



The  
CENTER for  
VICTIMS of  
TORTURE

## CVT Experts

[www.CVT.org](http://www.CVT.org)  
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Blog: <http://cvt.org/blog/healing-and-human-rights>

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### **Curt Goering**

#### **Executive Director**

As executive director, Curt oversees an international staff with offices in Atlanta, St. Paul and Washington D.C., and healing projects in Africa and the Middle East. Prior to coming to CVT, Curt served as the chief operating officer at Amnesty International USA, where he had worked for nearly 30 years. He has led a dozen Amnesty International missions including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Mongolia, Taiwan, Turkey and Tanzania. He previously served as an interim head of the Gaza office for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2009 and 2010.

Curt's areas of expertise include torture survivor rehabilitation; funding for torture survivor rehabilitation in the United States and throughout the world; U.S. policy in regard to torture; international human rights and humanitarian issues; the rule of law; and human rights strategy development, public policy and planning, financial oversight, and external relations.

### **Peter Dross**

#### **Director of External Relations**

Pete's areas of expertise include fundraising, marketing and policy advocacy for nonprofit organizations. He is responsible for all of CVT's contributed income and external relations programs; he also oversees CVT's state, national and international advocacy and public affairs efforts.

### **Rosa E. Garcia-Peltoniemi, Ph.D., L.P.**

#### **Senior Consulting Clinician**

Rosa's areas of expertise include cross-cultural assessment and intervention with survivors of political trauma. She has lectured extensively on refugee mental health and on the treatment of torture survivors. Rosa previously served as CVT's Director of Client Services.

### **Andrea Northwood, Ph.D., L.P.**

#### **Director of Client Services**

Andrea provides psychological evaluation and psychotherapy to survivors of politically motivated torture and their family members, including children and adolescents. Her areas of expertise include post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders, somatic disorders, cross-cultural assessment and treatment, multidisciplinary treatment of torture, adaptation of evidence-based treatment for torture survivors, narrative exposure therapy, and working with interpreters in the torture treatment process.

**Nancy Pearson, M.S.W., L.I.S.W.**

**Training Manager, New Tactics in Human Rights**

Nancy has developed and provided a wide variety of trainings using the New Tactics methodology which includes the “tactical map” tool to human rights defenders as well as students (undergraduate and graduate level) in academic institutions in over 20 countries. She has also provided training on working with and providing services to torture survivors to diverse audiences including refugees, professionals and academics.

**Neal Porter, M.A., M.P.P.M.**

**Director of International Services**

Neal’s areas of expertise include large-scale international project management, emergency humanitarian response mobilization, needs assessment and project development. Neal has a broad background in development programming, including mental health programs, monetization, civil society building, housing reconstruction, refugee return, legal services for refugees, youth programs, emergency shelter, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

**Annie Sovcik, Esq.**

**Director of Washington Office**

Annie’s areas of expertise include developing and implementing CVT’s advocacy strategy regarding federal appropriations, the Torture Victims Relief Act, refugee and asylum issues, human rights, U.S. interrogation policy, and accountability for the use of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment on detainees held in U.S. custody.

**Veronica Laveta, M.A., M.S.W.**

**Clinical Advisor**

Veronica’s areas of expertise include interventions for working with torture survivors, complex trauma, providing services in contexts of on-going safety concerns, developing context specific treatment models, integrating trauma healing into conflict transformation and peacebuilding activities, and providing services to children and families affected by violence.