



Emerita Torres

Emerita Torres is a national security and domestic policy expert with over a decade of progressive experience in government and non-profit sectors. Ms. Torres serves at the Vice President of Policy, Research and Advocacy for the Community Service Society of New York, where she is responsible for directing data-driven public policy and research to address the economic inequities facing low income communities, working in tandem with grassroots coalitions, academics, and government leaders.

Previously, Emerita Torres was the Director of Policy Research and Programs at The Soufan Center, a global strategy center focused global security and humanitarian issues, notably countering white supremacy and domestic terrorism, understanding the root causes of global protest movements, demystifying the effects of and responses to COVID-19 worldwide, and the proliferation of disinformation locally and globally.

Ms. Torres has over a decade of experience as a U.S. diplomat with the U.S. Department of State, where she developed and coordinated policy and programs on human rights, conflict prevention, countering violent extremism, and supporting vulnerable populations. Her proudest achievements include lifting up marginalized voices during Colombia's peace process, advocating for workers' rights globally, supporting international peace processes, promoting rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for former violent offenders, and serving as a lead negotiator at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. Ms. Torres is the recipient of four meritorious honor awards and a Superior Honor Award for her service.

Ms. Torres has provided expert testimony in the U.S. Congress and has contributed to *Politico*, NPR, *New York Times*, PRI Global, Univision, *SiriusXM Radio's Press Pool with Julia Manson*, *New York Focus*, NY1, *Gotham Gazette*, and *Inside City Hall*.

Ms. Torres holds a B.A. in History from New York University and a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. She is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a Truman National Security Fellow, and was recognized by *New America* as a Latinx National Security and Foreign Policy leader. She is an alum of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the Aspen Institute, and the New Leaders Council.

Ms. Torres was recently elected to be the State Committeewoman in her home district in the Bronx, where she works to ensure that the Democratic party platform at the State level is active, inclusive, and transparent. She has hosted several community initiatives since taking up this role, including local census outreach, civic education, and COVID-19 assistance and recovery efforts.