Human Rights Program
Annual Report
2019 - 2020 Academic Year

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Briefing from Sweden and France on their Efforts to Combat Sex Trafficking and Prostitution
September 9, 2019

In collaboration with the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, the Human Rights Program hosted an event on sex trafficking. Following opening remarks by video from Rep. Carolyn Maloney, the panel included Per-Anders Sunesson, Swedish Ambassador for Combating Trafficking in Persons; Anne-Claire Legendre, Consul-General of France; and Shandra Woworuntu, survivor and founder of Mentari. The panel discussion was moderated by Taina Bien-Aimé, Executive Director of Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. After the panel, NYS Senator Liz Krueger, Assembly Member Tremaine Wright and Grove Leader Dorchen Leidholdt responded to the panel discussion, followed by an audience Q&A session. A dinner for panelists followed at the Swedish Consulate, which is located around the corner from Roosevelt House.

Marlène Schiappa, French Secretary of State for Gender Equality and the Fight Against Discrimination with G7 Gender Equality Council Representatives
September 24, 2019

The Human Rights Program, in collaboration with the Women and Gender Studies Department, hosted a forum on gender equality. Moderated by Human Rights Program Director Jessica Neuwirth, the panel included Marlène Schiappa, French Secretary of State for Gender Equality and the Fight Against Discrimination; Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner and world-renowned gynecologist from the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Inna Shevchenko, feminist activist and leader of Femen, an international women’s movement from Ukraine; Aranya Johar, poet and feminist from India; and Lisa Azuelos, film director and writer from France.
The Feminister with Former Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström
October 29, 2019


Human Rights Program
Faculty Engagement Event

Faculty Wine and Cheese with Teng Biao, Grove Scholar-in-Residence
September 10, 2019

Human Rights Faculty joined Chinese human rights scholar and dissident Teng Biao, who collaborated with Human Rights Program Adjunct Professor Mark Shulman to teach *Human Rights in China* in Fall 2019. Teng Biao is a Grove Scholar-in-Residence for the semester and came to Hunter College through the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Program.
Student Brown Bag Events | Fall 2019

Each semester, the Program features leading human rights figures in our well-attended student lunch event series which engages students campus-wide. Student feedback has been enthusiastic, welcoming both the topics and the speakers.

Human Rights Trip to Nepal: Report Back
November 13, 2019

Speakers: Hunter alumna Noor Sheikh, and students Alexis Fisher, Kelly Cruz Valencia, David Dominguez, Mrinali Dhembla, and Andrew Shkreli

From May 31 to June 7, 2019, students participated in the first Human Rights Trip to Nepal. Students engaged in meetings and discussions with advocates, government officials, and others, designed to develop their world views and understanding of international human rights. In this Brown Bag, participants led a discussion ahead of the application deadline for the program’s second trip to Nepal, which took place in January 2020.

High-Tech Totalitarianism: China’s Threat to Global Freedom and Democracy
December 4, 2019

Speakers: Teng Biao, Roosevelt House Scholar in Residence; Martin Flaherty, Fordham Law School; and Sarah Cook, Freedom House

organized in collaboration with the Political Science Department
Human Rights Program
Experiential Learning Opportunities

Human Rights Trip to Nepal
January 11, 2020 - January 18, 2020

In January 2020, a group of ten Human Rights Program students traveled to Nepal on a Grove Human Rights Trip led by Human Rights Program Director Jessica Neuwirth and Human Rights Program Associate Raymi Echavarria. The trip was organized with the support of Grove Program Director Malkie Schwartz.

Students’ visit to Maiti Nepal with founder Anuradha Koirala.

Top row, from left to right: Raymi Echavarria (Program Associate), Alaina Brophy, Michelle Black, Katrina Avilla, Anuradha Koirala (Maiti Nepal founder), Jessica Neuwirth (Program Director), Besmira Rraci, Anna Shvetsova, Natalie Cebeci, Ashok Malla (Nepali coordinator)

Bottom row, from left to right: Devin Halbal, Cindy Zhang, Naho Hirohata, Katherine Barreto, Namrata Rimal (Nepali interpreter)

Students’ tour of Kathmandu with Anil Chitrakar and artist Lok Chitrakar.

Students visited the following sites and engaged with the following individuals and organizations in Nepal:

- C.K. Lal
- Anil Chitrakar
- Bhaktapur
- Supreme Court of Nepal
- Word Warriors, a Kathmandu-based group of young poets leading the spoken word movement in Nepal
- Forum for Women, Law and Development
- National Human Rights Commission of Nepal
- Maiti Nepal, an anti-trafficking organization and shelter
- Dr. Aruna Uprety, medical doctor and public health expert
- Thamen-Ason-Indrachowk Kathmandu Durbar Square
- Blue Diamond Society, a Nepali LGBTQ rights organization
- Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), an organization fighting against caste and gender discrimination in Nepal
- Circus Kathmandu, a circus troupe founded and formed by young Nepali trafficking survivors
- Winrock International
- Asia Foundation
- Centre for Investigative Journalism
- U.S. Embassy in Nepal
- Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla
Human Rights Program | Spring 2020
Student and Public Programming

Responding to COVID-19: The Human Rights and Public Policy Implications of the Pandemic
March 25, 2020

On March 25, 2020, the Human Rights Program, in collaboration with the Public Policy Program, organized a timely virtual discussion addressing the urgent human rights and public policy implications of the global public health crisis. Jessica Neuwirth, Rita E. Hauser Director of the Human Rights Program, and Shyama Venkateswar, Director of the Public Policy Program, moderated a panel featuring Jamil Dakwar, Director of the Human Rights Program at the ACLU; Phelim Kine, Director of Research and Investigations at Physicians for Human Rights; and Ram Raju, Senior Vice President and Community Health Investment Officer at Northwell Health.

Domestic Violence During COVID-19: A Live Online Discussion with Frontline Women’s Rights Activists from Around the World
April 3, 2020

On April 3, 2020, in collaboration with the Sisterhood is Global Institute, the Human Rights Program hosted a virtual event on the victims of domestic violence and the dangers they face during the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion invited Carmen Espinoza, Executive Director of Manuela Ramos in Peru; Shafiqa Noori, Director of the Humanitarian Assistance for Women and Children in Afghanistan; Diane Rosenfeld, Lecturer on Law and Director of the Gender Violence Program at Harvard Law School; and Randa Siniora, Executive Director of the Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counseling in Palestine. The panel was moderated by Jessica Neuwirth, and the discussion explored current realities of domestic violence victims and solutions for supporting women in this vulnerable moment.
Fourth Annual Campus Equal Rights Amendment Day
April 27, 2020

Human Rights Program staff worked with Grove leaders and partners from the ERA Coalition to host the fourth annual Campus ERA day virtually, with seven panelists from across the country. The panel was moderated by Carol Jenkins, Co-President and CEO of the ERA Coalition.

The Discriminatory Impact of COVID-19: The Pandemic's Role in Highlighting Entrenched Racial Inequalities in the United States
May 1, 2020

On May 1, 2020, the Human Rights Program, in collaboration with the Africana, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department and the Asian American Studies Center and Program at Hunter College, organized a virtual discussion with Roseanne Flores, Professor of Psychology at Hunter College; Lázaro Lima, Professor of Latino Studies at Hunter College; Vivian Louie, Professor of Urban Policy and Planning & Director of the Asian American Studies Center and Program at Hunter College; and Anahi Viladrich, sociologist and medical anthropologist, and Professor at Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Anthony Browne, Chair of the Africana, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department at Hunter College, and Jessica Neuwirth, Director of the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program.

Human Rights Program
Enrollment and Graduates
Academic Year 2019 - 2020

A total of 75 students were enrolled in the HRP.
- 21 students were enrolled in the Certificate track
- 53 students were enrolled in the Minor track
- 1 CUNY BA

The Program had 35 graduates during Academic Year 2019-2020.
- 28 Minors
- 7 Certificates

Since the Spring 2011 launch of the Program, the HRP has graduated 203 students.
- 149 Minors
- 49 Certificates
- 5 CUNY BA Students

1,788 students have taken the HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights course.

MAJORS REPRESENTED
Anthropology; Biology; Chemistry; Classical and Oriental Studies (Chinese Lang & Lit, Russian); English; Film & Media; Geography; History; Human Biology; Political Science; Psychology; Romance Languages (French, Spanish); Sociology; Women and Gender Studies.

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HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM CORE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Instructors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Rights</td>
<td>Fall '19, 4 sections, 94 students; Spring '20, 4 sections, 96 students; Summer '20, 1 section, 29 students</td>
<td>Instr: Stephanie Farrior Fall '19 and Spring '20: Sections 01, 03, 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 250</td>
<td>Human Rights Internship</td>
<td>Fall '19, 3 students; Spring '20, 8 students; Summer '20, 3 students</td>
<td>Supervised by Jessica Neuwirth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 260</td>
<td>Human Rights Internship Seminar</td>
<td>Fall '19, 8 students</td>
<td>Instr: Jessica Neuwirth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 350</td>
<td>Human Rights Capstone Seminar</td>
<td>Spring '20, 7 students</td>
<td>Instr: Mark Shulman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fall 2019 | Total Student Registration: 227 students
For Fall 2019, the Program offered three of its core courses: HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights, HR 250 Human Rights Internship, and HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar complemented by seven special topic courses.

FALL 2019 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES

HR 220.03
Contemporary Questions in Religion & Human Rights
17 students
Instr: Joseph Chuman

HR 220.15
Freedom from Fear: A Women of Color Perspective
26 students
Instr: Ejim Dike

HR 220.21
Human Trafficking & the Law
24 students
Instr: Dorchen Leidholdt

HR 220.22
Contemporary Global LGBTQ Human Rights
10 students
Instr: Tanya Domi

HR 220.23
The Philosophy of Human Rights
18 students
Instr: Joshua Keton

HR 220.24
The Death Penalty: Human Rights & Criminal Justice
17 students
Instr: Larry Cox

HR 220.25
Human Rights in China
10 students
Instr: Mark Shulman, in collaboration with Teng Biao

Spring 2020 | Total Student Registration: 193 students
For Spring 2020, the Program offered three of its core courses: HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights, HR 250 Human Rights Internship, and HR 350 Human Rights Capstone Seminar complemented by five special topic courses.

Note: Following New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo’s executive order to close all schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hunter College departments and programs undertook a transition to remote learning. By March 19, the HRP courses moved to online instruction via Blackboard Collaborate and Zoom. Despite the suddenness of the transition, instructors were able to adjust their syllabi and classes were consistently well-attended.
Notable for Summer 2020, the Program for the first time included elective courses along with the core course HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights in its summer course roster, offering HR 250 Human Rights Internship, a new human rights special topic course along with a newly approved cognate elective. All summer courses were taught online.

**SPRING 2020 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES, Online**

**HR 220.13**
15 students
Instr: Jamil Dakwar

**HR 220.16**
Freedom from Want: Insecurity & the Rise of Social & Economic Rights
18 students
Instr: Phelim Kine

**HR 220.20**
Philanthropy & Human Rights
21 students
Instr: Gara LaMarche

**HR 220.26**
Justice for #MeToo: Violence Against Women and the American Criminal Justice System
20 students
Instr: Jane Manning

**HR 320.03**
The Critics of Human Rights
8 students
Instr: Joseph Chuman

**Summer 2020 | Total Student Registration: 49 students**

Notable for Summer 2020, the Program for the first time included elective courses along with the core course HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights in its summer course roster, offering HR 250 Human Rights Internship, a new human rights special topic course along with a newly approved cognate elective. All summer courses were taught online.

**SPECIAL TOPIC COURSE, Online**

**HR 220.28**
Crisis as Opportunity: Feminist Re-Imagining of a World post-COVID-19
17 students
Instr: Pamela Shifman, in collaboration with Lauren Rumble

**COGNATE COURSE, Online**

**PUPOL 30N03**
Digital Privacy, Surveillance, Security in the Pandemic Age: Implications for Public Policy
Instr: Erica Basu

Note: This course was an approved HRP cognate that counts toward the elective requirements of the Minor and Certificate
HR 250 Internship Placements

During the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters, a total of 11 students undertook human rights internships.

FALL 2019 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
In the Fall 2019 semester, 3 students* undertook human rights internships at the following organizations:

- MADRE
  - Welfare Rights Initiative
  - Women for Afghan Women

*The number of Fall 2019 interns was atypical of the HRP’s usual 8 to 10 students per semester. In Fall 2019, almost two thirds of the enrolled cohort had already fulfilled the internship requirement.

SPRING 2020 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
In the Spring 2020 semester, 8 students undertook human rights internships at the following organizations:

- American Pakistan Foundation
- *DRUM
- The Kairos Center
- Literacy Partners
- *NYS Division of Human Rights
- Physicians for Human Rights
- Office of State Senator Julia Salazar
- Take It To The Stage Films, Inc.

*Internship positions at DRUM and the NYS Division of Human Rights ended during the Spring ’20 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students in those internships were able to complete the required internship hours at CANY (Correctional Association of New York) and UnLocal, respectively.

SUMMER 2020 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
In the Summer 2020 semester, 3 students undertook human rights internships at the following organizations:

- Justice Centre Hong Kong
- New York State Division of Human Rights (White Plains, NY)
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Fall 2019 | HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar

Guest Speakers and Site Visits

Each fall semester the Human Rights Program invites leading human rights practitioners, policy makers, and activists to engage with students in the HR 260 Human Rights Internship class and arranges site visits to a wide range of non-profits and NGOs working on human rights issues.

Following is a list of the guest speakers who met with students in the Fall 2019 HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar:

- **Jonathan Fanton**, former Board Chair of Human Rights Watch
- **Navi Pillay**, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of the UN Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
- **Fauziya Kassindja**, Hunter alumna and Togolese refugee whose landmark court case created the precedent in US immigration law that female genital mutilation was a form of persecution meriting political asylum
- **Felice Gaer**, Vice-President of the UN Committee Against Torture and Director of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Human Rights
- **Teng Biao**, human rights lawyer and dissident from China
- **Ken Franzblau**, former undercover researcher for Equality Now
- **Taina Bien-Aimé**, Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

Following is a list of the Fall 2019 HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar site visits:

- **Center for Constitutional Rights**
- **Coalition for the Homeless**
- **Sisterhood is Global Institute/Donor Direct Action**
- **United Nations** Students attended a day-long session commemorating the 10-year anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1888, establishing the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict. The session included testimony from survivors, advocates and political leaders including Nobel Peace Prize laureates Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, the South African Foreign Minister and the UN Deputy Secretary-General. It included the launch of the Global Reparations Fund for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict, an initiative for which Roosevelt House served as a venue for early discussions last year. The students had lunch with Justine Masika Bihamba, an advocate from the Democratic Republic of Congo who runs an organization supporting survivors in North Kivu and convenes a national network of Congolese women advocating peace and security.
- **Committee to Protect Journalists**
- **Human Rights Watch**
- **Open Society Foundations**
- **Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility**
Program and Curricular Developments

- The Program continued to publish its bi-weekly newsletter, *Your Day*, named for Eleanor Roosevelt's nationally syndicated daily column, *My Day*, published from 1933 to 1962. The newsletter shares human rights news, upcoming events and other available resources and opportunities, and includes a guest column in each issue written by students and faculty on various topics of interest. At the time of this report, 30 issues of *Your Day* have been published. They can be accessed at [http://www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu/hrp/hrp-newsletter/](http://www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu/hrp/hrp-newsletter/).

- Through Hunter's membership with Scholars At Risk (SAR), an organization that works to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom throughout the world, the Program had a special opportunity in Fall 2019 to host Teng Biao, a Chinese human rights scholar and dissident. Teng Biao collaborated with HRP Adjunct Professor Mark Shulman on the special topic course *HR 220.25 Human Rights in China*. He also participated as a guest expert in *HR 220.24 The Death Penalty* class and a class of *HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar*. On October 7th, he joined a panel at CUNY Graduate Center, "Human Rights in an Age of Inequality," along with Jessica Neuwirth, Human Rights Program Director; Anil Kalhan, Professor of Law, Drexel University; and Ken Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch. Teng Biao will return in the Fall 2020 semester to co-teach *Human Rights in China* with Mark Shulman.

- In the Fall 2019 semester, the Human Rights Program revised its approach to the teaching of its foundational course, *HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights*, which is offered in four sections each fall and spring semester. Based on the recommendation of the Program's Policy and Curriculum Committee (PCC) that a cohesive set of syllabi be developed to strengthen this academic component of the curriculum and that this approach would be best carried forward by the hiring of a single instructor to teach three of the four sections of *HR 200* each semester, the Program hired Stephanie Farrior, an experienced educator, scholar and activist in international human rights to fill a sub appointment for a full-time Distinguished Lecturer in the Human Rights Program. A search for the permanent full-time position began in the latter part of the Fall 2019 semester. At this writing the search has been paused due to the pandemic.

- In the Fall 2019 semester, the Program was pleased to support the human rights research and conference attendance of three HR Faculty members with awards in the amount of $1,000 each from the HR Faculty Travel and Research Fund.

- In August 2019, Human Rights Program Director Jessica Neuwirth and Program Manager JoAnne Vellardita attended a roundtable discussion held at Teachers College with the University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education (UCCHRE). The Consortium comprises over 35 institutions across the country with a mission to further human rights education, research and learning by promoting engagement, collaboration, innovation, and mentorship within higher education. The HRP agreed to assist UCCHRE with the development of their new website. The HRP also agreed to host the second annual meeting of the UCCHRE at Roosevelt House in August 2020. The organization subsequently postponed their annual meeting due to the pandemic.
On May 13, 2020, the Human Rights Program capstone students, guided by Adjunct Professor Mark Shulman, presented their papers:

**Kirsten Ebenezer**
*Peace Belongs to Women: An Analysis of Gendered Approaches to War and Peace*

**Michelle Black**
*Does a Post-Conflict Northern Ireland have an Identity Crisis?*

**Alexis Fisher**
*The Future of the Supply Chain Workplace: Justice for Workers and The Transformative Power of the Worker-Driven Social Responsibility Model*

**Katrina Avilla**
*How Can a Public Health Framework Inform Anti-Human Trafficking Interventions?*

**David Dominguez**
*High-Profile Cases: Remodeling Standards of Prosecution in the Age of #MeToo*

**Naho Hirohata**
*Individualized Education Plans in New York City*

**Alaina Brophy**
*Fearing Fear Itself: Public Discourse After New York 2019 Bail Reform*

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**Policy and Curriculum Committee**
Carol Gould, Chair
Marc Edelman
Deborah Tolman
John Wallach
Jessica Neuwirth, *ex officio*

**Human Rights Faculty**
Temisan Agbeyegbe, Economics
Karna Basu, Economics
Manu Bhagavan, History
Martha Bragin, Silberman School of Social Work
Jonathan Conning, Economics
Omar Dahbour, Philosophy
Thomas DeGloyna, Sociology
Marc Edelman, Anthropology
Ken Erickson, Political Science
Leonard Feldman, Political Science
Maria Fischer, Spanish
Roseanne Flores, Psychology
Nancy Foner, Sociology
Judith Friedlander, Anthropology
Jennifer Gaboury, WGS/Political Science
Carol Gould, Philosophy
Jack Hammond, Sociology

David Hodges, Anthropology
Nico Israel, English
Rob Jenkins, Political Science
Marnia Lazreg, Sociology
Erin Mayo-Adam, Political Science
Jessica Neuwirth, Human Rights
Rupal Oza, WGS
Sonali Perera, English
Mary Roldan, History
Jill Rosenthal, History
Laura Schor, History
Jillian Schwedler, Political Science
Larry Shore, Film & Media
Ida Susser, Anthropology
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John Wallach, Political Science
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