



MARIA JOSE T. FLETCHER

Maria Jose T. Fletcher is an attorney co-director and founder of VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc., a non-profit organization formed to advance the rights of immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking in persons and other violent crimes.

Ms. Fletcher is actively involved in local, state and national domestic violence and victim's rights organizations. She prepares and conducts educational presentations and trainings in the areas of immigration, domestic violence, and trafficking in persons. She has been invited to present at conferences, seminars and workshops by the US Department of State, the US Department of Justice, including the Office on Violence Against Women, and by national and international non-governmental organizations to address the needs of immigrant survivors. Among the countries and territories visited by Ms. Fletcher are: Austria, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Filipinas, Guatemala, Honduras, Northern Mariana Islands, Morocco, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Peru and Uruguay.

Since 2001, Ms. Fletcher has been working in collaboration with numerous governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to ensure that survivors of human trafficking have access to protections and justice, by providing free legal assistance and coordination of other necessary services. Through VIDA, Ms. Fletcher participates in educational projects dedicated to prevent trafficking in persons, labor exploitation and sexual violence in the work place.

Among other functions, Ms. Fletcher completed a two-year commitment (2010-2012) as one of fifteen members of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, chartered by the US Attorney General. The role of the committee was to provide recommendations on the prevention of domestic violence to the US Department of Justice and the US Department of Health and Human Services. The Committee's report was issued on November 30, 2012. Since 2003, Ms. Fletcher has been a regional and national coordinator of the Freedom Network Training Institute (FNTI), created to provide training and technical assistance to multidisciplinary audiences on the subject of trafficking in persons a national project of the Freedom Network USA and since 2011 is a Board member of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV).

Previously, and for over 10 years, Ms. Fletcher has been an advisory board member of the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women and a founding member and past co-chair of the Freedom Network to Empower Trafficked and Enslaved Persons (USA). In 2005, on the International Women's Day, Global Rights named Ms. Fletcher a Human Rights Defender for her work on behalf of victims of trafficking.

Ms. Fletcher received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of South Florida,

Tampa, Florida and a J.D. from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.