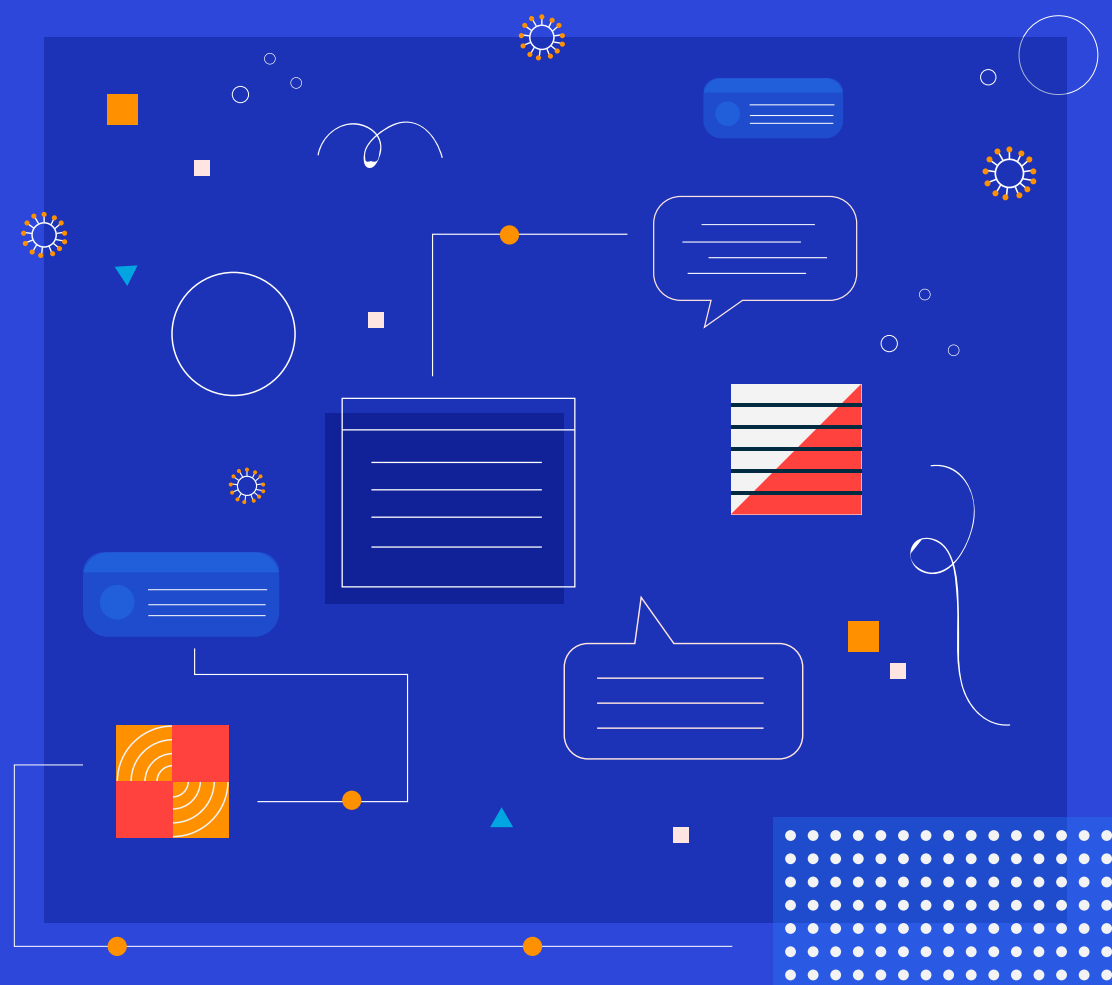




Hello

► Humanitarian Rumor Bulletin
#4 | MAY 2022



If you have questions, suggestions, or information, please contact us: **Isadora Starling** (istarling@internews.org), Project Manager, ou **Samilly Valadares** (svaladaressoares@internews.org), Community Engagement and Accountability Officer.

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ROOTED IN TRUST

The Rooted in Trust 2.0 (RIT) project, facilitated by Internews, seeks to strengthen information ecosystems and carry out activities to approach, listen and engage communities in the fields of information, rumor analysis, COVID-19 and vaccination. We work with indigenous and quilombola communities in the states of Amapá, Pará and Roraima in a process of responding to the 'infodemic', with the objective of enhancing existing communication networks to make them safer and healthier.

ABOUT THIS BULLETIN

This bulletin aims to provide humanitarian and health partners with data on rumors that were identified among indigenous communities in the states of Roraima, Amapá and Pará and quilombola communities in the states of Amapá and Pará in the last month. Its objective is to guide and inform about the communication of risk and community engagement efforts in responding to the health crisis. We will present two rumors mapped in Telegram groups in the state of Pará. The content of the rumors and an analysis of their impact on the region follows.

233

COLLECTED RUMORS

COLLECTED IN MAY 2022

THEME:

COVID-19

SUB-THEMES:

22

VACCINATION SCHEDULE

25

TREATMENT/HEALING

95

SECURITY

39

CHILDREN

22

POLITICAL AGENDA/DISINFORMATION

30

EXPERIMENTATION

COVID-19 CONTEXT IN BRAZIL

• **30.880.512** CASES

• **666.180** DEATHS

+33.910
NEW CASES

+143
NEW DEATHS

Since the last registration on 25/05/2022

 **317,0**
MORTALITY PER HUNDRED
THOUSAND INHABITANTS

According to the **Media Consortium**, in the last **14 days** the **moving average of deaths by COVID-19** was in **+10%**, and indicates a stability trend. The moving average of known cases is also stable.

 • **178.272.688** 1ST DOSES

 • **165.639.167** 2 ND DOSES AND SINGLE DOSES

 • **91.218.006** DOSE REFORÇO

SOURCES:

Ministério da Saúde (26 e 27/05/22) | APIB (27/05/22) | Conaq (12/01/22) | Consórcio de veículos de imprensa (25/05/22)

INDIGENOUS

• **71.593** CASES

• **1.310** DEATHS

APIB (Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil) data consider both indigenous people who are located in traditional territories and those in an urban context.

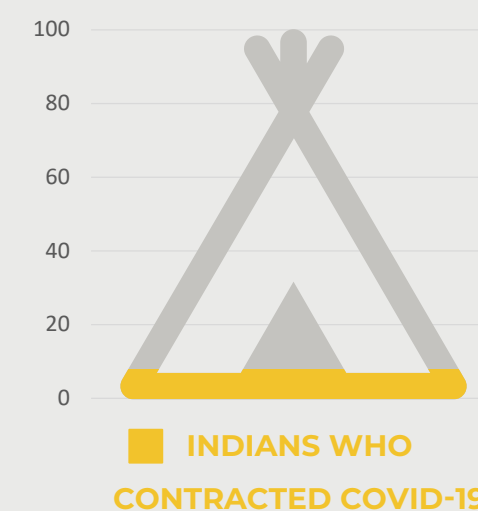
APIB data show that Roraima and Pará are among the five states with the highest number of confirmed indigenous deaths in the country.

According to the 2010 census of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Brazil has 896,917 indigenous people. Of these, 8% have already contracted COVID-19.

 • **375.943** 1ST DOSES

 • **357.228** 2 ND DOSES AND SINGLE DOSES

According to the 2010 census of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Brazil has 896,917 indigenous people.



QUILOMBOLAS

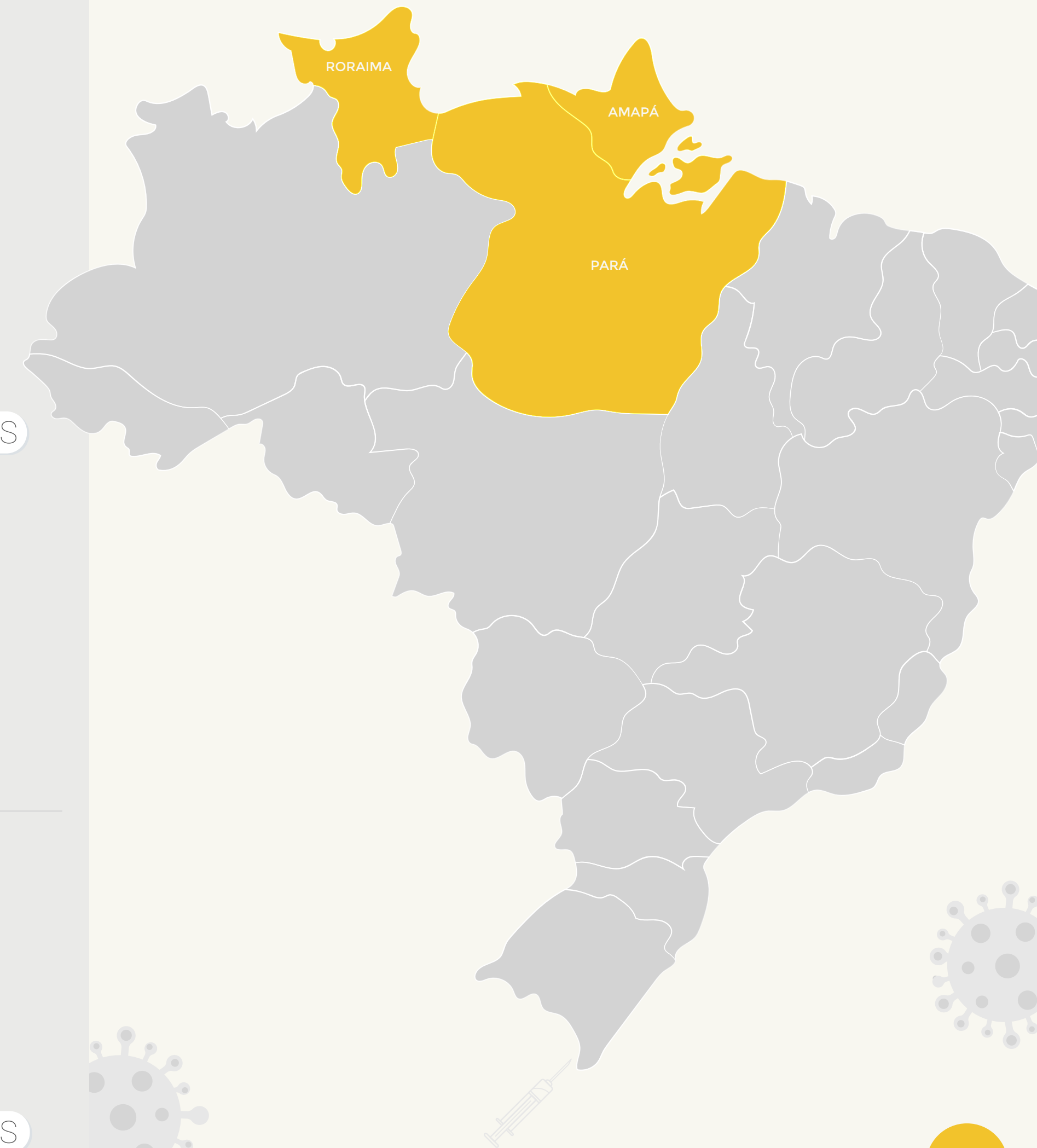
• **5.666** CASES

• **301** DEATHS

 • **598.171** 1ST DOSES

 • **547.963** 2 ND DOSES AND SINGLE DOSES

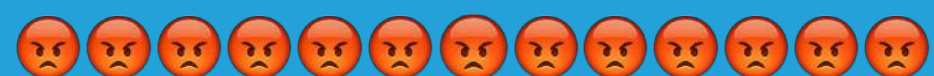
Target Public



SAFETY



It's way past time for us to get together to punch these scumbag professors in the face!!!!



(about teacher who would have attacked a student who was without a mask.



(THE RUMOR WAS IDENTIFIED IN PARÁ'S TELEGRAM GROUPS)

WHAT IS BEHIND THE RUMOR?

The rumor presented brings a discourse of incitement of violence in the face of the headline shared by a tv news, in which a professor from the University of São Paulo (USP) would have forced a student to wear a mask in the classroom, according to the rules for the prevention of COVID-19 stipulated by the institution.

Groups adverse to measures related to the containment of the pandemic, reflected the fact. In some cases, as verified in the Telegram do Pará group, with incentives for hostile acts against teachers and professionals from the education field. Identified as antagonists of President Jair Bolsonaro and the way he faced the pandemic in the country, university professors, researchers, scientists and human rights defenders are often identified by these groups as enemies to be fought.

The resumption of face-to-face classes in basic education and higher education institutions brings great challenges for managers, teachers and students. There is a process of adaptation to the new teaching conditions and relationships established in the context of COVID-19, especially at this time of easing of sanitary measures, in which the eagerness for the resumption of activities clashes with the fact that the pandemic is not yet over.

FACT CHECKING

- The **Ministry of Education (MEC)** stated biosafety protocols for the return of face-to-face activities with individual and collective guidelines for the operation of activities in institutions. The Article 207 of the Federal Constitution guarantees autonomy to federal education institutions to deliberate on when and how the resumption of face-to-face classes should occur.
- The University of São Paulo (USP) determined the **continuity of the use of masks** in its facilities, without adhering to the municipal and state decree on the flexibility of use in open and closed environments.
- **Masks** are considered protective instruments to reduce the risks of contagion of COVID-19 and the institution, through its **Health Advisory Committee**, has the autonomy to determine the appropriate measures of care and prevention in the context of the pandemic.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The rumor brings a criticism to the requirement to wear masks in the classroom, disregarding that, even with the flexibility of some security measures, it is still necessary to prevent COVID -19. In addition, the discourse of inciting violence against teachers can become a risk to the physical integrity of these professionals in their work environment. It is important to consider that conflicts are not limited to the academic environment.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, political polarization in Brazil has been pointed out as an aggravating factor for the impacts of COVID-19 on

society. Uncertainties regarding the health of the population, concern about financial impacts and partisanship contributed to divergences in the decision-making of governments on COVID-19 prevention measures, installing a climate of anxieties and stresses for human relations.

The binarity established between individual or collective interests, right or wrong, reduces the space for dialogue and collaborates to tensions in living environments. The educational institutions that should be a safe place, care and learning end up becoming also a place of reproduction of violence.

“

We, students, were very affected by the pandemic, we returned to the classroom very anxious, with insecurities to establish relationships, present work, interact with each other. The pandemic greatly affected the teacher-student relationship; even in the remote period it was possible to observe difficulties of coexistence. Discussions between students and teachers in whatsapp groups happened often, besides the removal of teachers and the refusal of students to take some courses. People feel more confident in the internet space, in the remote/online, and this lack of limits was brought to the face-to-face dynamics as well

”

A quilombola student, graduating in Social Sciences at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA), brings us a report on the impacts of the pandemic on the relationships established in the academic sphere.

MOBILIZATION & POSSIBLE ACTIONS



In addition to analyzing rumors, Internews considers it relevant to reflect on possible actions in response to the “infodemic”. Here we suggest some possible responses, such as:

01.

Students organize themselves collectively to create strategies for permanence in universities. It's important to dialogue with indigenous and quilombola organizations in these spaces to understand the demands, anxieties and challenges experienced with the resumption of classes in the context of the pandemic.

02.

It's important to create spaces for debates and mutual listening with communities and students about fears, insecurities and divergent thoughts in the context of the pandemic, seeking to update information and resolve doubts about strategies for dialogue and prevention of COVID-19 even with the relaxation of sanitary measures.

03.

Social networks are strategic channels to strengthen dialogue on the pandemic, vaccination and prevention measures, especially with indigenous and quilombola students who transit between urban centers and communities.

04.

Universities provide psychosocial care channels, student assistance and information about COVID-19. Some indications:

UFPA: Superintendence of Student Assistance (**SAEST**) that provides psychological on call video and pedagogical guidance for students with difficulties in studies.

UFRR: Free Psychological Care Service for the Community (**SAP**)

UNIFAP: Specific page with **information about COVID-19**, services and care in the pandemic.

VACCINE AND REACTION



Look, I believe that vaccines have done this for a long time, many young women outside the normal. For sure it's that crap!! (vaccines make people effeminate). "shoo" satan = "shoo" vassins



WHAT IS BEHIND THE RUMOR?

The rumor brings an association that has appeared before in the public discourse, that the vaccine can change something fundamental about a person, such as the comment by government representatives that people "would become alligators" when vaccinating themselves. In this case, however, the commentary assumes a homophobic character because "effeminate" is usually a pejorative way of referring to people, especially men and transvestites, LGBTQIA+, who do not necessarily conform to gender stereotypes.

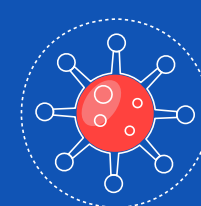
From then on, the rumor becomes more serious, as the LGBTQIA+ population is very vulnerable in Brazil; which appears as one of the most violent countries for this population, and especially for trans people.

In this sense, we brought the testimony of the President of the

Sexual Diversity Commission of OAB-Pará and member of the National Commission of Sexual Diversity and Gender of OAB, which demarcates how much the Brazilian social structure collaborates to prejudices and stigmas in relation to people who flee from the socially established standard.

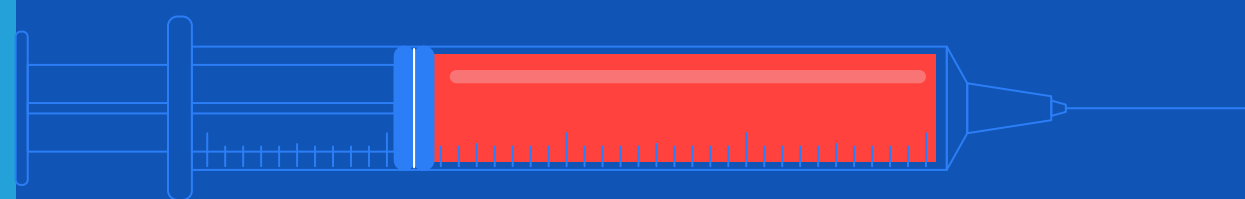


This rumor is very significant because, usually in our society, we send a message with content overlays. So, with this rumor you see a conspiracy theory, a lack of knowledge, LGBTphobia, a social representation about people. But mainly an attempt to justify and dehumanize all those who flee from a socially and historically constructed standard and which unfortunately is still hegemonic and guides an entire culture, an entire system that is not only LGBT-phobic, but is racist, misogynistic, sexist and xenophobic.

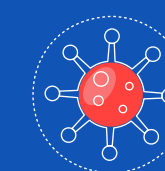


FACT CHECKING

COVID-19 VACCINES:



- **They are safe** and guarantee protection against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- **They may have side effects that**, in most cases, manifest themselves mildly or moderately and disappear within a few days. Such as: fever, pain at the application site, muscle pain, headache, fatigue and chills.
- They have no causal relation or any influence on people's subjective and identity constructions, which means, vaccines are against COVID-19 and have no effect on individuals' gender identities, sexual orientation or gender expression.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The rumor presents vaccination as a cause for the effeminate characteristic, bringing a pathologizing and stigmatized discourse on the different constructions and expressions of identities. **The effeminate subjects are out of the binary and heteronormative logic that runs the Brazilian society**, where men cannot be sensitive, delicate and express characteristics considered feminine. In the prevailing patriarchal logic, the feminine is related to a place of inferiority and subalternization; terms linked to the idea of “feminine universe” are constantly transformed into expressions of offense.

The narrative of the rumor uses gender stereotypes and social stigmas to strengthen the anti-vaccine discourse and highlights the need to address the theme of gender and the numerous violence experienced by people who do not fit the social standard, especially in the context of the pandemic. It is important to point out that **prejudice against people with dissenting identities, with gender roles that go beyond the imposed pattern** - aphenophobia - is a social marker that influences the processes of health construction and guarantee of rights and brings individual and collective impacts.

The most recent Brazilian Public Safety Yearbook, a **report** released in 2021, showed that violence against LGBTQIA+ people and against women increased during the

first year of the pandemic. Data from **Disque 100**, which collects reports of human rights violations, showed that the place where this violence against LGBTQIA+ people happened most often is precisely at home.

With the pandemic, social isolation and recommendations for people to stay at home, many LGBTQIA+ people have lost spaces for socialization and welcoming – a **Fiocruz survey** pointed out that 55% of this population had worsened their mental health.

Brazil is considered the country that kills the most LGBTQIA+ people. Even with the criminalization of LGBTphobia, the rates of violence continue to grow.

There was a 24.7% increase in homicides against LGBTQIA+ people and a **20% increase in the number of occurrences of violence in 2020**.

The average was 4 LGBTphobia crimes per day with evidence of underestimation of cases.

The North and Northeast regions concentrate more alarming rates of LGBT phobia in the country.

The states of Pará, Amapá and Roraima showed growth in the records of bodily injuries due to LGBTophobia in 2020. The State of Roraima presented a growth of 200% compared to 2019.

Danilo Tupinikim, a member of the Tibira Collective (an organization formed by LGBT+ indigenous people) and the

Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), emphasizes the importance of considering the plurality of peoples in the face of the debate on gender and sexuality and points out the erasure of LGBTQIA+ indigenous identities.



This double erasure, this double violence is a reproduction of what is the thought of Brazil itself, you know!? Which is exclusionary, it's racist, it's LGBT-phobic. When we listen to these comments we see how unprepared society is to deal with this diversity that we live, that we are, but that people try not to accept in any way. Mainly because of the idea that Brazil is a unique, universal society and that it wants to deny its diversity and that it is impossible to deny in the face of all this diversity and our resistance and existence as an indigenous.



Brazil had 300 violent deaths of LGBTQIA+ people in 2021



276 HOMICIDES



24 SUICIDES



MOBILIZATION & POSSIBLE ACTIONS

In addition to analyzing rumors, Internews considers it relevant to reflect on possible actions in response to the “infodemic”. Here we suggest some possible responses, such as:

It is very important to listen to LGBTQIA+ groups, identify their information needs and co-create communication products that respond to their priorities, as well as to hate speech and various violence experienced. As has already been done by the institutions, it is necessary to work with the local media and promote training on gender and LGBTQIA+ issues to promote dialogue around social risks and stigmas with information contextualized to the specificities of the communities. In view of this, we brought some indications:

Collective **TIBIRA** – First social media in Brazil idealized by LGBTQIA+ indigenous people. It seeks to foster a space for exchanges of experiences

and information on the demands of LGBTQIA+ indigenous peoples in view of the invisibility of the theme in Brazil.

Collective manifesto **Coloring life in defense of the territories** that was read at the Terra Livre camp in 2022 during the First LGBTQIA+ Plenary and brings reflections on the diversity of indigenous LGBTQIA+ demands and lives.

Fiocruz Pro-Gender and Race Equity Committee that seeks to address ethnic-racial and gender issues through debates, actions and production of materials and campaigns. In the context of the pandemic, it carried out cycles of debates on the impacts of COVID-19 and the plurality of the Brazilian people and their demands.

SOURCES:

- UOL News - Homophobia in Brazil: crime increases 20% in one year
- Brazilian Security Forum - The Victimization of Women in Brazil - 3rd edition 2021
- Brazilian Security Forum - Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública 2021