

Biography

CHRISTIE J. EDWARDS

Christie Edwards is an internationally recognized and published legal expert with over twenty years of experience working on international humanitarian and human rights law, gender, international policy and advocacy, and international community development. Christie has led successful non-profit management and implementation programs, strategic planning, and grants management in senior leadership roles at the national and international level with prominent NGOs and international organizations. Currently, Christie serves as the Acting Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, addressing issues of racism, xenophobia, religious discrimination, and hate crimes. Previously, as the Director of International Humanitarian Law at the American Red Cross from 2013-2017, Christie led the organization's legal education, public, and youth outreach efforts on IHL, directly reaching over 60,000 people per year with a social reach of over 24 million. Finally, Christie serves as the Vice Chair of the International Organizations Interest Group of the American Society of International Law (ASIL).

She received her J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, specializing in international human rights law. While in San Diego, she worked at a torture treatment clinic for political refugees, served as pro bono counsel for asylum seekers, and taught an international human rights course at TJSJ as an Adjunct Professor and Pro Bono Fellow. Christie then completed her LL.M. degree at AU's Washington College of Law, with dual specializations in international human rights and gender.

Following her LL.M. degree, she received a Helton Fellowship from the American Society of International Law, which allowed her to work in Casablanca, Morocco, with local NGOs on an advocacy campaign for greater legal rights for single mothers. Christie also served as a program manager at Vital Voices Global Partnership implementing human rights, political advocacy, and civil society building programs in the MENA region following the Arab Spring. She has published law review articles on ISIL's use of forced contraception as a form of torture, the cultural context of sex trafficking in China, the use of gender budget analysis to achieve educational parity for women and girls, and legal advocacy strategies for women's rights in Morocco. She also speaks regularly for local and international conferences on international human rights and humanitarian law issues.