



RESPONSE TO UN WOMEN'S “Technical Briefing - The 2026 Unofficial Visits of UN Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem to Latin America (Brazil, Colombia and Mexico)”

The aim of this document is to dispel the misinformation spread by a so-called Technical Briefing circulated by UN Women, called “The 2026 Unofficial Visits of UN Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem to Latin America (Brazil, Colombia and Mexico)” regarding the Special Rapporteur’s on Violence against Women and Girls (SR VAW) to Brazil, in March 2026 (ANNEX 1).

MATRIA is nominally mentioned in this document, whose focus is mainly on Brazil (13650 characters written about the country versus 2753 characters dedicated to the visit to Mexico and 4025 to the visit to Colombia). An analysis of the embedded metadata of the document, using Microsoft Word's document properties, identifies "Maria Eduarda Borba Dantas" as the original author (Creator) of the document. The document to which we had access indicates that it was “Last updated on 21 May 2026”, while Ms. Borba Dantas was still working for UN Women Brazil¹. On her LinkedIn account, Ms. Borba Dantas emphasizes her advocacy “for human rights, gender equality, race and ethnicity, and the rights of LGBTQIAPN+ communities” and her name is frequently found linked to events focused on trans issues and groups².

The briefing starts by claiming Ms. Reem Alsalem conducted “unofficial visits” to the three countries, implying that any visit not conducted as a country visit or not producing an official report would be in some sort of breach of protocols. Although not the main focus of this text, we feel nevertheless obligated to point out that academic visits are an existing mechanism for Special Rapporteurs, being used by other mandate holders³ and that Ms. Alsalem’s visit to Brazil followed the protocol of officially informing our diplomatic authorities about the visit, its aim and the stakeholders she wished to engage with.

MATRIA asked for a copy of those documents through a Freedom of Information Request⁴, having ascertained that Mr. Tovar Da Silva Nunes, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva was informed of the visit on February 10th 2026. The documents also show that the Foreign Office forwarded, on February 25th, the Special Rapporteur’s requests for meetings to the Ministry of Women (Ms. Márcia Lopes), the Prosecutor General (Mr. Paulo Gonet), the country’s First Lady

¹ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/maria-eduarda-borba-dantas-9760a7243/>

² <https://antrabrazil.org/2025/10/05/antra-minmulheres-lancam-guia-dignidade-cidadania-direitos-trans/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DJopeBuu6HN/>
<https://aliancalgbti.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/16.-ONUBR-Cartilha-P%C3%A1ginas-Trans.pdf>

³ https://srdefenders.org/information/academic-visit-to-angola-south-africa-and-ghana/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁴ <https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/10479517>



(Ms. Rosângela Lula da Silva) and the Supreme Court President (Mr, Edson Fachin). According to the documents sent, the only reply, declining the meeting, was from the First Lady's Office.

Before focusing on the many inaccuracies regarding the Brazilian situation and Reem Alsalem's role in it, it is of utmost importance to highlight a paragraph that, from the introduction of the document, shows how biased the UN Women Briefing is:

Over the past decade, Latin America has experienced the rapid growth of coordinated anti-gender movements. Often rooted in ultraconservative Catholic and evangelical institutions, far-right political parties, and transnational legal advocacy organizations, these actors mobilize opposition to gender equality policies, sexual and reproductive rights, and the recognition of gender identity. Anti-gender discourse has been framed as a defense of 'the family', 'biological sex', and 'women's safety', while portraying feminism and LGBTQIA+ rights as existential threats to democracy and social order.

The authors of the briefing and those who circulated it inside UN Women know full well that in the three countries they supposedly analyze, it is feminist women and groups that are in the forefront of challenges to the replacement of sex as a legal category with gender identity. It is the case of the many Brazilian women's groups that will be mentioned in the following pages. Although MATRIA does not define itself as feminist, since we accept as members any woman that agrees with our principles, the founders of the group are feminists and the majority of its 453 members too⁵.

The briefing inverts the facts when arguing that "conservative and far-right actors" would be implementing a "strategic appropriation of feminist symbolic spaces" when what we have seen for over a decade in Brazil is feminists fighting against the very concrete appropriation of our actual spaces and rights by male individuals who self-declare a female gender identity.

Throughout the briefing, those supposedly speaking in the name of UN Women are disingenuous at best, using polysemous (or frankly made-up) terms without explaining them, portraying what are their opinions as an absolute truth or a consensus, repeatedly mentioning "civil society" or "stakeholders" when referring to a very limited group of actors that all share the same point of view and relying almost exclusively on publications produced by a small group of closely affiliated actors (Sexuality Policy Watch⁶ and ANTRA⁷) to supposedly prove what the opinion of a whole continent would be on such controversial topics as the conflicts between women's rights and demands based on the idea of gender identity.

⁵ https://www.instagram.com/p/DSurxMNEQXi/?img_index=11

As of July 2026, only 11% of our members state to be politically right-leaning.

⁶ <https://sxpolitics.org/ptbr/sobre-spw>

⁷ <https://antrabrasil.org/>



When excluding from the narrative the various Brazilian and Latin American women's groups who have consistently opposed the erasure of sex in public policy and law for many years, UN Women is failing its mission, by not taking into account the views and concerns of a significant part of women in Brazil and the world. As proved by an opinion poll commissioned by MATRIA⁸ in late 2024, around 80% of the population rejects the inclusion of self-identified males in women's spaces and policies, a number that can hardly be attributed to "far-right"⁸. It seems to be, on the contrary, what the actual "civil society" thinks on the matter.

In the same vein, it is worth noting that when affirming that the Special Rapporteur's positions "diverge from the Yogyakarta Principles and established UN standards", the link mentioned, instead of providing evidence of the claim, points to a manifesto written by a civil society organization⁹, signed by 551 groups and 843 individuals. It does not, however, acknowledge that in response to this, a letter¹⁰ was published in support of Ms. Alsalem's work, with even more signatures of both groups (781) and individuals (2658).

Thus, the briefing that is the subject of this document is not only a defamatory attack on Reem Alsalem as it is a testament to the failure of UN Women to take into consideration different points of view within the group it is supposed to represent (women). Such an oversimplified analysis of a complex issue in a country as complex as Brazil reflects poorly on an organization supposed to be capable of tackling multi-dimensional matters.

PREVIOUS INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE SR VAW AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

MATRIA - Mulheres Associadas, Mães e Trabalhadoras do Brasil is a nonpartisan women's rights group created in 2023. One of our first initiatives was to reply to the call for input¹¹ by the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, Ms. Reem Alsalem, in preparation of her official visit to Brazil, scheduled for July 31st-Aug 10th of that same year.

The Special Rapporteur was then well known to Brazil's women's group for her strong support for the repeal of the Parental Alienation Law, a law that has harmed thousands of mothers and their

⁸ <https://associacaomatria.com/opinioes-dos-eleitores-brasileiros-sobre-autoidentificacao-de-genero/>

⁹ <https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/nao-ha-lugar-para-agendas-anti-trans-na-onu>

¹⁰ <https://sex-matters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Open-letter-Let-the-UN-Special-Rapporteur-on-VAWG-Deliver-her-Mandate-21-June-2023.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/call-inputs-country-visit-brazil>



children in the country since 2014. Many groups, such as Mães na Luta¹², CPI Voz Materna¹³ and Sangra Coletiva¹⁴ focus on the repeal of this law, that is also one of the main goals of MATRIA¹⁵.

In 2020, CPI Voz Materna sent a complaint to CEDAW, regarding the existence of the Parental Alienation Law in Brazil. The complaint was accepted, the group subsequently sent a Shadow Report to the UN on the topic in 2021, and the Brazilian government was officially questioned on this subject.

Reem Alsalem also issued a call for mothers to send reports of their cases of rights violations using Parental Alienation Law in 2022, then holding two online meetings with Brazilian mothers, before issuing, in April 2023, a report that tackled the issue and urged States to “prohibit the use of parental alienation or related pseudoconcepts in family law cases and the use of so-called experts in parental alienation and related pseudo-concepts”¹⁶.

In November 2022, Ms. Alsalem sent a letter to the newly elected Lula government, urging the country to repeal the Parental Alienation Law¹⁷ and it was with a lot of hope that women’s organized groups learned about her official visit to the country, rescheduled by Lula’s government, after the Rapporteur herself cancelled an official visit that was to have taken place during Jair Bolsonaro’s government. The letter went unanswered.

It was with astonishment that we learned, from a social media post from Ms. Alsalem¹⁸, that her visit was “postponed” by the Brazilian government a few days before its start, without any explanation. Both MATRIA and other women’s group reached out to the Women’s Ministry through the official channels, asking for an explanation and for a new date for the visit, to no avail¹⁹. MATRIA asked the same of the Foreign Affairs Ministry²⁰, receiving the same answer, that

¹² <https://www.maesnaluta.org.br/>

¹³ <https://www.instagram.com/cpivozmaterna2017/>

¹⁴ <https://www.instagram.com/sangracoletiva/>

¹⁵ <https://associacaomatria.com/declaracao/>

¹⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5336-custody-violence-against-women-and-violence-against-children>

¹⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2022/11/brazil-un-experts-urge-new-government-target-violence-against-women>

¹⁸ <https://x.com/UNSRVAW/status/1679797340578750465>

¹⁹ Some of those inquiries, made by feminist groups such as Raízes Feministas, Correnteza Feminista, SOMA - Sociedade Matriarcal, by women’s groups such as MATRIA and others can be found here:

<https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/6020620>

<https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/6407642>

<https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/6015830>

<https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/6407642>

<https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/6467190>

²⁰ <https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/6015760>



the visit had been postponed due to the Brazilian government's scheduling constraints, with no new date yet.

In November 2023, the National Council for the Rights of LGBTQIA+ People, an advisory body composed of representatives from the federal government and civil society officially posted a Statement about the Rapporteurs' positions²¹, expressing "its deep concern over the instrumentalization of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, Ms. Reem Alsalem, and the adoption of positions aligned with those advocated by the far right and by radical social groups that flirt with transphobia and the demonization of trans bodies and identities." Their concerns are clearly stated further along the text: "On more than one occasion, the Special Rapporteur has proposed and advocated for policies to protect women and girls "based on sex," as well as for the creation of "sex-segregated spaces" and the imposition of various barriers to gender self-determination." This Statement is available on a government website, representing an institutional attack on Ms. Alsalem.

On May 7th 2024, Instagram influencer Nine Borges posted²² leaked audio from Maria Luisa (Malu) Aquino, adviser to Cida Gonçalves, then Minister for Women, explaining to allies the real reason behind the cancelling of Reem Alsalem's official visit to Brazil. MATRIA has subtitled Ms. Borges' original post in English²³, where Ms. Aquino can be heard saying that being a member of the UN, Brazil cannot officially refuse to receive a Special Rapporteur, but that the Woman's Minister decided to "postpone" the visit after transactivists made her aware that Ms. Alsalem had "retweeted" on her personal account posts by what Ms. Aquino calls a far-right account, sustaining "anti-trans" discourse under the guise of protection of freedom of speech.

This adviser also said that the visit came disguised as "a Woman's Rapporteur working on the Parental Alienation Law".

In an interview to 4W²⁴, representatives of CPI Voz Materna, one of the main groups fighting against the Parental Alienation Law, contest the claims that the Special Rapporteur's visit used the topic as a "disguise", enumerating the group's interactions with both the CEDAW Committee and Ms. Alsalem on this issue throughout the years, including online meetings between the Rapporteurs and Brazilian mothers affected by this law.

In light of the accusations made both by the Woman's Minister adviser and the National Council for the Rights of LGBTQIA+ People, it is interesting to highlight the topics the Special Rapporteur

²¹ <https://www.gov.br/participamaisbrasil/nota-sobre-o-posicionamento-da-relatora-da-onu>

²² <https://www.instagram.com/p/C6rwyHUtYQU/?hl=en>

²³ <https://www.instagram.com/reels/C6y6JZ1oiya/>

²⁴ <https://4w.pub/leaked-audio-reveals-reem-alsalem-2023-brazil-visit-indefinitely-postponed-due-to-alleged-transphobia/>



informed were of interest for her visit to the country²⁵ (emphasis added), both including “trans women” and the right to abortion as part of her concerns, in clear odds with a “far right” agenda:

While all submissions are welcome and the topics below are not meant to be exhaustive, the Special Rapporteur is particularly interested in receiving information on the following:

- *Legal, institutional and policy frameworks to relevant and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls adopted by central and local authorities, including femicide, domestic violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation;*
- *Efforts to improve the collection of related disaggregated data and its use to inform legislative and policy reforms;*
- *Violence against indigenous women and girls;*
- *Violence against human rights defenders and women human rights organizations;*
- *Violence against women and girls that are lesbian, bisexual, **trans** or intersex (LBTI);*
- *Violence against women and girls who may be nationals of Brazil, stateless, refugees, asylum seekers or migrants, including sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and girls;*
- *The relationship between climate change, environmental degradation, disaster risk mitigation and response and gender-based violence against women and girls;*
- *Gender stereotyping and biases in judicial processes, particularly in domestic and sexual violence and child custody cases, including reference to the pseudo-theory of “parental alienation;”*
- *Violence against women in politics and efforts undertaken to improve the safe and equal participation of women in politics;*
- *Women’s and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights, including **abortion**;*
- *Coordination of essential services, including shelters, one-stop service centres, protection orders and other integrated services for women and girls victims of **gender-based violence**;*
- *Capacity of the different institutions to prevent, detect, monitor and respond to situations of violence against women and girls, including capacity building initiatives.*
- ***Gender-based violence** experienced by women and girls in urban centres.*

MATRIA made a formal complaint to the government about the persecution suffered by Ms. Alsalem in our country²⁶, both to the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President (no reply) and to the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (dismissed without further action).

²⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/call-inputs-country-visit-brazil>

²⁶ <https://associacaomatria.com/denuncia-sobre-a-perseguiacao-politica-contra-reem-alsalem/>



In the following years, both MATRIA and other women's groups repeatedly and consistently asked the Brazilian government to reschedule Reem Alsalem's official visit to the country, through official channels²⁷ (2023, 2024), direct requests to the then Woman's Minister Cida Gonçalves²⁸ (2024), joint letters by numerous groups²⁹, open letter to the presidente Lula³⁰ (2025) and in person meeting with current Women's Minister, Márcia Lopes³¹ (2025). In this last meeting, the Minister's reply to our demand that Ms. Alsalem be invited for an official visit was that "no one is forbidding her from stepping foot in the country". Understanding this as the dismissal that it was, MATRIA decided to reach out formally to the Special Rapporteur about the possibility of her visiting Brazil in any other capacity.

In January 2026, we were happy to receive a positive response from Ms. Alsalem, informing us of her upcoming visits to Mexico and Colombia in February and stating that she could also come to Brazil in this same trip, considering that she has been invited both by the federal University of Brasília and by MATRIA (ANNEX 2), for public lectures.

The UN Women's "Technical briefing" tries to create connections between Ms. Reem Alsalem and some political events in Brazil, where there is none.

It states, for example, that the leakage of the abovementioned speech by the Women's Ministry adviser "escalated into a sustained digital campaign targeting the Ministry of Women. The Ministry's social media channels increasingly became focal points for coordinated engagement by groups contesting the definition of "women" in digital spaces, a dynamic that persisted in the weeks and months following the incident and continues to date." This campaign, mentioned by Ms. Aquino on the leaked audio itself, started in January 2023³² (thus over a year before the leaks), as a response to the Women's Minister first official post of a civil society meeting being with ANTRA, a transactivist group composed exclusively of male-sexed individuals. The continuation of the campaign on social media, frequently asking the Woman's Ministry for a definition of "woman" indicates the existence of a huge number of women who disagree with a definition of "woman" based on the idea of "gender identity". It does not, on the other hand, have any connection to the Special Rapporteur.

²⁷ <https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/6407604>

²⁸ <https://associacaomatria.com/matria-entrega-carta-para-ministra-aparecida-goncalves/>

²⁹ https://www.instagram.com/p/DL2u85PRz_U/?img_index=7

³⁰ <https://associacaomatria.com/carta-aberta-pela-mudanca-de-gestao-no-ministerio-das-mulheres/>

³¹ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DNWljyGlcai/>

³² <https://buscalai.cgu.gov.br/busca/5287931> - Around a 100 similar Freedom of Information Requests can be found asking the Women's Ministry for the definition of "woman" they are working with, something they refused to formally answer.



Similarly, the UN Women briefing tries to connect Ms. Alsalem to the official summoning of the Minister for Women to appear before a committee of the Chamber of Deputies. Although this was indeed a result of the leakage of the same audio by Ms. Aquino, none of the links provided in the briefing³³ refer to the Special Rapporteur, as the Deputies' interest was in another part of the audio, where Ms. Aquino says that although the Ministry refuses to answer the Freedom of Information Requests on the definition of "woman" they do consider that "trans women are women". There isn't a single mention to Ms. Alsalem or her visit in the proceedings at Congress or surrounding it in the media.

Referring to the abovementioned situations, the briefing goes on to conclude that "taken together, these developments contributed to heightened institutional sensitivity around the mandate and its engagement in Brazil and may have generated discomfort among national authorities, in particular regarding the modalities of interaction with the mandate holder."

It is unclear how the briefing reached this conclusion, as the only factual circumstances it describes that surround the Special Rapporteur points to a boycott of her official 2023 visit by the government due to "concerns regarding the Rapporteur's positions on gender and, particularly, gender identity" and her subsequent tweet³⁴ asking Brazil's Permanent Mission in Geneva to clarify the situation.

What is clear, though, is the briefing's effort to minimize a thriving independent women's movement that opposes the authors' view on gender identity.

ACCOUNT OF THE ACADEMIC VISIT TO BRAZIL

Even before Ms. Alsalem's arrival in Brazil, there was much misinformation about her being spread by transactivist groups, such as ANTRA, Sexuality Policy Watch (SPW) and NuH/UFGM (ANNEX 3), whose aim was to boycott the SR VAW's visit. Those three actors often work together

³³ Links mentioned in the Technical Briefing as supposedly proving a connection between Ms. Alsalem and the summoning of the Women's Minister to the Chamber of Deputies:
<https://odebateon.com.br/deputados-querem-que-ministra-de-lula-explique-frase-mulher-trans-e-mulher-sim/>
<https://www.youtube.com/live/07oaq0CiTJw?is=FzDMkYVxmP06A7rs> (the briefing indicates "see minute 55'50")
https://www.camara.leg.br/proposicoesWeb/prop_mostrarintegra?codteor=2416957&filename=REQ%204/2024%20CMULHER

³⁴ <https://x.com/unsrvaw/status/1788282794780577991?s=48>



to try to discredit anyone with criticisms to the ideas defended by transactivism³⁵ and have been attacking Reem Alsalem for years³⁶, misrepresenting her positions³⁷.

One of the abovementioned documents circulating in whatsapp groups before the Special Rapporteur's visit had no indication of authorship (the other was signed by Antra, SPW and NuH). An analysis of the embedded metadata of the document, using Microsoft Word's document properties, identifies "Marco Prado" as the original author (Creator) of the document. Marco Aurélio Máximo Prado is part of NuH/UFGM and frequently collaborates with SPW.

ANTRA also sent a letter to the Special Rapporteur during her visit³⁸, to which Reem Alsalem has thoroughly responded³⁹. The document by UN Women doesn't engage with anything from the seven pages long response.

Due to the pressure abovementioned pressure by transactivists, some of the SR VAW's engagements were also cancelled:

- The lecture given at the University of Brasília was supposed to be the inaugural lecture of the Psychology department for the first semester of 2026⁴⁰, being downgraded to a simple lecture after boycotts by transactivist groups.
- The SR VAW was initially to participate in a public hearing at the Permanent Joint Committee on Combating Violence against Women, a Committee composed by both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The requirement was to be voted in a meeting that

³⁵ <https://sxpolitics.org/ptbr/biblioteca-spw/publicacoes/fronteras-borradas-resumo-em-portugues/29128>
<https://antrabrazil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/dossie-matria-final.pdf>

³⁶ <https://antrabrazil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/dossie-antra-2025.pdf>
<https://sxpolitics.org/spw-library/round-up-sexual-politics-around-the-world/sexual-politics-from-july-to-november-2023/31969/>

³⁷ Bruna Benevides is the president of ANTRA: <https://catarinass.info/colunas/relatora-da-onu-associa-identidades-trans-a-crimes-contra-a-humanidade/>

³⁸ <https://antrabrazil.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/pr-br-carta-antra-a-relatora-reem-alsalem-2marco-2026.pdf>

³⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/women/sr/activities/2026-05-11-statement-response-antra.pdf>

⁴⁰ The page is not online anymore, but there's record of it:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15KHAJiPH8tPkvMgsjq9k57j9c4lOw7lt/view?usp=sharing>



was cancelled⁴¹ and, due to transactivists' pressure, once presented to the next meeting. This was, of course, the natural Committee for a public hearing with the Special Rapporteur on the week prior to International Women's Day. Because of this boycott, Ms. Alsalem was then invited for a public hearing at the Human Rights Committee.

Due to the context already presented in this document, Mães na Luta, a group of mothers victims of the Parental Alienation Law, took the initiative to make most of the contacts that resulted in institutional meetings, as Ms. Alsalem is a strong advocate for the repeal of the law.

São Paulo (March 1st)

The Special Rapporteur's first official engagement in the country, on March 1st, was the public lecture organized by MATRIA, on "Contemporary Forms of Violence Against Women in Brazil". This same day, Ms. Alsalem had meetings with the following women's groups:

1. **10h - Projeto Despertar⁴²**: NGO focused on the protection of children and teenagers against sexual violence, grooming and trafficking.
Meeting agenda: Interconnections Between Child Sex Trafficking, CSAM Production, and Child Marriage as a Mechanism for Concealing Abuse: present a technical analysis of the structural relationship between child sex trafficking, the production of CSAM (child sexual abuse material), and legal and regulatory gaps that contribute to the invisibility of exploitation, with particular emphasis on the need for preventive education in schools.
Represented by its director, Karla Reina.
2. **11h - Mulheres da Luz⁴³**: NGO created by a survivor of prostitution, working with prostituted women from the Luz neighborhood in São Paulo.
Meeting agenda: Discuss the situation of older women engaged in street prostitution and the need for public policies to protect their rights, address their vulnerabilities, and provide pathways to support and exit opportunities.
Represented by volunteers of the group (Laís dos Santos Pereira, Marcia Veronica Assunção Ferrari, Letícia Sayuri Danno) and also elderly women formerly prostituted (Maria de Cassia Gomes Moreira, Ana Eulália de Oliveira).
3. **12h - Mães na Luta⁴⁴**: group of mothers victims of the Parental Alienation Law.

⁴¹ <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/materias/pesquisa/-/materia/172643>

⁴² <https://projetedespertar.org.br/>

⁴³ <https://www.mulheresdaluz.com.br/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.maesnaluta.org.br/>



Meeting agenda: Institutional gender-based violence and lack of accountability in the Brazilian justice system.

Represented by its director Andrea van Caspen and numerous members, mothers currently without custody of their children or, tragically, with children murdered by the ex-partner, after the courts inverted custody (Jane Silva Luma⁴⁵)⁴⁶.

4. **13h - Sangra Coletiva⁴⁷:** grassroots collective of women survivors of sexual violence, focused on the fight against pedophilia.

Meeting agenda: Denouncing of the Brazilian State for promoting public policies that enable pedophilia. The discussion focuses on child sexual exploitation through legislative measures and on how the judiciary fails to enforce laws intended to protect and benefit survivors.

Represented by its members Bruna Luiza Marques, Natacha Orestes, Beatriz Rodrigues, Isabella Vilela.⁴⁸

5. **14h - Aliança LGB⁴⁹, Levante contra o lesbocídio⁵⁰, Movimento Lésbico de São Paulo⁵¹:** lesbian groups with a range of issues:

Aliança LGB meeting agenda: Report on censorship and institutional persecution against gender-critical lesbian women and the State's omission regarding lesbocides.

Represented by its director Mariele Gomes and member Daniela Rosa.

Levante contra o lesbocídio meeting agenda: Report on Ana Caroline's case⁵² and the precedent set by the murderer's imprisonment with femicide as an aggravating circumstance.

Represented by Thais de Vasconcellos Mattos.

Movimento Lésbico de São Paulo meeting agenda: Challenges of building specific public policies for lesbians.

Represented by a black lesbian woman who doesn't wish to be identified, for fear of persecution.

6. **15h - AMIOR⁵³:** indigenous women's group.

Meeting agenda: Denounces the violence against Indigenous women and girls in its specific forms, such as expulsion from their territories, obstetric and institutional violence,

⁴⁵ <https://www.instagram.com/justicalucasemariah/>

⁴⁶ https://www.instagram.com/p/DVqpKCgkd6Y/?igsh=bG9lbnU5dGYwanJu&img_index=3

⁴⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/sangracoletiva/>

⁴⁸ <https://www.instagram.com/reels/DVWYX4nkSmW/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.instagram.com/aliancalgb/>

⁵⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/contraolesbocidio/>

⁵¹ <https://www.instagram.com/caminhadalesbi.sp/>

⁵² <https://www.instagram.com/p/DQrc76OjBgM/>

⁵³ https://www.instagram.com/amior_pr/



and how State authorities fail to act when those accused are Indigenous, under the excuse that violence against women would be an Indigenous cultural aspect, which is not true. Represented by its director Amaue Jacintho and members Marcia Pires de Lima e Natacha Oreste.⁵⁴

At 17h, Reem Alsalem gave her public lecture for 110 attendants (full auditorium).

Brasília (March 2nd-6th)

In Brasília, Ms. Reem Alsalem had the following official engagements:

March 2nd

16h - meeting with Justice Cármen Lúcia⁵⁵, the only woman in the country's Supreme Court. Meeting agenda: Dialogue on Institutional Gender-Based Violence within the Justice System.

March 3rd

9h - public lecture at the federal University of Brasília (UnB), moderated by Professor Doctor Valeska Zanello⁵⁶, researcher from the Psychology Department of UnB on Mental Health and Gender and feminist author. Topic of the lecture: "Trends in manifestations of violence against women and girls".

March 4th

10h - Meetings with civil society organized by the group Mães na Luta⁵⁷ about institutional gender-based violence and the lack of accountability in the Brazilian justice system.

12h - Meeting with a female prison officer currently working at the female prison of Colmeia, in Brasília, where almost 100 male sex individuals are housed. She wishes to remain anonymous, for her security.

17h30 - Meeting with the Ombudsperson at the National Council of Justice (CNJ).

March 5th

⁵⁴ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DVo-NOjkc2t/?igsh=MW1zN2NzcTJjMnd1>

⁵⁵ <https://noticias.stf.jus.br/event/audiencia-com-a-relatora-especial-da-onu-sobre-violencia-contra-mulheres-e-meninas-sra-reem-alsalem/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/zanellovalessa>

⁵⁷ https://www.instagram.com/p/DVqpKCgkd6Y/?igsh=bG9lbnU5dGYwanJu&img_index=4



Public Hearing at the Senate's Human Rights Commission⁵⁸: "Debating public policies of protection of women and girls and the strengthening of families as the essential core of prevention of violence".

From this public hearing, the briefing highlights the following, from Ms. Alsalem's speech:

I fully also support your recommendation, Cristiane. If the scale of sexual abuse and violence against girls is so great, maybe it is a good moment to have an independent investigative inquiry into this. Many countries around the world are doing this. I mention Ireland, Germany, France, Canada, New Zealand, Belgium, England and Wales, Australia. They have all taken a first step by having inquiries to look into why we have this issue and what needs to be done. I know that Brazil had one in the 1990's, so maybe now it is a good time to do this again.

According to the authors, "if taken up by the Human Rights Commission presided by Senator Damares Alves, an inquiry could become a platform for anti-gender mainstreaming and work against efforts to frame public policies on gender equality and human rights in a comprehensive, substantive way". The inference is left unexplained, as the briefing does not articulate the reasoning that connects Ms. Alsalem's statement to the conclusion that an inquiry would undermine gender equality or human rights policies.

Instead of focusing on the content of the SR VAW, all the briefing does is use the fallacy of "guilt by association", describing the profiles of opinions of the other participants of the public hearing.

March 6th

11h - Conselho da Justiça Federal: meeting with officials from the Superior Court of Justice.

14h30 - Ministry of Justice and Public Security: meeting with the Director of the Unified Security System (National Secretariat of Public Security).

Although the UN Women's briefing states that the Special Rapporteur "engaged extensively with media vehicles by giving interviews", she gave exactly four interviews while in Brazil⁵⁹, two of those to journalists who asked for impromptu interviews after her public events, one of them a

⁵⁸ <https://www12.senado.leg.br/ecidadania/visualizacaoaudiencia?id=37732>

⁵⁹ O Antagonista: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDUXnozletM>

Correio Braziliense: <https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/mundo/2026/03/7369151-reem-alsalem-nao-estamos-fazendo-o-suficiente-para-protger-as-mulheres.html>

Poder 360: <https://www.poder360.com.br/poder-internacional/relatora-da-onu-questiona-politicas-de-autoidentificacao-de-genero/>



trans-identified reporter⁶⁰, who subsequently misrepresented a lot of what she said⁶¹. This also leads to another observation: while in Brazil, Ms. Alsalem did engage with every actor that reached out to her, as was the case of this reporter. No transactivist group reached out to her.

On the other hand, the women's movements did try to have meetings between the Special Rapporteur and other actors, who refused to talk to her, as was the case of the Colaboratório Com Elas pelo Fim do Feminicídio no Distrito Federal (Fiocruz), that, due to transactivists' pressure, backtracked from the invitation initially made to the Special Rapporteur. The meeting would have been an opportunity for the more than 70 groups from the feminist and social movements to meet the SR VAW.

It is thus dishonest to suggest the following, as the briefing does:

The available information suggests that engagement with a diversity of civil society stakeholders, including the mainstream feminist, Black women, human rights, and LGBTQIA+ organizations, may have been limited. This may reflect a rationale of selective invitation, raised as a concern by some stakeholders.

There is a pattern that emerges here: actors who disagree with the SR VAW consistently refuse to engage with her, and then claim she does not meet with them, thus having a supposedly skewed view of the situation, as the briefing does.

DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE VISIT TO BRAZIL

As for the supposed impacts of the Special Rapporteur's visit to Brazil, it is laughable to link Ms. Alsalem's trip to the rejection of trans-identified politician Erika Hilton occupying the presidency of the Women's Committee in the Chamber of Deputies. The negative opinions regarding this nomination were present across the board, on every side of the political spectrum. According to an opinion poll conducted by Realtime Big Data⁶², 84% of the Brazilian population is against Hilton's occupation of the Women's Committee. Amongst women, this rejection reached 88%. A second poll, conducted by Poderdata⁶³, found that amongst both those who approve of Lula's leftist government and those who disapprove of it, 74% disagreed with Hilton in the Women's Committee. Considering the vast majority of the population has never heard either of Ms. Alsalem or the women's movement fighting for sex-based rights, it is safe to say that those numbers reflect

⁶⁰ <https://azmina.com.br/reportagens/relatora-onu-defende-transfobia-brasil/>

⁶¹ Important to point out that this reporter's trip to Brasilia to interview Ms. Alsalem was funded by SPW, as stated at the end of the above mentioned article.

⁶² <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TXucFA9XRUgu2oZ61bYn02trF9v2SnEK/view?usp=sharing>

⁶³ <https://www.poder360.com.br/brasil/74-discordam-de-erika-hilton-no-comando-da-comissao-da-mulher/>



the population's organic knowledge that being a woman isn't a self-declared identity a man can perform.

Once again, what supposedly indicates that “references to the Special Rapporteur’s positions were mobilized in debates related to trans participation in public policy frameworks, affirmative action policies, and political representation” is a newsletter by Sexual Policy Watch⁶⁴, that doesn’t offer a single evidence of this.

CONCLUSIONS

Brazil, like the rest of Latin America, has a thriving grassroots independent women’s movement. This movement has been fighting against the erasure of sex as the relevant marker for laws and public policy for women since before Ms. Alsalem became SR VAW. And it will continue to do so once her mandate ends. The events mentioned in the briefing regarding opposition to policies for women being based on gender-identity are proof of the seriousness of this activism, and not of any undue use of a UN mandate by Ms. Alsalem, as the document distributed by UN Women suggests. Every meeting held by Reem Alsalem, every interview or public speech in Brazil was conducted in a manner consistent with the values underpinning her mandate, that is, the protection of women and girls’ rights.

The UN Women’s document ends by calling for the urgent renewal of “feminist and democratic coordination at regional and global levels” as a response to the positions of Ms. Alsalem and the Brazilian women who agree with her, that the authors deem to be “promoting polarization”. The lack of self-awareness reflected in this conclusion is troubling. It is precisely attitudes such as the ones UN Women has been exhibiting, excluding dissenting feminist perspectives and characterizing legitimate disagreement as inherently harmful or anti-rights that are anti-democratic and have fuelled, rather than reduced, polarization.

MATRIA - Mulheres Associadas, Mães e Trabalhadoras do Brasil



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⁶⁴ <https://sxpolitics.org/ptbr/biblioteca-spw/boletim-da-politica-sexual/boletim-politicas-trans-3-ofensivas-e-resistencias/29046>



Technical Briefing – For internal use only

The 2026 Unofficial Visits of UN Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem to Latin America (Brazil, Colombia and Mexico)

Executive Summary

- This technical briefing examines the unofficial 2026 visits of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences (SR VAW), Reem Alsalem to Brazil, Colombia and Mexico.
- As the visits to Latin America were not conducted under a formal UN country mission framework, so far, no official report has been issued by the UN system.
- The document is based on publicly available sources, including media coverage, civil society documentation, and institutional communications, which may reflect a diversity of perspectives. The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the Member States of the UN Human Rights Council and does not speak on behalf of the United Nations system or UN Women¹.
- The analysis situates these visits within a broader regional context marked by the consolidation of anti-gender political movements, heightened electoral contestation in key Latin American countries, and the imminent renewal of the Latin American seat in the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls (WG-DAW).

¹ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders*.

- The sequence of events and public reactions has been interpreted by a range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations and some governmental actors, as relevant to ongoing debates around gender, rights, and the role of international mechanisms in domestic policy discussions.
- The central risk identified is the use or interpretation of the authority associated with UN mandate holders in domestic policy debates, with the potential effect of legitimizing policy positions inconsistent with international human rights standards and programmatic priorities, particularly in polarized political and electoral contexts.

1. Anti-Gender Context in Latin America

Over the past decade, Latin America has experienced the rapid growth of coordinated anti-gender movements. Often rooted in ultraconservative Catholic and evangelical institutions, far-right political parties, and transnational legal advocacy organizations, these actors mobilize opposition to gender equality policies, sexual and reproductive rights, and the recognition of gender identity. Anti-gender discourse has been framed as a defense of ‘the family’, ‘biological sex’, and ‘women’s safety’, while portraying feminism and LGBTQIA+ rights as existential threats to democracy and social order.

In Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia, these narratives have been strategically deployed in electoral cycles to influence public opinion and legislative agendas. The 2026-2027 timeline is particularly sensitive, as all three countries face national or subnational elections in which gender, abortion, and LGBTQIA+ rights have become polarizing campaign issues.

Against this backdrop, the articulation of sex-essentialist positions is concerning because references to UN mandate holders can influence domestic policy debates by conferring perceived normative authority on positions that conflict with existing policy and human rights standards.

Developments observed after March 2026 indicate that anti-gender actors have increasingly shifted from reactive opposition to proactive agenda-setting strategies. These include symbolic occupation of feminist dates and infrastructures, systematic legal harassment against trans-inclusive policies, and coordinated digital campaigns against trans women in positions of political leadership.

2. Ideological Trajectory of the Special Rapporteur

Since assuming the mandate, Reem Alsalem has developed a public record reflecting an interpretation of women and girls based on biological sex, documented in her reports, public statements, and advocacy positions, including on issues such as surrogacy, prostitution, pornography, gender data and gender identity.

Recently, the SR VAW has publicly welcomed and endorsed the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) decision to restrict eligibility for the female category at future Olympic Games to athletes deemed biologically female. She has described the policy as necessary, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights law, arguing that it is grounded in “common sense, facts, and science” and restores fairness, dignity, and safety for women and girls in elite sport².

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/04/un-expert-welcomes-international-olympic-committee-policy-protecting-female> ; <https://news.un.org/pt/story/2025/06/1850026>

The Special Rapporteur has framed these positions as stemming from her interpretation of international human rights law, with a particular emphasis on sex-based protections.

Nevertheless, these positions diverge from the Yogyakarta Principles and established UN standards³, including the authoritative interpretations of the CEDAW Committee and the jurisprudence of regional human rights bodies.

These positions have also been contested among civil society organizations⁴, as stakeholders argue that they may exclude or inadequately address the rights of trans women and gender-diverse persons.

These are some of the key elements constituting the backdrop to understanding the reception and interpretation of the Rapporteur's engagements during her 2026 visits to Latin America.

3. Timeline of the 2026 Latin America Visits

Mexico

The Special Rapporteur conducted a visit to Mexico allegedly invited by Anahuac University, a private Catholic university with links to conservative religious networks⁵. Activities involved participation in academic sessions and engagements with members of Congress.

Prior to the visit, on **13 February 2026**, a coalition of 25 Mexican NGOs addressed a letter to members of the Mexican Congress expressing concern over the agenda and scope of the SR VAW mission to the country⁶. They warned that the Rapporteur's positions "risk reinforcing exclusionary frameworks that leave out trans women, sex workers and other gender-diverse people."

The Conference at the House of Representatives on **16 February 2026** was presided by Congresswoman Kenia López Rabadán (PAN) and counted with the presence of Congresswomen Anais Burgos Hernandez (MORENA) and Xochitl Arzola (MORENA)⁷.

At the occasion, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern about an alleged "elimination of biological sex", which would be one of the new forms of violence against women documented by her mandate. The Special Rapporteur also framed violence against women as related to the biological differences between men and women therefore requiring a sex-based approach. Additionally, the Special Rapporteur campaigned against the recognition of prostitution as a form of work, framing it as a system

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/08/un-experts-reaffirm-central-role-gender-advancing-human-rights-and-equality>

⁴ AWID (2023). There is no place for anti-trans agendas in the UN - <https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/there-no-place-anti-trans-agendas-un>; TGEU (2026). In this together: a joint manifesto for transfeminist solidarity. <https://www.tgeu.org/seven-feminist-organisations-across-europe-launch-joint-manifesto-for-transfeminist-solidarity/>

⁵ The university was founded in 1964 as a fundamental part of the educational project of the ultra-Catholic network Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ - <https://www.anahuac.mx/mexico/en/history>

⁶ <https://ilsb.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Comunicado-sobre-la-visita-de-Reem-Alsalem.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYWKg0-SmV8>

of male-perpetrated violence against biological females, against pornography and against trans women's participation in sports.

The intervention was followed by an address by Patricia Olamendi Torres, former GRULAC member of the WG on Discrimination Against Women (2012-2013). She expressed prohibitionist views on prostitution and surrogacy, framed as forms of "slavery".

On **17 February 2026**, the Rapporteur attended an International Meeting on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls at the Mexican House of Representatives⁸. At the occasion, the Rapporteur framed a broad agenda linking surrogacy to prostitution, pornography and the "erasure of biological sex", portraying them critically as interconnected drivers of violence and exploitation against women.

On **18 February 2026**, the Rapporteur met with Senators from the Gender Equality Commission. The meeting discussed normative progress and persistent challenges on tackling violence against women. Senators Laura Itzel Castillo Juárez (MORENA), President of the Senate, and Martha Lucía Micher Camarena (MORENA), President of the Gender Equality Commission, both participated in the meeting.

No publicly available information at the OHCHR website confirms formal UN mission status, and available accounts describe the visit as unofficial.

UN Women Country Office in Mexico confirms no meetings between the SR VAW and UN entities took place.

Colombia

In Colombia, the visit took place following the postponement of a planned official mission for 2025. The SR VAW's official mission to Colombia was postponed while national authorities cleared the agenda for other special procedure mandates for the same period⁹, which may reflect sensitivities among national authorities and stakeholders in relation to the positions and potential impacts of her engagements at national level.

On **20 February 2026**, the Special Rapporteur participated in the conference "*Gestación subrogada: hallazgos de la relatora de Naciones Unidas y desafíos*", at Universidad de La Sabana, a Christian faith-based university with ties to the Opus Dei. According to public information shared by La Sabana, the conference was mediated by Professor Juana Acosta and counted with the participation of numerous public authorities, civil society, and academia¹⁰. Universidad de La Sabana provided continuous support to her mandate by funding research assistants from 2023 to 2026¹¹.

⁸ <https://lacostillarota.com/2026/02/17/feministas-de-30-estados-presentan-iniciativa-para-prohibir-los-vientres-de-alquiler-en-mexico/> ; <https://cimacnoticias.com.mx/2026/02/17/en-gestacion-subrogada-no-podemos-investigar-destino-de-infancias-y-sus-madres-reem-alsalem/>

⁹ <https://www.empoderame.org/post/m%C3%A1s-de-120-mujeres-firmamos-para-exigir-la-visita-de-la-relatora-especial-de-la-onu-sobre-las-violen>

¹⁰ https://www.instagram.com/p/DU_kn5Kllpy/?img_index=5

¹¹ See A/HRC/58/70/Add.1, p. 61; A/HRC/61/66/Add.1, p. 61

On **23 February 2026**, the Special Rapporteur met with lawyers and researchers linked to Universidad Externado de Colombia to discuss surrogacy¹². The event was coordinated by lawyers María Cristina Hurtado and Helena Hernandez Luna, who advocate prohibitionist views on sex work and surrogacy¹³.

On **24 February 2026**, at the Medicine Faculty of Universidad Javeriana, the Rapporteur delivered the lecture "*El daño, la coerción y el sistema de explotación: evidencia de la violencia contra la mujer, sus hijas e hijos*"¹⁴.

The visit also included meetings with selected public actors, including an engagement with Colombia's Minister of Sport, Patricia Duque¹⁵, as well as an alleged private meeting with members of the Colombian Constitutional Court, coinciding with a period when the Court had recently issued a ruling on trans women's participation in sports¹⁶, and surrogacy-related issues were under judicial consideration.

These encounters reinforced earlier concerns around how the Rapporteur's views could intersect with ongoing policy and regulatory processes. Prior to the visit, on **13 February 2026**, a group of 16 civil society organizations addressed a letter to the nine Colombian Supreme Court Justices - "*Advertencia sobre posible conflicto de interés institucional en evento con la Relatora Especial Reem Alsalem*"¹⁷.

The Colombian NGOs raised the issue of potential implications of engagements involving the Rapporteur in the context of pending cases related to surrogacy and reproductive rights and highlighted the importance of safeguarding judicial independence and impartiality in the context of ongoing legal proceedings.

According to information received from civil society, the Rapporteur responded privately by sending a letter to the Supreme Court Justices addressing the concerns, where she claims the NGOs' action had a "clearly intimidatory" character against her mandate.

On **6 May 2026**, the Criminal Chamber of the Colombian Supreme Court issued a decision that frames sex work and sexual exploitation of children on the same level, quoting a report by the Special Rapporteur as grounds for the decision¹⁸. Examining a situation of sexual exploitation against four children, the Colombian Court presented the grounds for the decision as arising from the application of a "*human rights-based approach*" to the case. Following the views of the Rapporteur, the Justice understood that that would mean, among others, that "*prostitution cannot be understood as a neutral or voluntary activity in abstract terms*".

¹² <https://x.com/AdriaLandinez>

¹³ <https://www.elespectador.com/judicial/no-es-posible-separar-la-trata-de-la-prostitucion-abogada-maria-helena-luna-noticias-hoy/>

¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/MedicinaPUJ/posts/el-d%C3%ADa-de-hoy-se-llev%C3%B3-a-cabo-el-evento-el-da%C3%B1o-la-coerci%C3%B3n-y-el-sistema-de-expl/1508093911319083/>

¹⁵ <https://x.com/MinDeporteCol/status/2025980363890143400?s=20>

¹⁶ Sentencia 179/2025 - corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2025/t-179-25. *Emiliana Castrillón Case* - The Constitutional Court ordered authorities to allow a trans woman athlete to compete in the women's category and required regulatory changes to prevent exclusion based on gender identity.

¹⁷ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Wt5HNXm28-cDaci02OfHcNMTeOdtPks/view>

¹⁸ AP287-2026 - <https://www.lasillavacia.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/SENTENCIA-CS-EXPLO-SEX-NNA.pdf>, paras 57-64.

The decision blurs distinct legal categories, crossing over prostitution, exploitation of prostitution, sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in persons. Additionally, it associates prostitution as a form of structural coercion, which potentially leads to the annihilation of the agency of sex workers and may undermine their legitimate collective human rights claims, such as the recognition of labor rights, the decriminalization of adult voluntary sex work and damage reduction-oriented policies.

Brazil

In Brazil, as in Colombia, the Rapporteur engaged in an unofficial mission to the country after national authorities decided to postpone an official mission planned for July-August 2023¹⁹. Tensions with national authorities had already been escalating during this period and reached a critical point in 2024.

Previous interactions between the SR VAW and national authorities

On **8 May 2024**, a retweet of post by a Brazilian influencer whose positions are aligned with the Rapporteur's views pointed that Reem Alsalem had had access to a leaked recording from the Ministry of Women's LGBT advisor.

In the leak, the Minister's advisor indicated that concerns regarding the Rapporteur's positions on gender and, particularly, gender identity, would have been a contributing factor to the postponement²⁰.

Reem Alsalem publicly addressed the issue by tagging the Brazilian Permanent Mission in Geneva on social media, requesting clarifications and stating her availability for bilateral engagement. She wrote: *"If true, the information revealed here would be concerning. Copying @BrazilUNGeneva for their information with a request for clarification. Available and ready to discuss bilaterally"*²¹.

The incident around the leaks escalated into a sustained digital campaign targeting the Ministry of Women. The Ministry's social media channels increasingly became focal points for coordinated engagement by groups contesting the definition of "women" in digital spaces, a dynamic that persisted in the weeks and months following the incident and continues to date.

The staff member identified in the leaked recording was subsequently subjected to targeted digital harassment. Her full name, email address, and phone number were widely disseminated on social media, accompanied by calls for her dismissal. This exposure had a significant impact on her wellbeing and ultimately led to her resignation from her position as LGBT Advisor to the Minister of Women.

¹⁹ For a detailed account of the episode, refer to SPW (2025). *Fronteiras Borradas*. Pp. 77-ss. Available at - <https://sxpolitics.org/ptbr/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/11/Relatorio-Fronteiras-Borradas-271025.pdf> . See also: <https://oglobo.globo.com/blogs/lauro-jardim/post/2026/03/visita-extraoficial-e-falas-controversas-de-relatora-da-onu-reabrem-tensao-adiada-pelo-planalto-em-2023.ghtml>

²⁰ <https://4w.pub/leaked-audio-reveals-reem-alsalem-2023-brazil-visit-indefinitely-postponed-due-to-alleged-transphobia/>

²¹ UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (2024). Tweet available at: <https://x.com/unsrvaw/status/1788282794780577991?s=48>

Social media content produced by the Brazilian influencer exploring the episode²², framed in a whistleblower style, circulated widely and attracted attention from conservative and right-leaning media outlets as well as political actors²³.

Building on this momentum, the leaked material was cited in a formal request to summon the Minister of Women to a hearing before the Women's Commission of the Chamber of Deputies on **5 June 2024**²⁴. Request No. 44/2024 by Congressman Nikolas Ferreira (PL) referenced the recordings and called on the Minister to provide explanations regarding the government's "definition of the term 'woman'" ²⁵.

Taken together, these developments contributed to heightened institutional sensitivity around the mandate and its engagement in Brazil and may have generated discomfort among national authorities, in special regarding the modalities of interaction with the mandate holder.

Account of the 2026 unofficial visit to Brazil

In the 2026 unofficial visit to Brazil, the Rapporteur attended academic activities at the University of Brasília and participated in a public hearing of the Federal Senate's Human Rights Commission²⁶. She held a private meeting with Supreme Court Justice Carmem Lúcia. She also engaged extensively with media vehicles by giving interviews. Additionally, she held a meeting with women and civil society organizations, coordinated by Brazilian civil society organization MATRIA. Public statements by the Special Rapporteur included positions emphasizing sex-based understandings of violence and policy frameworks.

At the University of Brasília, on **3 March 2026**, the Special Rapporteur delivered the lecture "*Trends in manifestations of violence against women and girls*" and took part in a moderated discussion with students and faculty. The event was hosted within the university's academic environment and was moderated by a scholar affiliated with the Institute of Psychology.

At the Senate, on **5 March 2026**, the Special Rapporteur delivered an intervention in a public hearing held by the Human Rights Commission²⁷, presided by Senator Damares Alves²⁸, former Women, Family and Human Rights Ministry under the Bolsonaro administration (2019-2022) and a main anti-gender political figure in Brazil.

²² <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6XGtSntLSN/> ; <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6rwyHUtYQU/>

²³ (1) <https://odebateon.com.br/deputados-querem-que-ministra-de-lula-explique-frase-mulher-trans-e-mulher-sim/>; (2) <https://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/vida-e-cidadania/relatora-da-onu-pede-explicacao-sobre-audio-que-revela-suposto-boicote-do-governo-lula/>

²⁴ Full session available at: https://www.youtube.com/live/07oaq0CiTJw?si=UUpKAZRf77L_88aS ; see minute 55'50.

²⁵ https://www.camara.leg.br/proposicoesWeb/prop_mostrarintegra?codteor=2416957&filename=REQ%204/2024%20CMULHER

²⁶ Senado Federal, "Família pode ajudar no combate à violência contra a mulher, aponta debate," March 5, 2026.

²⁷ Full link of the hearing available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCLte-gKY8w> ; Full transcription available at: <https://www25.senado.leg.br/web/atividade/notas-taquigraficas/-/notas/r/14433>

²⁸ See Requerimento 32/2026 – CDH by Senator Damares Alves (REPUBLICANOS) - <https://legis.senado.leg.br/sdleg-getter/documento?dm=10162429&ts=1772732864844&disposition=inline>

The topic of the public hearing was “*Debating public policies of protection of women and girls and the strengthening of families as the essential core of prevention of violence*”. Besides Senator Damares Alves and the SR VAW, the hearing was attended by:

- The national anti-abortion advocacy, conservative strategic litigation organization and think tank Instituto Isabel²⁹, represented by lawyer Andrea Hoffman Formiga;
- Anti-gender and anti-trans advocacy organization MATRIA, represented by the association’s president, Celina Lazzari; and
- Former minister of Women, Family and Human Rights under Bolsonaro, replacing Damares Alves when she left the post to run for the Senate in 2022, Cristiane Britto.

The hearing featured recurrent framings that emphasized family-centered approaches to violence prevention, biological definitions of sex, and concerns related to child protection, with several interventions linking these perspectives to critical views on gender identity recognition and trans inclusion.

Furthermore, the event demonstrated narrative alignment across speakers seeking the institutional validation of a biological definition of women, with the potential of advancing discrimination against trans persons, in special trans women, through “child protection” arguments, and framing the family as the solution towards ending violence against women.

The visit provoked public confusion due to perceptions framing it as “official”, despite lacking formal UN authorization. For instance, official documents of the Parliamentary Commission on Violence Against Women justified a public hearing request with the Rapporteur on the basis of her “official visit” to Brazil³⁰. Additionally, anti-gender and anti-trans advocacy organization MATRIA, which provided support to the Special Rapporteur’s visit to Brazil by mobilizing women to engage with the mandate, framed the agenda as if the 2023 visit to Brazil³¹ would be finally taking place³². Mixed perceptions over the nature of the visit expanded further due to the mandate liaising with the Brazilian diplomacy not only to inform about the mission but also seeking support to arrange meetings with government officials.

On **2 March 2026**, the Special Rapporteur was prompted to issue a public note on her social media to clarify that the visit was not an official country mission³³. On **11 May 2026**, the Special Rapporteur

²⁹ <https://isabel.org.br/>

³⁰ See Requerimento 2/2026 – CVMC by Senator Augusta Brito (PT), available at: <https://legis.senado.leg.br/sdleg-getter/documento?dm=10154912&ts=1772048940747&disposition=inline>. The document is a request by the Senator to host a public hearing to receive Reem Alsalem in the context of her “official visit to Brazil”.

³¹ The visit was postponed by national authorities in 2023, in the context of the outcry of human rights, feminist and LGBTQIAPN+ organizations, following the increase of the sex-essentialist agenda in the Special Rapporteur’s portfolio from 2022. See: <https://noticias.uol.com.br/colunas/jamil-chade/2023/10/04/governo-adia-visita-de-relatora-da-onu-sobre-mulher-acertada-por-bolsonaro.htm>. These views are deemed discriminatory by these stakeholders, in special in relation to transgender women, intersex and gender-diverse persons. For instance: <https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/there-no-place-anti-trans-agendas-un>

³² See MATRIA’s social media post dated 24 February 2026 - <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DVKAonGilUu/>

³³ “*Desejo corrigir algumas imprecisões neste artigo e esclarecer a natureza da minha visita ao Brasil, uma vez que não fui contatada previamente pelo veículo de comunicação nem pela autora do artigo. Minha visita ao #Brasil é uma visita acadêmica e não uma visita oficial ao país. Portanto, não consiste em uma avaliação das políticas públicas e do marco legislativo do Brasil para prevenir e responder à violência contra mulheres e meninas, nem na apresentação de um relatório ao Conselho de Direitos Humanos. Embora eu tenha solicitado reuniões com algumas*

issued an additional statement further clarifying that while the visit did not constitute an “official” country mission, her activities were conducted in her “official” capacity as a mandate holder³⁴.

The available information suggests that engagement with a diversity of civil society stakeholders, including the mainstream feminist, Black women, human rights, and LGBTQIA+ organizations, may have been limited. This may reflect a rationale of selective invitation, raised as a concern by some stakeholders.

UN Women Country Office in Brazil confirms no meetings between the SR VAW and UN entities took place.

Developments from the visit to Brazil

Following the visit to Brazil, public debate intensified around gender identity and representation in political institutions, including discussions related to the Presidency of the Women’s Rights Commission in the Chamber of Deputies, when transgender Representative Erika Hilton became targeted by a massive campaign questioning her legitimacy to hold the office on the basis of her gender identity.³⁵

Civil society organizations and monitoring initiatives indicated that references to the Special Rapporteur’s positions were mobilized in debates related to trans participation in public policy frameworks, affirmative action policies, and political representation.³⁶

Evidence from media coverage, parliamentary debates, and civil society monitoring suggests that the visit coincided with and may have contributed to the amplification and legitimization of specific narratives regarding gender policy in Brazil, although at this moment causality cannot be directly established.

These potentialized narratives include the amplification of a discursive ecosystem in which biological essentialism, anti-trans feminism, and far-right populism operate in convergence, particularly through digital platforms and coordinated media interventions.

4. Government and Civil Society Concerns in Brazil

Brazilian stakeholders expressed concern that aspects of the visit may not have followed the protocols applicable to special procedures engagements, particularly given its significant public visibility and repercussion despite not constituting an official country visit, which would require prior acceptance by the State and the necessary coordination with national authorities and the UN System.

The available information suggests that engagement with a diversity of civil society stakeholders, including the mainstream feminist, Black women, human rights, and LGBTQIA+ organizations, may have been limited. This may reflect a rationale of selective invitation, given that the mandate did not reach

entidades do Estado, a única reunião confirmada até o momento é uma apresentação na Comissão Nacional de Direitos Humanos. Espero poder reunir-me com algumas entidades governamentais para aprofundar o diálogo sobre a segurança, a dignidade e a igualdade das mulheres e meninas no Brasil.” SR VAW on 2 March 2026 - See: <https://x.com/UNSRVAW/status/2028475027100729426>

³⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/women/sr/activities/2026-05-11-statement-response-antra.pdf>

³⁵ Thiago Amparo, “Erika Hilton é uma mulher,” *Folha de S. Paulo*, March 2026.

³⁶ Sexuality Policy Watch, “Boletim Políticas Trans #3,” April 2026.

out to movements and organizations beyond the circle of stakeholders already sharing her views or which were directly mobilized by these actors to engage with her.

Risk pathway:

1. Presence of mandate holder in informal/ambiguous capacity
2. Statements aligned with contested interpretations of rights
3. Amplification by political and media actors
4. Reframing of domestic legal standards
5. Potential impact on policy debates and institutional decisions

Catalyzer: 2026 Elections

In multiple public interventions, including media appearances, institutional events and meetings with authorities, the Rapporteur expressed views on national challenges and offered policy-related reflections. For instance, at the Senate, the Rapporteur suggested the launch of a national independent investigative inquiry on violence:

"I fully also support your recommendation, Cristiane. If the scale of sexual abuse and violence against girls is so great, maybe it is a good moment to have an independent investigative inquiry into this. Many countries around the world are doing this. I mention Ireland, Germany, France, Canada, New Zealand, Belgium, England and Wales, Australia. They have all taken a first step by having inquiries to look into why we have this issue and what needs to be done. I know that Brazil had one in the 1990's, so maybe now it is a good time to do this again"³⁷

If taken up by the Human Rights Commission presided by Senator Damares Alves, an inquiry could become a platform for anti-gender mainstreaming and work against efforts to frame public policies on gender equality and human rights in a comprehensive, substantive way.

Coverage in conservative and right-leaning media such as Poder 360 and O Antagonista tended to prioritize direct engagement with the Special Rapporteur through interviews and opinion-based formats, presenting positions as part of legitimate policy debates on women's rights and public policy design. In these outlets, controversy was more frequently framed in terms of political disagreement with the government rather than as concerns related to human rights standards.

More broadly, Brazilian civil society actors have argued that the adoption or legitimization of exclusionary frameworks could create tension with existing legal protections and policy approaches aimed at addressing gender-based violence in an inclusive manner. Similar letters have been organized in Mexico and Colombia, signaling concern to national authorities over the positions of the Rapporteur³⁸.

In addition, in a letter directed to the Special Rapporteur in the context of her visit to Brazil, dated **3 March 2026**, the National Association of Travestis and Transsexuals (ANTRA) expressed concern that statements made by the Special Rapporteur could be interpreted as adopting a restrictive, sex-based definition of women and may not align with Brazilian jurisprudence recognizing gender identity in legal and policy frameworks. Therefore, they risked undermining domestic human rights protections, in special those related to protection against discrimination based on gender identity, such as Supreme

³⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCLte-gKY8w> – 1h40'23" – 1h41'11".

³⁸ Mexico – Colombia - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Wt5HNXm28-cDaci02OfHcNMTeOdtPks/view>

Court rulings on self-identification, the application of the Maria da Penha Law to trans women, and broader legal recognition of gender identity³⁹.

The Special Rapporteur publicly responded to ANTRA's correspondence through a statement on **11 May 2026**⁴⁰. The Special Rapporteur rejected what she characterized as "misinformation and disinformation" and "malicious slander" about her mandate and positions, and by reaffirming her interpretation of the scope and nature of her visit to Brazil. She asserted that ANTRA had actively lobbied to undermine her engagements, including by discouraging institutional actors from meeting with her, and described the organization's conduct as reflecting a continued "hostile attitude".

On **12 May 2026**, ANTRA replied through a note reaffirming considerations, and manifesting concern that public criticism and legitimate actions of advocacy by a civil society organization had been framed by the SR VAW as disinformation, defamation, attacks and other potential forms of alleged institutional intimidation perpetrated by the NGO against the mandate holder⁴¹.

ANTRA is a partner to multiple UN System agencies, funds and programmes in Brazil, including UN Women. In 2024 UN Women identified ANTRA as a relevant, strategic actor working to push forward for gender equality and women's rights as part of the global "Push Forward" strategy⁴².

5. Strategic Implications: Elections and WG-DAW Vacancy

The timing of the visits coincides with electoral cycles in several countries, including national elections in Colombia and Brazil. In these contexts, gender-related issues have featured prominently in public debate, and the strategic value of these forms of engagements may increase, particularly to political interest groups seeking international validation.

The concurrent renewal of the Latin American seat in the WG-DAW further heightens geopolitical sensitivities, as influence over UN gender mechanisms remains a contested arena. Any engagement related to this process should be considered within applicable UN procedures and in consultation with relevant regional and headquarters offices.

These dynamics underscore the importance of safeguarding the integrity of UN Special Procedures and ensuring that mandate holders do not become vectors for ideological agendas that undermine universal human rights standards.

6. Conclusions

The 2026 unofficial visits of Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem to Latin America are part of a broader reconfiguration of gender politics in which international mechanisms themselves become arenas of

³⁹ <https://antrabrasil.org/2026/03/03/antra-envia-carta-a-relatora-especial-da-onu-sobre-violencia-contra-mulheres-e-meninas/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/women/sr/activities/2026-05-11-statement-response-antra.pdf>

⁴¹ <https://antrabrasil.org/2026/05/12/relatora-onu-envia-carta-a-antra-e-acende-alerta-sobre-uso-institucional-do-mandato-contra-entidades-trans/>

⁴² UN Women and Ladysmith (2024). Mapping of actors undertaking work to push forward for gender equality: summary of a report prepared by Ladysmith for UN Women – internal; shared globally with UN Women personnel in September 2024 as an update on the evolving strategy Push Forward for Rights, Equality and Justice.

dispute, signaling the urgency of renewed feminist and democratic coordination at regional and global levels. They also illustrate how UN mechanisms can be potentially instrumentalized by stakeholders currently engaged on what is described by many as “promoting polarization”.

The activation of anti-gender networks may pose risks to the consistent application of gender-inclusive human rights norms, particularly where differing interpretations of international standards intersect with complex political contexts.

These risks may materialize through the increased circulation of interpretation of international standards that stakeholders view as potentially discriminatory, fueling the erosion of existing legal protections, and the strategic use of international legitimacy to contest domestic jurisprudence or mobilize the electorate.

Moreover, the 2026 visits of the Special Rapporteur to Latin America suggest that the UN legitimacy conferred to the mandate is being used to contest domestic jurisprudence and inflate controversies around gender rights, in particular those related to gender identity, in complex and polarized electoral contexts.⁴³

Rather than relying solely on overt legal rollbacks, these dynamics increasingly operate through discursive reframing, procedural ambiguity, and selective invocation of international authority, shifting the burden of justification onto gender-inclusive policies themselves.

Strengthened oversight, coordinated civil society responses, and reaffirmation of inclusive human rights norms are essential to mitigating these risks.

In this sense, a concrete immediate action could be the activation of feminist networks around the elections for the LAC seat of the WG on Discrimination Against Women⁴⁴.

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⁴³ Although this may not apply to Mexico, it applies to Brazil and Colombia.

⁴⁴ Deadline for nominations is 9 June. More information: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc63>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrOFFLnMk6M>.

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Last updated 21 May 2026

Colombia

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CONFIDENTIAL



MATRIA Associação <matria@associacaomatria.com>

Invitation to Public Lecture in Brazil

Clarice | MATRIA Associação <clarice@associacaomatria.com>

20 de janeiro de 2026 às 04:48

Para: HRC-SR Violence Against Women <hrc-sr-vaw@un.org>

Dear Ms. Reem Alsalem,

On behalf of MATRIA, a Brazilian women's association working to address violence against women and girls, I am pleased to invite you to deliver a public lecture on "Contemporary Forms of Violence Against Women in Brazil", to take place on 1 March 2026, in São Paulo, Brazil.

Please find the invitation letter attached.

We would be deeply honored by your acceptance of this invitation and remain at your disposal for any additional information or documentation that may be required.

Yours sincerely,
Clarice Saadi
Director

**Invitation letter to Ms. Reem Alsalem.pdf**

202K



Joinville, January 19th 2026

Dear Ms. Alsalem,

On behalf of **MATRIA – Mulheres Associadas, Mães e Trabalhadoras do Brasil**, I am honored to formally invite you, in your capacity as **United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls**, to deliver a public lecture entitled:

“Contemporary Forms of Violence Against Women in Brazil”

The event is proposed to take place on **1 March 2026**, in **São Paulo, Brazil**, and will be organized by MATRIA as part of our ongoing efforts to promote evidence-based dialogue, institutional accountability, and the protection of women’s rights in Brazil.

Your mandate, expertise, and international leadership on issues concerning violence against women and girls are of exceptional relevance to the Brazilian context. We believe that your presence and contribution would be of great value to policymakers, civil society organizations, legal professionals, researchers, and members of the public engaged in this field.

This letter is intended to serve as a **formal invitation** and to support the internal procedures of the United Nations regarding **travel and accommodation arrangements**, should your participation be approved. MATRIA would be pleased to provide all necessary logistical information and coordination on our end to facilitate your visit.

We would be deeply honored by your acceptance of this invitation and remain at your disposal for any additional information or documentation that may be required.

Please accept, Ms. Alsalem, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Clarice Saadi

Director

MATRIA – Mulheres Associadas, Mães e Trabalhadoras do Brasil

São Paulo, Brazil

MATRIA MULHERES
ASSOCIADAS MAES
E
TRABALHADORAS
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Assinado de forma digital
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MATRIA - Mulheres Associadas, Mães e Trabalhadoras do Brasil

CNPJ 52.872.940/0001-74

Sede - Rua Jerônimo Coelho, 78 - sala 294 - Centro - Joinville/SC - CEP 89201-050

www.associacaomatria.com

Relatora da ONU com posicionamentos antigênero visitará STF, Senado e UnB na semana do 8M

Atenção: Este é um informe interno. Compartilhe-o apenas em círculos seguros.

A relatora especial da ONU sobre violência contra mulheres e meninas, Reem Alsalem, fará uma visita extraoficial a Brasília de 28 de fevereiro a 6 de março de 2026. A visita de Alsalem, que ocorre no contexto das atividades do 8M, é patrocinada pela Matria - Associação de Mulheres, Mães e Trabalhadoras do Brasil, entidade que atua como [grupo de lobby contra os direitos das pessoas trans](#).

Alsalem foi escolhida para o cargo em 2021 pelo Conselho de Direitos Humanos da ONU, e desde então tem manifestado posicionamentos antigênero que preocupam movimentos feministas e organizações trans.

A relatora [defende a exclusão de atletas transexuais de competições esportivas](#) e [apoia práticas de reorientação sexual e de gênero](#), conhecidas como terapias de conversão ou “cura gay”. Ela também acredita que a disforia de gênero é fruto do “contágio social”, recomendando a [proibição de procedimentos de saúde transespecíficos](#) para pessoas menores de 18 anos.

Alsalem [comemorou a decisão da Suprema Corte britânica](#) de abril de 2025 que determinou que mulheres trans não são mulheres. Para a relatora, existe uma [“confusão” entre os termos sexo, gênero e identidade de gênero](#), o que seria um desrespeito à “realidade material” do sexo feminino.

A especialista [recomendou a eliminação do termo “trabalho sexual”](#) em documentos do Comitê sobre Eliminação de Todas as Formas de Discriminação contra as Mulheres (CEDAW), citando a “violência e exploração inerentes” à prostituição.

Em nota sobre Alsalem, o [Conselho Nacional dos Direitos das Pessoas LGBTQIA+](#) manifestou preocupação com “posições alinhadas com o que defende a extrema-direita e segmentos sociais radicais que flertam com a transfobia”.

Em carta aberta assinada por centenas de entidades e especialistas, a [Associação pelos Direitos das Mulheres e o Desenvolvimento](#) manifestou preocupação com os posicionamentos de Alsalem, que “tem defendido, de maneira persistente,

obstáculos e condicionantes adicionais para o reconhecimento legal do gênero, o que enfraquece a proteção dos direitos das pessoas trans”.

O [Instituto Lemkin para a Prevenção do Genocídio](#) disse que a relatora de usar a desinformação para promover uma agenda antitrans, afirmando que a “violência contra mulheres e crianças não pode ser combatida por meio da transformação de membros vulneráveis da população em bodes expiatórios”.

Por outro lado, Alsalem tem o apoio da organização de advogados cristãos Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), responsável pela ação que levou a Suprema Corte dos Estados Unidos a reverter o direito ao aborto como garantia constitucional em 2022. Em [artigo para a Newsweek](#), o diretor da ADF Giorgio Mazzoli afirmou que os posicionamentos da relatora da ONU são uma “necessária lufada de ar fresco”.

Alsalem chega ao Brasil após passagens por México e Colômbia, onde se reuniu com atores estatais e deu palestras em universidades católicas ultraconservadoras. O giro extraoficial da relatora pela América Latina ocorre próximo ao término de seu mandato na ONU e às vésperas das eleições no Brasil e na Colômbia. Uma visita oficial agendada para julho de 2023 foi [adiada a pedido das autoridades brasileiras](#).

O [Código de Conduta dos detentores de mandato de procedimentos especiais do Conselho de Direitos Humanos da ONU](#) determina que visitas oficiais sejam programadas em colaboração com as missões diplomáticas em Genebra, o que não aconteceu no caso de Alsalem. Visitas promocionais ou acadêmicas são permitidas, mas o fato de a relatora estar se reunindo com atores estatais gera problemas de transparência, pois não se sabe quais interesses privados financiam a viagem.

Agenda de Reem Alsalem em Brasília

- **Segunda-feira, 2 de março, às 16h:** [Audiência com a ministra Cármen Lúcia](#), no STF
- **Terça-feira, 3 de março, às 9h:** [Aula Magna do PPG-PsiCC](#), na UnB
- **Quinta-feira, 5 de março, às 10h:** [Audiência pública no Congresso Nacional](#) ao lado de Celina Lazzari, diretora Matria, e Andrea Hoffmann Formiga, presidente do Instituto Isabel e parceira de litigância da ADF. O evento é uma iniciativa da senadora Damares Alves (Republicanos-DF)

Relatora da ONU com posicionamentos antigênero visitará STF, Congresso e UnB na semana do 8M

Este informe qualificado para o debate público foi produzido por Antra, SPW e NUH/UFMG.

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Alsalem foi escolhida para o cargo em 2021 pelo Conselho de Direitos Humanos da ONU, e desde então tem manifestado posicionamentos antigênero que preocupam movimentos feministas e organizações trans. Por exemplo:

- Em 2022, enviou um [comunicado ao Parlamento da Escócia](#) contestando o conteúdo da proposta de reforma da Lei de Identidade Gênero
- Defende a [exclusão de atletas transexuais](#) nos esportes e a volta dos testes de gênero
- Apoia [práticas de reorientação sexual e de gênero](#), conhecidas como terapias de conversão ou “cura gay”
- Acredita que a disforia de gênero é fruto do “contágio social”, recomendando a [proibição de procedimentos de saúde transespecíficos](#) para pessoas menores de 18 anos
- Acredita na existência de uma [“confusão” entre os termos sexo, gênero e identidade de gênero](#), o que seria um desrespeito à “realidade material” do sexo feminino
- Comemorou a [decisão da Suprema Corte britânica](#) de abril de 2025 que determinou que mulheres trans não são mulheres
- Mais recentemente, recomendou a [eliminação do termo “trabalho sexual”](#) em documentos do Comitê sobre Eliminação de Todas as Formas de Discriminação contra as Mulheres (CEDAW)

Em nota sobre a relatora da ONU, o [Conselho Nacional dos Direitos das Pessoas LGBTQIA+](#) manifestou preocupação com “posições alinhadas com o que defende a extrema-direita e segmentos sociais radicais que flertam com a transfobia”.

Em carta aberta assinada por centenas de entidades e especialistas, a [Associação pelos Direitos das Mulheres e o Desenvolvimento](#) manifestou preocupação com os posicionamentos de Alsalem, que “tem defendido, de maneira persistente, obstáculos e condicionantes adicionais para o reconhecimento legal do gênero, o que enfraquece a proteção dos direitos das pessoas trans”.

O [Instituto Lemkin para a Prevenção do Genocídio](#) disse que a relatora usa a desinformação para promover uma agenda antitrans, afirmando que a “violência contra mulheres e crianças não pode ser combatida por meio da transformação de membros vulneráveis da população em bodes expiatórios”.

Por outro lado, Alsalem tem o apoio da organização de advogados cristãos Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), responsável pela ação que levou a Suprema Corte dos Estados Unidos a reverter o direito ao aborto como garantia constitucional em 2022. Em [artigo para a Newsweek](#), o diretor da ADF Giorgio Mazzoli afirmou que os posicionamentos da relatora da ONU são uma “necessária lufada de ar fresco”. No Brasil ela é apoiada pela matria, LGB Alliance e outras do campo antigênero.

Alsalem chega ao Brasil para visita acadêmica não oficial após passagens por México e Colômbia, onde se reuniu com atores estatais e deu palestras em universidades católicas ultraconservadoras. O giro da relatora pela América Latina ocorre próximo ao término de seu mandato na ONU e às vésperas das eleições no Brasil e na Colômbia. Uma visita oficial agendada para julho de 2023 foi [adiada a pedido das autoridades brasileiras](#).

O [Código de Conduta dos detentores de mandato de procedimentos especiais do Conselho de Direitos Humanos da ONU](#) determina que visitas oficiais sejam programadas em colaboração com as missões diplomáticas em Genebra. Visitas promocionais ou acadêmicas são permitidas, mas o fato de a relatora se reunir com atores estatais em uma visita extraoficial enseja questionamentos sobre transparência, pois não se sabe quais interesses privados financiam a viagem.

Agenda da relatora da ONU em Brasília

- **Segunda-feira, 2 de março, às 16h:** [Audiência no STF](#) com a ministra Cármen Lúcia
- **Terça-feira, 3 de março, às 9h:** [Aula Magna do PPG-PsiCC](#), na UnB. A aula é uma iniciativa da professora Valeska Zanello
- **Quinta-feira, 5 de março, às 10h:** [Audiência pública no Congresso Nacional](#) ao lado de Celina Lazzari, diretora Matria, e Andrea Hoffmann Formiga, presidente do Instituto Isabel e parceira de litigância da ADF. O evento é uma iniciativa da senadora Damares Alves (Republicanos-DF)
- Agendas com coletivos antitrans e antigênero estão sendo realizadas