



Protecting Women's Rights: International Law & Advocacy A Human Rights Training for Lawyers and Advocates

June 19, 2014 • UC Hastings College of the Law • San Francisco

8:30 - 9:00: Registration

9:00 - 9:30: Welcome & Introduction to the Human Rights Framework

The international human rights framework provides lawyers and other advocates with a range of tools and opportunities for advancing women's rights locally, nationally and internationally. This opening session will provide a brief introduction to the international human rights framework and its relevance to women's rights, as well as a concise outline of the topics that will be discussed in each of the following sessions.

9:30 - 11:15: United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms & Women's Rights

The speakers will provide an overview of the United Nations human rights mechanisms most relevant to those working to protect or promote women's rights. These include the: Human Rights Committee, Committee against Torture, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, UN Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, and Commission on the Status of Women. Speakers will discuss examples of engaging with UN mechanisms to promote changes in law, policy or practice.

Speakers: Connie de la Vega, Professor and Academic Director of International Programs, University of San Francisco School of Law
Julianne Cartwright Traylor, Associate Director of International Programs, University of San Francisco School of Law
Ejim Dike, Executive Director, US Human Rights Network

11:30 - 12:30: The Inter-American System & Women's Rights

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Court of Human Rights have addressed women's rights through their complaints systems, emergency protective measures, monitoring, and reporting. This session will introduce the Commission and Court, their mandates, and the Inter-American standards and decisions relevant to women's rights. Particular attention will be paid to the role and activities of the Commission's Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women.

Speakers: Rosa Celorio, Human Rights Specialist, Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Lisa Reinsberg, Executive Director, International Justice Resource Center

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12:30 - 1:30: “Fireside Chat”: Violence against Women as a Human Rights Violation

This conversation will focus on the ways in which international human rights standards can be used to address violence against women, including sexual violence, domestic violence, and gender-related killings. This discussion will focus largely on Caroline Bettinger-López’s experience as lead counsel in the case of *Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) v. United States* before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with additional examples from the speakers’ work on behalf of aboriginal and refugee women and girls.

Speakers: Caroline Bettinger-López, Director, Human Rights Clinic, University of Miami School of Law
Blaine Bookey, Associate Director, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

1:45 - 3:00: Gender Discrimination & Other Forms of Discrimination against Women

Discrimination on the basis of gender, race and other grounds negatively impacts women in both the private and public spheres. Drawing on their experiences in the United States and abroad, the speakers will discuss the impact of discrimination against women and the ways in which the international human rights framework can be used to combat discriminatory policies and practices; examples will focus on using UN human rights treaties in public policy advocacy, including San Francisco’s adoption of CEDAW at a municipal level.

Speakers: Krishanti Dharmaraj, Executive Director, International Action Network for Gender Equity & Law
Additional speaker to be confirmed

3:00 - 4:00: Sexual and Reproductive Rights

International human rights advocacy can be a powerful tool for protecting or promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. Drawing on their work in the U.S. and abroad to ensure access to reproductive health care, protect contraceptive coverage, and combat discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, the speakers will highlight the ways in which they have incorporated human rights strategies into their advocacy.

Speakers: Katrina Anderson, Human Rights Counsel, Center for Reproductive Rights
Lisa Davis, Clinical Professor of Law, International Women’s Human Rights Clinic, CUNY School of Law

4:15 - 4:45: Group Discussion around Case Studies

During this final session, participants will break into groups with most of our speakers to brainstorm and discuss human rights protections and advocacy strategies through concrete case studies involving timely women’s rights issues.

4:45 - 5:00: Closing Remarks

5:00 - 6:30: Evening Reception

Please join us in the Dobbs Atrium for an evening reception. Refreshments will be served.

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