

QUADIRA COLES, MPA
quadiratc@gmail.com

EDUCATION

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY

Masters of Public Administration, Public Policy, Specialization : Criminal Justice

The Pennsylvania State University, Altoona, PA

Bachelors of Science, Criminal Justice

MEMBERSHIPS

New Jersey Abortion Access Fund (NJAAF), **President** (2021- Present); **Vice President** (2019-2021)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Girls for Gender Equity, Brooklyn, NY

Director of Policy, Sept 2022- Present

- Served as the primary driver of the policy arm within the Campaigns department, working hand in hand with the Organizing team to develop campaign strategies and harness the best of GGE's dual approach to effective, community-centered campaigns.
- Oversaw and manage the advocacy and policy strategy at the local, state and national level on issues impacting Black girls and gender expansive youth.
- Led a policy portfolio that centered reproductive and sexual health, ending youth criminalization and gender-based violence.
- Held the line on relationship building with elected officials on all levels to advance our policy agenda and secure and sustain government funding for programming.
- Led on cross-collaboration with internal departments and external coalitions to advance and deepen the work.
- Assessed and redeveloped a structure for the policy department with processes and team development.
- Co-developed at 4-part series Policy Deep Dive Curriculum

Deputy Director of Policy/INTERIM DIRECTOR, Oct 2021- Sept 2022

- Led on the strategy to pivot our approach to policy advocacy to meet the needs that came up for GGE's youth participants during the pandemic.
- Supported the shift in department priorities to focus on budgetary needs for GGE's programs and New York City's Department of Education.
- Closely supported GGE's alumni youth network in skill development to engage in local advocacy.
- Began to build out GGE's state policy agenda and Reproductive Justice analysis in order to engage in state level advocacy at a larger and more engaging scale.

Policy Manager, Oct 2019-Oct 2021

- Facilitated programs with GGE's in-house youth participants--providing political education and support to carry out the organization's policy agenda and organizing work.
 - Coordinated lobbying activities for youth participates to push GGE's youth-driven and our coalition's policy demands.
 - Created a cohort of national young people to lead GGE's national work with the White House Gender Council and senior staff on Capitol Hill.
- Drove GGE's local policy strategy and campaigns by tracking and participating in city council hearings and other city agency public forums, building strong relationships with city stakeholders and working with consultants to secure discretionary funding from city initiatives.
- Secured a Senate and Assembly sponsor for GGE's Incurable Bill as a part of the organization's Ending the Criminalization of Black Girls Campaign and nurtured those relationships to ensure that two versions of the bill were passed and signed into law.
- Took leadership roles in GGE's state and local coalition work and cultivated partnerships with other community organizations to advance campaigns and create work products useful to youth organizers.

IGNITE National, Oakland, CA

Northeast Region Liaison, July 2019- 2021

- As a Northeast Region Liaison, I serve as a spokesperson for IGNITE— participating in speaking engagements for United State of Women, When We All Vote, Levis, and JP Morgan Chase.
- Collaborate on events, engaging and sustaining political and community stakeholders to expand the programs reach and audience and help secure funding.

New York Fellow, Jan 2019- July 2019

- Developed programmatic curriculums tailored to the political landscape of New York state and city
- Mobilized young women around women and voting rights issues through political education and creating and sharing political and policy advocacy opportunities
- Coordinated and facilitated regional college council events for politically ambitious young women from local colleges and high schools.
- Supported college council members with starting and sustaining IGNITE College Chapters on New York State college campuses.

Legal Action Center, New York, NY

TOW Policy Advocate Fellow, Aug 2018 - Aug 2019

- Contributed to research in order to identify/define policy issues and develop feasible policy alternatives
- Through lobbying and other advocacy work, I proposed policies and funding that will increase access to Alternatives to Incarceration and ease barriers to reentry for individuals involved in the Criminal Legal System.
- Assisted in national and state projects to reduce mass incarceration
- Stakeholder analysis, political feasibility assessment, and power mapping.

West Orange Town Council Campaign, West Orange ,NJ

Millennial/GenZ Outreach Coordinator, May 2018 - November 2018

- Educated town residents on local issues through social media digital campaigning, canvassing and focus groups
- Coordinated local activities to increase civic engagement
- Helped elect Cindy Matute-Brown to West Orange Town Council, the first latina woman to hold that position

RESEARCH AND WRITING

- Center for Urban Pedagogy, [*“HEY, THAT’S NOT OK: Addressing School-Based Sexual Harassment”*](#), *collaborator and co-writer*
- Medication Assisted Treatment in Corrections (May, 2019), *author and researcher*
- LGBTQ+ Civil Rights: Local Government Efforts in a Volatile Era (Dr. Nicole Alias, Gwen Saffron, Quadira Coles, 2019), *co-author and co-researcher*
- [*The Time for Police-Free Schools is Now. An Open Letter to the People of New York*](#), *author*
- [*The Realities of Social Distancing for a Black Girl*](#), *author*

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Public Policy (Education) Lecture at Rider University, *presenter*
- Stakeholder Focus Group for Justice Democrats candidate Jamaal Bowman, 2019
- Millennial Entrepreneur Focus Group, 2019
- Abortion Access Policy, 2019
- Policy Advocacy Workshop, 2019
- Local Debate Workshop, 2019
- How To Achieve Gender Parity in Politics, 2019

PRESS, MEDIA, FEATURES AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- New Jersey Monthly [*“Where New Jersey Stands on Abortion”*](#), *featured*
- Cosmopolitan [*“The Next Major Reproductive Freedom Movement Has Begun—and It’s Creating Something Way More Powerful Than Roe”*](#), *featured*
- VoteRunLead #RunAsYouAre Keynote Speaker, *New York City, New York*
- Young Women Run POLITICO Town Hall Panelist, *Washington DC*
- Prisoner Reentry Institute Newsletter “Tow Fellow Selected for Political Leadership Training Program”
- Indoor Voices Podcast “Episode 28: Graduate fellows follow dreams, take on world”, <https://indoorvoicespodcast.com/2019/04/01/episode-28-graduate-fellows-follow-dreams-take-on-world/>
- Oakland North “The next generation of women in politics”, <https://oaklandnorth.net/2019/03/04/the-next-generation-of-woman-in-politics/>
- POLITICO “Young Women Run Top Town Hall Takeaways”, <https://www.politico.com/blogs/politico-press/2019/06/28/young-women-run-top-town-hall-takeaways-1390219>