

2014

Rebecca Chiao

Rebecca Chiao graduated from Hughesville High School in 1994.

Rebecca was born and raised in the United States, and had originally planned to follow a career in medicine. A three-week study tour to Israel/Palestine inspired her to switch gears. After witnessing Israeli oppression against the Palestinian people, Rebecca felt compelled to challenge injustice.

Rebecca T. Chiao is Co-Founder and Director of HarassMap, an award winning Egyptian initiative that combines mobile and internet technology with on the ground community activism to end the social acceptability of sexual harassment in Egypt. She received her MA in International Development and International Economics from Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), a Certificate in Strategic Frameworks for NGOs from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, and her BA in Politics and Pre-Medicine from New York University. She has lived and worked in Cairo, Egypt since 2004.

While working as Director of International Relations at the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights from 2004-2009, she founded and managed their Safe Streets for All Campaign Against Sexual Harassment, the first campaign against sexual harassment in Egypt. Previous to HarassMap, she served as Development and Communications Consultant at INJAZ Egypt, an Egyptian NGO that provides training on entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy to Egyptian youth. She also served on the UN Development Assistance Framework M&E Task Force, as Development Officer at Ashoka Arab World and as pro-bono consultant to a number of Egyptian organizations.

In 2013 she was accepted as a Vital Voices Lead Fellow, and member of the Community of Expert Consultants Group, a

subgroup of the World Bank Open Development Technology Alliance. She has coached activists in Egypt and in 25 other countries on replicating the HarassMap model and serves as an NYU Mentor.