Institute for
the Study of Human Rights
Report 2010-2011
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About the Institute for the Study of Human Rights

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) was established in 1978 at Columbia University as the Center for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR). In Spring 2010, Columbia University elevated CSHR to the level of an institute. ISHR is committed to its three core goals of providing excellent human rights education to Columbia students, fostering innovative interdisciplinary academic research, and offering its expertise in capacity building to human rights leaders, organizations, and universities around the world.

ISHR and Human Rights at Columbia

CSHR was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights. This remains one of ISHR’s most distinctive features. We recognize that on a fundamental level, human rights research must transcend traditional academic boundaries, departments, and disciplines, reaching out to the practitioners’ world in the process, to address the ever-increasing complexities of human rights in a globalized world. ISHR’s emphases on interdisciplinarity, engagement, and globalism draw from and complement the strengths that have long characterized intellectual life at Columbia.

ISHR’s distinction is also earned through its active engagement with the world of human rights practitioners. This engagement informs the academic work of Columbia’s faculty while simultaneously challenging activists to assess and evaluate their approaches to human rights in the light of academic findings. ISHR continues to be a leader in bridging the academic study of human rights and the worlds of advocacy and public policy. In 2011, ISHR launched a major within Columbia College in Human Rights Studies, and in 2010 ISHR launched its summer certificate program, along with significantly expanding its summer school offerings and its activities throughout the year. Other thematic programs include the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP), which has established strong connections with advocates in the global south, and which has long been recognized as playing a unique role in capacity-building; Peace-building and Rights focuses on human rights issues, capacity building and the challenges of historical redress; other programs that likewise take up the topic of historical redress include the Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) Program and the Guantanamo Public Memory Project. Finally, our three newest programs, described at greater length herein, consist of the International Criminal Court Program; Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Program; and our Disability Rights in Society Program.

At a time in which Columbia is increasingly focusing on global issues, our expansion defines the shape of human rights education at Columbia, ensuring that it provides a critical intellectual foundation for students and future professionals in the field of human rights, and addresses the real world challenges practitioners face, bringing voices from the Global South to Columbia and critically evaluating the movement from an interdisciplinary perspective.
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Note: ✓ indicates the program is included in the respective category.
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**Programmatic and Cross-Programmatic Activities:**

**HRAP**
- Skills Workshops
- Networking
- Alumni outreach
- Capacity building
- Awareness raising

**Historical Redress and Human Rights**
- The Guantanamo Project
- Peace-building and Human Rights
- Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA)
- International Criminal Court Program

**Research and Capacity Building**
- Visiting Scholars Program
- University Seminars
- Working Paper Series
- Motherhood Workshop
- Human Rights Impact
- Specialized Professional Workshops

**Outreach**
- Public Programming (roundtables, brown bags, etc.)
- Edited volumes
- Newsletter
- Blog
- e-mail outreach

**ISHR**

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Chairperson’s Statement

The two years covered in this report have been a period of growth for the human rights enterprise at Columbia. We are grateful to the university administration and trustees for supporting the creation of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. The Institute came into being in spring 2010 on the foundation of the former Center, which had done pioneering work for 22 years.

In our new status as an Institute, we have been able to perform our coordinating and entrepreneurial missions more effectively. Noteworthy accomplishments of the past two years include the growth of a vigorous Master of Arts program in Human Rights Studies, the establishment of the undergraduate major in human rights, expansion of the Human Rights Advocates program, the creation of a number of projects and programs pertaining to advocacy and historical dialogue, and the hosting of several dynamic visiting scholars. Details of all these activities will be found in the following pages.

Going forward, the Institute staff and board are committed to continuing to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research within the university and to advance connections between the academic and advocacy worlds so that each can learn from the other. All this, we hope, will help keep Columbia at the forefront of this growing and challenging field of study.

Andrew J. Nathan
Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science
Chair, Institute for the Study of Human Rights Board of Directors
Director’s Statement

As I write this, Syrians are under vicious attacks by their government. Despite a great deal of sympathy around the world, the international community is unable to follow words with action. The optimism for human rights in the Arab world, which just a year ago seemed to emulate 1989 Europe, has been under enormous and growing pressure. Despite these pressures – or perhaps because of them – the politics of human rights are becoming ever more central to the public sphere, expanding both in scope and time. Being at the heart of international activity, close to the UN and in ongoing relationship with many international human rights organizations, ISHR is a locus for thinking, observing, and involvement in many facets of human rights work.

In Spring 2010, the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR), came into existence, continuing and expanding the role that its venerable predecessor, the Center for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), played for over three decades. The name change signals the expansion of human rights work at Columbia, including the establishment of a new Undergraduate Major at the College-- the first interdisciplinary human rights major at a leading American university. We are certain others will soon follow. ISHR’s expanding educational programs are at the center of our work, and include a Masters Program in Human Rights (as part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences) and a Summer School certificate program. These programs are part of an interdisciplinary, university wide approach to the study of human rights, and include programs at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia Law School, the Mailman School of Public Health, Barnard College and Teachers College.

The dramatic growth of ISHR over the last two years includes more expansive programs of research, civic education, and capacity building as well. In addition to the flagship program of advocate training (HRAP), the Institute has launched a new Peace-Building program that has initiated projects in various countries, most notably Sri Lanka. Other programs include coordinating and convening networks of academics and advocates on issues from international justice to historical accountability. The Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) aims to facilitate exchange among scholars, advocates, and organizations dedicated to historical dialogue and accountability. In 2012, we begin a new and exciting fellowship program of global advocates for historical dialogue and accountability, which is part of a larger network of advocates hosted by ISHR and aims to form a field that includes a variety of participants who deal with the past as a space for human rights advocacy. Other new projects include the Guantánamo Public Memory Project, which explores the history of that site and its role in
American culture and society. We are also the new home for The American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (AMICCC), and are integrating its work with the educational programs of the Institute. Finally, we are developing a new program on indigenous rights and another on disability rights in society. Each of these areas is described in the pages that follow.

These new programs present heightened challenges and responsibilities. Our staff and partners have grown, and other programs are in the planning stage. We are grateful for our supporters and friends around the university, the city, and beyond, and we hope to see you among the many welcoming faces that come through our doors.

Elazar Barkan
Professor of International and Public Affairs
Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights
ISHR Board of Directors, 2011-2012

Andrew Nathan, Chair  
Professor of Political Science  
Columbia University

Elazar Barkan, Director  
Professor of International and Public Affairs  
Columbia University

Sarah Cleveland  
Louis Henkin Professor in Human and Constitutional Rights  
School of Law  
Columbia University

Mamadou Diouf  
Director, Institute for African Studies  
Professor of History  
Professor of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures  
Columbia University

Yasmine Ergas  
Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs  
Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights  
Columbia University

Pamela Graham  
Director of Area Studies and Global Resources Library Program  
Columbia University Libraries

Jennifer Hirsch  
Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences  
Mailman School of Public Health  
Columbia University

J. Paul Martin  
Director, Human Rights Studies  
Barnard College  
Columbia University

Rachel McDermott  
Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures  
Barnard College  
Columbia University

Samuel Moyn  
Associate Professor of History  
Columbia University

Tonya Putnam  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Columbia University

Anupama Rao  
Assistant Professor of History  
Barnard College  
Columbia University

Bruce Robbins  
Professor of English and Comparative Literature  
Columbia University

Peter Rosenblum  
Clinical Professor in Human Rights  
School of Law  
Columbia University

Joseph Slaughter  
Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature  
Columbia University

Jack Snyder  
Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations  
Columbia University
Education
Columbia University has a unique, international reputation earned through decades of highly respected training of human rights professionals, output of powerful and innovative research by faculty, and a commitment to the interdisciplinary study and practice of human rights. ISHR was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights and is renowned for bridging human rights scholarship and practice. As the focal point for the study of human rights at Columbia, ISHR is committed to promoting exceptional interdisciplinary education programs that draw on these strengths. The Institute is directly responsible for Columbia’s three human rights education programs: the Human Rights Studies Masters of Arts, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS); the Undergraduate Human Rights Program, Columbia College; and the Summer Program, School of Continuing Education. ISHR advises all students in these programs. It also coordinates with other human rights programs and institutions to organize events; to connect students to academic and professional human rights opportunities; and to engage and support human rights faculty and scholars.

The Human Rights Studies MA program
The Human Rights Studies M.A. is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the academic study of human rights theory and practice. As part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, students may take courses in a range of GSAS departments, including Political Science, Anthropology, Women’s Studies and Sociology. Students can also take human rights related courses in other Columbia schools, such as the Mailman School of Public Health or the School of International and Public Affairs.

Students can enroll in the M.A. program either part-time or full-time, but all students must complete three core courses, four concentration courses, two elective human rights courses, and a thesis project. The three core courses, Introduction to Human Rights, Human Rights and International Law, and Human Rights and International Organizations provide an important base and anchor for the future study of human rights. The aim of the concentration courses is to enable students to focus on a certain area of human rights, thus providing the opportunity to gain in-depth expertise and to ensure that the student’s thesis is informed by relevant coursework. Potential areas of concentration include human rights and development, health, religion, and women/gender. Students are not limited to these examples, however; rather, each student defines his or her concentration in consultation with the program. In addition students take two elective courses that focus on human rights. These elective courses allow students to gain expertise in a secondary and often
supporting or related sub-field within human rights. Students are also responsible for a thesis project. The thesis is a substantive piece of original research and analysis that requires the critical examination of a human rights question related to the student’s concentration, and that demonstrates academic expertise.

The Undergraduate Human Rights Program
Human rights are central to contemporary understandings of justice and equality, and have crucial bearing on the ability to assess and respond to emerging technological, economic, social, and political issues. As a central issue that cuts across numerous disciplines, human rights is both a relevant and pressing area of study, and one that is only now developing at the undergraduate level. The Institute for the Study of Human Rights launched its human rights major in 2011, and we are proud to be one of the select universities in the United States to offer a degree in human rights.

The Undergraduate Human Rights Program seeks to engage students in a dynamic and evolving field and enhance their knowledge of, and commitment to, human rights. The program offers a major and concentration in human rights that provide students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and explore their interests in human rights, and work to strengthen and support the undergraduate human rights community on campus.

To graduate with a major in human rights, students must complete three core courses: Introduction to Human Rights, International Human Rights Law, and the Human Rights Senior Seminar. Students must also take a course in three of four thematic areas: Politics and History; Culture and Representation; Political Theory and Philosophy; Social and Economic Processes. In order to equip students with an interdisciplinary range on the subject of human rights, students are also expected to fulfill a specialization requirement, in which they take four courses offered by a single department or institute.

In conjunction with the launch of the major, the human rights concentration program was established. The concentration in Human Rights requires students to take the Introduction to Human Rights course as well as seven additional human rights courses.

GSAS/ISHR Graduate Certificate in Human Rights
The GSAS/ISHR Graduate Certificate in Human Rights is designed to complement a students’ disciplinary preparation for the
M.A. or Ph.D. degree. It offers a certificate upon the completion of 24 credits points of study, and is interdisciplinary in nature. The certificate is an ideal option for students with career objectives related to human rights teaching, research, and professional practice, who have been admitted to an M.A. or Ph.D. degree program at Columbia University.

The Institute is directly responsible for Columbia’s three human rights education programs: the Human Rights Studies Masters of Arts, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; the Undergraduate Human Rights Program, Columbia College; and the Summer Program, School of Continuing Education.

The Human Rights Summer Program
ISHR’s Summer Program emphasizes the interaction between human rights theory and practice and provides students the opportunity to explore human rights both inside and outside the classroom. Launched in 2008, the program offers students courses each summer, which can be taken independently or as part of a certificate program.

The Summer Certificate Program option was established in 2011 and is offered jointly by ISHR and the School of Continuing Education. Students pursuing the certificate must complete two core courses, Introduction to Human Rights and International Human Rights Law, in addition to two human rights elective courses. These four courses may be taken in one summer, or divided between two summers. Program participants include students enrolled in degree programs at Columbia University, visiting students, and professionals. In 2011, two new courses were offered by the summer program and enrollment almost doubled between 2010 and 2011. Two new courses will also be offered in 2012.

Student Activities and Opportunities
Both our graduate and undergraduate programs have a vibrant student community engaged in a range of social and academic initiatives on campus. Lectures, discussions, workshops, information sessions, film screenings, and panels provide students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of human rights issues and expand their professional and academic network. Internships and work-study positions at ISHR offer students an opportunity to get involved in the coordination and development of our diverse academic and advocacy programs. Students also assist with the organization and editing of ISHR’s key publications - Rights News newsletter and the RightsViews blog.

ISHR also works directly with students in the program who are interested in organizing events and opportunities pertaining to their particular interests and regularly co-sponsors events with human rights student groups.

Human Rights Essay Contest
The goal of the essay contest is to encourage and acknowledge students who
have written exceptional academic papers addressing issues related to human rights; to provide students the opportunity to meet and work with other students interested in human rights; and to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about human rights issues and other students’ research and accomplishments in the field of human rights.

For more on education at ISHR, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/education.

Student Groups
The following is a selection of Columbia University student groups that are engaged in activities related to human rights.

- Advocacy Coalition
- Amnesty International
- Buddhism for Global Peace at Teachers College
- Child Rights Working Group
- Civil Rights Law Society
- Columbia ACLU
- Columbia Engineers Without Borders
- Columbia Global Justice
- Columbia Queer Alliance
- Columbia Society of International Law
- Columbia UNICEF
- Columbia University Partnership for International Development
- Conflict Resolution Working Group
- Everyone Allied Against Homophobia
- Gender Policy Working Group
- Global Health Forum
- Grassroots Social Policy Network
- Growth and Development Project
- Human Rights Working Group
- Humanitarian Affairs Working Group
- IMPACT
- International Social Welfare Caucus
- Law Students for Social Enterprise
- Migration Working Group
- Network for Women in International and Public Affairs
- Poverty Initiative
- Queers of Color
- Rightslink
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Action Group
- Skills Experience and Resources for Conflict and Health Working Group
- Social Enterprise Club
- Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Society for International Education
- Student Social Workers’ Alliance for a Progressive Society
- Students for Peace and Justice
- Tenants’ Rights Project
- Toward Reconciliation, International Affairs and Conflict Resolution Society
Capacity Building and Research Programs

ISHR has developed a group of programs that seek to take advantage of the rich resources that Columbia University and New York City provide both leaders and students of human rights. The capacity building programs seek to teach students how to become advocates and to give grassroots leaders who come to the university the tools and knowledge to promote the realization of human rights. Applied research adds the final, complementary facet to our capacity building programs, allowing us to use the resources of the university and apply them in a variety of frameworks and contexts.

Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP)

Founded in 1989, the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) is a unique and successful model of human rights capacity building. HRAP capitalizes on its affiliation with Columbia University and its location in New York City to provide advocates with the access and networks they need to augment their leadership skills and strengthen their respective organizations.

HRAP’s comprehensive program of advocacy, networking, skills-building, and academic coursework provides advocates the opportunity to hone practical skills, develop a deeper understanding of human rights, and foster mutually beneficial relationships with organizations and individuals in their respective fields.

HRAP integrates Advocates into various aspects of student life. Advocates reside at International House with international and US students and participate in a range of social, learning and cultural activities organized by International House and Columbia University.

The four-month program gives Advocates time and space to reflect on their work and share their experiences and insights with one another. Advocates gain unique access to advocacy forums; they are frequently invited to participate in and attend panel discussions and lectures, both at Columbia University and throughout the United States. During such events, Advocates are able to raise public awareness and promote the work of their organizations.

As part of the Columbia community, advocates audit at least two graduate level courses at Columbia University. Advocates attend classes at Columbia College, the School of International and Public Affairs, the Law School, the Mailman School of Public Health, the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, the School of Social Work, Teachers College and Barnard. Each Advocate is assigned a Columbia University professor as mentor, and advocates often develop strong relationships with professors, students, and other members of the Columbia University community.

HRAP also facilitates relationship-building among alumni of the program. For
example, since 2010, the Director of Capacity Building has been recruiting HRAP alumni to lead workshops for program participants.

After completing the intensive four-month program, Advocates are able to more effectively lobby for their causes and address the human rights concerns of their communities. Advocates attend a number of skills-building workshops led by staff from organizations including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Topics include fundraising, campaign strategy, advocacy tools, media relations, stress management and research and documentation.

Finally, throughout the four-month program, Advocates are able to meet with a range of human rights organizations, international institutions, foundations, donors, and policymakers that are based in New York City. Each year, Advocates also participate in a networking and advocacy trip to Washington DC. During group and individual meetings, Advocates share their unique grassroots knowledge and learn more about the strategies and best practices of other human rights organizations.

These meetings also often lead to joint projects and funding opportunities.

HRAP Online Forum
In 2009, ISHR launched an online forum for alumni of the program. The forum enables advocates to exchange ideas and insights, collaborate on new initiatives, and provide updates on their work in human rights since their completion of the program.

For more information on HRAP, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/hrap/.

2011 HRAP Advocates

Abu Tunde Irunukhar – AIDS Alliance in Nigeria, Nigeria

Lana Ackar – Pravnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Huda Ali – Gesr Center for Development, Sudan

Nadia Juliana Bazán Londoño – Fondo de Acción Urgente de América Latina y el Caribe Hispanohablante, Colombia
Lydia Cherop – Teso Women Peace Activists, Uganda
Hasina Khan – Awaaz-e-Niswaan, India
Rita Mainaly – Human Rights & Gender Justice Program, Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal
Elvis Mmeme Binda – Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights, Rwanda
John Mwebe – Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda
Salima Namusobya – Refugee Law Project, School of Law, Makerere University, Uganda
Ifeanyi Orazulike – Centre for Advocacy on Rights to Health, Nigeria
Ngungua Gisèle Sangua – Action Large des Femmes Avocates, Democratic Republic of Congo
Athili Anthony Sapriina – Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights, India

2010 HRAP Advocates
Naglaa Ahmed – ACJPS, Sudan
James Rwampigi Aniyamuzzaala – Youth with Physical Disability Development Forum, Uganda
Siarhei Antusevich – Belarusian Independent Trade Union, Belarus
Susan Aryeetey – International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Ghana
Agnes Atim – National Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, Uganda
Colette Lespinasse – Groupe d’Appui aux Rapatriés et aux Refugiés, Haiti
Glenda Muzenda – South Africa
Andrea Maria Nuila – Center for Women’s Rights, Honduras
Azra Smailkadic-Brkic – Genocide Intervention Network, USA
Bakary Tandia – African Services Committee, USA
Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Program

Last year, ISHR created its Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Program, with a focus on human rights capacity building, research and education. Newly appointed program director Elsa Stamatopoulou’s areas of specialization include inter-agency cooperation on indigenous issues and on human rights; the drafting and implementation of international human rights instruments; human rights institution-building; the human rights of indigenous peoples, women, minorities, and migrant workers; the rights of the child; human rights under detention; humanitarian good offices of the Secretary-General; human rights learning; human rights and civil society; mainstreaming of human rights and indigenous issues in the areas of development, peace and security and humanitarian affairs; and the private sector and human rights, including indigenous peoples’ issues.

At ISHR, Stamatopoulou’s work encompasses educational, capacity building and research and public dialogue projects. She developed a new course on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights that has been added to the Human Rights major. ISHR has also joined the group of “Academic Friends of the UN’s Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” and the Institute is pursuing the establishment of academic cooperation, especially student exchange programs, with several universities with an indigenous-related and human rights focus. In addition, Stamatopoulou is developing an international conference on protecting indigenous peoples’ right to exist and the prevention of genocide. She also lectures widely on the subject of cultural human rights, indigenous peoples’ rights, globalization and social integration and inclusion. In 2011, she contributed to the Consultation of UN Experts on Access to Cultural Heritage as a Human Right, and gave papers on cultural rights at the conference on “Cultural Rights and the Younger ‘Generations’ of Human Rights,” University of Thessaly in Greece; at the anthropological conference, “Cultural Heritage, Revitalization and the Renaissance of the Idea of Culture” at the University of Vienna, Austria; and at the Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

In terms of capacity building, ISHR has established cooperative relations with Tribal Link Foundation. Furthermore, in an effort to increase the visibility of the work being done for indigenous peoples’ rights, the first indigenous person joined the Human Rights Advocates Program of ISHR in the Fall of 2011. In addition, ISHR has
launched, in cooperation with FIMI (the International Indigenous Women’s Forum) an effort to include indigenous women in the Human Rights Advocates Program. Other human rights education and advocacy efforts include Stamatopoulou’s position as Co-Chair of the International Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Commission, which undertook its sixth mission to Bangladesh in November, 2011. The Commission met with indigenous peoples in the CHT as well as Bengalis and recorded testimony regarding human rights violations. In an effort to encourage an impartial inquiry into specific violent incidents, and more generally to reduce the climate of fear and insecurity that currently exists, the Commission also met representatives of the Bangladesh army, government officials and political leaders, members of the inter-national community and non-governmental organizations.


**Disability Rights in Society Program**

Among the most exciting areas in international human rights law currently is disability rights. In December 2006, the UN’s General Assembly adopted a new treaty that comprehensively addresses the issue, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol. While the adoption of this treaty—and of subsequent national laws that have been adopted—should be
celebrated, this is only a first step in the creation of a truly inclusive society.

It is estimated that 17% of the world’s population experiences some sort of a disability, translated into close to 700 million individuals worldwide. 80% of persons with disabilities reside in developing countries, and also among developed nations, such as the US, over 60% of persons with disabilities live under the poverty line. The rates of unemployment among persons with disabilities are also significantly higher than in the general population, particularly among women with disabilities, and the levels of education are markedly low. In fact, despite the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 (ADA) and similar pieces of legislation in some other (mainly European) countries around the world, persons with disabilities are among the most stigmatized and discriminated against groups across communities, societies, and nations.

The Disability Rights in Society Program was initiated in September 2011 with the goal of addressing this exclusion through global promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities. It brings together researchers, policy-makers, and advocates for disability rights through research, education, and capacity-building.

The program seeks to develop projects that focus on “mainstreaming” disability rights –from the education system to the media; from capacity building to research; and from lectures on disability-related issues to an on-going dialogue about the experience and consideration of the intersection between disability and society.

Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the Disability Rights in Society Program enhances the inclusion of persons with disabilities as equal members in society through its partnership with other disability-related projects at Columbia and other national and international research institutions, intergovernmental organizations, and local disability rights organizations (DPOs).

For more information on the Disability Rights in Society Program, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/disabilityrights/.

Peace-building and Rights Program
The Peace-building and Rights Program divides its work between historical redress and human rights (described in the section on Human Rights and Historical Redress) and capacity building. In this latter category, the program established the Darfur Development Advisory Group, a Darfuri-led non-governmental, non-profit organization in Sudan mobilizing Darfuri civil society in support of humanitarian relief, early recovery and development. DDAG seeks to promote the well-being of
Darfuris by collaborating with international agencies and donor countries to strengthen the leadership of Darfuri community-based organizations (CBOs). After two years of meetings in New York and Cairo facilitated by ISHR, DDAG was launched as an independent entity in 2009; its current activities focus on training in the fields of organizational development and project management, and its aim is to incentivize peace and incorporate the development dimension into political talks. In 2010 - 2011, DDAG led 12 project management and organizational development workshops with approximately 350 Darfuri CBO leaders representing about 200 organizations. Activities were supported by Canada’s Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ministry and the U.S. Department of State.

The Program worked with South East European University (SEEU), State University of Tetovo (SUT), Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Philosophy at Sts. Cyril and Methodius University (UKIM), SEEU/Tetovo, SUT/Tetovo and UKIM/Skopje to convene a 10-Year Implementation Review of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in Skopje, Macedonia from June 19 – 21, 2011. The goals of the Conference were to consider what was pledged, what was achieved, and what still needs to be done to implement the Ohrid Framework Agreement upon the 10-year anniversary of its signing. Panel discussions addressed a wide range of issues affecting efforts toward Macedonia’s membership in the European Union and NATO. The Conference was sponsored by the U.S. Government as well as the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The Program on Peace-building and Rights, the Sewalanka Foundation, and the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) convened a “Dialogue on Addressing Post-Conflict Challenges” in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka in 2011. Fifteen people representing NGOs and INGOs working in Sri Lanka’s conflict-affected zones joined the meeting. Participants discussed issues related to enhancing effectiveness (access, safety, security, government relations, financing, project development through a conflict prevention lens, gender sensitivity) as well as follow-up.

Finally, the program has worked on issues regarding the ceasefire agreement between Russia and Georgia. Program Director David Phillips prepared an implementation review of the agreement that summarizes the history of the conflict in Georgia, the cease-fire agreement, steps taken by the signatories to fulfill their commitments, and stakeholder interests. It also highlights current conditions and assesses the risk of renewed hostilities. For more information on the Peace-building and Rights Program, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/peacebuilding/.
Human Rights and Historical Redress

Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) is developing a set of programs to address the memory of historical violence as a testimony to gross violations of human rights and as a critical factor in inflaming current conflicts. In both cases, the massive violations of human rights call for policy interventions and redress. History can, and often does, contribute to peace-building and redress of human rights in societies that transition from dictatorships to democracies and from conflict to post conflict situation, but it is also central in redressing violations in established democracies. Transitional justice, memory studies, and conflict resolution are some of the academic areas which address these issues. The new program at ISHR includes currently the Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability; the Peace-building and Rights Program, the Guantanamo Public Memory Project, and the International Criminal Court Program.

Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA)

AHDA is a growing network of advocacy and scholarship initiatives that encompasses the efforts in conflict, post-conflict, and post-dictatorial societies to come to terms with their pasts. In contesting nationalist myths and identities, in examining official historical narratives, and opening to competing narratives about past violence, historical dialogue promotes inclusivity of minorities that suffered in the past as well as engaging with (former) enemies. ISHR is launching a new fellowship program to bring civil society advocates of historical dialogue to Columbia University for a semester long training and for study.

Participants in the Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program work to collect and provide facts about the history of particular conflicts; provide analysis of past violence grounded in empirical research; acknowledge the victims of past violence and human rights abuses; challenge and deconstruct national or ethnic memories of heroism and/or victimhood; foster shared work between interlocutors of two or more sides of a conflict; identify and monitor how history is misused to divide society and perpetuate conflict; and enhance public discussion about the past.

For more information on AHDA, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/ahda.

Peace-building and Rights Program/ Historical Redress

The Peace-building and Rights Program is an applied research endeavor taking a
comprehensive approach to peace-building through humanitarian assistance, human rights and dialogue, economic development, and political participation. In 2010, the Program organized projects related to Sudan, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Macedonia, Kosovo, and Albania.

Exemplary of its projects in human rights and historical redress is the program’s work in Sri Lanka, where it has sought to engage scholars, students and advocates in discussions that bring together groups with different perspectives to work collaboratively to produce shared narratives which will provide reliable facts and commentary for public debate and discussion. Possible shared history projects include: (i) State Building; (ii) Peopling of Sri Lanka; (iii) School Curricula; (iv) History of the War. Implementation of the Shared History project will start with the working group on State Building in 2012, composed of Sri Lankan scholars from diverse backgrounds (i.e. Sinhala, Tamils and Muslims; scholars and NGO representatives; men and women).

The Program has also supported Turkish-Armenian dialogue with its recent meeting in Yerevan that convened representatives from Turkish and Armenian groups for a program on rapprochement. Supporting this dialogue is Program Director David Phillips’ forthcoming publication, *Diplomatic History: The 2009 Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and the 2009 Protocol on the Development of Bilateral Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey*. The work examines the past decade of contact and cooperation between Turks and Armenians, and the role of international mediation. The monograph is a tool for convening Turks and Armenians, offering lessons learned on track two activities and a road-map for intensifying civil society activities; commercial cooperation; reviving inter-governmental contact; addressing historical issues; and maximizing stakeholder influence.

For more information on the Peace-building and Rights Program, see [http://www.hrcolumbia.org/peacebuilding/](http://www.hrcolumbia.org/peacebuilding/).

**Guantánamo Public Memory Project**

In September 2011, ISHR became the coordinating hub for the Guantánamo
Public Memory Project. The Project seeks to inspire and sustain critical public engagement in the future of the US Naval station at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, by building awareness of how it has been used before – often with dubious legality – and therefore how it could be used again. Working in a variety of media, the Project will collect, compile, and present material documenting the century-long history of use and abuse at the base before and after 9-11, and foster dialogue among a variety of stakeholders on the future of this place, its people, and its policies.

To date, the Project has built a collaboration of nine different universities to develop a National Dialogue on what Guantánamo’s past suggests for the future. Through this collaboration, in 2012, the Project will launch: a web platform including an on-line exhibit, audio portraits, and blog; an exhibit opening in December in New York and traveling to numerous sites across the country; conferences and community events accompanying the exhibit in each community; a curriculum to be piloted at eight universities and revised for national distribution; and an on-line research resource linking dozens of collections with material on Guantánamo’s history and serving as a digital repository for new material.

For more information on the Guantánamo Public Memory Project, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/guantanamo/.

**International Criminal Court Program**

The American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal Court (AMICC) joined ISHR as a program in November, 2011. The program provides new dimensions to the Institute’s work on international justice, the enforcement of human rights and in collaboration with and support of academics, organizations, activists and practitioners to pursue historical accountability.

In its support to other programs and scholars at the Institute, as well as the Columbia community as a whole, AMICC especially focuses on issues such as the ICC’s treatment of gender crimes and crimes of sexual violence, including the Court’s treatment of the crime of rape; the ways in which the Court and other international tribunals reconstruct and use historical narrative and other documentation of atrocities; the effective functioning of the ICC, particularly with regard to elections and changes in leadership; and contributions to the Institute’s research on the ICC’s position and practice on peace and justice (and the interplay between the two).

For more information on the International Criminal Court Program, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/amicc/.

Matthew Heaphy and John Washburn, scholars with ISHR’s International Criminal Court Program, speak with 2011 advocate Huda Ali.
Research

ISHR provides research forums for scholars at Columbia University and other members of the human rights community. Through projects, conferences, and workshops, we encourage interdisciplinary investigation of human rights issues and promote connections between academic and practitioner communities.

Faculty Research

ISHR works with faculty members from a range of schools, academic departments, and disciplines. The interdisciplinary and innovative human rights research that ISHR fosters is exemplified by the selection of recent publications of ISHR board members, found in this report.

Human Rights Impact

To foster collaboration and communication across the nascent field of human rights impact, ISHR (then CSHR) organized a workshop that took place in April 2009, and which drew together researchers and practitioners from multiple disciplines and organizations. This workshop began a conversation and raised a number of important questions about how human rights programs and policies operate in general terms, but also within specific arenas. This discussion led us to convene a follow-up symposium a year later, in May 2010, entitled Human Rights Impact: General Issues and Sectoral Perspectives, supported by a grant from the International Council, Arts & Sciences, Columbia University. The symposium convened a broad spectrum of participants -- academics, policy-makers, advocates, and donors -- to examine the ways in which the impact of human rights policies and programs is defined and assessed. Discussion focused on the impact of human rights in four distinct sectors: the freedom of the press; women's rights; international criminal courts; and, development, in particular in a rights-based perspective. Within the context of these four sectors, the symposium focused on two questions that required collective, multi-perspectival, consideration: how can human rights be measured, and how can appropriate indicators established? And what are the ethical issues that impact assessments must confront and how can they be addressed?

Remembering Guantánamo

“Remembering Guantánamo” brought together historians, advocates, museum professionals, and others to explore Guantánamo Bay as a “state of exception” in American politics and political culture; and imagine strategies for building public awareness of Guantánamo’s century-long history – its exceptional and commonplace uses and re-uses – to inspire
citizen engagement in what happens there next. “Remembering Guantánamo” was sponsored by the Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights, University Seminar on History, Redress, and Reconciliation, Oral History Research Office, and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. This conference is part of a new program that ISHR has begun entitled The Guantánamo Project, which will continue to examine the legacy of Guantánamo in the United States. For conference materials see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/research/.

The Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research

Columbia University Libraries’ Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research (CHRDR) develops global collections – which include primary and secondary resources as well as archival collections and internal records from human rights organizations – and enhances the visibility and accessibility of these collections through programs, collaborative projects, and library services. CHRDR currently houses the archives of Amnesty International USA, the Center for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia’s University Seminar on Human Rights, the Committee of Concerned Scientists, Human Rights First, and Human Rights Watch. Recently acquired collections include the archives of the Committee to Protect Journalists (2010) and the Physicians for Human Rights (2012). The papers of Louis Henkin were acquired in 2011.

In 2009 Columbia University Libraries received a $716,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to develop a program for capturing and archiving websites. Most of this web collecting program has focused on archiving websites related to human rights. The current phase of this project (2012) involves developing an interface that will allow researchers to search and browse archived materials. Other initiatives and collaborations include our work on the Guantánamo Public Memory Project; Human Rights Web Archive; work on the Human Rights Electronic Evidence Project, conducted by the Center for Research Libraries with support from the MacArthur Foundation. CHRDR has also sponsored or co-sponsored exhibits such as, “50 Years: Amnesty International USA and Human Rights Advocacy (2011)”; “Srebrenica Memorial Quilt Exhibit (2011)”; “Committee to Protect Journalists @ Columbia: 30 Years of Defending Press Freedom (2011)”; “Caste and Contemporary India Conference (2010)”. In addition, CHRDR has given a number of presentations and workshops on digital memory, preserving memory, and information ethics.
Visiting Scholars Program

Each year, ISHR hosts a number of visiting scholars wishing to pursue human rights research. This program provides scholars access to University facilities and libraries, faculty advising, and the opportunity to participate in the intellectual life of the University. In addition to their research, visiting scholars attend conferences and seminars, give lectures, audit courses, and serve as an additional resource to other members of the Columbia University community who are interested in human rights. At the end of their residency, scholars provide ISHR a final report detailing their work and copies of any publications resulting from their research as a visiting scholar. For more information on the Visiting Scholars Program, see http://www.hrcolumbia.org/visiting/.

Visiting scholars, 2011-2012:
Zarizana Abdul Aziz, (Malaysia)
Rosario Figari Layús, University of Konstanz (Germany)
Zhang Boshu, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) (China)
Bart De Sutter, Antwerp University (Belgium)
Mark Mattner, McGill University (Canada)
Asghar Khan, University of Peshawar (Pakistan)
Ze Hua, (China)
Dr. Cecelia Walsh-Russo, Hartwick College (Oneonta, New York)

Visiting scholars, 2010-2011:
David Hawk, National Endowment for Democracy (Washington, DC)
Chandra Lekha Sriram, University of London (Great Britain)
Yao Kun, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) (China)
Ann Marie Clark, Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana)
Katja Kurz, University of Mainz (Germany)
Gao Yaojie, (China)
Kei Hiruta Oxford University (Great Britain)
Carmen Márquez Carrasco European Inter-university Centre for Human Rights and Democratization (EIUC) (Italy)

Visiting scholars, 2009-2010
Alberta Spreafico University of Pavia (Italy)
Ronald Holzhacker University of Twente (the Netherlands)
Carla De Ycaza, New York University (New York, NY)
Lisa Hajjar University of California, Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara, CA)
Dennis Gratz University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Eunike Piwoni Bamberg University (Germany)
Hanna Ziadeh University of Roskilde (Denmark)
Dirk Moses University of Sydney (Australia)
Radwan Ziadeh (Syria)
ISHR Board Member Publications

Journal Articles


Book Chapters


**Edited Volumes**


**Books**


Other Publications


Yasmine Ergas, “Il mercato degli ovuli de dell pance” (September 2010) ingenere.it.


ISHR: Programming

Below is a list of some of the events ISHR has organized and sponsored in 2010 and 2011. For more description about these events, see http://www.hr.columbia.org/calendar/.

2011
Screening of “The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court” and discussion with Chief Prosecutor of the ICC
Looking Back to Look Forward: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 63
Reading of the UDHR

Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, and Yasmine Ergas, Columbia University, Associate Director, ISHR

Peace, Conflict, and Historical Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific
Brown Bag Lecture: Recent Development and Next Focus in China’s “Democratic Governance”
2011 GlobeMed HillTop: Opening Keynote Address - Peter Luckow

HRAP advocates Hasina Khan and Salima Namusobya at the Holiday Reception/Advocate Farewell Party.
Occupy Wall Street: The Next Human Rights Movement
Following Sacred Sites: Post-Gujarat Hindu-Muslim Violence Reconciliation Workshop
Sacred Sites: Post-Gujarat Hindu-Muslim Violence Reconciliation Workshop
2 Day Conference: Localizing Global Justice: Rethinking Law and Human Rights in Southeast Asia
Arab Women's Rights: Past, Present and Future Challenges from an NGO Perspective
Daniela Ikawa, a human rights attorney from Brazil, and Program Officer at ESCR-net, discusses the Lazihno vs. Brazil case, and human rights protection more generally in Brazil.

The InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Protection in Brazil

Peace and Justice in Burma: Serious International Crimes Continue Despite Talk of “Change”

Post War Sri Lanka: A Discussion

Human Rights in Mexico: Accountability for the past and implications for the present

Civil Courage Prize Winners: A discussion on sex trafficking with Lydia Cacho Ribeiro and Triveni Acharya

Lydia Cacho Ribeiro and Triveni Acharya Speak about their work on behalf of women and children in Mexico and India respectively. Ribeiro is pictured second from right, and Acharya is pictured in the foreground, in white.
“Ordinary Witnesses,” a public conversation with Rachid Ouramdane
Columbia University Students for Human Rights, introductory meeting
FILM: The Interrupters, followed by Q+A with Director, Steve James
Internship and Thesis Research Brownbag Discussion
A screening of AKU SIAPA (English: “Who Am I?”), a film that explores the various political and
cultural implications of wearing the hijab in Malaysia.

"Faces in the Dark" Screening
Conference: Remembering Guantánamo
Fundraising from the European Commission: A How to Course for US Organizations –
The Referendum in Sudan
The Aesthetics of Suffering: Autobiography in Human Rights Campaigns
The Eleventh Hour: Human Rights in Cambodia in the Face of Economic and Environmental Exploitation
Shattering Silence: Hope and Rehabilitation for Victims of Sexual Slavery
2011 Columbia University Student Seminar on Human Forgiveness in Sierra Leone
Forty years of research on women, sex and gender
Theatre of the Oppressed
Developing Abortion Jurisprudence under the African Charter of Human and Peoples’ Rights: Lessons from Europe on the Misrecognition of Women
A Celebration of the Legacy of Louis Henkin
China, Then and Now
Human Rights Job Search & Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop
Fundraising from European Institutions: A How-To Course for US Based Organizations
China’s National Human Rights Action Plan: Any Action?
Information Effects and Human Rights Data: Is the Good News about Increased Human Rights Information Bad News for Human Rights Measures?

2010

David Kuria Mbote, Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya
Human Rights and Health: Complexity and Diversity
What does it mean to “stand with the victim”
The Price of Stones: Building a School for My Village
Pushing the Elephant: Film Screening & Discussion
CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) - 46th Session Meeting
NGO Meeting - Corporate Social Responsibility
Colombia at the Crossroads: The Economy and the Armed Conflict at the end of the Uribe Era
Gender and Media in South Asia with Bandana Rana
Human Rights in Iran & the Plight of the Baha’
The United States and Its Non-Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Biopolitics Across Borders: Ideas and Practices

Civil Society, Security and Aid post-9/11: Challenges, Tensions and Dilemmas

Cecilia Appianim: Fair Trade Cocoa

Counting the Dead: The Culture and Politics of Human Rights Activism in Colombia

Historical Commissions: Comparative Perspectives

Human Rights in the Arab World: 2009 and Beyond

Human Rights in Iran: Discussion and Film Screening

The Limits of Rights

Transforming Societies after Political Violence: Truth, Reconciliation, and Mental Health

Indigenous Peoples Right of Self-Determination and Historical Redress

The Trail of Blood: The search for an inter-communal national system in Lebanon and Iraq

European Commission Funding: A How-To Course for US based organizations

Cities and the New Wars: A Conference

David Kinley: Civilizing Globalization: Human Rights and the Global Economy
Outreach and Publications

Human Rights Reference Documents
ISHR’s Basic Documents for Human Rights provide a convenient compilation of core human rights documents – including treaties, declarations, agreements, and reports – that are referenced by scholars and practitioners alike. Over 1550 copies were sold to students, university and independent book stores, libraries, academic centers, law firms, and NGOs in the period covered by this annual report.

25+ Human Rights Documents, Edited by J. Paul Martin

Women and Human Rights: The Basic Documents, Edited by J. Paul Martin and M. Lesley Carson
Twenty-two primary texts on human rights and women, including the major general international instruments and reports of world conferences, as well as international conventions specific to women's human rights and the rights of women in special contexts, such as armed conflict, trafficking and prostitution, health and reproduction, education, and employment.

Religion and Human Rights: Basic Documents, Edited by J. Paul Martin and Tad Stahke
Forty texts on religion and human rights, including the basic human-rights documents (Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and others such as the World Council of Churches Declaration on Religious Liberty; Vatican II Declaration on Religious Freedom; Agreement Between the Holy See and the State of Israel; the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, and many more.

RightsNews
RightsNews is a newsletter, written and edited by students at Columbia, that focuses on topics and events relating to human rights in the Columbia community. For our most recent newsletter, see http://www.hrccolumbia.org/rightsnews/.

Rights Views
RightsViews is a blog, created and written by Columbia students. The blog focuses on human rights issues around the world that students at Columbia have participated in or are in some way involved. To read the blog, see http://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/rightsviews/.
Human Rights Calendar
In order to promote engagement with human rights issues, ISHR maintains a calendar of human rights events and activities at Columbia University and in the New York City area. This calendar is available on our website at: [http://hrcolumbia.org/calendar/](http://hrcolumbia.org/calendar/).

Human Rights Opportunities
As a service to the human rights community, ISHR regularly publicizes upcoming human rights jobs, internships, calls for papers, and other opportunities. If you would like to receive listserv emails or share information with its members, please contact ISHR at [ishr@columbia.edu](mailto:ishr@columbia.edu).

Jennifer Wilmore volunteered with 2006 Advocate Agnes Tamba in Sierra Leone in summer 2011.
**ISHR Staff**

- Irene Atamian, Business Manager
- Elazar Barkan, Director
- Veronika Burget, Project Manager
- Kristina Eberbach, Director, Education
- Yasmine Ergas, Associate Director
- Danielle Goldberg, Program Coordinator, Peace-building and Rights Program
- Stephanie Grepo, Director, Capacity Building
- Matthew Heaphy, Associate Research Scholar
- Joe Kirchhof, Assistant Program Officer
- Ariella Lang, Program Coordinator
- J. Paul Martin, Senior Scholar
- Maya Sabatello, Director, Disability Rights in Society Program
- Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project
- Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Program
- John Washburn, Adjunct Research Scholar

For full staff biographies, see [http://www.hrcolumbia.org/about/staff](http://www.hrcolumbia.org/about/staff).
ISHR Supporters

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2011-2012 Fiscal Year
American Jewish World Service
Arcus Foundation
Dr. Zelma Henriques, John Jay College of Justice
Institute for Democracy Cooperation
National Committee on American Foreign Policy
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Open Society Foundations
Sperry Fund
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Tribal Link Foundation
Anonymous Donors

2010-2011 Fiscal Year
Arcus Foundation
Columbia University, The Harriman Institute
Open Society Foundations
Sperry Fund
Stephen Lewis Foundation
Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Foundation Endowment
Anonymous Donor
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
U.S. Department of State

2009-2010 Fiscal Year
Arcus Foundation
General Service Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Women’s Program and Public Health
Sigrid Rausing Trust

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