

Catherine Read

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Professional Experience

CO-FOUNDER, POINTS TRUE NORTH CONSULTING | PRESENT

Consultant working with organizations on a range of critical health, gender, racial and social justice issues building impactful coalitions, advancing policy change and devising strategic campaigns. Current client, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | UPSTREAM USA | NOV 2021 – FEB 2022

Upstream is a health equity initiative to expand access to contraception and address disparities and biases in contraceptive care

Led development, execution and evaluation of Upstream's national partnerships & community engagement strategy

Worked cross-functionally with policy (Federal/State) and comms colleagues on advancing reproductive health access and equity goals

Managed team of five Directors of Partnerships & Community Engagement across Chapter 1 States (MA, WA, RI & NC) advancing and building relationships with health agencies, reproductive healthcare leaders and community organizations including, Tribal Partnerships Director to grow understanding of unique needs and build relationships in Tribal communities

STATE DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS NORTH CAROLINA | UPSTREAM USA | JUNE 2019 – OCT 2021

Member of small executive team in NC charged with building the NC project incl establishing and leading the external relations strategy, leading outreach to and relationship management with healthcare execs, stakeholders, community orgs, DHHS and opinion-leaders to foster an enabling environment for Upstream

Built, managed & mentored a team of three Directors of Partnerships and the Director of Policy & Strategy, including development of the stakeholder engagement plan, recruitment of Advisory Committee members, execution of quarterly meetings & utilization of their expertise, provided policy analysis and developed advocacy strategy to expand access to quality reproductive care

Managed day-to-day operations of partnerships/policy team, incl budget, annual goals, growth plans & collaboration across internal departments

Provided the idea, vision and leadership for the [North Carolina Reproductive Life Planning Summit](#) (Jan 28, 2020). A gathering of high-level thought leaders to discuss reproductive healthcare & build community resulting in new coalitions and policy solutions

Identified and led opportunities for promoting reproductive justice, including [testimony](#) to U.S. Civil Rights Commission on racial disparity in maternal mortality, created a [blog](#) series to highlight the role of NC's shameful history of eugenics and its impact on the reproductive health of BIPOC, and development of key partner relationships with RJ leaders, including Sister Song & Sister Reach

CONSULTANT | FEB 2019 – MAY 2019

Consultant for the Center for Victims of Torture on judicial redress project – developing and implementing a strategic outreach and advocacy plan for a short-term project related to U.S. obligations under the Convention against Torture, including securing media

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON TORTURE | JAN 2017 – JAN 2019

Led the identification and appointment of a high-level panel of ten Commissioners and developed all operational material including their mandate and managed all Commissioner-related communications

Organized and led successful two-day public hearing for the Commission to receive testimony from expert witnesses

Educated, cultivated and mobilized external stakeholders; NGOs, faith organizations, government officials and grassroots supporters
Oversaw the press engagement strategy, which included [local, media and international media](#) (50+ articles); drafted and edited press releases, blogs, op-eds and coordinated with two documentary film teams and drafted content for website, social media and supporter communications

Coordinated the drafting, editing, preparation, and publishing of the final report; [Torture Flights: North Carolina's Role in the CIA Rendition and Torture Program](#)

Organized the report launch events in Raleigh (press conference w/ 150 mb of public in attendance), and in Washington D.C. House and Senate events, including advocacy meetings with critical policymakers

Fundraised, including donor engagement (foundations, individuals) and drafting grant requests and reports. Raised over \$185K for the work of the Commission

Elevated the issue of torture accountability with policy makers, human rights organizations and activists, which has created opportunity for policy change in the state (Bill HB740 introduced in NC General Assembly in April 2019)

Commission awarded Joshua Heintz Award at the 12th International Humanitarian Law Dialogs, August, 2018

DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE | CRISIS ACTION | JUNE 2012 – DEC 2016

First hire in D.C., established and built Crisis Action's Washington office, including devising and implementing the office strategy; developing and managing the office budget, including all financial and administrative issues; recruited, mentored and retained a team of ambitious change makers; and represented the work of the office to the organization's board and stakeholders in D.C.

Built a diverse, flexible and innovative D.C. network to enhance campaigning to better protect civilians and established Crisis Action as the D.C. hub of such campaigning, including proactively engaging NGOs; recruiting diverse new partners and policymakers; and delivering high-impact campaigns, organized and led international delegations to meet with Admin officials and leaders on Capitol Hill

Led the development of NGO advocacy campaigns, including advising on strategy; proposing tactics; and implementing diverse advocacy activities covering grassroots organizing, digital campaigning, lobbying, political analysis, preparation of comprehensive reports Identified and developed relationships with staff in a range of U.S. government targets, including the White House, State Department and Congress. Led advocacy delegations, organized events, and engaged with potential allies inside and outside government, including high level former government officials

As a senior member of the international team, led the development of the organization and strategy in the U.S. and provided integral support to Crisis Action's global development.

Assisted with devising and implementing the fundraising plan and relations with donors.

GLOBAL SYRIA CAMPAIGN LEAD | CRISIS ACTION | NOV 2014 – DEC 2015

Led engagement with 130+ NGO partners and high-level influencers to advocate for protection for civilians affected by conflict in Syria Managed a global campaign, including an international team of ten staff, developing and driving innovative and impactful global advocacy and campaigns strategy

Led the organization of the #WithSyria coalition "[Turn the Lights Back on in Syria](#)" 4-year anniversary campaign

Developed and managed campaign budgets, including securing funding for [NGO report: Middle East Recovery Plan](#)

DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE | CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE | SEPTEMBER 2006 – MAY 2012

Developed, led and implemented the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) advocacy strategy regarding the Torture Victims Relief Act; appropriations; U.S interrogation policy and accountability; refugee and asylum issues; and tactics for securing high-level endorsements during the [2008 Campaign to Ban Torture](#)

Educated and generated support in Congress, the Administration, other NGOs and foundations for CVT's public policy priorities, including draft legislation, position papers, committee testimony, letters and other advocacy materials, and provided policy analysis Represented CVT in a variety of settings, including before Congressional Members and staff, among colleague organizations, in coalitions, at conferences and events, and led the annual lobby day of the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs

Led weekly public policy calls; represented the work of the policy team to the Board; and participated in fundraising activities

Supervised CVT's Policy Counsel and office interns and managed the day-to-day running of CVT's Washington Office

SENIOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS SPECIALIST | DLA PIPER U.S. LLP | JUNE 2003 – AUGUST 2006

Represented government affairs clients on matters before Congress and the Administration, state governments, and foreign governments on a wide variety of issues, including: higher education; appropriations/budget issues; international trade; foreign policy; biodefense; child welfare; and health care.

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT | DR. JENNY TONGE, MEMBER OF U.K. PARLIAMENT | JANUARY – JUNE 2001

Education

MASTER OF ARTS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GPA 3.88.

Graduated with honors

Thesis with honors: "The International Criminal Court: The U.S. and the Court on Trial"

MA (HONS) POLITICS | THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

First Class — graduated in top 5% (U.S. equivalent of Summa Cum Laude)

JUNIOR YEAR ABROAD | THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

GPA 3.96 Dean's List. Inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honor Society

Leadership

Appointed as a member of the [North Carolina State Advisory Committee](#) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights May 2021 – Present Selected as a member of [Leadership North Carolina Class XXVIII](#), 55 civic and community leaders, August 2020 – Present

Member, NC Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Dominion Energy, March 2021 – Present

Member, Board of Directors, [Freedom United](#), March 2019 – Present

Volunteer, NC Stop Torture Now & Triangle for Choice

Former Member, Advisory Council, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council, August 2016 - 2019

Hillary for America, Member of the Middle East Policy Advisory Team, 2016

Member, Nation Swell Council, Network for accomplished professionals passionate about service, 2016

Named one of "[40 Star Lobbyists Under 40](#)" by *Washingtonian Magazine*, June 2011

2010 Rockwood Institute Fellowship for National Security & Human Rights Reform Leaders