



## Women & Immigration: Improving Policy & Lives

### *Honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women's Day*

Co-sponsored by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Dēmos, Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America, and the George Washington University Women's Studies Program

**Tuesday, March 8, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

### *Speakers' Bios*

**M. Elizabeth Barajas-Román** is Director of Policy at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. At NLIRH, Elizabeth is responsible for advancing the Institute's policy agenda and legislative priorities, and for managing the Washington, D.C. office. Elizabeth comes to the Latina Institute with experience as a health care policy analyst, journalist and researcher. She graduated from Oberlin College with highest honors and holds a Master's degree in international policy from Harvard. Website: [www.latinainstitute.org](http://www.latinainstitute.org)

**Michelle Brané**, Director of the Detention and Asylum program at the Women's Refugee Commission, focuses on the critical protection needs of migrant families, women and children in the United States and migrant detention issues more broadly. She was selected by Women's E-News as one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" and has authored several groundbreaking reports including the 2007 Women's Refugee Commission landmark report on family detention, *Locking Up Family Values*. Michelle has more than 20 years of experience working on immigration and human rights issues, including the Department of Justice Board of Immigration Appeals, Director of the Access to Justice Unit and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and as a Human Rights Officer with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Bosnia, where she also served as the Head of the Sarajevo Field Office. Michelle holds a B.A. in international studies from the University of Michigan and J.D. from Georgetown University, and is a member of the New York bar. Website: [www.womensrefugeecommission.org](http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org)

**Margie McHugh** is the Co-Director of the National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy at the Migration Policy Institute. Prior to joining MPI, Margie served as deputy director of New York City's 1990 Census Project and as the executive assistant to NYC Mayor Koch's chief of staff, and for 15 years as the executive director of The New York Immigration Coalition. She is the recipient of dozens of awards recognizing her successful efforts to bring diverse constituencies together and tackle tough problems, including the prestigious *Leadership for a Changing World* award. She has served as a member and officer on the boards of directors for both the National Immigration Forum and Working Today; on the editorial board of *Migration World Magazine*; and has held appointive positions in a variety of New York City and State commissions, most notably the Commission on the Future of the City University of New York and the New York Workers' Rights Board. Ms. McHugh is a graduate of Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges and is a frequent commentator on immigration and immigrant integration issues in both local and national news media. Website: [www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org)

**Rachel Micah-Jones** founded and serves as Executive Director of *Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (CDM)*, an innovative transnational workers' rights organization. With a base of operations in Zacatecas, Mexico, and with offices in Baltimore, Maryland and Oaxaca, Mexico, CDM is uniquely positioned to make positive change for im/migrant workers along the Mexico-US migrant stream. CDM's ProMuMi – Proyecto de Mujeres Migrantes (Women Migrants' Project) — helps bridge the gap in migrants' access to justice by empowering women migrants and providing critical support to advocacy communities. Prior to founding CDM, Rachel worked with the Migrant Farmworker Unit of Florida Rural Legal Services where she represented some of Florida's migrant workers in employment-related actions. Rachel received her J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law in 2003 and her A.B. from Georgetown University. She teaches in the International and Comparative Law Clinic at the University of Maryland School of Law. Website: [www.cdmigrante.org](http://www.cdmigrante.org)

**Mee Moua** is Vice President of Strategic Impact Initiatives at the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Born in Laos, Mee immigrated in 1978 to the United States and in 2002 became the nation's first Hmong American elected to a state legislature. Her legislative accomplishments include funding for the Phalen Corridor and Metropolitan State University Library, making it easier to build affordable housing, and improving tax policies for low income Minnesotans. She also fought to protect civil rights and to secure funding for crime victims. Senator Moua is a Majority Whip, Vicechair of the Transportation Policy and Budget Committee, and serves on the Tax Committee and the Health and Family Security Committee. She has degrees from Brown University, a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Texas-Austin, and her law degree from the University of Minnesota. Website: [www.apiahf.org](http://www.apiahf.org)

**Remziya Suleyman** is Policy Coordinator for the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition. Remziya is a native of Kurdistan and came to the US in 1991 during the first Gulf War. She recently obtained her Master's in Public Administration, and certificate in Non-profit Management, from Tennessee State University. She also has her Bachelor's in Political Science with minor in International Affairs. Her prior experiences include working as an intern with the Tennessee State General Assembly and working in the Kurdish community to raise awareness on Kurdish genocide, youth involvement, and other issues. She has served in many interfaith dialogues, on her experience as a refugee, Kurdistan and its people, the role of a Muslim Women, life after September 11 as a Muslim in the United States, and the Next Door Neighbors Documentary Little Kurdistan: USA with Nashville Public Television. Her current position is Policy Coordinator which includes coordinating research and drafting community resources on public policy issues, communicating with TIRRC's legislative consultant to further legislative advocacy goals and monitoring the legislative process for potential impact on the immigrant/refugee community. Website: [www.tnimmigrant.org](http://www.tnimmigrant.org)