

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

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.

Hilary Anderson works as a Senior Specialist on women's rights and gender equality issues in the region for the [Inter-American Commission of Women](#) (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS). From this position, she has led the development of knowledge and capacity-building tools to support closing the gap between policy and practice, with a particular focus on harmonizing the international legal framework on women's rights with national-level laws and policies. Her work has touched on topics such as women's political representation and leadership; violence against women and access to justice; citizen security from a gender perspective and institutionalization of a gender, diversity and human rights approach in the work of the OAS. Prior to her time at the OAS, Hilary worked with the Pan American Health Organization's Gender and Health Unit and with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW, now part of UN Women). She received a degree in gender and development from McGill University in Montreal.

Luciana Boiteux has a degree in Law and Masters of Law from the University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, as well as a Ph.D. 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*).

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 *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 she is the co-author of several publications.

Nina Chaparro has an MSc in Public Policy from the University of Bristol (England). She has a J.D. from the University of Rosario, with a specialization in Constitutional Law and a certificate in Human Rights from the same university. Her interests lie in transitional justice, human rights and public policy, with an emphasis on peace education and gender issues. She has worked in numerous institutions, including the University of Rosario, ICTJ, ILSA, CODHES, and the Special Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation of Victims. She is currently the coordinator of the gender unit of the [Center for Law, Justice and Society](#) (*Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad, Dejusticia*).

Ernesto Cortés has a degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Costa Rica, a Master's in Criminology with an emphasis on Human Security from the University for International Cooperation, and a Master's in Mental Health from the Miguel Hernández University. 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. Mr. Cortes is a member of the Research Consortium on Drugs and the Law (*Colectivo de Estudios Drogas y Derecho, CEDD*), 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 outreach, and has also published several scientific articles on those subjects.

Luis Felipe Cruz holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a sociology degree from the National University of Colombia. He has conducted research on various topics including human rights, criminal procedure, 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 works at the [Center for Law, Justice and Society](#) (*Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad, Dejusticia*) as a research assistant on drug policy issues.

Valdirene Daufemback is an expert on the [National Mechanism for Preventing and Combating Torture](#) of Brazil. Previously, she has held the positions of Director for Policy of the National Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Justice of Brazil (2014-2016), "Ouidora" (Ombudsperson) of the National Penitentiary System (2012-2014), Member of the National Council on Criminal and Penitentiary Policy (2008-2012), Program Coordinator for the Appreciation of and Respect for Diversity (2006-2010), Coordinator of the Consulate of Women (2002-2006) and Member of the Prison Council of the

Community of Joinville (1997-2010). Ms. Daufemback has a Master's in Psychology and a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Law.

María Ximena Davila is a lawyer, with a degree from the Universidad de los Andes (2017). She was a member of the Action Program for Equality and Social Inclusion (PAIS) of the same University. Her main interests focus on legal sociology, gender studies, criminal law and critical theory of law. She currently works as a researcher in the gender unit at [Center for Law, Justice and Society](#) (*Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad, Dejusticia*). Her work focuses on strategic litigation, the defense of sexual and reproductive rights, and the implementation of a gender approach in peace processes, among others.

Isabel Erreguerena Citeri holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) with Honors from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, a Master's in International Law (LLM) with a specialization in Human Rights from the Washington College of Law of American University and she is currently studying a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Social Anthropology from the Ibero-American University. She is the Public Policies Coordinator of the feminist organization, [Equis: Justice for Women](#) (*Equis: Justicia para las Mujeres*), focused on promoting comprehensive access to justice for all women. She has worked in various institutions of public administration such as the National Institute of Access to Information, the National Human Rights Commission and the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations. She has served as a researcher in projects related to the evaluation of the National Human Rights Commission. She is also a professor of Public International Law and Human Rights at the La Salle University Law School and at the Law School of Anáhuac University in Mexico City.

Lorena Fries is a lawyer, with an MA in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford. Ms. Fries has 35 years of experience in human rights and has worked in different countries in the region, particularly with justice sector personnel. She is an expert in the UN human rights protection system and has authored several publications and articles in the fields of human rights and women's rights. She taught "Human Rights of Women: Theory and Practice," a post-graduate course, at the Human Rights Center of the Faculty of Law of the University of Chile. She was president of Corporación Humanas, a non-governmental organization with headquarters in Chile, Colombia and Ecuador, and, between 2010 and 2016, she was the Director of the National Institute for Human Rights, an autonomous state institution. In 2016, she assumed the position of Assistant Secretary for Human Rights in the Government of President Michelle Bachelet and, since 2018, has returned to work at [Corporación Humanas Chile](#).

Teresa Garcia Castro is a Program Associate at the [Washington Office on Latin America \(WOLA\)](#), where she provides research, advocacy and support work to WOLA's Drug Policy and Venezuela programs. Prior to joining WOLA, Ms. Garcia Castro was a research assistant at American University and she has published several articles on U.S.-Cuba relations and the changes on the Island. Teresa worked as a specialist in international relations at the Cuban Ministry of Culture promoting artistic and educational exchanges.

She has a Master's in International Relations focused on foreign policy and peacebuilding from American University's School of International Service. She graduated with high honors from the Higher Institute of International Relations in Havana, Cuba.

Corina Giacomello has a Ph.D. in Latin American Studies from the National Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM), where she lives. She currently works as a researcher for the [National Institute of Legal Research \(Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas\)](#) of the Autonomous University of Chiapas (Mexico) and she collaborates with the organization [Equis: Justice for Women \(Equis: Justicia para las Mujeres\)](#). She is an expert on the issue of women in prison for drug offenses, linking the study of drug policy with the prison system from a gender perspective. Her publications include "Policies on Gender, Drugs, and Incarceration in Mexico: A Guide for Inclusive Drug Policy" (2017, co-authored with Isabel Blas and Isabel Erreguerena), "Women Deprived of Freedom and the Right to Vote: From Objects of Rules to Subjects of Citizenship" (2016) and "Drugs, Gender, and Imprisonment: Experiences of Women Deprived of their Liberty in Mexico" (2013) by Tirant Lo Blanch. In addition, she is the author of the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) report "Women, Drug Offenses and Prison Systems in Latin America" (2013) and of "Proposals for Reform in the Cases of Women Incarcerated for Drug Offenses" (2016, co-authored with Isabel Blas).

Kathryn Ledebur is a researcher, advocate, 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 is the director of the [Andean Information Network](#), a human rights and drug policy non-profit organization based in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She has also served as a consultant for the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) in Bolivia. Ledebur has published numerous articles, memos, and reports that provide insights into drugs and development policies from a gender perspective.

María 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 and a Master's of Administrative Law from the Private Technical University (Universidad Técnica Particular) in Loja. Dr. Meneses Sotomayor has a degree in Litigation, Conducted Research and Oral Practice from 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](#) in Loja and Public Defender for cases related to 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. Currently, she is a lawyer of the [Criminal Cassation Chamber, Judicial Power](#), and she works in the Jurisprudence Information Center. Previously, Ms. Molina was the Technical Secretary of the Costa Rican Commission for Criminal Reform in the Legislative Assembly

and was a Public Defender Supervisor and the Institutional Coordinator of the Restorative Justice Program and Drug Treatment Program under Judicial Supervision in Costa Rica.

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.

Fernanda Nunes has a double degree in Law from the University of São Paulo (Universidade de São Paulo, USP) and LMU - Munich University (Ludwig Maximilians Universität - LMU München). She works at [Instituto Terra Trabalho e Cidadania](#) (ITTC) where she is developing the Gender and Drugs Project, which explores the intersection of gender, criminal justice system and drug policy. She also works at the Feminist Collective on Sexuality and Health (*Coletivo Feminista Sexualidade e Saúde*), where she coordinates projects in the field of women rights and reproductive justice.

Gabriela Olivera is the 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's 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 use."

Ana Pecova is the Executive Director of [Equis: Justice for Women](#) (*Equis: Justicia para las Mujeres*), a Mexican non-profit organization that works to promote access to justice for women. She has over 15 years of experience in the field of human rights and she has lived and worked in several countries. Ms. Pecova has been a consultant for various international organizations, including Geneva-based Interpeace, where she collaborated on conflict-resolution initiatives in the Balkan region. Before joining EQUIS, she worked for the Ford Foundation office for Mexico and Central America where she supported the design and implementation of grantmaking strategies in different portfolios including human rights, migration, sexual and reproductive health and rights, indigenous women, and Cuba. In 2016, Ms. Pecova won the National Journalism Award in Mexico for an article focusing on the shortcomings of current gender mainstreaming policies. She has a Master's degree in Political Philosophy from the University of York in the United Kingdom.

Nischa Pieris is a policy coordinator at the [World Bank's Global Partnership for Education](#). A gender specialist with regional expertise in Latin America and the Caribbean, she previously worked at the [Inter-American Commission of Women](#) (CIM) of the Organization

of American States (OAS). There, she led projects to develop gender sensitive drug and citizen security policies, and coordinated gender mainstreaming efforts in policies, programming and project planning. She is the author of the CIM publication, “Women and Drugs in the Americas: A Policy Working Paper,” and has published reports and articles on drugs, human rights and the social inclusion of women in conflict with the law, drawing attention to the gender disparities of incarceration and the effect of punitive drug policies on women. Previously, she was a consultant at the OAS’s Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) where she assisted projects to reduce the prison population in the Americas. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Modern Languages from Cambridge University 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, 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 several 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.

Maria Santos is a gender and human rights specialist. She coordinated the Gender and Sexual Diversity Unit in the [Ombudsperson’s Office for the Prison System](#) in Argentina during the last 8 years. Currently, she is the director for the drug policy and gender project in the same institution. For over ten years, she has visited women’s prisons and LGBT communities, while actively working for the protection and promotion of their rights. She is a coauthor of “Women in Prison, the Reaches of Punishment” (*Mujeres en prisión. Los alcances del castigo*) published in 2011 by *Editorial Siglo XXI*. She was part of the research group on physical mistreatment and torture within the prisons of the Federal Penitentiary Service, which was published in 2009 by *Editorial El Puerto*. She is the author of the publication “Women Imprisoned in Argentina: The Lack of Logic from a Painful Chain” (*Mujeres presas en Argentina: los sinsentidos de una cadena de sufrimiento*) edited by the Argentinean Association for Canadian Studies (*la Asociación Argentina de Estudios Canadienses*).

Rodrigo Uprimny Yepes is an attorney with a doctorate in political economy from the University of Amiens Picardie, a Master’s in Sociology of Law from the University of Paris II and a Master’s in socioeconomic development from the Institute for Studies on Economic Development (*Institut d’étude du développement économique et social, IEDES*). Currently, he directs the Drug Policy Program at the [Center for Law, Justice and Society](#) (*Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad, Dejusticia*) and he is a professor of Constitutional Law, Human Rights and Constitutional Theory at the National University of Bogota. Mr.

Uprimny is the author of several articles about human rights, drug trafficking and justice, among them, "The Colombian laboratory: drug trafficking and administration of justice in Colombia" or "Drugs, Law and Democracy." (*El laboratorio colombiano: narcotráfico y administración de justicia en Colombia*) o "*Drogas, Derecho y Democracia*)

Coletta Youngers is an analyst on issues of democracy, human rights, and drug policy in Latin America, 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 \(WOLA\)](#), Senior 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 was 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.