



Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) **Activities for Academic Year 2018-2019**

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, was established with a mandate to study the main challenges to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights norms; analyze and assess the interactions between human rights violations and international crimes; investigate genocide historically and in the contemporary world; and devise educational programs aimed at increasing public awareness of these norms. The CIHR focuses on a critical examination of long-standing and emerging issues on the human rights agenda, as well as on equipping our students with the necessary background and experience to pursue their interests in human rights scholarship and advocacy. The Center regularly conducts research workshops, seminars (including panel discussions and lectures) and develops outreach programs. The workshops focus on cutting edge issues and bring together experts in the field to present and discuss their work and usually result in publications as books, or special issues in scholarly journals. In addition, CIHR is consistently looking for innovative outreach/awareness activities to actively involve the college community, as well as the broader public, on important human rights issues.

Below is a list of our activities for the 2018 - 2019 academic year:

Seminars, Panel Discussions, and Lectures

Fall 2018 – spring 2019: Each academic year, CIHR identifies a theme and organizes a series of events in which scholars and/or practitioners address key focal issues and questions relating to the selected theme. The theme for this year was *The 'Dark' Side of Human Rights: Challenges and Responses*. The project sought to address some of the following focal issues and questions:

- What are some of the main challenges facing the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights?
- What are some of the main protection gaps facing efforts to address the needs of minority and of vulnerable groups (women, children, migrants, refugees, indigenous people, and incarcerated persons)?
- How have the evolving responsibilities of states, international organizations, and NGOs affected their capabilities to advance the cause of human rights?

- In what ways has the existing human rights regime contributed to some of the challenges and threats that it is currently facing?

The following events were part of our Human Rights Seminar Series:

October 10th, 2018: *The Struggle for Human Rights in Venezuela*; A documentary premiere and panel discussion.

• Co-sponsored by:

- CIHR
- MA in IC&J
- BA in ICJ
- Minor in Human Rights
- Students Without Borders
- Foro Penal
- Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation.

• Welcoming Remarks: Yi Li, *Provost, John Jay College*, and Kerry Kennedy, *President of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights*.

• Moderator – Dr. Mangai Natarajan, *Professor of Criminal Justice, John Jay College*.

• Panelists:

- Alfredo Romero, *President of Foro Penal*
- David Topel, *Ph.D. Candidate, Doctoral Program in Criminal Justice, John Jay College*
- Munira Munnoz, *Human Rights Activist*

December 10th, 2018: *Forced Displacement: Protection Gaps and Challenges*; A Panel Discussion.

• Co-sponsored by:

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- BA in ICJ
- Minor in Human Rights
- Students Without Borders

• Moderator – George Andreopoulos, *Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Human Rights*

• Panelists:

- Edward J. Flynn, *Senior Human Rights Officer with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)*.

- Dr. Rawan Arar, *Postdoctoral Fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs.*

March 13th, 2019: *Deaths, Democracy and Human Rights Under Duterte's Philippines; An Open Discussion*

• Co-sponsored by:

- CIHR
- Students Without Borders
- BA in ICJ
- MA in IC&J
- Minor in Human Rights

• Moderator – George Andreopoulos, *Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Human Rights*

• Guest Speakers:

- Cristina Palabay, *Secretary-General, KARAPATAN (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights in the Philippines)*
- Nerve V. Macaspac, *Assistant Professor, CUNY College of Staten Island; Philippine Country Specialist, Amnesty International USA.*

April 17th, 2019: *Laws and Orders in Turkey & the Recent Rupture; A Conversation.*

• Co-sponsored by:

- CIHR
- Students Without Borders
- BA in ICJ
- MA in IC&J
- Minor in Human Rights

• Moderator – George Andreopoulos, *Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Human Rights*

• Guest Speaker – Dr. Aysen Candas, *Visiting Professor of Political Science, Yale University*

Upcoming projects

• For the fall 2019 semester, the Center for International Human Rights will co-host a research workshop with the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation on *Social Media and Human Rights*. The papers presented at the workshop will be included in a volume or a special issue of an academic journal.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were part of the CIHR team during the 2018-2019 academic year and whose contribution made all of the above possible:

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