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Arancha Garcia del Soto is the Helen Hamlyn Senior Fellow at the Institute of Humanitarian Affairs (IHA) of Fordham University in New York City. She was the Director of Refugee Initiatives at the Solomon Asch Center of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia (2002-2006).

She holds a B.A. in Social Psychology, a degree in Family Counseling from the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca (1983-1985), a Masters in Social Science (1991-1993) with the Juan March Foundation in Madrid which also funded her Ph.D. work, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Salamanca in Spain (1998).

Since 2002, Dr. Garcia del Soto has been a member of the International Psychosocial Working Group, being involved in the formulation of International Standards for Psychosocial work (Sphere Project in 2004, and IASC Guidelines 2007). From 1996-2001, she taught at various Spanish Universities on topics of Social Structure, Development and Human Rights. She has published and lectured in Europe, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Peru, Africa and the USA on psychosocial intervention with survivors of violence. Since 1991, she has collaborated with International and Local NGOs and CBOs formulating projects for different funding agencies (inside and outside the EU) and has provided psychosocial assistance in the Balkans (since 1993), The Maghreb, Africa, Latin America, Iraq and Sri Lanka.

Working with survivors of violence, her interests' focused on the best practices in International Work (forced migration, natural disasters and ethnic violence), the linkages among disciplines (Psychology, Political Science, Law, Medicine, etc.), and between academy and applied field work, the knowledge of practice, as well as gender and generational differences and grassroots organizations' participation, when working with survivors of different types of violence (economic, political and ethnic) and Human Rights violations.