

Lilia García-Brower was born and raised in East Los Angeles. She is the proud mami of Maya and the Executive Director of the **Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund (MCTF)**. For the past 19 years she has worked diligently with a powerful team to expose rampant and systemic labor exploitation throughout California. She has been instrumental in strengthening enforcement mechanisms for low wage and immigrant workers in California. Under her leadership, the MCTF has grown to be one of the most effective watchdog organizations. The MCTF investigates cleaning companies for employment law violations and works with government agencies and private bar lawyers to hold unscrupulous employers accountable. The MCTF has facilitated the winning of more than 80 million in back wages and has brought in more than 8000 jobs from the predatory underground economy into the formal economy. The MCTF has also built productive relationships with District Attorneys throughout the State referring more than 40 illegal operators for criminal prosecution. The MCTF is nationally recognized for its cutting edge work in public-community enforcement partnership. Lilia spearheaded an effort in 2001 to form a statewide coalition of worker advocates who represent mainly immigrant workers who suffer wage theft. This coalition has evolved and continues today with membership of an estimated 60 organizations throughout California. In 2007 Lilia was appointed to the Fraud Assessment Commission in the California Department of Insurance. She was reappointed by 2 governors and continues on the Commission with 12 years of service. The objective of the commission is to augment the fight to end worker's compensation fraud in California. In 2015 Lilia broadened the scope of exploitation the MCTF works to eliminate due to the courage of Georgina Hernandez, a nonunion janitor who spoke out publicly about being raped at work. Lilia recognized that the MCTF needed to develop a whole new skill set so she sought out a partnership with the East Los Angeles Women's Center to provide skill based empowerment training to MCTF investigators and female janitors as to how to defend themselves against harassment, assault and misogynistic cultures. Most recently in 2017 Lilia collaborated with current and former janitors; many survivors of sexual violence, to form the !Ya Basta! self-defense group. In 2018 the group trained 160 women. In 2019 the MCTF will establish !Ya Basta! Chapters in 5 other cities in the State with the goal of eventually reaching 1000 women every year.