

Public Statement by the Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) in solidarity with Cefet-RJ and in repudiation of gender violence in educational institutions

The Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) expresses its deep sorrow and consternation at the tragic femicide that occurred on 28 November 2025 at the Maracanã campus of the Celso Suckow da Fonseca Federal Center for Technological Education (CEFET-RJ) in Brazil, which resulted in the deaths of Allane Pedrotti (director of the pedagogical and academic team of the Cefet-RJ Teaching Department) and Layse Costa Pinheiro (psychologist and federal civil servant at Cefet-RJ). We stand in solidarity with their families, colleagues, employees, students, and the entire Cefet-RJ community at this time of immense suffering.

Gender-based violence within educational institutions directly affronts life, human dignity, and the principles that underpin academic freedom. Teaching and research spaces must be safe and free from all forms of violence and discrimination. As CAFA's participation in the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) points out, this form of violence in educational institutions is not an isolated or individual problem, but rather a structural, collective, and political issue that we observe in Brazil, the Americas, and other parts of the world.

CAFA reaffirms its commitment to the uncompromising defense of academic freedom as a fundamental human right, which can only be fully exercised when educators, researchers, workers, and students are free from fear, discrimination, and violence. Ensuring this right is a shared responsibility of states and educational institutions to safeguard the physical, emotional, and intellectual integrity of their communities. We call on the relevant authorities and institutions to strengthen policies for preventing, addressing, and combatting gender-based violence, ensuring educational environments that challenge patriarchy and promote creativity, critical thinking, justice, and peace.

Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA)

► **Learn more:** [CAFA Campaign - It's not personal, it's structural: for educational institutions free of gender-based violence](#)