Human Rights Program
Annual Report
2021 - 2022 Academic Year
A Message from the Director

This past year has been a challenging one. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan was a tragedy for Afghan women and girls who have been systematically denied their fundamental human rights to education and employment. The media, unable to focus on more than one crisis at once, was then hijacked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where Ukrainian citizens have been subjected on a daily basis to war crimes and crimes against humanity amidst devastating destruction. And here in the United States, the Supreme Court has rolled back the constitutional rights of women, while gun violence continues to take innocent lives every day.

The hope on the horizon is the determination of ordinary people here and around the world to stand up for human rights and freedoms. At Roosevelt House, the Human Rights Program has helped create a forum for ongoing dialogue with and among Afghan and global women leaders. We organized a town hall on Ukraine to give students and faculty space to discuss the ongoing crisis there.

In the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt, the Human Rights Program works to amplify the voices of those who seek justice and equality, often at grave personal risk to themselves and their families. We thank Roosevelt House Advisory Board Chair Rita Hauser for her generous support of the Human Rights Program, and we thank Harold Holzer for his leadership as Roosevelt House Director. And this year again, and especially, we thank Jennifer Raab, the President of Hunter College, for her inspiring vision and her deep commitment—to Roosevelt House, to the Hunter College community, and to the education and well-being of all the students we serve.

Jessica Neuwirth
Rita E. Hauser Director
Women's Forum on Afghanistan

September 20, 2021

The Human Rights Program at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute hosted an online forum for Afghan and global women leaders in partnership with the Sisterhood is Global Institute to express global solidarity with the women of Afghanistan and to discuss next steps to be taken to ensure the rights and dignity of Afghan women and girls. The event was chaired by former Foreign Minister of Sweden Margot Wallström. Afghan women participants included the former Deputy President of the National Assembly Fawzia Koofi, former head of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission Shaharzad Akbar, Afghan superstar pop singer Aryana Sayeed and about ten other former government officials and civil society leaders. Global women participants included former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, Interim Director of UN Women Pramila Patten, former Foreign Minister of Argentina Susana Malcorra, former Foreign Minister of South Korea Kyung-wha Kang, Christiane Amanpour, Gloria Steinem, actress Jennifer Lawrence, and other prominent women. The Women’s Forum on Afghanistan built on this first meeting and evolved with support from the Human Rights Program and Sisterhood is Global Institute into an ongoing initiative to bring up the voices of Afghan women into the global dialogue on the future of Afghanistan.

womens-forum-afghanistan.org
COVID-19 Vaccine and Mask Mandates: The Human Right to Health?
November 1, 2021

Although the right to health is recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the idea of “health as a human right” has not gained traction in the United States. Despite new variants and rising COVID-19 cases in areas with low vaccination rates, states throughout the country have made efforts to ban vaccination and mask mandates on the grounds of protecting constitutional rights and civil liberties. This panel discussion explored the concept of rights in the context of vaccinations and masks as they relate to the rights of citizens to public health protection measures, which are fundamental to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health. The panel was moderated by Director of Policy and Senior Advisor at Physicians for Human Rights Susannah Sirkin. Speakers included former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health Paul Hunt, Professor of Public Health Philip Alcabes, Director of NYU Langone’s Division of Medical Ethics Dr. Arthur Caplan, and Global Health Advocacy and Policy Advisor at MSF-USA Mihir Mankad.

Book Talk on Modi’s India: Hindu Nationalism and the Rise of Ethnic Democracy
November 12, 2021

In collaboration with the Political Science Department, the Human Rights Program welcomed leading scholar of Indian politics and author Christophe Jaffrelot of Ceri-Sciences Po/CNRS and King’s College (London) to Roosevelt House for a discussion on his new book Modi’s India. The discussion was moderated by Professor Rob Jenkins.
Town Hall on Ukraine: Listen, Learn, and Speak Out!
March 16, 2022

The Human Rights Program and the Public Policy Program brought together the Hunter community for an open forum to discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Speakers included Professor of History and Public Policy Elidor Mehilli, NYC Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs Manuel Castro, Professor of Slavic Studies Yasha Klots, documentary filmmaker Katya Soldak, and Hunter’s Macaulay Honors College Director Lev Sviridov.

Last Girl First! Prostitution at the Intersection of Sex, Race, & Class-Based Oppressions
March 22, 2022

In collaboration with CAP International and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), the Human Rights Program hosted a panel discussion to mark the launch of CAP International’s Last Girl First! report on the intersection of sex, race, and class in prostitution. The event was co-sponsored by the New York Consulate General of Sweden and the New York Consulate General of France. The panel was moderated by CATW Executive Director Taina Bien-Aimé. Speakers included CAP International Executive Director Jonathan Machler and Advocacy Coordinator Héma Sibi, CATW Youth Advocacy Coordinator Melanie Thompson, and AF3RM-NYC Core Organizer Laura Ramirez.
There is an urgent need to address the current state of human rights, which remain under attack globally. The Human Rights Program, with guidance from Dr. Jonathan Fanton, brought together human rights funders for a two-day conference to reflect on human rights philanthropy—its role in shaping the human rights movement and a look at current challenges and future directions. The event was launched by President Jennifer Raab, and keynote speakers included UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, Roosevelt House Advisory Board Chair Rita Hauser, Ford Foundation President Darren Walker, and Open Society Foundations President Mark Malloch-Brown. The program also included a pre-recorded video of Aryeh Neier, former president of the Open Society Foundations, interviewed by Gara LaMarche.
**Intimate Partner Violence: Art, Education, and Advocacy**
April 11, 2022

In collaboration with Remember the Women Institute, the Human Rights Program hosted a symposium featuring experts, artists, authors, attorneys, and activists dedicated to combating intimate partner violence, as well as testimony by survivors. In addition to two distinguished panels, the event featured artistic and theatrical presentations.

**Global Human Rights Hangout with Students in South Korea**
April 25, 2022

After previous “hangouts” with students in Poland and Nepal, this year’s Global Human Rights Hangout convened students from the Human Rights Program and students from the Graduate School of International Studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea, to discuss those human rights issues most pressing to them. Students had the chance to learn new perspectives on human rights issues as well as exchange ideas and connect with their global peers.
Human Rights Program
Enrollment and Graduates
Academic Year 2021 - 2022

A total of 48 students were enrolled in the HRP.
- 15 students were enrolled in the Certificate track
- 33 students were enrolled in the Minor track

The Program had 20 graduates during Academic Year 2021-2022.
- 11 Minors
- 9 Certificates

Since the Spring 2011 launch of the Program, the HRP has graduated 236 students.
- 169 Minors
- 62 Certificates
- 5 CUNY BA Students

2,203 students have taken the HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights course.

MAJORS REPRESENTED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM
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

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM CORE COURSES

Introduction to Human Rights
This course explores the historical, philosophical, and legal roots of human rights as a political idea and institutionalized practice, and addresses the contested nature of human rights in contemporary societies.

Instructor: Aysen Candas
Instructor: Babatunde Olugboji
Instructor: Catherine Tinker

Human Rights Internship
Supervised by Jessica Neuwirth
In the 2021-2022 Academic Year, HRP students undertook internships at organizations including Doctors without Borders, Sanctuary for Families, NYPIRG, Aapne Aap Women Worldwide, the New York State Division of Human Rights, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, among others.

Human Rights Internship Seminar
Instructor: Jessica Neuwirth
This course provides an overview of the human rights movement. It is designed for students who have completed or are currently completing an internship.

Human Rights Capstone Seminar
Instructor: Mark Shulman
In this course, students engage in human rights research as well as drafting and presenting a substantial paper.
Fall 2021 | Total Student Registration: 199 students

For Fall 2021, 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 five special topic courses.

**FALL 2021 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES**

- **Human Rights & Persons with Disabilities: Issues and Institutions**  
  Instructor: Siddhi Vyas

- **Human Rights & Corruption**  
  Instructor: Babatunde Olugboji

- **Rising China’s Challenge to the Rules-Based Order: Human Rights in the Balance**  
  Instructor: Mark Shulman, in collaboration with Teng Biao *

* In the Fall ’21 semester, Teng Biao, Chinese human rights scholar and dissident, joined the Program as a Hauser Human Rights Scholar.

Spring 2022 | Total Student Registration: 158 students

For Spring 2022, 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 four special topic courses.

**SPRING 2021 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES**

- **Child Rights & Human Rights**  
  Instructor: Sharon Riggle

- **The Death Penalty: Human Rights & Criminal Justice**  
  Instructor: Larry Cox

- **Human Rights of Minorities & Indigenous Peoples**  
  Instructor: Jamil Dakwar

- **International Human Rights**  
  Instructor: Marc Edelman
Fall 2021 | 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 2021 HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar:

- **Jack Healey**, Founder of the Human Rights Action Center and former Director of Amnesty International USA
- **David Giffen**, Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless
- **Tyrell Muhammad**, Senior Advocate, The Correctional Association of New York
- **Sharon Riggle**, Chief of Staff to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict
- **Ken Franzblau**, former Researcher, Equality Now
- **Taina Bien-Aimé**, Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
- **Hibaaq Osman**, Founder and Director, Karama
- **Jarai Sabally**, Program Director, Donor Direct Action
- **Lakshmi Anantnarayan**, Director of Communications, Donor Direct Action
- **Babatunde Olugboji**, Deputy Program Director, Human Rights Watch
- **Susannah Sirkin**, Director of Policy and Senior Advisor, Physicians for Human Rights
- **Carlos Martinez**, Program Director, Committee to Protect Journalists
- **Josh Zinner**, CEO, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
- **Rachel Moran**, Founder, SPACE International
- **Larry Cox**, former Deputy Secretary-General, Amnesty International
- **Dr. Jonathan Fanton**, former President of the MacArthur Foundation
- **Surita Sandosham**, Executive Director, Heartland Alliance

Human Rights Program Newsletter
Your Day

The Program continued to publish its bi-weekly newsletter, *Your Day*, named for Eleanor Roosevelt’s nationally syndicated daily column, *My Day*, published from 1935 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, faculty, or friends of the Human Rights Program on various topics of interest. At the time of this report, 65 issues of *Your Day* have been published. They can be accessed at roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu/hrp/hrp-newsletter.
Spring 2022 | HR 350 Human Rights Capstone Seminar
Capstone Presentations
On May 11, 2022, the Human Rights Program Capstone students, guided by Adjunct Professor Mark Shulman, presented their papers:

Helena Clark
Climate Migration from Central America and Mexico to the United States

Eleanor Hubbard
Upholding Systems of Oppression: The Conservative Right's Portrayal of Critical Race Theory in the Media

Ailish McCarthy
A Divided Culture: Book Banning in US Public Schools

Kat Ray
The "New" Normal: Institutionalized Ableism in US Pandemic Health Policy

Besa Rraci
Art Keeping Time: Tracing Kosova's History Through Art

Luisais Taveras
Global Capitalism in the Shaping of Dominican and Haitian Identities

Spring 2022 Capstone Thesis Award Winner: Kat Ray

Human Rights Faculty
Philip Alcabes, Public Health
Temisan Agbeyegbe, Economics
Karna Basu, Economics
Manu Bhagavan, History
Martha Bragin, Silberman School of Social Work
Jonathan Conning, Economics
Omar Dahbour, Philosophy
Thomas DeGoma, Sociology
Marc Edelman, Anthropology
Ken Erickson, Political Science
Leonard Feldman, Political Science
Maria Fischer, Spanish
Roseanne Flores, Psychology
Nancy Foner, Sociology
Jennifer Gaboury, Women and Gender Studies/Political Science
Carol Gould, Philosophy
Jack Hammond, Sociology
David Hodges, Anthropology

D'Weston Haywood, History
Nico Israel, English
Rob Jenkins, Political Science
Marnia Lazreg, Sociology
Lazaro Lima, Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies
Vivian Louie, Asian American Studies
Erin Mayo-Adam, Political Science
Jessica Neuwirth, Human Rights Program
Rupal Oza, Women and Gender Studies
Sonali Perera, English
Mary Roldan, History
Jill Rosenthal, History
Laura Schor, History
Jillian Schwedler, Political Science
Larry Shore, Film & Media
Ida Susser, Anthropology
Deborah Tolman, Women and Gender Studies
The cover art of this Human Rights Program Annual Report depicts two events hosted by the Human Rights Program during the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

**TOP PHOTO:** (March 2022) Town Hall on Ukraine, an in-person gathering of human rights and public policy experts, Hunter students, and the public to discuss the crisis in Ukraine.

**BOTTOM PHOTO:** (September 2021) Women’s Forum on Afghanistan, the first online gathering of Afghan and global women leaders after the fall of Kabul to discuss next steps to be taken to ensure the rights and dignity of Afghan women and girls.