Such educational actions, especially with youngsters more recently, have identified means to overcome violations of rights and intolerance.

In the 2010s,
KOINONIA
consolidated lines of
strategic actions
that were in sync
with its goals:

 production of knowledge in science and religion;

 political articulation within the scope of the Non-Denominational Forum in Brazil, Religions for Rights, and the ecumenical presence in World

Social Forums;

 conduction of national campaigns for defense of rights;

 reconstruction of the memory of the nondenominational movement in the fight for democracy during the civilmilitary dictatorship in Brazil.



These are the fundamental areas of operation that **reflect the priorities and strategic goals** of the organization.

They guide the actions and projects from KOINONIA, addressing social, cultural and religious topics.



= NON-DENOMINATIONAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENTS



This theme as a work pillar is resumed through an assessment that our operation both with the nondenominational and interreligious movement and with other articulations from civil society has grown and demanded more coordination from our organization.

The rise of fundamentalism pushes us to a more robust and resistant public presence, both due to its religious dimension and the reduction of space from organized civil society.



RIGHTS FROM TRADITIONAL BLACK COMMUNITIES AND OVERCOMING RACISM

The activities by KOINONIA with Traditional Black Communities (CNT) are developed mainly with remaining quilombola communities and African religion terreiros.





Over the past few years, due to the rise of fundamentalism in Brazil, there were significant reductions in public policies targeted at these communities, as well as an increase in religious intolerance, spreading throughout the public political dispute.

We have identified the need to address these themes together, in the dimension of religious racism, a concept that encompasses both the racial and the religious dimension of denying rights to these communities.

Currently, our operation occurs with different approaches, such as strengthening network and advocacy actions, especially from Black women and youngsters; qualification of different community leaders and communities; legal-administrative advisory to religious associations and organizations; production of knowledge abut themes.

The actions from this pillar are supported by the organizations Fundação Heinrich Böll e Pão para o Mundo.





Through this partnership, we allow 45 supports to female defenders of human rights in emergency situations are quickly given to local organizations.

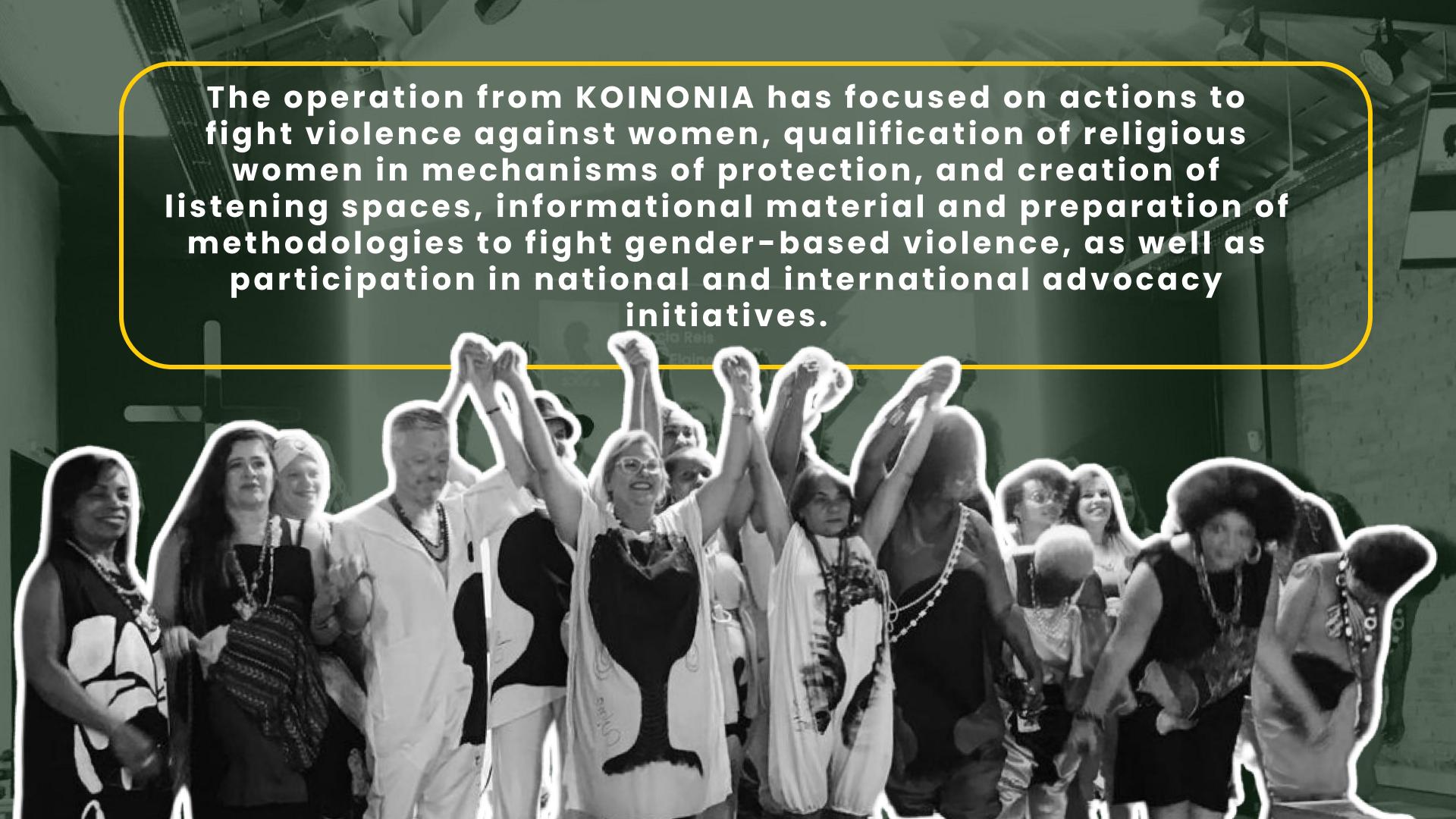
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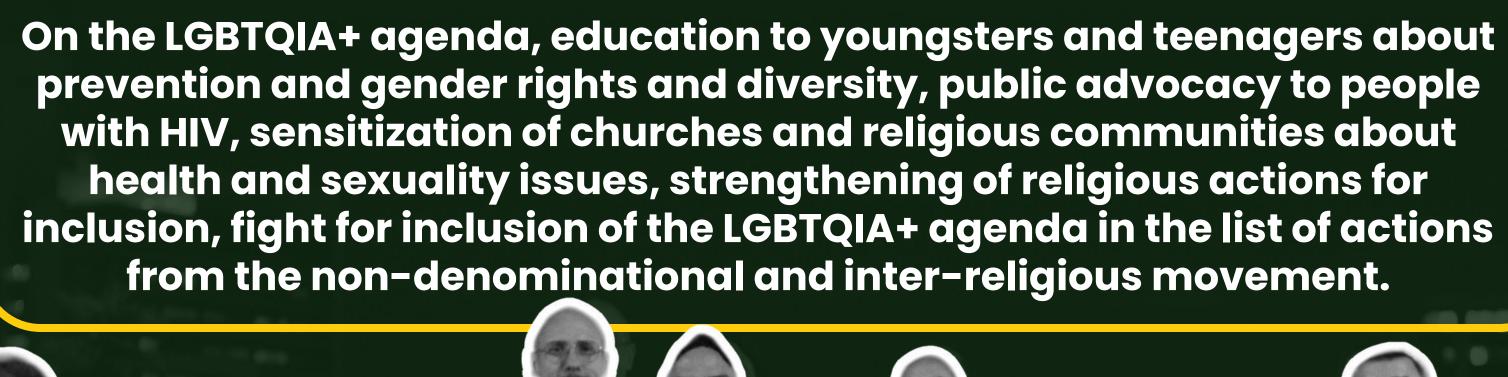


With the rise of fundamentalism in Brazil, the rights related to women and the LGBTQIA+ suffered backlashes. Together, they were the core group in the political dispute from the fundamentalist agenda, from the so-called "gender ideology" to fake news published nationwide about the "gay kit".

Feminist organizations and movements and LGBTQIA+ movements have been important political players in the fight against fundamentalism, but there is also the challenge of expanding the understanding of gender, sexual and reproductive rights to other social movements not directly identified with these agendas.

As a nondenominational, interreligious organization, our
calling and mission is to
discuss these agendas in
religious communities,
increasingly affected by
fundamentalist and
conservative standpoints.



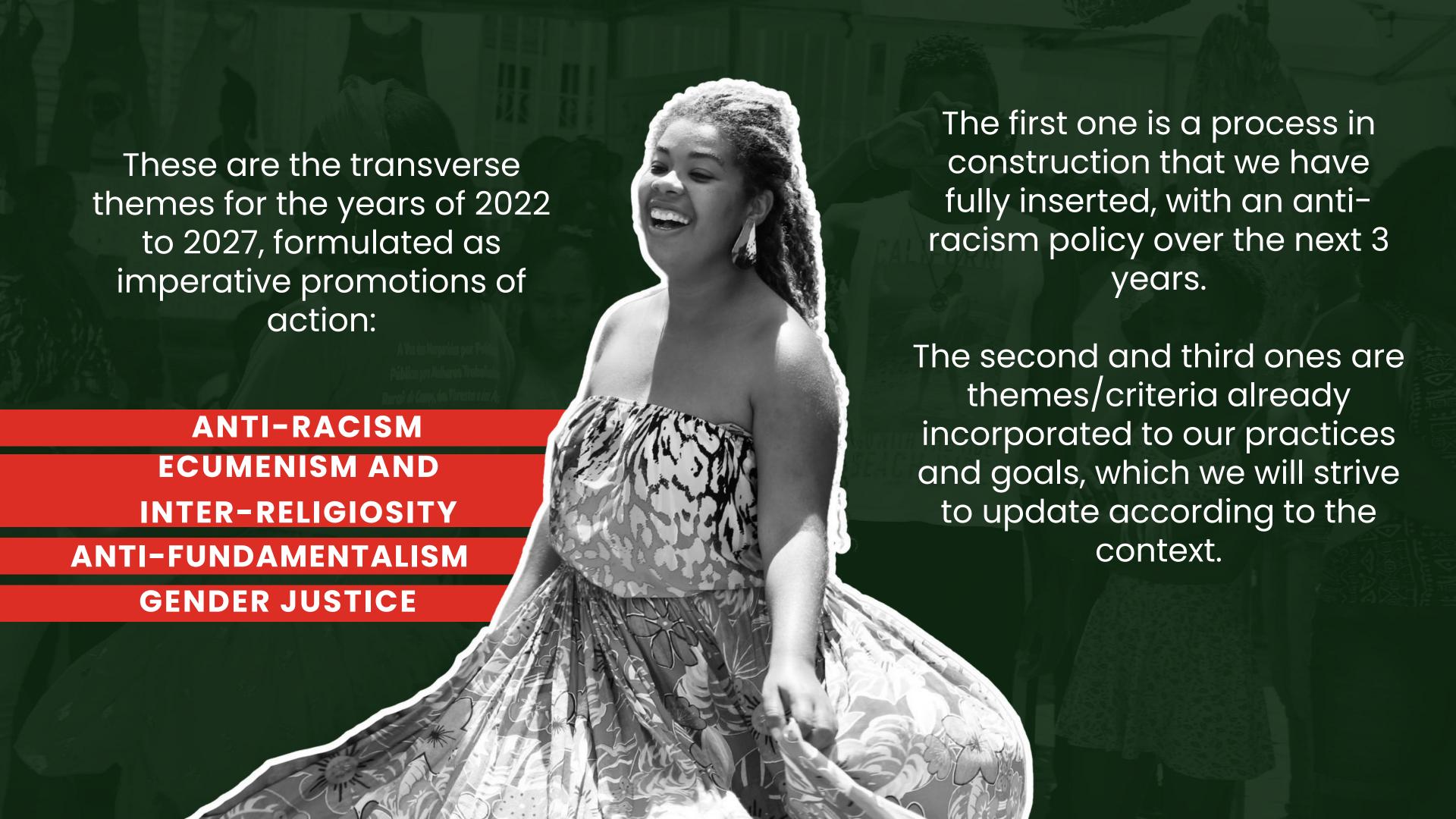






The dialogues reported indicate an update to the transverse themes, which as addressed by KOINONIA as those related to all institutional practices and their goals.







ECUMENICAL JOURNEY

Meeting between people from different religious traditions with the goal of debating crucial issues on respect, diversity and inclusion that impact the faith experiences of each individual. This happens through religious life, lectures, roundtables and cultural activities that celebrate diversity and stress the importance of fighting every type of prejudice. In all editions, KOINONIA worked along with several institutions that, together, comprise the Ecumenical Journey.

There were 5 editions:











AIDS AID CHURCHES 1996to 2012

The project started as a response to the evolution of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and had the goal of preparing churches to become spaces of prevention, welcoming and incentive to adhering to the treatment. The materials were widely used not only by Catholic and evangelical churches, but also by Spiritism centers and Candomblé terreiros. Also, there was an important dialogue between public power, religious communities and NGOs concerning the relation between religion and health.

ETHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OULLOWBOLK 2005 to 2007

Project conducted with support from the Agricultural Development Ministry (MDA). Its goals were to

consoli
date and strengthen the associations
from three quilombola communities in
the state of Rio de Janeiro: Marambaia,
Preto Forro, and Alto da Serra. Another
important point was the improvement in
the quality of life from inhabitants of
these territories through qualification in
self-management and socially,
environmentally and culturally

austainable devalopment

JUALIFICATION AND SUPPORT THE REVENIENT OF

The project was one of the worldwide initiatives that aimed at contributing to achieving the millennium's development goals. For three years, actions that included directly over 2,000 people, among them more than 1,000 women, were promoted. Indirectly, these activities affected nearly 17,500 people. In addition to the European Union, Christian Aid and Church Development Service (EED) were co-financers of the project.

2007 to 2010

2010 to 2012

Development Ministry (MDA), the project qualified quilombola women in 18 communities from Baixo Sul in Bahia with the focus of expanding the economic and political participation of women in the sale of their products and in spaces for decision-making and social control of public policies.

AGRO-ECOLOGICAL YARDS: A PATH TOWARDS FOOD SAFETY IN THE HILLSIDE REGION OF RIO DE JANEIRO 2011 to 2012

It contributed to the food safety of farmer families in Teresópolis and Nova Friburgo affected by climate catastrophe. The work was conducted for one semester from financing by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB).

RESPONSE TO FLOODS IN TERESÓPOLIS

held in 2012

It contributed to the well-being of 58 families from Vargem Grande, Teresópolis, meeting their needs through humanitarian assistance. The work was conducted from financing by ACT Alliance.

2012 to

Supported by the **Department of** Policies for Promotion of Racial Equality (SEPPIR). This project had the goal of supporting actions for institutional strengthening of quilombola communities, with emphasis on the organizational dimension and social control, as well as promoting the leading role of quilombola people in decisionmaking processes that strengthen the ethnical-racial, cultural and political identity of quilombola communities from the state of Rio de Janeiro. The initiative resulted in the production of 3 manuals targeted at quilombo-remaining communities and 2 videos about the topic.



With support from the **Social Responsibility Program from** Petrobrás, the project expanded the access by Candomblé terreiro members in Salvador – especially youngsters – to opportunities of work and increased income. Houses that historically conduct actions targeted at local development and defense of rights were participants. The spaces had regular workshops on productive practices and human rights, always adapted to the experiences and knowledge from each community.

PROTESTANTS, DICTATORSHIP AND DEMOCRACY

held in 2014

Conducted by KOINONIA and by the
Amnesty Commission from the
Ministry of Justice, "Memórias
Ecumênicas Protestantes no Brasil"
was dedicated to registering,
organizing and publicizing the
memory on the participation of
religious people
- especially Protestants - in the fight for

democracy during the Civil-Military

Dictatorship period, through the

creation of a Multimedia Digital Archive.

RIO+20: RELIGIONS FOR RIGHTS held in 2014

Supported the presence and visibility of the non-denominational family and inter-religious cooperation at the People's Summit and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The action was conducted from funds by ACT Alliance, Christian Aid, CIDSE/MISEREOR, EED, ICCO, WCC, UCC.



The project happened in two phases, aiming at implementing strategies for promotion of birth registration and non-violent culture. From financing by Unicef, the first actions were held between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo and, then, between Rio de Janeiro and Salvador.

TRANSCIDADANIA PROGRAM

2011 to 2012

Transcidadania was a program by the São Paulo City Government aimed at promoting human rights, citizenship and life opportunity conditions for transsexual women, transvestites and trans men in social vulnerability situations. The initiative was structured around increasing the level of school education, allowing conditions for financial autonomy through income transfer conditioned to the execution of activities related to the program.



COMÉRCIO COM IDENTIDADE: QUILOMBOL BLACK WOMEN FROM BAIXO SUL IN BAHIA

2016 to 2018

Support to the sale of production from quilombola women of three communities in Baixo Sul, Bahia, aiming at strengthening and expanding female and mixed solidary economy networks.



CONECTAIDS: VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING AND COMBINED PREVENTION RELATED TO STI/HIV/AIDS AND VIRAL HEPATITIS

held in 2017

The project has the purpose of incorporating knowledge about STIs, HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis for fighting epidemics, especially the HIV epidemic, in the young LGBTQIA+ population.

Another goal is to work in the perspective of human rights and fight against race, gender and sexuality discriminations, aiming at fighting social vulnerability and violation of human rights.



An initiative by KOINONIA in **partnership with the STI/AIDS Coordination from the City of São Paulo through an agreement**. The focus was on young people aged 18 to 29 years who lived or socialized in the city of São Paulo, LGBTQIA+ and Black youngsters.

MULTIVERSA: OCCUPYING DIGITAL TERRITORIES WITH PREVENTION

held in 2022

To consolidate and expand the qualification about prevention in HIV and other STIs with groups, social movements and civil society networks with focus on digital, working the intersections of sexual orientation, gender identity, race/color, and aiming at sharing safe, updated and reliable information.



With support from the Netherlands Embassy, the project has the main goal of establishing a center for leaders from Traditional Black Communities (terreiros and quilombos) in Salvador and Camamu, Bahia, promoting a continued popular education, producing materials for sensitivity and dissemination of information about gender violence through the creation of democratic spaces for promotion of gender equity and execution of formative actions and incentive to mobilization, and alliance between quilombola leaders related to religious institutions and identities. This articulation also aims at strengthening the mobilization among communities for advocacy in public agendas, confirming alliances between candomblé followers and quilombola people (Christians and African religions).



KOINONIA, on its posts, addresses encompassing topics, including rights of traditional Black communities, gender issues, sexuality and reproductive rights. The goal is to promote dialogues, generate and disseminate knowledge and information, as well as support qualifications and public advocacy actions.

Check the posts here



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