

GABRIELA SAENZ

Director of Research, Education & Policy, National Women's Shelter Network, Inc.



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Gabriela Saenz is the Director of Research, Education and Policy for the National Women's Shelter Network supporting its members with a wide range of educational offerings to advance best practices, researching funding opportunities for our members across the country, identifying and helping to secure additional resources to serve women and children in need, and advancing the NWSN's public policy initiatives.

Prior to joining the NWSN, Ms. Saenz held a similar position at the Sundari Foundation, Inc., best known as the Lotus House Women's Shelter, the largest women's and children's homeless shelter in the country. There, she was integral to the research underlying the formation of the Network and its public policy initiatives, engaged in extensive outreach to and with shelters across the nation, conducted the first ever national gaps and needs survey of the NWSN, and helped the NWSN launch its enormously successful inaugural conference.

Ms. Saenz has been instrumental in the development of the Women's Equity Project, a special web-based platform of the NWSN shining a light on pervasive historic and current inequities and discrimination faced by women, the intersection of homelessness and gender-based violence, root causes of homelessness, and social and public policy recommendations to bring an end to and prevent homelessness.

Ms. Saenz's prior experience includes intensive research, proposals and reports with an age, gender, and diversity focus for the Community Based Protection Team at the United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bogota, Colombia, and conducting in-depth research on the implications of policy decisions in Latin America and Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington D.C.

She possesses a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Central Florida, and a Master's degree in International Law and Human Rights from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). While earning her master's degree, Ms. Saenz researched and provided policy recommendations surrounding social, political and economic human rights violations on a global scale. As part of the International Human Rights Clinic, she engaged in a year-long practicum analyzing the domestic implementation of human rights laws and freedom of the press.

Committed to making a lasting difference and fostering a more equitable and just society, Ms. Saenz is passionate about community-based work and advocating for our most vulnerable, particularly women and children. She pursues this passion in all that she does for the NWSN and its Network of participating members.