

# **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

## **Of**

### **Catherine Coleman Flowers**

Catherine Coleman Flowers is the Rural Development Manager for the Equal Justice Initiative. In addition, she is Duke University's Franklin Humanities Institute Practitioner in Residence. Her goal is the lack of sanitation in many parts of rural American that rival conditions found in the developing world. She has characterized this as "America's Dirty Secret."

Flowers hope to shepherd a paradigm shift toward sustainability and resiliency in rural communities by inspiring the development of climate-friendly onsite wastewater technology using renewable energy. She was the co-author of a study that found tropical parasites, including hookworm in participants in Lowndes County, Alabama. She represented the Center for Earth Ethics in Paris as an official observer at COP 21. In 2017 Flowers invited to Alabama, the UN's Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, Philip Alston. Alston characterized what he saw as "uncommon in the first world. "His report before the UN Council on Human Rights began by describing the cesspools he saw in Alabama. Later Flowers and her work was featured on PBS NewsHour. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and holds a Master of Arts degree in History. Her goal is to create a sustainable world that will benefit seven generations to come.