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**Melissa I. M. Torres, MSW**  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 2009-Present      PhD Student  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
Research Interests: HIV and Sex Trafficking – Impacts on minority  
cultures and drug factors  
Anticipated Date of Graduation: May 2012
- 2009                Master of Social Work  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston
- 2003                Baccalaureate of Arts & Humanities  
Double Major: Literature & Theology  
Houston Baptist University  
7502 Fondren Rd.  
Houston, TX 77074

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2009                Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies  
*University of Houston*
- 2003                Certification of Specialization in Professional Writing  
*Houston Baptist University*

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2009                Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Drug and Social Policy Research,  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
Dr. Avelardo Valdez, Research Supervisor.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2010                Recipient, Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Travel Grant  
Women's Studies Program, University of Houston

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2006 – 2008            UBA Today, Union Baptist Association Online – Houston, TX  
*Staff Writer*
- 2006 – 2007            Montrose Counseling Center – Houston, TX  
*Risk Reduction Specialist/HIV Testing & Counseling, Outreach  
Department*
- 2005 – 2006            Family Services of Greater Houston – Houston, TX  
*Service Linkage Worker/Outreach, HIV Case Management Department*

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

- 2008 – Current        Children at Risk – Spanish assistant for qualitative studies, Community  
events
- 2007 – Current        Transgender Foundation of America – Support group ally, Community  
events
- 2004 – 2005            AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education Services) – Spanish outreach  
HIV testing
- 2002 – Current        AIDS Foundation Houston – AIDS Walk, Red Ribbon Toy Drive

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- 2010                    Torres, M.I.M. (2010). *Women, reproduction, and how today's healthcare  
reform is sexist*. Panelist at the University of Houston Graduate College  
of Social Work 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Doctoral Symposium, March 4. Houston, Texas
- 2010                    Torres, M.I.M. (2010). *What drives the need for international sex  
trafficking: Supply of and demand for human commodities in a capitalist  
society*. Paper presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Human  
Trafficking: Selling Bodies and Stealing lives, April 7. McAllen, Texas.

## **JOURNAL MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER**

- 2010                    *Perspectives on Social Work*, Doctoral Research Journal  
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston