

PROFILE

Withelma “T” Ortiz Walker Pettigrew is a Survivor Leader and nationally recognized policy consultant as well as professional moderator. She has specialized in developing strategies to end domestic child sex trafficking, reforming the child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health systems and implementing policies and practices to ensure that all vulnerable children have an opportunity to thrive. Furthermore, T uses her story and experiences to highlight themes of wellness, self agency, and empowerment.

EDUCATION

- *Morgan State University, Currently enrolled*
- *East Bay Conservation Corps, High School Diploma (2008)*

AWARDS, HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

- *TIME 100 (2014): selected by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world*
- *TIME Magazine “30 People Under 30 Changing the World” (2013)*
- *Glamour Magazine Woman of the Year (2011)*
- *Generation Progress Friday List-down: 15 Inspiring Young Female Activist (2011)*
- *Leadership Scholarship, Notre dame of Maryland University*

PRESENTATIONS, TESTIMONY & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Salvation Army Philadelphia, Safe House Consultant (2017)*
- *Testified at The United Nations Alongside Gloria Steinem, Panelist (2016)*
- *Morgan State University Women and Gender Studies Program with Dr. Anika Simpson, Presenter (2016)*
- *SXSW (South X Southwest), Panelist (2016)*
- *International Children's Fund Child Welfare Virtual Expo, Panelist (2016)*
- *Nebraska Court Improvement Project, Keynote Speaker (2016)*
- *National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking, Faculty Consultant (2016)*
- *Department of Children and Family Services Connecticut, Social Worker Consultant (2016)*
- *Department of Children and Family Services Connecticut, Presenter (2016)*
- *School of The Future New York, Presenter (2016)*
- *Visionary Women, Panelist (2016)*

- Shared Hope International/The National Foundation of Women Legislators Protected Innocence Challenge Release and Human Trafficking plenary, *Press Conference Presenter* (2016)
- Shared Hope International JuST Conference, *Keynote Speaker* (2016)
- Child Welfare Transformation Summit, *Panelist* (2016)
- TEDX Amherst, *Presenter* (2015)
- Maryland Governor's Conference on Combating Human Trafficking, *Keynote speaker* (2015)
- Testified before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on the Judiciary hearing on Innocence for sale: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (2014)
- NCJFCJ (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges) 77th Annual Conference, *Keynote Speaker* (2014)
- The Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program Symposium on the State of Race in America: Violence in Minority Communities, *Panelist* (2014)
- Testified before House Ways and Means Committee on the need to strengthen the child welfare response to domestic child sex trafficking (November 2013)
- American Bar Association (ABA) *Keynote Speaker* (2013-2014)
- Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy along with The National Crittenton Foundation and The Human Rights Project for Girls, Critical Connections: a Multi-systems approach to the domestic sex trafficking of girls, *Panelist* (2013)
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law Presentation on Human Trafficking, *Presenter* (2013)
- The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, together with the Advisory Council on Child Trafficking (ACCT) and the Goldman Sachs Foundation Domestic Sex Trafficking Symposium, *Symposium Assistant and Keynote Speaker* (2013)
- Los Angeles County Probation Department Inspiring Hope Through Survivor Leadership Conference, *Keynote Speaker & MC* (2012-Present)
- Senate Caucus on Foster Youth Speaker Series, *Panelist* (2012)
- Congressional Foster Youth and Alumni Shadow Day, *Inaugural Participant* (2012)
- Alameda County District Attorney Inaugural Human Exploitation and Trafficking Conference (H.E.A.T.) Conference, *Keynote Speaker* (2012)
- Tribeca Film Festival, *Panelist* (2012)
- Advised White House Office of Management and Budgeting on funding for services of victims of domestic child sex trafficking (2012)
- Advised Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Google Ideas INFO (Illicit Networks Forces In Opposition) Summit, *Panelist* (2012)
- Assisted in launch of Senate Caucus to Combat Human Trafficking, hosted by Senators Rob Portman and Richard Blumenthal (2012)
- Shared Hope International Human Trafficking Colloquium (2012)

EXPERIENCE

- **Still Alive Initiative, Founder** (2009- present): Daily mentoring and counseling for victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and independent consultant and trainer for government agencies, institutions, and non-profits on youth policy and service provision for cross-system youth and victims of domestic child sex trafficking
- **Rights4Girls, Board Member**, (2011-present): founding Board member of national advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring the dignity and personhood of vulnerable women and girls in the United States
- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Contract Consultant** (2014-present) : Directly consult CSTAR (Child Sex Trafficking: Awareness Response) trainings to direct responders and trial investigators on identifying, determining services for, and understanding general criteria on subpopulations who are at risk of victimization.
- **National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council, Inaugural Board Member** (2013-2015): providing federal stakeholders with relevant and timely information as policies and procedures are created that will affect children and families throughout the country. Including commenting on legislation and policies that impact youth in foster care, proposing recommendations to improve the lives of youth, monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of programs and policies
- **Shared Hope International JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Response Experts Council**, Inaugural Member (2015-present) aimed to Secure a congressional hearing to submit a promising practices report on the development of state protective response systems for sex trafficked youth into the Congressional Record, Continue legislative advocacy to repair gaps in state laws, and focus on the foundation of the law and the effective policies of state child welfare systems to meet the needs of sex trafficked youth.
- **GLAMOUR Magazine, Woman of the Year Advisory Board Member** (2011-present): Assist in annual selection of Glamour Magazine Woman of the Year recipients
- **Alameda County Youth Advocacy Program (YAP), Co-Developer**, (2007-2012): Developed unprecedented Title IV-E funded foster youth development and advocacy partnership between Alameda County Social Services and a local non governmental organization.
- **Motivating, Inspiring, Serving, and Supporting Sexually Exploited Youth (M.I.S.S.E.Y)**, (2009-2011) *S.P.A. (Safe Place Alternative) Drop-in Center Facilitator*: Providing direct services, developing workshops and curriculum while facilitating a drop in center for victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking of a now

nationally-recognized non-profit designed exclusively to service sexually exploited children.

ADVOCACY

- **Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act (Proposition 35):** worked with a coalition of advocates to pass legislation that increases accountability for traffickers, mandates law enforcement training on human trafficking, and improves services for victims of trafficking.
- **Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (HR 4980):** worked with Congresswoman Bass to improve the child welfare systems response to trafficking and mandate that child welfare systems develop protocols to address child sex trafficking
- **Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act:** Testified and contributed to this federal act that holds individuals who purchase commercial sex acts from children liable under the federal human trafficking statute and creates increased funding for victims services
- **No Such Thing Campaign:** launched a successful advocacy campaign with Rights4Girls to eliminate the use of the term “child prostitute” in the Associated Press’ Style Guide effecting major media outlets, and launched a petition that has reached over 150,000 signatures including being shared by many celebrities such as P. Diddy and Russell Simmons.