



Speakers Bios

HILARY CHESTER, PhD, is the Associate Director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Anti-Trafficking Program. The ATP has several initiatives, including a national education and awareness raising campaign directed to immigrant communities; a project to build global awareness and the capacity to respond to victims of human trafficking and exploitation in the fishing industry; and a program to provide specialized employment services to survivors of trafficking in the U.S., as well as the ongoing development and delivery of training curricula to national and international entities. The ATP consults for the U.S. Government on child trafficking cases and responds to technical assistance requests. Hilary has over 12 years of experience working with vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied children, victims of human trafficking and refugees; along with program management, social science research and evaluation. She is a member of the global COATnet (Christian Organizations Against Trafficking) Steering Committee and has been an invited member of national and international working and advisory groups on human trafficking, migrant children and alternatives to migrant detention. She received her doctorate in Anthropology from Southern Methodist University.



LARRY COUCH has served as a lobbyist for the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd since 2009 and Director since 2014, advocating in favor of programs serving people living in poverty; protecting people who are survivors of human trafficking; prevention of domestic abuse and compassionate immigration reform.

Prior to his work with the National Advocacy Center, Larry served as the Legislative Liaison for the Archdiocese of Washington. In addition to federal and state advocacy work, Larry helped create Justice and Advocacy Councils in four Maryland counties to advocate for the needs of people living in poverty.



GAYLE LWANGA CRUMBLEY, RGS, has been a vowed member of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for 32 years. A member of the National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) since 1988, she has served in many roles and presently serves as Vice President. As an NBSC officer, she is pleased to serve on the National Black Catholic Congress Board.

In 2014 Sr. Gayle was appointed to the board of the National Religious Vocation Conference and served for 6 years. She also is a member of the Board of Directors for the DeNeuille Learning Center, a sponsored ministry of Sisters of the Good Shepherd that empowers women to improve their lives through education and community.

Sr. Gayle is currently missioned to Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to her board work, she is a member of a support community that ministers to elder Good Shepherd sisters.



WINIFRED DOHERTY, RGS, is a Good Shepherd Sister from Ireland. Sr. Winifred has been the NGO Representative to the United Nations for the Sisters and Mission Partners since 2008. She is a social worker by profession graduating from University College Cork, Ireland. She worked in Ethiopia for 16 years empowering girls and young women through education and micro finance programs. She has experience in community mobilization for infrastructural development - water, sanitation, walkways and kitchens. She facilitated girls and young women to confront extreme poverty and the many discriminatory practices that plagued their lives.

As NGO representative at the United Nations, Sr. Winifred collaborates with other NGO's in policy issues concerning poverty eradication, ending prostitution and human trafficking, ending violence against women and girls and the promotion of girls. She is a Director of the Working Group on Girls, a core team member of the NGO Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee for Social Development, the NGO Committee on Migration, and the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons.



DIANA FIMBRES serves as the Program Manager for the Strategic Initiative on Labor Trafficking at Polaris. She is involved in the coordination and management of the initiative's work related to programmatic implementation and partnership-building. She has worked on projects building a safety net for trafficking victims in the United States and Mexico. Prior to Polaris, she worked with under-served and migrant youth providing scholarships and pathways to higher education. Diana holds an M.A. in Public Policy from The George Washington University and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of California, Irvine.



KARA GRIFFIN is a retired counselor and mom of two daughters. She is a member of the Charlotte Catholic Charities Anti-Trafficking Task Force and a lay member of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. She volunteers with Sisters of Mercy with a grassroots organization, the Migrant Assistance Project. She was a founding member of the DCCW sponsored Prayer and Outreach Group to Combat Human Trafficking with the Diocese of Greensburg, PA before moving to Charlotte and starting a Creation Care Team at St. Matthew Parish which also promotes ethical consumerism that has a focus on care for workers, the community and the environment. She is a representative for her Diocese on the Catholic Coalition of Organizations Against Human Trafficking and a member of NC Stop Human Trafficking Now organization. She received her masters in mental health counseling from the University of Central Florida.



JENNIFER REYES LAY is the first Executive Director of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. She believes strongly in the vision of a world without slavery and exploitation.

She has a Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary, and an honors B.A. in Theology and International Studies from St. Louis University. Jennifer is an ecofeminist theologian and midwife of justice who lives in St. Louis, MO.



FLOR MOLINA is a founding member of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) Survivor Leadership Program and a member of the National Survivor Network. She served as a member of the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking from 2009 to 2017.

She has advocated for policies to combat human trafficking since 2002 and has worked as a security guard since 2005.



NORMA PIMENTEL, MJ, a religious sister of the Missionaries of Jesus, serves as Executive Director and a licensed professional counselor for Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, providing oversight of the different ministries and programs in the areas of emergency assistance, housing assistance, counseling, pregnancy care, and humanitarian aid.

She was instrumental in organizing community resources to respond to the surge of Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States and setting up Humanitarian Respite Centers in McAllen and Brownsville, Texas in June 2014.

Before overseeing Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, Sr. Norma was one of the leaders who directed Casa Oscar Romero, a refugee shelter in San Benito and later Brownsville for Central Americans fleeing their war-torn countries in the 1980s. The shelter provided emergency relief and temporary housing for hundreds of thousands of refugees.



ANN SCHOLZ, SSND, is a School Sister of Notre Dame and Associate Director for Social Mission at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Currently, LCWR focuses its collective voice on some of the most pressing issues of the day including racism and white privilege, immigrant rights, environmental justice, human trafficking, nonviolence, and economic justice.

Prior to her ministry at LCWR, Sr. Ann served as the representative of her religious congregation at the United Nations in New York where she sought to bring the values of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching to bear on the deliberations of UN member states.



A former secondary social studies teacher, she earned her masters and doctoral degrees from the American University in Washington, DC and served as an Associate Professor at Notre Dame of Maryland University.

MELANIE THOMPSON is the Youth Outreach Coordinator at the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and is separately a speaker, activist, and leader in the global fight to end prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation. Trafficked and sold into prostitution in New York at the age of 12, she was later arrested and placed into foster care. She became an activist at age 14. Ms. Thompson has testified before numerous legislatures about the need to pass strong anti-trafficking laws and ending the arrests of sex trafficked and prostituted children and people in the sex trade. She is a student at the City University of New York and plans to open a non-profit organization to assist victims of trafficking and foster care.



CHRISTINE TRUONG MY HANH, RGS, is a Good Shepherd Sister who was born in South Vietnam. Before 1975, Sr. Christine worked with street children and poor women in Saigon. After Saigon fell, Sr. Christine and four other Good Shepherd sisters came to the U.S. She has missioned in Macau and Hong Kong, ministering to teenagers with family problems. During her last three years in Hong Kong, she worked with Caritas as Director for Social Services serving thousands of refugees in detention camps. In 1990, Sr. Christine returned to the U.S., and in 1993, she founded Good Shepherd Services of Atlanta.



GSS Atlanta provides services for refugees and migrants with a special focus on those in need with Burmese, Chinese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, and Vietnamese backgrounds. The organization provides immigration services, counseling, domestic violence interventions, translation services, and more. Sr. Christine continues to serve as CEO for GSS Atlanta today.

SCOTT WRIGHT is the Director of the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, the Justice, Peace and Ecology office of the US Region of the Missionary Society of St. Columban.

The congregation is actively involved with migrants and asylum-seekers on the US - Mexico border, with a Columban Mission Center in El Paso, Texas and a parish in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

