

Biographies of the Members of the Working Group on Women, Drug Policy, and Incarceration in the Americas

Giselle Amador Muñoz is a medical doctor with a degree from the University of Costa Rica, and is currently a Senior Advisor to the [Costa Rican Association for Research and Intervention in Drugs](#) (*Asociación Costarricense de Estudios e Intervención en Drogas, ACEID*). She has over 36 years of experience working in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration related to drugs, and has published several academic articles on the subject. She served as Director General of the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (*Instituto Sobre Alcoholismo y Farmacodependencia*), a leading drug policy institution in Costa Rica, and was a member of the National Council on Drug Policy of the Government of Costa Rica (*Consejo Nacional sobre Políticas en Drogas del Gobierno de Costa Rica*) from 2004 to 2009. She was the local coordinator of the V Latin American Conference Drug Policy in Costa Rica in 2014.

Demaluí Amighetti Lopez has a degree in Psychology and an MA in Human Rights. She teaches at the University of Costa Rica in the areas of community psychology, violence against women and research. She is also president and general coordinator of the [Costa Rican Association for the Study and Intervention in Drugs](#) (*Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas, ACEID*) where she collaborates on various projects related to women's and children's human rights, and specifically on issues of violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and development. She also works on the evaluation of social projects and with vulnerable groups.

Isabel Blas Guillén has degrees in Law, Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Valencia, Spain. As a lawyer, she worked with civil society organizations on matters of immigration, asylum, and refugees. She went on to specialize in Gender at the Autonomous University of Madrid and collaborated with Amnesty International Spain's Women and Human Rights program. She currently teaches international human rights protection. Guillen also works for Equis: Justice for Women (*Equis: Justicia para las Mujeres*), where she does research and advocacy on the topic of women imprisoned for drug offenses in México.

Luciana Boiteux has a degree in Law and Master's of Law from the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, as well as a PhD in Criminal Law from the [University of São Paulo](#). Since 2007, she has served as Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology at the Faculty of Law at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She is also coordinator of the Drug Policy and Human Rights Research Group at the same university. She researches drug policy and international human rights, the relationship between drug laws and prison systems, as well as judicial decisions in criminal cases. Ms. Boiteux is also a member of the boards of several professional associations and societies in Brazil, and is currently Vice President of the Prison Board of Rio de Janeiro and is a member of the Research Consortium on Drugs and the Law (*Colectivo de Estudios Drogas y Derecho, CEDD*).

Caroline Buhse is a Program Assistant at WOLA, where she provides research, advocacy and support work to WOLA's Drug Policy and Venezuela programs. Prior to joining WOLA, Caroline was a research assistant for Dr. Kedron Thomas, assisting with research on counterfeit law in Guatemala, indigenous rights, and sustainable fashion. She graduated with honors from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in Latin American Studies, Spanish, and History.

Luz Piedad Caicedo is an anthropologist with a specialty in political science. She is a researcher at [Corporación Humanas – Colombia](#) and is one of its founding members. She has worked in academia as a research methods professor, as well as with human rights organizations and on the human rights of women. In her work with the Corporación Humanas, she documented cases of sexual violence in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, and Rwanda. She has also investigated the impact of armed conflict and processes of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) developed in response to paramilitaries and urban insecurity. She also studies the impact of small-scale drug dealing on the lives of women. At Corporación Humanas, she has directed research on access to justice for women and is the co-author of several publications.

Ernesto Cortes has a degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Costa Rica (*Universidad de Costa Rica*, UCR), a Master's in Criminology with an emphasis on Human Security from the University for International Cooperation (*Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional*, UCI), and a Master's in Mental Health from the Miguel Hernández University (*Universidad Miguel Hernández*, UMH). He is currently Executive Director of the [Costa Rican Association for the Study and Intervention in Drugs](#) (*Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas*, ACEID) and lecturer in the Interdisciplinary Master of Drug Dependence of the Faculty of Pharmacology at the University of Costa Rica (UCR). Mr. Cortes is a member of the Research Consortium on Drugs and the Law (*Colectivo de Estudios Drogas y Derecho*, CEDD), the International Consortium on Drug Policy (IDPC), the Latin American Network of People Who Use Drugs (LANPUD) and the National Network of Civil Organizations for Migration Costa Rica (*Red Nacional de Organizaciones Civiles para las Migraciones de Costa Rica*, REDNAM). He has extensive experience working in research, training, and advocacy on issues such as drug use, harm reduction, youth and community management, and has also published several scientific articles on the subject.

Luis Felipe Cruz holds an LLB from the National University of Colombia. He has done research on various topics including human rights, criminal procedure law, and Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities' collective property rights. His research interests include the history and evolution of the Colombian armed conflict and its relation to drug trafficking. He currently studies sociology at the National University of Colombia (*Universidad Nacional de Colombia*) and works at Dejusticia as a research assistant on drug policy issues.

Valdirene Daufemback is Director for Policy of the National Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Justice of Brazil. Previously, she has held the positions of "Ouidora"

(Ombudsperson) of the National Penitentiary System (2012-2014), Adviser to the National Council on Criminal and Penitentiary Policy (2008-2012), Program Coordinator for the Appreciation of and Respect for Diversity (2006-2010), and Coordinator of the Consulate of Women (2002-2006). Ms. Daufemback has Master's in Psychology and a PhD in Law.

Corina Giacomello has a PhD in Latin American Studies from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (*Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM*), her home country. She currently works as a researcher for the National Institute of Criminal Science (*Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales*) and with the organization [Equis: Justice for Women](#). For several years she has worked on the issue of women in prison for drug offenses, linking the study of drug policy with the prison system with a gender perspective. Most recently, she published the book *Drugs, Gender, and Imprisonment: Experiences of Women Deprived of their Liberty in Mexico* (*Drogas, género y prisión: Experiencias de mujeres privadas de su libertad en México*), published in 2013 by Tirant Lo Blanch. She is the author of the IDPC report "Women, Drug Offenses and Prison Systems in Latin America," published in October 2013, and of *Proposals for Reform in the Cases of Women Incarcerated for Drug Offenses* (*Propuestas de reforma en casos de mujeres encarceladas por delitos de drogas*), co-authored with Isabel Blas and published in 2016 by INACIPE Equis: Justice for Women.

Kathryn Ledebur is a researcher, activist, and analyst of alternative livelihoods, coca and drug control strategies, Bolivian politics, United States foreign policy, and human rights issues, with over two decades of experience in Bolivia. She also served as a consultant for the Washington Office on Latin America in Bolivia, and is a member of the International Drug Policy Consortium. Ledebur has published numerous articles, memos, and reports that have provided insight on drugs and development policy.

Maria Cristina Meneses Sotomayor has a degree in political science and economics, as well as a law degree and a doctorate of jurisprudence. She also has a Master's in Criminal Sciences from the National University of Loja (*Universidad Nacional de Loja*) and a Master's of Administrative Law from the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (*Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja*). Dr. Meneses Sotomayor has a degree in Litigation, conducted research and oral Practice at the University of Havana, Cuba, and recently earned a doctorate in Law and Political Science at the National University of Piura in Peru. In addition, she is a professor and Director of the School of Law at the International University of Ecuador, Loja (*Universidad Internacional del Ecuador, Extensión Loja*) and Public Defender for domestic violence in the same city.

Zhuyem Molina is a lawyer with a Master's in Political Science from the University of Costa Rica and a postgraduate degree in Gender and Human Rights from the University of Chile (*Universidad de Chile*). She has been a public defender since 1998 and currently holds the position of Supervisor in the support unit of the [Directorate for Public Defense](#), working in the Criminal Gender and Legislative Advocacy Unit. She is also Program Coordinator for Restorative Justice of the institution.

Marie Nougier is Senior Research and Communications Officer at the [International Drug Policy Consortium](#) (IDPC), where she has worked since 2008. Ms. Nougier has a Master's of International Law, Human Rights, and the Law of Armed Conflict, and is an expert on the subject of drug policy reform. Before joining IDPC, she worked on issues such as compulsory drug detention in Southeast Asia, as well as on immigration, racism, and police brutality in Western Europe.

Gabriela Olivera is coordinator of the Gender Secretariat of the [National Drugs Board](#) (*Junta Nacional de Drogas*, JND) of Uruguay. She is a psychologist and an expert on drug dependence from the Complutense University of Madrid (*Universidad Complutense de Madrid*) and a Specialist in Gender and Drug Policy. She was also awarded a Fulbright to study at the Virginia Commonwealth University—National Institute for Drug Abuse. She currently works on policy, research, and the development of prevention programs for problematic drug use with a gender perspective. She teaches at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO—Uruguay), teaching “theoretical and practical approaches to understand and intervene in the issue of drug supplies.”

Nischa Pieris is a consultant at the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS) who specialises in gender mainstreaming and is working on the issue of how current drug policies affect women. Previously she worked with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD/OAS) on the promotion of alternatives to imprisonment for drug-related crimes. She was a program coordinator at Kids Company, a charity that lends support to vulnerable children in London where she worked directly with young people affected by violence and socio-economic disadvantage. She is the author of the CIM/OAS publication [“Women and Drugs in the Americas: A Policy Working Paper.”](#) She has a Bachelor's degree from Cambridge University in Modern Languages and a Master's in Latin American Studies from University College London.

Luciana Pol is a sociologist with a degree from the University of Buenos Aires (*Universidad de Buenos Aires*, UBA), specializing in Applied Social Science Statistical Methods at the Institute for Economic and Social Development (*Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social*). She worked several years as an analyst at a public opinion consulting firm. Since 2003, she has worked at the [Center for Legal and Social Studies](#) (*Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales*, CELS) in Buenos Aires. She began as a researcher in the Security Policy and Institutional Violence program, where she wrote various studies and conducted advocacy on issues of security policies, prisons, drug policy, social protest, police violence, and the use of force. Between 2011 and 2014, she coordinated the Program for Security Policy and Institutional Violence at CELS. Today, she is devoted entirely to international work in Political Security and Human Rights for the same organization.

Daniela Quintanilla forms part of the legal team of [Corporación Humanas - Chile](#), a feminist studies and political action center that is dedicated to the defense and promotion of the human rights of women and gender justice in Chile and Latin America. She

participates in various research endeavors and domestic and international litigation on issues of sexual violence, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender, trafficking and smuggling, access to justice for indigenous women, and women prisoners, among others. Dr. Quintanilla is a lawyer with a degree in Legal Studies from the Diego Portales University in Chile (*Universidad Diego Portales de Chile*).

Ana Maria Rueda is an adviser to the [Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia](#) (*Ministerio de Justicia y Derecho*) and works on revising the national drug policy. This process includes coordinating the Advisory Commission on Drug Policy and the National Dialogue on the Future of Drug Policy. She worked at The Carter Center for four years coordinating election observation missions and projects strengthening democracy in Latin America. She has been a journalist and political scientist at the Javeriana University in Bogotá, Colombia and has a Master's degree in International Relations from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Lucia Sestokas has a degree in International Relations and is an expert on Human Rights, Migration and Asylum. She works at the [Instituto Terra, Trabalho e Cidadania](#) where she is developing the Gender and Drug Project, which explores the intersection of gender, criminal justice system, and drug policy. Her work is focused on women in conflict with the law in Brazil.

Rodrigo Uprimny Yepes is an attorney with a doctorate in political economy from the University of Amiens Picardie, a DSU (Master's) in Sociology of Law at the University of Paris II and a DEA (Master's) in socioeconomic development at the Institute for Studies on Economic Development (*Institut d'étude du développement économique et social, IEDES*). He has been an assistant justice of the Constitutional Court and member of the Advisory Commission on Drug Policy to the Colombian government. Currently he is Director of the [Center for Law, Justice and Society](#) (*Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad, Dejusticia*), independent expert on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations, and professor of constitutional law at the National University of Colombia (*Universidad Nacional de Colombia*).

Coletta Youngers is an analyst on issues of democracy, human rights, and policy in the Andean region, as well as U.S. policy towards the region and international drug policy. She is currently Senior Fellow at the [Washington Office on Latin America](#) (WOLA), Associate at the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) and is a member of the Research Consortium on Drugs and the Law (*Colectivo de Estudios Drogas y Derecho, CEDD*). Ms. Youngers has served as an Associate and later Director of the Andean program at WOLA from 1987 to 2003. She also directed WOLA's project on drugs, democracy, and human rights until 2004. Youngers is co-editor of *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America: The Impact of U.S. policy* published by Lynne Rienner Publishers and Editorial Biblos, and is author of *Political Violence and Civil Society in Peru: History of the National Coordinator for Human Rights*, published by the Institute of Peruvian Studies in Lima, Peru. Before joining

WOLA, Ms. Youngers worked for Catholic Relief Services in Lima, Peru. She has a Master's degree in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.