Human Rights Program
Annual Report
2022 - 2023 Academic Year
The Human Rights Program Wishes a Heartfelt Farewell to President Jennifer Raab

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to President Jennifer Raab for her 22 years of dedication and commitment to Hunter College. We would not have the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program without President Raab’s tremendous vision for the Roosevelt family home on East 65th Street almost 20 years ago and her tenacious efforts to transform the aging building into the vibrant institute it is today. President Raab has without a doubt embodied Mihi Cura Futuri in her years as the devoted leader of Hunter College, and we are indebted to her for the abundant care that she has put into the future of our Hunter community. We’d also like to extend a special thanks to Roosevelt House Advisory Board Chair Rita Hauser for her generous support of the Human Rights Program, and Harold Holzer for his leadership as Roosevelt House Director.

We were honored to host Former Foreign Minister/Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, Margot Wallström, this past spring as our Fellow in Residence. Students had the opportunity to meet and talk with Margot Wallström at a number of our events including A Vision of Justice and Equality for Sex Trade Survivors and Bubble Tea & Talk. She also visited a number of Human Rights classes to exchange ideas with students. Margot also participated in women’s forums on Afghanistan.
Human Rights Program | Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 Events

Keeper of the Flame with Activist Jack Healey
September 6, 2022

*Keeper of the Flame* is an exploration into the life and work of activist Jack Healey, former Executive Director of Amnesty International USA and organizer of the 1990s music tours for human rights. The documentary screening was followed by a discussion between Jack Healey and Lynn Nottage, Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and former National Press Officer for Amnesty International USA in the 1990s.

Atrocities Against Uyghurs: Law and Politics
September 12, 2022

In collaboration with Human Rights Watch, the Human Rights Program hosted a conference convening experts, scholars, journalists, and activists at the forefront of the human rights crisis in the Xinjiang region of China. Keynote remarks were made by Nury Turkel, Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.
Human Rights Program Faculty Reception
September 14, 2022

Manu Bhagavan gifting an original 1945 Baltimore News Post newspaper to Roosevelt House

L to R: Manu Bhagavan, Harold Holzer, Jonathan Fanton, Jessica Neuwirth

L to R: Rupal Oza, Jessica Neuwirth, Roseanne Flores

L to R: Manu Bhagavan, Shogufa Sahibzada (translator), Raihana Faqiri, Roseanne Flores, Jessica Neuwirth, Deborah Tolman, Rupal Oza, Sonali Perera, Martha Bragin, Teng Biao
An Evening with V and Dr. Denis Mukwege
September 19, 2022

The Human Rights Program hosted an evening with Dr. Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Medical Director of Panzi Hospital, in conversation with V (formerly Eve Ensler), Tony Award winning playwright, author of The Vagina Monologues, and founder of V-Day and One Billion Rising. Dr. Mukwege and V discussed the current situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where, together with Christine Schuler Deschryver, they co-founded City of Joy, a revolutionary center and sanctuary for survivors of sexual violence.

Vote for Your Future: A Summit for Democracy
October 3, 2022

In partnership with Black Voters Matter, Supermajority, and Voto Latino, the Human Rights Program hosted an online pre-election event bringing together students on campuses across the country to get out the vote among young people on college campuses for the midterm elections. Students participated in dialogues with SpiritHouse Project Founder and civil rights activist Ruby Sales, as well as Giffords Political Director Kate Moore. Prominent journalist and activist Carol Jenkins moderated the event, which also included an open mic session for participants to discuss the importance of voting and the key issues that affect their future as young people.
Women’s Forum on Afghanistan Press Briefing with UN Special Rapporteur Richard Bennett
October 27, 2022

In partnership with the Women’s Forum on Afghanistan, an initiative launched at Roosevelt House in 2021, the Human Rights Program hosted a press briefing at Roosevelt House for the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. In addition to the presentation of his report to the UN Human Rights Council, the briefing included video presentations from a number of women inside Afghanistan, as well as presentations by members of the Steering Committee of the Women’s Forum, followed by an online discussion with the editorial board of the New York Times.

Human Rights Day Celebration
December 8, 2022

Together with the Office of the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Division of Human Rights, the Human Rights Program hosted a celebration to commemorate Human Rights Day. Keynote remarks were made by Barbara Arnwine, President and Founder of the Transformative Justice Coalition.
HRP Faculty Colloquium
Spring 2023

The Human Rights Program, together with Jonathan Fanton, President Emeritus of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, organized a luncheon series of discussions for Human Rights Faculty to present and discuss their human rights-related work and to meet with advocates from the human rights movement. The series included four gatherings featuring the following presenters:

February 8th
Jonathan Fanton
Introduction to the Colloquium

March 15th
Jillian Schwedler
Author of Protesting Jordan: Geographies of Power and Dissent, Stanford University Press 2022

April 18th
Jill Rosenthal

May 4th
Ken Roth
Former Executive Director of Human Rights Watch
A Vision of Justice and Equality for Sex Trade Survivors
February 21, 2023

In collaboration with the New Yorkers for Equality Model, the Human Rights Program hosted the New York Premiere of the short film “Can Oppression be Liberation?” a 30-minute film featuring three generations of Black women who share their lived experiences and solutions for justice as sex trade survivors in New York and across the U.S. The film screening was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Executive Director Taina Bien-Aimé, featured survivor leader and Co-Founder of United Immigrants of New York Cristián Eduardo, Executive Director of NOW-NYC Sonia Ossorio, survivor leader and CATW Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator Melanie Thompson, and Former Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden Margot Wallström.

Bubble Tea and Talk with the Human Rights Program
February 22, 2023

The Human Rights Program hosted an informational session open to Hunter undergraduate students to learn about the program, its 15-credit minor and 24-credit certificate, as well as the many opportunities we offer including internships, advising, events, and more. Roosevelt House Fellow-in-Residence and Former Foreign Minister of Sweden Margot Wallström joined and discussed the importance of a human rights education with students.

Women's Forum on Afghanistan
February - March 2023

Convening of UN Women and Women’s Forum on Afghanistan
Women's Forum on Afghanistan meeting with Congresswoman Barbara Lee
**Book Talk | Semiotics of Rape**  
**March 13, 2023**

The Human Rights Program marked the release of *Semiotics of Rape: Sexual Subjectivity and Violation in Rural India* by Human Rights Faculty Member and Women and Gender Studies Professor Rupal Oza. In her work, Rupal Oza follows the social life of rape in rural northwest India to reveal how rape is not only a violation of the body but a language through which a range of issues—including caste and gender hierarchies, control over land and labor, and the shape of justice—are contested. The author was joined in conversation with Vasuki Nesiah, Professor of Practice in Human Rights and International Law at the NYU Gallatin School.

**here4HER: Reproductive Health Beyond Borders**  
**March 16, 2023**

In partnership with Solidarity Engineering and with support from the Human Rights Program, HRP certificate student Charlie LeGrice organized the launch of here4HER, a campaign dedicated to uplifting the most underserved among underserved women. The event highlighted the work of Solidarity Engineering, a women-founded humanitarian aid organization providing community-driven, public health-based engineering to people in crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border. The panel discussion was moderated by Charlie LeGrice and featured human rights attorney and advocate Jennifer Harbury, women’s rights advocate Kattia Martinez, Executive Director of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice Lupe Rodríguez, and Co-Founder of Solidarity Engineering Chloe Rastatter.
Roosevelt House Open House
April 19, 2023

The Public Policy and Human Rights Programs welcomed Hunter students to the Roosevelt House Open House. Students had the opportunity to meet and participate in a Q&A with Program Directors Basil Smikle and Jessica Neuwirth, along with Professors Joyce Miller and Catherine Tinker, and students Tudor Boanda, Angela Eslava, Jazmin Unruh, and Ryan Crimmins.

20 Days in Mariupol | Advance Film Screening
May 1, 2023

20 Days in Mariupol follows a team of Ukrainian journalists from the Associated Press, trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol, as they struggle to continue their work documenting the atrocities of the Russian invasion. The post-screening discussion was moderated by CEO of PEN America Suzanne Nossel, and featured director Mstyslav Chernov, Senior Vice President and Executive Editor of the Associated Press Julie Pace, and President of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine Sergiy Tomilenko.
**Ghost Mountain: The Second Killing Fields - Film Screening**

*May 9, 2023*

*Ghost Mountain: The Second Killing Fields* is the story of Bunseng Taing, a Cambodian refugee who made his way to Connecticut in 1980 after surviving both the killing fields and a second horror never before documented. He was among 45,000 refugees who managed to escape to what they believed was safety in Thailand, only to be forced back over the Cambodian border in an area heavily infested with landmines. The post-screening discussion was moderated by President of Network 20/20 **Courtney Doggart**, and featured *Ghost Mountain* co-producer and co-director **James Taing**, survivor of the Khmer Rouge Genocide **Bunseng Taing**, former UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights **Kyung-wha Kang (via Zoom)**, and Chief Operating Officer of the International Rescue Committee **Madlin Sadler**.

**High Tea and a Conversation with Rahul Gandhi**

*June 3, 2023*

The Human Rights Program welcomed **Rahul Gandhi**, Member of the Indian National Congress to New York City, hosting him for a discussion at Roosevelt House during his six-day tour of the United States. Mr. Gandhi, who was in conversation with Human Rights Faculty Member and Professor of History **Manu Bhagavan**, shared his thoughts on the state of democracy both in India and globally.
Human Rights Program

Enrollment and Graduates
Academic Year 2022 - 2023

A total of 35 students were enrolled in the HRP.
  • 10 students were enrolled in the Certificate track
  • 25 students were enrolled in the Minor track

The Program had 12 graduates during Academic Year 2022-2023.
  • 11 Minors
  • 1 Certificate

Since the Spring 2011 launch of the Program, the HRP has graduated 248 students.
  • 180 Minors
  • 63 Certificates
  • 5 CUNY BA Students

2,382 students have completed 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: Babatunde Olugboji

**Human Rights Internship**
Supervised by Jessica Neuwirth
In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, HRP students undertook internships at Asiyah Women’s Center, Human Rights First, International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), The Kora Alliance, Sanctuary for Families, the National Organization for Women (NOW), and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW).

**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 2022 | Total Student Registration: 181 students
For Fall 2022, 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 three special topic courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL 2022 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Trafficking and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instr: Dorchen Leidholdt</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 220.00 (58179)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Human Rights in the Age of Covid-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instr: Mihir Mankad</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 220.37/ASIAN 230.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rising China’s Challenge to the Rules-Based Order:</td>
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<td>Human Rights in the Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instr: Mark Shulman, in</td>
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<td>collaboration with Teng Biao</td>
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Spring 2023 | Total Student Registration: 176 students
For Spring 2023, 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.

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<tr>
<th>SPRING 2023 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>HR 220.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights and Corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instr: Babatunde Olugboji</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 220.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalism and Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instr: Stephanie Fillion</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 220.40/AFPRL 2901A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights and Mass Incarceration</td>
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<td>Instr: Alhaji Conteh</td>
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<td>HR 220.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and Human Rights</td>
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<td>Instr: Bojan Perovic</td>
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<td>HR 220.43 /ANTHC 331</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grassroots Movements and Social Change</td>
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<td>Instr: Marc Edelman</td>
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Summer 2023 | Total Student Registration: 6 Students
For Summer 2023, the Program offered HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights.
Fall 2022 | 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 2022 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**, Correctional Association of New York
- **Michele Alexander**, former Chief Development Officer, Human Rights Watch
- **Larry Cox**, former Executive Director of Amnesty International USA
- **Sharon Riggle**, Chief of Staff to the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict
- **Babatunde Olugboji**, Deputy Program Director, Human Rights Watch
- **Ken Franzblau**, former Researcher, Equality Now
- **Taina Bien-Aimé**, Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
- **Susannah Sirkin**, Director of Policy and Senior Advisor, Physicians for Human Rights
- **Josh Zinner**, CEO, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

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Spring 2023 | HR 350 Human Rights Capstone Seminar
Capstone Presentations

On May 10, 2023, the Human Rights Program capstone students, guided by Adjunct Professor Mark Shulman, presented their papers:

- **Ryan Crimmins**
  Fighting for the Closure of Rikers Island Under the Administration of Mayor Eric Adams

- **Kylie Klapp**
  Where Am I Safe: How the Laws of New York and Texas Impact Trafficking Victims’ Rights

- **Ashley Farrell**
  Lest the Banshee Cry: Maintaining Peace in Northern Ireland After the Good Friday Agreement

- **Mozima Qayyum**
  The Untold Stories of the Kashmiri Women

Spring 2023 Capstone Thesis Award Winner: **Ryan Crimmins**
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, 82 issues of Your Day have been published. They can be accessed at roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu/hrp/hrp-newsletter.