

Program in International Human Rights Law Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

530 WEST NEW YORK STREET ● ROOM 206 ● INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46202 U.S.A.
TELEPHONE: (317) 278-2359 ● FAX: (317) 278-7563 ● EMAIL: GEDWARDS@INDIANA.EDU
WEB: [HTTP://WWW.INDYLAW.INDIANA.EDU/PROGRAMS/HUMANRIGHTS/CONTENTS.HTM](http://WWW.INDYLAW.INDIANA.EDU/PROGRAMS/HUMANRIGHTS/CONTENTS.HTM)



Program in International Human Rights Law Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis*

In 1997, the law school established a program for the study and teaching of international human rights law. The program has four primary missions: (a) to enhance the curriculum and teaching of international human rights law; (b) to conduct research and publish student and faculty scholarly works in international human rights law; (c) to assist human rights governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations on international human rights projects; and (d) to place students as law interns to work at international human rights organizations domestically and overseas.

Teaching

Students interested in international human rights law may select among several courses that are fully or partially devoted to human rights topics. These courses include: *International Human Rights Law*; *International Criminal Law*; *Public International Law*; *European Community Law*; *International Environmental Law*; and *International Legal Transactions*.

Furthermore, numerous students have conducted independent study on international human rights topics, including: application of international human rights law to internal armed conflict in Peru; human rights in Turkey and Argentina; execution of foreigners in the U.S.; antiterrorism statutes; illegal alien issues in California; juvenile justice in the U.S.; school uniforms and freedom of expression; border stops of Mexicans in Texas; rights of Serbs before the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal; forced sterilization in Sweden; and humanitarian intervention in Kosovo. Other topics include trafficking of women in Asia; human rights abuse in Burma; sanctions in South Africa; and the one-child policy in China.

Overseas and Domestic Student Internships

To provide educational and practical work experience for our students, the *Program* in 1997, 1998 & 1999 placed students as interns at international human rights organizations in the following locations: **Africa** (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Accra, Ghana; Cape Town, South Africa; Arusha, Tanzania; & Harare, Zimbabwe); **Asia** (Hong Kong; New Delhi, India; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; & Katmandu, Nepal); **Western Europe** (Geneva, Switzerland); **North America** (Ottawa, Canada; New York; & San Jan, Puerto Rico); and **Eastern Europe** (Gomel & Minsk, Belarus);

Vilnius, Lithuania; and Moscow, Russia).

The students have worked for governmental bodies (e.g., the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission & the Attorney General of Puerto Rico), non-governmental organizations (e.g., the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor; the Moscow Helsinki Group; the Jewish State Museum in Vilnius, Lithuania; & the Gay and Lesbian Association of Zimbabwe in Harare); and inter-governmental organizations (e.g., the United Nations in Tanzania, Switzerland, & New York).

Research and Scholarship

Research and scholarship are important components of the *Program in International Human Rights Law*. Since its inception, the *Program* has undertaken research in a variety of international human rights law areas. These areas include: application of international human rights norms to race, age, and sexual orientation; rights of migrant workers; international right to a fair trial; transnational application of international human rights norms; freedom of association; advocacy training on the European and Inter-American systems for the protection of Human Rights; and compliance of multi-national corporations with international human rights law principles. The *Program* has employed students and others to work under faculty supervision on these and other research projects. Students have received publication credit in published works of the *Program*.

Guest Speakers

The *Program* has hosted guest speakers from various countries, including Burma, South Africa, Australia, Hong Kong, East Timor, Sweden, Canada, the Netherlands, China, the Ivory Coast, Venezuela, the United States, Ethiopia, Botswana, Switzerland, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cambodia. These visitors have included judges, human rights workers, government officials, United Nations representatives, other inter-governmental organization representatives (e.g. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), professors, and victims of human rights abuses.

The guest speakers, who travel to Indianapolis and speak at the invitation of the *Program*, typically address the student body, faculty and the community on pressing and topical international human rights issues related to the

speakers' work, interests, and experience.

Global Community Service

Most of the community service work of the *Program* has been overseas, on behalf of international human rights law organizations. For example, *Program* representatives (including students and recent graduates) have prepared research reports for a Hong Kong human rights group; represented a U.S. media organization in Hong Kong during the June/July 1997 Handover Ceremonies; served as international legal trial observer in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; co-edited a manual on Human Rights Education for use in Haiti; lectured in France, Australia, and Hong Kong on human rights topics; served as a NGO delegate to the Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court; participated in other conferences and briefings in various overseas venues; advised a foreign Consulate on U.S. compliance with international treaties; and assisted and represented Hong Kong human rights groups at United Nations meetings in New York and Geneva, Switzerland. Furthermore, graduates of the *Program* perform *pro bono* work on behalf of overseas human rights clients. Domestically, the *Program* has made presentations to human rights and other groups locally and around the country, and served as a resource on domestic legal cases, including cases involving the death penalty, alleged child abuse by overseas migrant workers, and immigration.

For Further Information

For more information about the *Program in International Human Rights Law*, please contact Professor George Edwards, Director, Program in International Human Rights Law, Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis, 530 West New York Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5194 U.S.A., Tel. (371) 278-7563; email: gedwards@indiana.edu.

* *Reprinted as edited from IU School of Law Bulletin, 1998-2000, p. 10.*
