COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION ISSUES OEA/Ser.W

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29 March 2021

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THEMATIC SESSION ON: “ATTENDING TO THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING”

SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

(March 30, 2021)

1. **Gabriella Sanchez:** <https://it.linkedin.com/in/gesanchez>

Gabriella Sanchez is a Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies, Migration and Global Order. Previously, Gabriella coordinated migrant smuggling research at the Migration Policy Centre in Florence, Italy. She is an ethnographer interested in the everyday dynamics of irregular migration facilitation. Her work (carried out in the Americas, North Africa, the Middle East and Europe) draws from the experiences and perspectives of migrants and the people behind their journeys. At the MPC she worked to strengthen the empirical and conceptual base of "crimes of mobility," to increase the understanding of smuggling as part of community life and its economic impact, as well as to document the roles played by women, young people and indigenous communities in the facilitation of mobility. She is the author of Human Smuggling and Border Crossings (Routledge 2016) and co-editor of the 2018 Special Issue on Migrant Smuggling of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences.

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1. **Águeda Marín:** <https://robuenosaires.iom.int/nuestro-equipo-oficina-regional>

Águeda Marín Hernández is the Senior Regional Specialist for Protection and Assistance of Migrants at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Office for South America.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Marín has implemented projects related to human trafficking and assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations, focusing on institutional strengthening, direct assistance, and multilateral coordination throughout the hemisphere.

As coordinator of the IOM Washington Program Unit between 2008 and 2011, Ms. Marín supported the development and implementation of projects on human trafficking around the world. Currently her portfolio includes issues of trafficking, return, reintegration, childhood and youth. Thus, Ms. Marín monitors and analyzes regional trends and provides technical assistance to governments, civil society and other key partners to advance initiatives that address the protection needs of migrants in vulnerable situations.

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1. **Katherine Chon:** <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/leadership>

Katherine Chon is the founding director of the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) and senior advisor on human trafficking at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OTIP is part of the HHS Administration for Children and Families, responsible for developing strategies and implementing programs to prevent trafficking, increase victim identification and access to services, and strengthen the health and well-being of survivors. OTIP also collaborates with government and nongovernment partners to raise public awareness, identify research priorities, and inform policy recommendations to strengthen the Nation’s public health response to human trafficking.

As director, Katherine leads the office and determines certification and eligibility for survivors of human trafficking who may be eligible for refugee benefits and services. She is the federal executive officer of the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the U.S. As senior advisor, Katherine serves on multiple committees under the Senior Policy Operating Group of the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. She serves on other related federal inter-agency working groups on violence against women, child exploitation, and Native American affairs.

Prior to her government service in 2012, Katherine was the co-founder and President of Polaris, establishing the global organization’s innovative programs to assist survivors of human trafficking, expand anti-trafficking policies, and fundamentally change the way local communities respond to modern slavery.

Katherine received a Master of Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Brown University, and a certificate in Executive Nonprofit Leadership from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

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1. **Renata Braz Silva:**

Renata Braz Silva is General Coordinator of the Fight against Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants of the Ministry of Justice of Brazil.

Renata Braz, is since 2016 National Coordinator for the Fight against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling at the Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Brazil. Previously, she has served as a technical analyst of social policies at the Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Brazil and at the former Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger as a Technical Analyst of Social Policies. Renata is a lawyer, graduated from the University of Minas Gerais.

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1. **Andrea Rojas Solari:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrearojassolari>

Andrea is Director of the Strategic Initiative on Labor Trafficking at Polaris. In that role, she leads a team working to build a robust infrastructure to protect workers and prevent labor trafficking of migrant workers between the United States and Mexico.

Andrea has spent more than 16 years building capacity and expanding the delivery of social services of NGOs in Latin America, Europe, and the United States. As a human rights attorney, she began her career working with torture survivors at Exil Center in Barcelona, Spain. In that role, she led new initiatives securing EU and UN funds to provide psychological support to juvenile torture victims and spearheaded the founding of an affiliate organization, Exil Chile. In the U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI) was instrumental in building the capacity of Post-Release Services program to respond to the 2014 humanitarian crisis of the influx of children crossing the border. As Program Officer for Trafficking Victim Assistance program, she focused on enhancing access and services and built a strong network of community organizations to serve trafficking survivors.

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