Women’s Link Worldwide spokespeople

**Mariana Ardila**, managing attorney at Women’s Link Worldwide. Based in Colombia. Bilingual (English, Spanish).

Mariana is a managing attorney at Women’s Link Worldwide. She is an expert in women’s rights and litigation as a platform for social change. She co-leads the organization’s global work on reproductive rights, transitional justice and international gender crimes.

In Colombia, Mariana has successfully litigated various cases before the Constitutional Court, including the landmark case that granted reparations for forced abortions in the context of the armed conflict. She led the submission of the first and only report before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace about reproductive violence by the FARC rebel group, as well as reports to Colombia’s Truth Commission on violence against Black women in the context of the armed conflict in alliance with grass-roots black women organizations. **She is currently the leading lawyer among the plaintiffs in a petition before the Constitutional Court seeking the total decriminalization of abortion in Colombia.** As a senior legal strategist, she has advised several landmark cases on telemedicine for abortion, crimes committed during the Franco regime in Spain and contraceptives failures in Chile.

She is the leading lawyer among the plaintiffs’

Mariana holds a law degree from the Externado University of Colombia and a Master’s Degree in International Legal Studies from New York University (NYU). She is a law professor at Externado University of Colombia, and has published academic articles and a book on *The Human Right of Women to Contraception*.


As Managing Attorney, Marcia is a legal strategist, initiative leader, and litigator, with a special focus on developing and leading complex legal projects. She coordinates and manages interdisciplinary teams to fulfill organizational and project objectives in accordance with Women’s Link’s mission.

Marcia is an expert in international human rights law. After obtaining her law degree from the University of Costa Rica in 2001, she completed a Master of Arts in International Law and Settlement of Disputes at the United Nations University for Peace in 2004. She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Public Administration at the University of Costa Rica.

Before joining Women’s Link, Marcia worked for the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) for thirteen years, the last six of which she was Program
Director for Central America and Mexico. In this role, she represented hundreds of victims of human rights violations before the Inter-American Human Rights System, winning important rulings that contributed to the advancement of truth, justice, and reparations in the region. She has also served as legal advisor to the Secretary General of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO).

Marcia is an alternative dispute resolution specialist and human rights expert, and she has taught both subjects for multiple universities and organizations, including the National University of Costa Rica, La Salle University of Costa Rica, the Bar Association of Costa Rica, the FLACSO Program for the Dominican Republic, the Latin University of Costa Rica, the University of Coahuila (Mexico), and the United Nations University for Peace.

She has also done consulting for many international bodies and organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Lawyers Without Borders Canada (Honduras), Nexus Consulting, and IPAS.

Viviana Waisman, CEO and President of Women’s Link Worldwide. She is based in Spain but is in the U.S. for the next two months. Bilingual (English and Spanish).

Viviana Waisman founded Women’s Link Worldwide in 2001 in response to what she perceived as a glaring need to advance women’s rights in national courts by creating and disseminating mechanisms to apply human rights standards. Waisman is responsible for leading the organization with offices in Spain and Colombia, and with staff in the United States, Uganda and Kenya. She is responsible for the organization’s overall management and fundraising, as well as spearheading and participating in investigations, litigation and trainings in numerous fields including, but not limited to, trafficking, migrant women’s rights, sexual and reproductive rights, international gender crimes and intersectional discrimination.


She has participated and organized international meetings and conferences related to human trafficking, sexual and reproductive rights and international gender crimes. Such forums include conferences on Sexual and Reproductive Rights and
Strategies to improve access to safe abortion in Uganda and Tanzania, applying the due diligence standard to the judiciary for trafficking victims and training for prosecutors and judges on incorporating gender in the prosecutions for the crimes during the military dictatorship in Argentina. She was part of the Third Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings by the European Commission (2011-2015). She was recognized as a Wasserstein Fellow at Harvard Law School in 2012-2013. Viviana has been an Ashoka Fellow since 2016.

Prior to founding Women’s Link, Viviana worked as a consultant for the United Nations Population Fund in New York, as an attorney at the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York and as an associate at the law firm Gray, Cary, Ware and Friendenrich in California.

Viviana holds a Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University, a Juris Doctorate from the University of California Hastings College Of Law in San Francisco and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. Her family is from Argentina and she resides in Spain.

Other experts

Alicia Yamin, adjunct lecturer on global health and population at Harvard School of Public Health.

International expert who supports the lawsuit and is willing to speak to the media.