

Asra Husain, J.D., M.A., is a Policy Researcher at the Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG)/WHO Collaborating Center (WHOCC) for Pain Policy and Palliative Care a division of the Carbone Cancer Center at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She has worked on policy issues ranging from immigration to health care access to opioid availability and accessibility for eight years.

At PPSG, Ms. Husain is involved in efforts to promote the medical use of opioid medications for both pain treatment and opioid substitution therapy. She is a member of the team offering technical assistance to the PPSG International Pain Policy Fellows and others regarding pain policy internationally through workshops and conferences. Working with PPSG's Drug Control and Access to Medicines consortium partners, Ms. Husain is working on the UN Model Law Project, which will explore the need and process for updating UNODC model policies to reflect the government obligation to ensure adequate availability of narcotic medications to relieve pain and suffering, including opioids used in the treatment of drug dependence. Ms. Husain is also working with colleagues at PPSG who are involved in a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative to revise and update the WHO's policy guidelines entitled, "Achieving Balance in National Opioids Control Policy."

Prior to coming to PPSG, Ms. Husain worked for several elected officials, including Barack Obama, former United States Senator and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, both from Illinois. In these offices she worked on constituent services, ensuring that constituents were able to get the most from their government. She also provided outreach services to the Asian American community in the Chicago area.

Given her interests in public policy and government, Ms. Husain attended law school and received her juris doctor from University of Illinois- Champaign Urbana College of Law. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Political Science with a concentration on international studies and comparative politics from Loyola University-Chicago. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Loyola-Chicago with a triple major in communications, international studies and political science.