

Biography of Amanda Martin

Amanda Martin currently works with the Global Health Access Program as a curriculum coordinator and teacher of public health at a college in a refugee camp on the Thai/Burma border.

Previous to her work with GHAP, Ms. Martin served as the Director of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission in Washington, D.C (2008-2011). She traveled to Guatemala every three months to lead international human rights delegations and fact finding missions on the subjects of femicide, migration, and human rights defenders in rural and urban communities. She led international advocacy campaigns from her office in Washington D.C., for improved human rights in Guatemala.

Ms. Martin also worked in Guatemala during the mid 1990's as a Peace Corps Volunteer for three and a half years, living in a rural K'iche' Mayan village. She traveled extensively throughout the country, worked in 12 villages with Mayan women's cooperatives, and lived among villagers who suffered grave human rights violations during the war. Ms. Martin left Guatemala when the Peace Accords were signed in December 1996.

Ms. Martin worked in Bolivia (2000) researching the impact of US policy (counter narcotics efforts) on indigenous Quechua and Aymara women, and worked in the women's prison of Cochabamba with micro-enterprise projects and human rights reporting.

She earned two master's degrees (Public Health and Social Work, 2003) from the University of South Carolina, where she worked as an interpreter and advocate for the Latino population. She was a bilingual counselor for the SC Domestic Abuse Center, working with Latino men convicted of criminal domestic abuse.

Ms. Martin spent three years working in Colombia, South America on human rights violations perpetrated by state entities. She organized and led over 20 delegations of US citizens to Colombia from 2004-2007, including US Congressional delegations.

Ms. Martin was given the Alumna of the Year Award by the University of South Carolina's College of Social Work in 2010. In Spring 2011, she was awarded a three month fellowship at the Rotary Peace and Conflict Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Her experience as a Rotary Peace Fellow inspired her to move to the Burma border, where she is currently employed.