



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Human Rights and Humanitarian Challenges in Central America

Panel I



Chiara Cardoletti-Carroll has served as Deputy Representative of the UN Refugee Agency for the United States and the Caribbean since 2015. Before her reassignment to Washington DC, she was responsible for leading and coordinating the protection response for refugees and internally displaced populations in the Republic of the Sudan, working closely with inter-agency partners and the host government. She also served for more than four years in the Executive Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, covering refugee protection issues worldwide, and advising on matters of international human rights and humanitarian law. Ms. Cardoletti-Carroll has worked in UNHCR field operations including East Timor, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Iran, and Afghanistan. Before joining the UN, Ms. Cardoletti-Carroll worked with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She holds a Masters Degree in International Law from the University of Vienna in Austria, and is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Italian.

Panel II



Dr. Carlos E. Ponce is the director for Latin America programs at Freedom House. Ponce previously worked as the General Coordinator for the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy, and has been a consultant for a variety of organizations focused on strengthening civil society, developing mechanisms to protect human rights defenders, and solidifying democratic institutions in the region. He is also a member of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy, the ISC of the Community of Democracies, and is the General Coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy. He received a Ph.D in Law and Policy from Northeastern University, and also holds Master's degree in Environmental Law from

Vermont Law School, a Master of Arts degree in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University, and a JD from the Andres Bello Catholic University.



Adriana Beltrán heads the Citizen Security Program for the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), a U.S.-based research and advocacy organization. Through the Program, she promotes policies that identify and address the root causes of violence and improve the effectiveness and accountability of police and judicial systems. Ms. Beltrán has extensive experience addressing human rights, citizen security, and rule of law related issues, and works closely with civil society organizations and networks in Central America, government officials, and multilateral entities. She has written and co-authored various reports and articles on police reform, organized crime, and violence in Latin America, has testified before Congress and is a frequent commentator in the media. Ms. Beltrán holds a Masters' Degree in International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



Lisa Haugaard is Executive Director of the Latin America Working Group Education Fund. The Latin America Working Group Education Fund conducts public education and advocacy to encourage U.S. policies that support human rights, justice, and conflict resolution in Latin America. LAWGEF coordinates efforts with a coalition of humanitarian, human rights, immigrant-led, faith-based, labor, environmental, policy and grassroots organizations. Ms. Haugaard has written numerous reports, articles and memos on U.S.-Latin America policy and participated in international verification missions on extrajudicial executions, migration, protection of human rights defenders and electoral observation in Latin America.



Rachel Dotson is Gender and Migration Initiatives Director for Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in Washington, D.C., where she leads programming, research, and advocacy efforts to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence against unaccompanied migrant children. She is the researcher and co-author of the 2017 reports “Neither Security nor Justice: Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Gang Violence in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala,” and “Childhood Cut Short: Sexual and Gender-based Violence Against Central American Migrant and Refugee Children,” published by KIND and the Human Rights Center Fray Matías de Córdova. Rachel has extensive experience in direct service and advocacy with children and youth, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and immigrants and refugees. She has conducted multiple research projects in Mexico and Central America. Rachel holds Masters degrees in Cultural Anthropology from the University of North Carolina and Latin American Studies from Indiana University.



Ashley Feasley is the Director of Policy for the Office of Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Office assists the bishops in the development and promotion of migration and refugee policy positions within the context of the Church's social and moral teaching, and implements communication, public education/outreach and legislative strategies that foster greater advocacy, awareness, understanding, and support for the work of MRS and the vulnerable populations it serves.

Prior to working at USCCB, Ashley worked as the Director of Advocacy for the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC). She has published numerous articles, taught at Fordham University School of Law and at the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America, and appeared in the media. She holds a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a JD from the University of Florida, and an LLM from Fordham University School of Law.