

# Child Trafficking, Girls, and Detention: A Call to Reform

September 10, 2013  
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Presented by



**Malika Saada Saar**

Malika Saada Saar is the Executive Director of Rights4Girls, an effort focused on the human rights of marginalized young women and girls in the U.S. She also co-founded and was the executive director of the Rebecca Project for Human Rights, a policy and advocacy organization for vulnerable women and families.

At Rebecca Project, Malika led the effort to shut down Craigslist sex ads that served as the leading site for the trafficking of children for sex, ended the federal practice of shackling pregnant women behind bars in U.S. prisons, and successfully advocated for millions in federal funding for treatment and services for at-risk families.

Newsweek and the Daily Beast have named Malika as one of “150 Women Who Shake the World.” The Obama White House selected her to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights and was recently featured in the PBS/AOL documentary *Makers: The Women Who Make America*. Malika has been featured in the Daily Beast, Huffington Post, O: The Oprah Magazine, Newsweek, Politico, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, USA Today, Redbook Magazine, and Essence and on the Tavis Smiley Show, BBC, ABC News, Good Morning America, CNN, CBC, and National Public Radio. She holds a B.A. from Brown University, an M.A. in Education from Stanford University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and three children.



**Yasmin Vafa**

Yasmin Vafa directs the policy strategy and legislative agenda of Rights4Girls. Yasmin's work focuses on analyzing and drafting proposed legislation, developing campaigns and advocacy initiatives, producing policy recommendations and briefs, and advising policymakers throughout the legislative process on issues affecting vulnerable young women and girls in the U.S.

Yasmin has been dedicated to working with and advocating on behalf of vulnerable populations since 2003, when she began working for Amnesty International as a refugee caseworker in Sydney, Australia. She later served as Acting Refugee Coordinator for Amnesty International Australia, where her work focused on advocating on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees and working to shift national policy with respect to the mandatory and indefinite detention of asylum seekers. Prior to her work at Rights4Girls, Yasmin practiced law at a major law firm in Miami, Florida.

Yasmin's work and advocacy has spanned the areas of international human rights law, gender-based violence, child welfare, sex trafficking, asylum and detention, and conditions of confinement for women and girls in custody. She received her B.A. from Boston University and earned her J.D. from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law. She is currently a member of the Florida and District of Columbia Bars.