



**Statement launched by the Latin American and Caribbean Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW-LAC), the regional representative of the Education interim commission of IFSW-LAC and the Latin American Association for Education and Research in Social Work (ALAEITS in Spanish) on the attacks of President Bolsonaro's policies against university education and the development of research and science in Brazil**

The member organizations of the Latin American and Caribbean Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) together with the members of the Latin American Association for Education and Research in Social Work (ALAEITS in Spanish) express our ABSOLUTE REPUDIATION to the offensive of the Bolsonaro government imposing austerity policies that threaten the principle of a public, accessible and independent University education.

On May 15, the world witnessed the uprising of students and educators, including social work professionals, in rejection of the 30% cut in the budget of public universities and federal institutes, the pension reform, and other neoliberal measures imposed by the current government of Brazil. Social Work is a profession called to defend the human rights of peoples, including the right to a public, accessible and independent education. When oppressive governments restrain this right, people become prey to the institutional practices of the ruling class, making it impossible for them to perceive injustices and social inequality. At this juncture, where humanity faces the most atrocious consequences of neoliberalism in all spheres of daily life, it is urgent for us as social workers to join forces with all sectors at local and international level in defense of human rights to achieve a single goal: the construction of a more just and equitable society.

That is why we express our repudiation to the budget cuts on the education and the intention to political control the academics and research institutions by the Bolsonaro government. We recognize the courage and political clarity of the Social Workers of Brazil, educators and students who accompanied and will continue to accompany the Brazilian people in their brave struggle for the defence of human rights and social justice. Their actions enhance our profession and give reason to our organizations.

"Education is an act of love, therefore, thus an act of courage" - Paulo Freire

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