



“MIL NAÇÕES MOLDARAM MINHA CARA” [A THOUSAND NATIONS SHAPED MY FACE]¹: BRAZIL, SOUTH-SOUTH MIGRATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (OUTREACH) IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Karine de Souza Silva

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
karine.silva@ufsc.br

Daniel Ricardo Castelan

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
daniel.castelan@ufsc.br

Abstract

The objective of this article is to present the outreach project “Cátedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello: Núcleo de Apoio a Imigrantes e Refugiados” [Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair: Immigrant and Refugee Support Center] of the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina with the aim of contributing to the debate about university outreach in this historic moment when the ties between teaching, research and outreach are being reconstituted. Using the mixed-method approach and post- and decolonial theories, this paper presents the main results of the practices carried out between 2014 and 2019: more than 30 thousand individual services – provided in partnership with the Migrant Ministry, the Center for Reference and Assistance for Immigrants and the Federal Public Defender’s Office – to people of 62 nationalities, mostly racialized individuals of the Global South. This is a pioneer project that has promoted non-hierarchized encounters with difference and has contributed to draw up the migration profile of the state of Santa Catarina in the context of South-South Migration.

Keywords: University Outreach. Race and South-South Migrations. Decolonial Practices.

“MIL NAÇÕES MOLDARAM MINHA CARA”²: O BRASIL, AS MIGRAÇÕES SUL-SUL E A EXTENSÃO EM RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS

Resumo

O objetivo deste artigo é apresentar o Projeto de Extensão “Cátedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello: Núcleo de Apoio a Imigrantes e Refugiados” da Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, com vistas a contribuir com o debate sobre a extensão, nesse momento histórico de reconstituição dos laços entre ensino, pesquisa e extensão. Utilizando-se do método quali-quantitativo e das teorias Pós e Decoloniais, este trabalho aponta como principais resultados das práticas realizadas no período 2014-2019, a prestação de cerca de 30 mil atendimentos - em parceria com a Pastoral do Migrante, com o Centro de Referência no Atendimento a Imigrantes e Refugiados e com a Defensoria Pública da União - a pessoas de 62 nacionalidades, com preponderância dos sujeitos racializados do Sul Global. Trata-se de um projeto pioneiro que tem promovido encontros não-hierarquizados com a diferença, e tem contribuído para desenhar o perfil migratório de Santa Catarina no contexto da Migração Sul-Sul.

Palavras-chave: Extensão Universitária. Raça e Migrações Sul-Sul. Práticas Decoloniais.

“MIL NACIONES CONFORMARON MI CARA”: BRASIL, MIGRACIÓN SUR-SUR Y EXTENSIÓN EN LAS RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES

Resumen

El objetivo de este artículo es presentar el Proyecto de Extensión “Cátedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello: Centro de Apoio a Imigrantes y Refugiados” de la Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina, con miras a contribuir al debate sobre la extensión, en este momento histórico de reconstitución de lazos. enseñanza, investigación y extensión. Utilizando el método cuali-quantitativo y las teorías Post y Decolonial, este trabajo señala como los principales resultados de las prácticas llevadas a cabo en el período 2014-2019, la provisión de aproximadamente 30 mil asistencias, en colaboración con Pastoral do Migrante, con el Centro de Referência para Asistencia a Imigrantes y Refugiados y con la Oficina del Defensor Público de la Unión, a personas de 62 nacionalidades, con preponderancia de sujetos racializados del Sur Global. Jerarquizado con la diferencia, y ha contribuido a dibujar el perfil migratorio de Santa Catarina en el contexto de la migración Sur-Sur.

Palabras clave: Extensión Universitaria. Raza Sur-Sur y Migraciones. Prácticas Descoloniales.

¹ *O que se cala.* Written by Douglas Germano. Performed by Elsa Soares.

² *O que se cala.* Autor Douglas Germano. Artista Elsa Soares.



INTRODUCTION

In the current context of international migrations, in which South-South displacements³ are intensified, Brazil has figured as a privileged hosting *locus* for people from various peripheral and semi-peripheral countries who, in numerous cases, are fleeing from misery, persecutions, armed conflicts, or simply aspiring for better study, working, and living conditions. While Brazil as an emerging nation has turned into an attractive pole for the so-called new immigrants⁴, the country’s southern region, in the last decade, has attracted the majority of displaced people. This is mainly due to the job opportunities, which are found to be higher in the South in comparison to the national average.

In fact, since 2010, the state of Santa Catarina has witnessed a significant increase in the number of Global South immigrants. This flow has made the state a place where descendants of migrants who were in the role of colonizers in the past centuries now meet the ‘new migrants’, that is, the racialized people who less than 200 years ago still did not have their status as ‘civilized’ recognized, and who still today occupy marginal spaces in society, coming from nations that were colonized. Facilitating this encounter, from a decolonial and welcoming perspective, in order for the new migrants to have their condition as Humans recognized and be able to fully integrate in this country, is the main purpose of the outreach project “Cátedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello: Núcleo de Apoio a Imigrantes e Refugiados” [Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair: Immigrant and Refugee Support Center], created in 2014 at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina.

In particular, the Project originated from the lack of specific state policies, which prompted UFSC and some civil society sectors to lead the hosting process for these migrants. The Chair is an initiative of the UFSC Center for Decolonial and Postcolonial Research and Practices Applied to International Relations and International Law - Eirenè, which is linked to the undergraduate programs in International Relations and Law. Eirenè develops activities under the university’s three pillars, namely teaching, research and outreach.

3 “Since 2005, South-South migration has grown faster than South-North migration. The South hosts around 84% of the world’s total population and is the origin of around 74% of all international migrants. While the number of South-North migrants (originating in the South, living in the North) has increased by around 9 million every five years since 1990, the number of South-South migrants remained almost unchanged at about 60 million from 1990 to 2005 and then increased rapidly to over 105 million in 2019” (UNITED NATIONS, 2019).

4 “New immigrants are the contingents arriving since the first decade of the 21st century. Although Portuguese and Spanish Europeans, who left Europe amid an economic crisis, have not gained much visibility, they also add to the flows of Ghanaians, Senegalese, Syrian refugees, immigrants from Mercosur countries and from other South American countries (an earlier movement in relation to these flows) [...]” (GAIRF, 2015)

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Outreach⁵ is the pillar which promotes direct contact between the university and the community. Indeed, it is through dialogue with the others that we can enable actions for the collective construction of pluriversity knowledge and praxes which are decolonizing and emancipating and are committed to transforming the world we live in. As social individuals, we must take historical responsibilities of transforming the structures that dehumanize people. In this context, Eirenè's outreach practices are guided by the (anti) post- and decolonial epistemologies, and are therefore based on intercommunicability, for they seek to promote a dialogue with the world, instead of only speaking to or about the world.

The University must take over the streets and the streets must take over the University. For this reason, outreach is conceived as a way of decolonizing the University, provided that it favors a respectful and non-hierarchical encounter with difference and promotes a respectful and deep listening to otherness. The University, as a place for transformation, must act on the reality that mediates us, and our knowledge must be traversed by the world (FREIRE, 1979).

Hence, Eirenè's outreach project operates in the field of migration, developing concrete actions with and for internationally displaced people and guided by the following principles: a) intercommunicability and promotion of non-hierarchical dialogues with immigrants and with partners of the human mobility activist network; b) advancement of partnerships and networking; c) interconnection between research, teaching and outreach; d) development of a circular methodology that enables meetings and praxes outside the University's walls while at the same time stimulating non-academic communities to interact with the academy and participate in on-campus activities.

The objective of this text is to briefly present the project developed by Eirenè, so as to contribute for the debate on university outreach, which gains shape in this moment when the ties between teaching, research and outreach are being reconstituted.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The “Cátedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello” [Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair] outreach project (hereinafter CSVN/Eirenè/UFSC) is an international action resulting from an agreement signed by UFSC and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR/UN). The Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair is an initiative of the UNHCR and the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) that aims to promote research and outreach activities related to International Refugee Law. According to the UNHCR, “over the years, the Chairs have been taking a key role

⁵ University outreach is understood as an educational, cultural, scientific and political interdisciplinary process that promotes the transforming interaction between the University and other society sectors. At UFSC, we use the term *outreach* to refer to the broad range of activities that engages the university with society.

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in ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers have access to rights and services in Brazil, offering valuable support to the local integration process”. At UFSC, this international outreach chair is developed since the end of 2014.

The CSVM/Eirenè/UFSC was created with the purpose of promoting an outreach project that intercommunicates with immigrants and the local and state welcoming networks, so as to promote research and practices aimed at safeguarding the human right to migrate and transforming, through dialogue, the reality that mediates us. The proposal is guided by the Freirean concept of outreach as an affectionate and non-hierarchical encounter with difference destined to build collective solutions to social challenges (FREIRE, 1979).

The target audience of the Project is formed by immigrants residing in Greater Florianópolis. In this sense, it is important to state that this outreach initiative is totally grounded on the understanding that migration is a human right that must be respected and safeguarded. Based on this, CSVM/Eirenè/UFSC is working on the following actions:

- 1) Daily services to immigrants and refugees at the Federal Public Defender’s Office (DPU), in the areas of Consular Law, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, with emphasis on document accessibility (migrant regularization). The partnership between UFSC and the DPU started in 2016. Services were also carried out, on a larger scale, at the Migrant Ministry from 2015 to 2018. Following that, with the creation of the Center for Reference and Assistance for Immigrants (CRAI) in February 2018, UFSC signed an agreement with the Archdiocesan Social Association (ASA) to work together with CRAI, and the CSVM/Eirenè/UFSC activities were transferred to that institution, remaining there until September 2019, when the Reference Center closed its doors due to the Santa Catarina state government’s refusal to renew the contract.

The number of daily individual services varied from 2015 and 2019. In the beginning of 2015, the average was 40 people received per day at the Migrant Ministry. From May 2015, this number doubled, and, in some months, about 80 to 100 people were received per day, mainly due to the growing arrival of Haitians in that period. These numbers fell by half in the second semester 2016, and remained stable until the beginning of 2018, when the services started to be provided by CRAI. From February 2018 to September 2019, 10.159 individual services were provided and 14.606 procedures were carried out, resulting in 30-40 individual services per day. Since CRAI’s closure, approximately 30 daily services are being provided at DPU⁶ today.

⁶ Services are offered in partnership with DPU at Rua Frei Evaristo, 142 - Centro, Florianópolis. Office hours are from Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..

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2) Advocacy actions taken to call on the state authorities to ensure rights and to design and implement effective integration and welcoming policies. In this field, the mobilization takes place in various forums, especially in two which have been driving the theme. The first one is the Greater Florianópolis Immigrant and Refugee Support Group (GAIRF), constituted in 2014 by public and private actors with strong participation of the civil society. This group promotes debates and concrete actions to facilitate the integration of immigrants in the Brazilian society, calling for the public authorities to find solutions to the migration issues in Santa Catarina. The second one is the Immigrant and Refugee Support Working Group (GTI) of the Legislative Assembly of Santa Catarina (ALESC). The GTI was created in 2015 on the initiative of the Human Rights Commission (CDH) at ALESC. It is an assembly where the legislative branch, in partnership with the civil society and different entities, act together with various public and private institutions, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the State Secretariat of Education, the Migrant Ministry, GAIRF, UFSC, the Circles of Hospitality, associations of immigrants, among others. Hence, it is an institutionalized space where it is possible to formalize demands raised in the GAIRF, call for responses on the part of the executive and judicial branches and, when possible, coordinate position-taking and decision-making actions with the legislative branch⁷. The collective advocacy actions taken by the different actors gathered in the GAIRF and the GTI, including the Eirenè/CSVM, made possible the creation of the CRAI – the second Reference Center to be established in Brazil – as a public policy. Finally, it should be noted that Eirenè is part of an UFSC commission destined to implement specific seats for immigrants and refugees in the academic programs through the affirmative action system (quotas). By means of the Ordinance no. 2245/2018/GR, published in 19 October 2018, the Office of Affirmative Action at UFSC instituted a working group in charge of proposing a Policy for Refugees and Humanitarian Visa Holders at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. The work of the commission is still ongoing.

3) Social Intervention. This action includes: training for public officials and immigrants; preparation of booklets and informational material for public officials and immigrants; and creation of a bank of translators to meet the needs of immigrants in emergency situations, such as in 2015, when Haitians and Senegalese arrived from Acre in seventeen buses, and, upon request of the municipal and state Secretariats of Social Assistance, and in partnership

⁷ The GTI meetings take place at least once a month.

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with the Migrant Ministry, Eirenè set a service unit at the Saul Oliveira gymnasium (*Capoeirão*) to provide documentation to the newcomers⁸.

4) Monitoring of the migration flows to Santa Catarina. From the services provided daily, information is generated and stored in a database which, in turn, allows for the design of a migration profile of Santa Catarina with its demands. This data is used to subsidize Eirenè’s research, as well as the advocacy actions taken to call for the formulation of public policies. This way, it is important to note that research is fueled by outreach and vice versa. During the execution of this project, various articles were published in national and international books and journals, making this statistical data public⁹.

5) Research-teaching-outreach association. At this moment in Brazilian universities, when we are attempting to understand what it really means to ‘associate’ teaching with outreach and research, we in Eirenè assume that this understanding will come with action, with praxis. For this reason, we are committed, together with the International Relations Program at UFSC, to identifying the cognitive skills and contents developed in the outreach activities and incorporating them organically into the program’s curriculum. In this process, we also seek to articulate with other outreach projects that develop similar activities. For example, the centers which act in the field of human mobility and work in a coordinated manner with CSVM, namely: the “Portuguese as a welcoming language” project (PLAM) promoted by the Center for Portuguese as a Foreign Language Research and Teaching (NUPLE), which offers free Portuguese classes to immigrants and refugees residing in Greater Florianópolis; the “Right to the city for immigrants and refugees in Greater Florianópolis: integration to public services and leisure” developed by the Geography Program; and the Center for Studies in Psychology, Migrations and Cultures (NEMPsiC). PLAM and NEMPsiC have also joined CSVM/UFSC.

Still in the context of the curricularization of outreach, a pioneer elective course called “Topics: Outreach in Migration and Refuge” was created in the International Relations Program, being offered for the first time in the second semester 2018. This pilot course aimed to integrate, three-dimensionally, teaching and research from outreach practices¹⁰. The course enabled conversation circles in and outside UFSC with immigrants of various nationalities and with activist entities working at the state and national levels, such as: the Migrant Ministry, the *Cáritas*

8 See: <https://irene.ufsc.br/2019/11/18/tbt-eirene-memoria-da-participacao-do-eirene-no-mutirao-para-receber-os-onibus-de-imigrantes-haitianos-chegados-em-florianopolis-em-2015/>; clothing and food donation campaign for vulnerable people. More information about these actions can be found on Eirenè’s website (www.irene.ufsc.br).

9 These publications can be found on the Lattes Platform as well as on Eirenè’s website.

10 Twenty-three students were enrolled in the course, coming from undergraduate programs in International Relations, Law, Economics, Architecture, Food Engineering, Geography, in addition to two exchange students, one from the United States and the other from Spain, and a national mobility student from Universidade Federal do Rio Grande.

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network, the Federal Highway Police, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the NGOs “Circles of Hospitality” and “Brazilian Association for the Defense of Women, Children and Youth” (ASBRAD). In addition, extra-class activities were developed in partnership with CRAI, the Migrant Ministry, Cáritas, GAIRF, and the ALESC working group.

One of the required activities in the course, which should be highlighted here, was developed in association with the NUPLE Outreach Project, guaranteeing the interdepartmentality of outreach at UFSC. During some weeks, students were in charge of giving support to the PLAM teachers in their classes. In the course meetings, booklets and leaflets produced by CSVM/Eirenè and partners were presented, followed by theatrical dynamics and group and pair conversation carried out to reinforce the topics learned. Such pedagogical tool was found to be very productive, and may offer clues for the curricularization of outreach involving different degree programs.

As stated above, one of the principles of CSVM/Eirenè is the coordinated action with partners for the strengthening of the human mobility activist network in Santa Catarina. This methodological option is in tune with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially with goal 17, which calls on the member states to strengthen global partnerships in order to support and achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda, and with goal 10, which calls for the implementation of immigrant and refugee policies. Following the Agenda, countries must “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” (2030 Agenda, UN). With this perspective, over the five-year period, many partnerships were formed, among which we highlight the ones with UNHCR (which enabled the implementation of CSVM/UFSC), DPU, the Archdiocesan Social Action (CRAI), the Migration Ministry, and NGOs such as the Circles of Hospitality.

Finally, we note that, since 2014, dozens of undergraduate and graduate students from the Law and International Relations programs took part in the outreach activities, in addition to exchange students of the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC/UFSC). The social intervention activities and events also had the participation of students from other undergraduate programs at UFSC and from other higher education institutions.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The outreach actions developed by Eirenè/CSVM/UFSC, together with its municipal and state partners, have demonstrated notable social impact, and have been proven extremely useful

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for the formulation of welcoming and integration policies as provided in article 120 of the Brazilian Migration Act.

Among the main results, we highlight the inauguration of CRAI-SC as a public policy – an important outcome of the activism of different GTI and GAIRF actors, including the active participation of Eirenè/CSVM. The Archdiocesan Social Action won the bidding process (Call for Bids no. 0028/2016) to implement CRAI-SC. The Reference Center, which operated from February 2018 to September 2019, was the first of the Southern Region and was the result of an agreement signed between the Union, the Santa Catarina State and ASA. UFSC, in its turn, signed an agreement with ASA to perform its outreach activities at the Migrant Ministry and at CRAI. It is important to note that the information collected and registered from the migrants, as well as the knowledge built during the work at the Migrant Ministry and later at CRAI, were fundamental to subsidize the construction of a state policy for this population. In these two service spaces – Migrant Ministry and CRAI – more than 30 thousand individual services, that is, an average of 6 thousand individual services per year, were provided to immigrants and refugees of 62 nationalities, residing in 36 cities in Santa Catarina, two cities in Rio Grande do Sul, and one city in Paraná, according to tables 1 and 2 below. The collected data also reveals that the vast majority of the people is racialized and come from countries of the Global South. These are also the ones who are made most vulnerable in face of the lack of intersectional welcoming and integration policies. It is also important to note that black immigrants are made vulnerable by government inaction. That is, they are not vulnerable people; they are made vulnerable due to the lack of public policies, which is different.

Table 1

Nationalities/Countries
Germany, Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Kazakhstan, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Egypt, Ecuador, Spain, United States, France, Philippines, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Yemen, Solomon Islands, Comoros, England, Iran, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Palestine, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Serbia, Syria, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Own elaboration
Source: CRAI/Eirenè database

Table 2

Cities of Residence	State
Antônio Carlos, Balneário Camboriú, Biguaçu, Blumenau, Bombinhas, Camboriú, Canelinha, Brusque, Capinzal, Chapecó, Concórdia, Criciúma, Florianópolis, Garopaba, Gaspar, Governador Celso Ramos, Imbituba, Indaial, Itajaí, Itapema, Jaraguá do Sul, Joinville, Lages, Laguna, Navegantes, Palhoça, Rio do Sul, Santo Amaro da Imperatriz, São Bonifácio, São Joaquim, São João Batista, São José, São Pedro de Alcântara, Tijucas, Tubarão, Urubici.	Santa Catarina
Curitiba.	Paraná

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Porto Alegre, Vacaria.	Rio Grande do Sul
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Own elaboration

Source: CRAI/Eirenè database

It is needless to say that the research results have been published in national scientific journals. More than that, in reaching out to the world, the University’s knowledge has gained shape and became a reality, contributing to *transform* the society towards what we used to defend in class – the right to equality and to a dignified existence. For this, the *partnerships* with the community were indispensable.

Eirenè has given support to CRAI in the establishment of partnerships with SENAC Florianópolis (Prainha Unit) and IGEOF for the professional qualification of immigrants, promoting actions to foster income generation and entrepreneurship, such as the immigrant food and arts fair. This action, which is coordinated by immigrant collectives, continues today in a relatively autonomous way: the fair is held since December 2017 and currently takes place once a week in Florianópolis’ city center. For the fair to take place, CRAI/Eirenè were responsible for the event promotion; IGEOF issued the permit; and the immigrants coordinate the exhibition. More than 40 immigrants of 10 different nationalities have participated in the project since its creation.

This is an important point about outreach: the critical and theoretical thinking generated in class, when incorporated into individuals and guiding their actions, changes the world concretely. So what was yesterday a dream, utopia or ideal, is now realized – obviously through a battle with the circumstances. “Changing the world” means transforming passive individuals into active citizens who are able to reproduce and multiply transforming practices for the benefit of society. Outreach, by building knowledge, lights the wick, but it does not always have to work to feed the fire.

With this principle in mind, Eirenè/CSVM – in partnership with the Migrant Ministry – delivered a training workshop for health professionals and prepared the leaflet “Medical care to migrants”, containing vocabulary about general symptoms and chronic diseases to help migrants express health problems which can be solved by medical care. The leaflet was prepared in collaboration with a physician of the Florianópolis health network and had the support of the Municipal Secretariat of Health. It is available in five languages: Arabic, Haitian Creole, Spanish, French and English at Eirenè’s website¹¹.

With the purpose of expanding the knowledge acquired by those who are part of CSVM and facilitating the services provided to immigrants and refugees by other entities which were not used to receiving such high and recent demand in Greater Florianópolis, Eirenè/CSVM also

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Leaflets available at <https://irene.ufsc.br/cartilhas-folders-e-materiais-de-campanhas/>.

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prepared a booklet entitled “WELCOME TO SANTA CATARINA: a guide for refugees and immigrants”. This booklet is intended to help immigrants and refugees learn their rights and have access to information about migration regularization, health, education, and practical issues related to public transportation¹².

Social actions, such as clothing, food and school supply donation campaigns, were also developed. In this domain, we highlight the donation of one ton of food made by singers Emicida and Criolo in 2016 for migrant and refugee families (<http://irene.ufsc.br/2017/02/06/eirene-agradece-aos-cantores-criolo-e-emicida/>).

In 2019, Eirenè organized the “Christmas Without Borders” campaign with PLAM’s support. The action encouraged children to write letters to Santa Claus asking for a Christmas gift. Fifty-eight children of six nationalities sent their letters – many of them written by immigrant parents with the help of PLAM teachers during their Portuguese lessons. The letters were adopted by members of the UFSC community and the community in general and a Christmas party, to deliver the gifts, was held on 23 November.

As mentioned before, a bank of translators was also created to assist immigrants in emergency situations. Around 200 translators were registered with us and many of them provided their help in 2015, when seventeen buses with immigrants coming from Acre arrived in Santa Catarina. Eirenè welcomed and assisted this group of immigrants in the last week of May and the first week of June, when the buses arrived in Florianópolis.

Finally, it is important to mention the active participation of CSVM in the preparation of a draft bill to institute an Immigrant Policy in the state of Santa Catarina. For a year, a WG discussed the terms of the proposal. Prof. Karine de Souza Silva was responsible for including in the bill the fight against racism, the mention to affirmative action for black immigrants, and the need of an intersectional approach to combat racial, ethnic, gender and sexuality oppressions.

FINAL REMARKS

Outreach has the power of transformation. *Transformation* is the term that makes the concept stand still in the Brazilian public policies for education. As part of the Brazilian public service, we understand that our practices as educators must be geared towards transforming the society that we have agreed upon by the Federal Constitution of 1988. As good educators, we know that it is only possible to fulfill our duty as citizens-educators if we understand what

¹² Booklet available at <http://irene.ufsc.br/2016/09/08/publicacao-da-cartilha-bem-vindo-a-santa-catarina-um-guia-para-refugiados-e-imigrantes>.

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transformation is. Just as one who has never tried an apple does not know what an apple is, those who have never experienced *transformation* do not know what transformation is. For this reason, it is necessary that we do outreach for the University to realize the principle of *equality*, incorporated into the Constitution not because we are equal, but because we judge, as a nation, that this high ideal is still far away.

Brazil, known as a “country of migrations” for having been formed by various nations, ethnicities and races, does not know how to meet with *alterity*. It establishes relationships with those that it thinks are its equal, those that inspire its dreams, those that populates it with memories and myths of glory, but disparages those who have been racialized, those whose ascendants are depicted in the official historiography as mere scum, as servants. Overall, in this state of the racial democracy myth, black bodies are not given the right to a dignified existence. Reader, ask yourself: what was the last feeling of non-hierarchical affection – other than pity – you have developed for someone of another color? Or of very distinct income? Or for someone who cannot read? Or for someone who has no roof to live under? There is solidarity, there is a feeling of nation, *within* the classes, and *within* the races, but not outside of them.

That is why migration to Brazil from countries of the “South” is still a taboo. To tackle it is to complete the decolonization task, which also means to complete the march for equality as stated in our Constitution, and to build *one* nation. It is to transform the world – or rather the people of the world – so that we may welcome into our home, with the same affection and care, those who were born in the metropolis and those who were born in the colony. This is the reason Eirenè’s project exists; this is the reason outreach is done.

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