

Jaime Todd-Gher, B.A., J.D., LL.M

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Jaime Todd-Gher is an international human rights lawyer with extensive experience in UN and regional advocacy, strategic litigation, research, training, and movement building. She specializes in issues of gender, sexuality, health, and economic, social, and reproductive justice. Jaime is actively involved in law and policy reform and norm building, including the development of international, regional, and national standards around sexual and reproductive rights. She has been actively involved in decriminalization advocacy around abortion, same sex conduct, consensual sex outside of marriage, sex work, HIV exposure, non-disclosure and transmission, and adolescent sexuality.

Jaime currently sits on the drafting committee for the development of “International Jurist Principles on the detrimental impact on health, equality and human rights of criminalization with a focus on select conduct in the areas of sexuality, reproduction, drug use and HIV.” This global initiative follows her work as a Legal Advisor with Amnesty International, where she led a project focusing on the human rights impact of criminalizing sexuality, reproduction, and gender expression. While at Amnesty, Jaime acted as a subject matter expert on sexual and reproductive rights, equality and non-discrimination, health and sexual and gender-based violence. She also contributed to the evolution of the organization’s institutional policy framework by co-leading the development of policy on sex work and the update of the organization’s position on abortion. Jaime also led and contributed to strategic litigation and third-party interventions before UN and regional human rights bodies in relation to abortion, privacy, and parentage rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals and people with disabilities, and legal recognition of gender identity. She further conducted and supported research missions documenting human rights violations related to criminalization of sex work, drug use during pregnancy and consensual sex outside of marriage.

Jaime has also worked as a Human Rights Advisor with the World Health Organization where she managed a sexual and reproductive health project consolidating expert research on law, policy, human rights, and public health and provided legal expertise on criminalization of sexuality, diverse family forms and marriage, gender identity and expression, violence, sexual and reproductive health services and sex work. As a Human Rights Programme Officer at UNAIDS, Jaime developed guidance and tools to assist with planning, costing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs in national HIV responses, represented the organization at high-level fora and stakeholder meetings and promoted effective HIV prevention, treatment, care and support interventions. Further, as a Global Advocacy Fellow with the Center for Reproductive Rights, Jaime engage in advocacy before UN expert and technical bodies and lobbied state representatives within intergovernmental negotiations to promote progressive legal and political commitments, co-facilitated the organization’s International Litigation Advisory Committee to forecast litigation to advance law and policy reform, and supported progressive law reform through legal research, advocacy and targeted media campaigns. At the beginning of her legal career, Jaime worked as an employment litigation associate with the law firm of Hanson Bridgett, LLP.

Jaime currently sits on the Board of Women Enabled International and serves as an external advisor to RESURJ (Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice).

Jaime received her LL.M in international law, with a specialization in gender, from American University, Washington College of Law, and her J.D. from the University of San Francisco, graduating cum laude (top 10%). Jaime also received her B.A. in sociology from the University of California Santa Barbara, graduating with highest honors (top 1%).

Jaime has authored and co-authored numerous articles, research reports, and policy briefs, including the following:

Selected Articles

- Litigating for Law Reform: Strategic Framing to Advance Abortion Rights Worldwide (Book Chapter, forthcoming)
- Abortion in the Context of COVID-19: A Human Rights Imperative, 28 Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters 1 (2020) (with Payal K. Shah)
- Abortion Bans Strip People of Their Human Rights: Here's Why We Must Stand in Solidarity Against Them, Time Magazine, Sept. 27, 2019 (with Uma Mishra-Newbery)
- Policing Bodies, Punishing Lives: The Maputo Protocol as a Tool for Resistance of Illegitimate Criminalization of Women's Sexualities and Reproduction, 2 African Human Rights Law Journal 735 (2014)
- Abortion as a Human Right: European Human Rights Standards as a Comparative Lens for Advocacy in Africa, in Strengthening the Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the African Region Through Human Rights (Pretoria University Law Press) (2014) (with Christina Zampas)
- Reproductive Health and Human Rights: The Way Forward, 18 Gender & Development 158 (2010) (Book Review)
- Reframing the Right to Health: Legal Advocacy to Advance Women's Reproductive Rights, in Realizing the Right to Health (Andrew Clapham and Mary Robinson, Eds., 2009) (with Luisa Cabal)
- Abortion as a Human Right – International and Regional Standards, 8 Human Rights Law Review 2 (2008) (with Christina Zampas)
- Polygamy and Same-Sex Marriage: Allies or Adversaries within the Same-Sex Marriage Movement, 14 William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law 559 (2008)
- Updates from the International Criminal Courts, 14 Human Rights Brief 55 (2007)
- The Veil of Silence: LGBTQ Attorneys Inside Corporate Law Firms, in Achieving Diversity (2006)
- Employer-Paid Health Care for Retirees: Goodwill Evolving into Contractual Liability?, 18 California Labor and Employment Law Review 4 (2004)
- Status of Forces Agreements: Tools to Further Effective Foreign Policy and Lessons to Be Learned from the United States-Japan Agreement, 37 University of San Francisco Law Review 227 (2002)

Selected Reports:

- Explanatory Note on Amnesty International’s Updated Policy on Abortion (forthcoming)
- Body Politics: Criminalization of Sexuality and Reproduction – A Primer, Toolkit and Training Manual, Amnesty International (2019)
- Explanatory Note on Amnesty International’s Policy on State Obligations to Respect, Protect and Fulfil the Human Rights of Sex Workers (2016)
- “What I’m doing is not a crime”: The Human Cost of Criminalizing Sex Work in the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Amnesty International (2016)
- Reproductive Rights Violations as Torture and Cruel, Inhuman Treatment or Punishment: A Critical Human Rights Analysis, Center for Reproductive Rights (2011) (co-author)
- Reproductive Rights are Human Rights, Center for Reproductive Rights (2009)
- Bringing Rights to Bear – Briefing Paper Series, Center for Reproductive Rights (2008)

More information is available on Jaime Todd-Gher’s public profile at Linked In:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaime-todd-gher/>