



In 2012, Tina was awarded the Second Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Humanitarian Award for her congressional work defending their community worldwide.

TINA RAMIREZ is the President and Founder of Hardwired, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom in law and policy worldwide. She currently serves as the Vice President of the UN NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief based in New York as well as on the board of the Richmond-based First Freedom Center where she resides.

She previously worked as International and Government Relations Director at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and as a foreign policy advisor and expert on international religious freedom for various members of the U.S. Congress. She helped found and direct the Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus for four years, a bi-partisan group co-founded in 2006 to address religious persecution for people of any or no faith based on Article 18 of the UDHR and in the spirit of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998

(IRFA). In that capacity, she drafted several pieces of legislation, most notably the following: H.Con.Res.139 (passed House in 2007) “Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should address the ongoing problem of untouchability in India”, H.Res.1140 (introduced in 2008) “Recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998”, and H.Res.1631 (passed House in 2010) “Calling for the protection of religious sites and artifacts from and in Turkish-occupied areas of northern Cyprus as well as for general respect for religious freedom”. Prior to this, Tina worked as a researcher at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and an educator.

In her various capacities, Tina has spoken before the United Nations Human Rights Council and before the U.S. Congress. She has developed legal training materials and trained advocates and religious leaders in several countries. She has traveled extensively throughout the world, meeting with government officials, civil society groups, and religious communities about many issues from democratic transition and constitutional development to counter-terrorism policies, sex-trafficking, refugees, and religious freedom. Her work has taken her to Algeria, the Balkans (Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia), Bangladesh, Burma, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, and Turkey.

Tina earned a B.A. in History and Political Science and an M.A. in Education from Vanguard University (VU) in California and a M.A. in Human Rights from the University of Essex in the U.K. She also has a certificate from the International Institute for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, where her studies focused on international religious freedom. Tina was also a teacher for three years, during which time she developed curricula to promote human rights and international religious freedom and undertook statistical research that supported implementation of the UN Decade on Human Rights Education. She has authored several articles and was a contributing author and editor of *Human Rights in the United States: A Dictionary and Documents*, which was published in 2010.