



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CENTER**
UC Berkeley School of Law

25
YEARS OF IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

Pursuing justice through science and law

Pursuing justice through science and law for 25 years

Dear HRC Friends,

In the quarter century since we launched the first university-based human rights center on the West Coast, we've seen **monumental challenges to human dignity**. The year HRC was born, half a million Rwandans were killed in approximately 100 days in what was one of the worst genocides since World War II.

That year, we leveraged the potential of a powerful research university and its students to support human rights investigations worldwide.

One of our very first Human Rights Center Fellows—Amy Ross—traveled to Guatemala in 1994 to conduct research with the Myrna Mack Foundation. Myrna Mack was a Guatemalan anthropologist who was murdered by a military death squad because of her advocacy for the indigenous Maya people. Amy was determined to continue her legacy.

Twenty-five years and **340 Fellows later**, we continue to support survivors of violence. Among recent HRC student fellows, Levi Vonk, Pieter Baker, Thanh Mai Bercher, and Natalie Schultheis have used their training in journalism, public health, and law to support **refugees fleeing violence in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras**.


Over the past three years, our **Human Rights Investigations Lab** has trained more than 250 students

in open source investigations. They have applied these skills to help our partners, including the Syrian Archive, Amnesty International, the Center for Justice and Accountability, ProPublica, and Reuters, to gather evidence of atrocity crimes. Our students verify facts and debunk disinformation—pioneering new methods and providing critical capacity to the global movement for human rights.

Our **Health and Human Rights Program**, launched in 2017, is identifying ways to combat child marriage, and make it safer for refugees to receive cash assistance. Our **Sexual Violence Program** continues to break new ground in responding to wartime rape. And our **Human Rights and Business Initiative** is examining the role and impact of technology on the rights of migrant workers, women, young people, and other vulnerable populations.

Thank you for being a part of our community. Together, we will confront the challenges of the next 25 years.

Sincerely,



Eric Stover & Alexa Koenig

WHAT WE DO

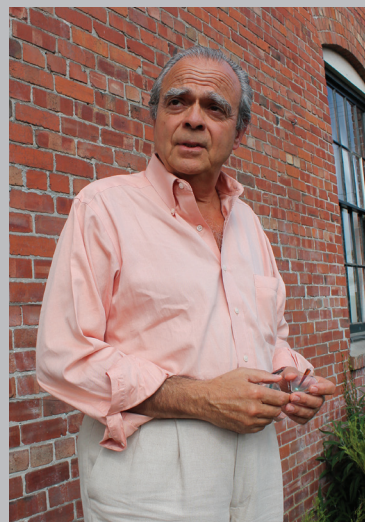
- Investigate and verify facts
- Conduct research
- Teach and train

WHY WE DO IT

To enhance investigatory methods, improve policies, amplify the voices of survivors, and prepare the next generation to further justice and human rights

HOW WE DO IT

- Listen to and support survivors
- Draw from multiple disciplines
- Test innovative ideas
- Use rigorous research methods
- Collaborate with partners



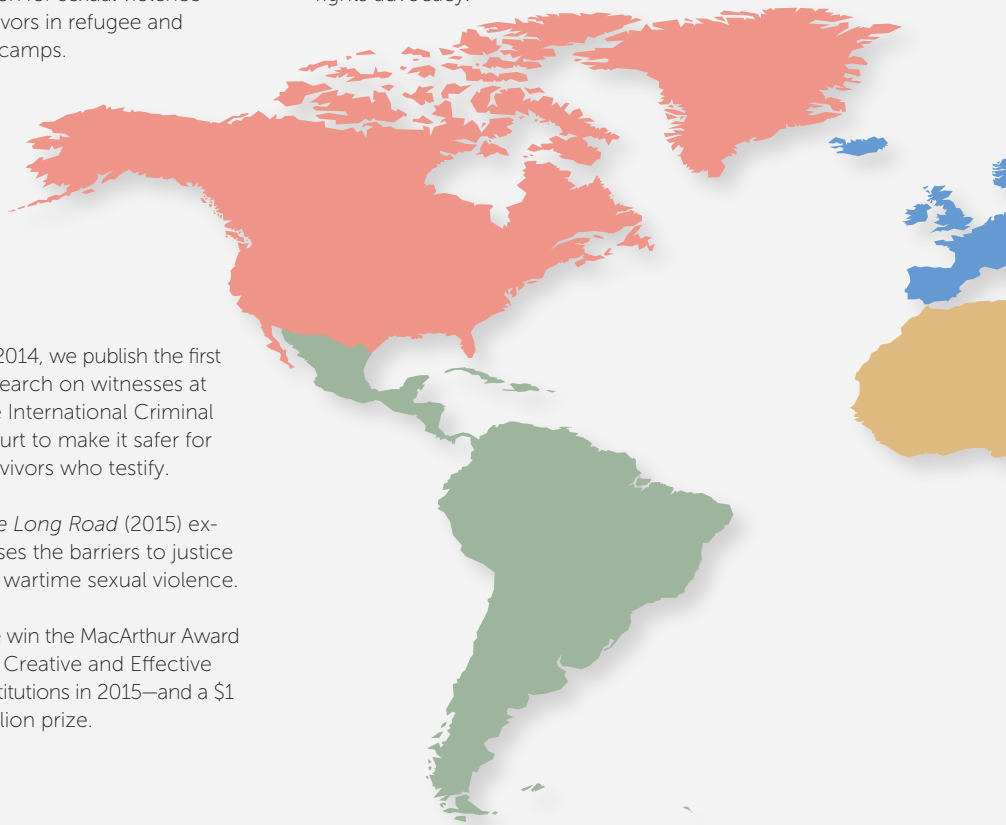
This Annual Report is dedicated to our colleague Dr. Cristián Orrego Benavente who died on December 12, 2018. Cristián was a tireless leader in the search for El Salvador's missing children and for reuniting families separated by war. We will never forget him or his important work for human rights.

Front cover image A Rohingya girl lives in a makeshift camp in Sittwe, Rakhine State, Myanmar, in 2013. Photographer Chris Beale spent more than six years documenting the lives of the Rohingya living in Rakhine State and Bangladesh. His show "On the Edge of Existence" was up at Berkeley Law for six months.

Report design Nicole Hayward

25 YEARS, 25 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** HRC launches its flagship Fellowship Program in 1994, empowering hundreds of students to work with human rights defenders in more than 80 countries.
- 2** Faculty Director Eric Stover and photographer Gilles Peress expose how Serbian militiamen massacred hundreds of Muslim civilians and buried their victims in *The Graves* (1998).
- 3** Ugandan social worker Alice Achan creates the Pader Girls Academy in 2006, a school for young women who have escaped the Lord's Resistance Army. HRC research prompts funding to open its doors.
- 4** *Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know* is the first handbook for frontline journalists and aid workers on the laws of war (1999).
- 5** The international workshop *Soul of the New Machine* in 2009 helps launch human rights practice into the digital age.
- 6** *The Guantanamo Effect*, published in 2009, exposes the post-captivity experiences of detainees.
- 7** Our Forensic Program, launched in 2006, helps Pro-Búsqueda reunite families separated during El Salvador's civil war.
- 8** Our conference on Kenya's Sexual Offences Act in 2011 helps to strengthen prosecutions of sexual violence and care for survivors.
- 9** The UNHRC adopts our recommendations in *Safe Haven* (2013) to improve protection for sexual violence survivors in refugee and IDP camps.
- 10** In 2014, we publish the first research on witnesses at the International Criminal Court to make it safer for survivors who testify.
- 11** *The Long Road* (2015) exposes the barriers to justice for wartime sexual violence.
- 12** We win the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2015—and a \$1 million prize.
- 13** Our amicus brief in 2016 contributes to former Chad dictator Hissène Habré's conviction for sexual violence crimes.
- 14** With the motto "where facts matter," we launch the Human Rights Investigations Lab in 2016—training students to find and verify information on social media to strengthen legal cases, investigate reporting, and human rights advocacy.
- 15** *My Neighbor, My Enemy: Justice and Community in the Aftermath of Mass Atrocity* by Eric Stover and Harvey M. Weinstein, 2004, helps change the focus of the transitional justice movement to focus on survivors.
- 16** Our study on the harmful effects of tear gas in the West Bank in 2017 slows its use in Aida refugee camp.



17 The Health and Human Rights Program, launched in 2017, researches how to more safely transfer cash to vulnerable people in emergencies.

18 The Investigations Lab contributes to Reuters journalist Steve Stecklow's story on the weaponization of Facebook in Myanmar, which is part of a series that wins the Pulitzer Prize in 2019.

19 Our year-long event series on mass incarceration in 2016 offers potential solutions to its social, economic and psychological harms. A series on gun violence follows in 2017.

20 *Hiding in Plain Sight*—a six year study culminating in a book in 2016—highlights the search for war criminals and strategies to bring them to justice.

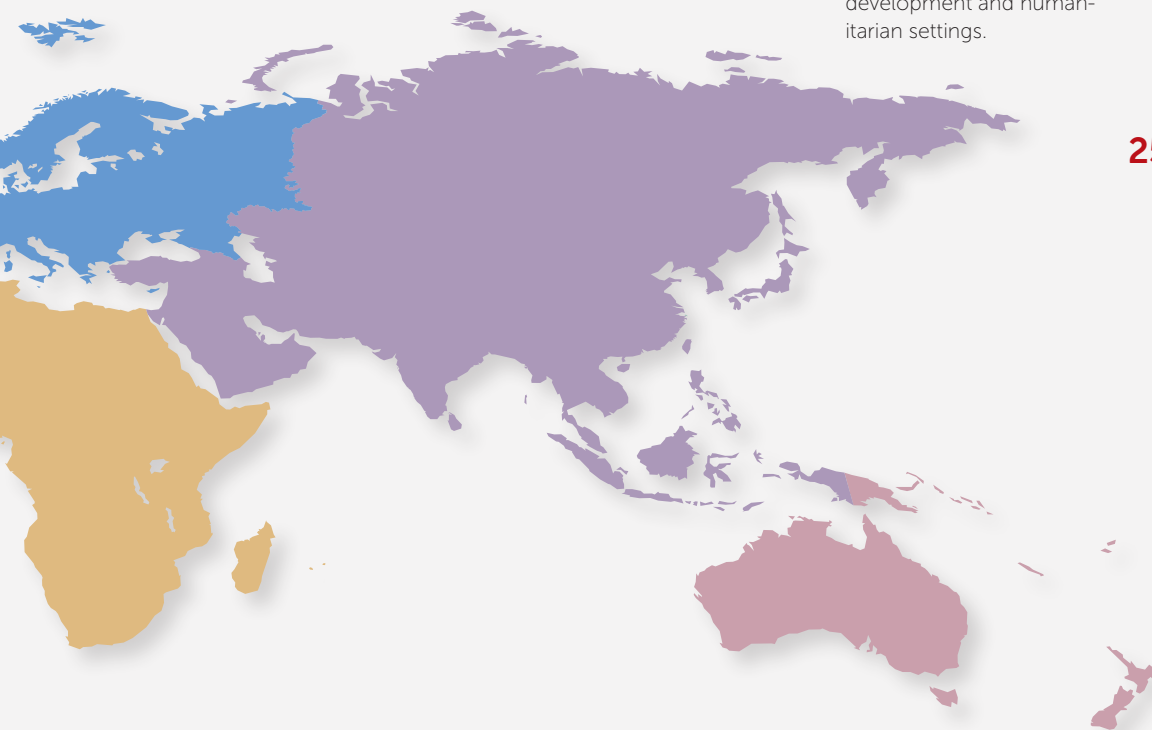
21 After publishing the first study of human trafficking in 2004, which sparks anti-trafficking legislation, new research in 2017 and 2018 examines how investigators, prosecutors, and social workers can collaborate to better support survivors in Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

22 Our "Toward an End to Child Marriage" study in 2018 evaluates what works to end child marriage in development and humanitarian settings.

23 HRC convenes international law experts and technologists at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in 2017 to begin drafting the world's first protocol on the collection and use of open source evidence.

24 Thousands of Berkeley students learn about human rights in our classes—graduating to become teachers, journalists, lawyers, advocates, doctors, technologists, and others who understand how to use research to do work that matters.

25 At UC Berkeley in 2019, HRC moves into its own home on campus, creating a new hub to nurture innovative, groundbreaking ideas for justice and human rights.





HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

To improve the health and protection of some of the world's most marginalized populations—including those affected by humanitarian crises, forced displacement, or violence.

Left A 13-year-old girl lives in the Koulikoro region in the heart of Mali where more than half of girls are married before age 18 (photo by J'rgen B'tz/picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images, May 2018). **Below** Health and Human Rights Program Director Julie Freccero is with the Safer Cash research team at the International Rescue Committee in Northern Cameroon in 2018.



Child Marriage Research Initiative — Our 2018 report with Save the Children, “Toward an End to Child Marriage,” identifies what works to end child marriage in development and humanitarian settings. In 2019, we will engage young people in participatory research to understand what drives child marriage in crisis settings—a project with Save the Children and Plan International.

“Safer Cash in Emergencies” — As donors and aid agencies increasingly turn toward cash assistance instead of services to support people displaced by conflict or natural disaster, we have very little information about how to ensure that cash safely and efficiently reaches those who need it most. With our USAID-funded “Safer Cash” project, our research in conflict-affected communities in Cameroon and Afghanistan led us to create a toolkit for humanitarian practitioners (in partnership with the International Rescue Committee) to **make cash programming safer for vulnerable groups** in emergencies—including people with disabilities, female heads of households, and older people.

Support to Youth Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation — In collaboration with the City of San Francisco’s Department on the Status of Women and Freedom Forward, we will interview youth, caregivers, and service providers and work closely with community-based partners to develop a model foster care program for young people affected by trafficking and sexual exploitation and assess its impact on their health, safety, and well-being.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE

To improve legal accountability for sexual violence during and after armed conflict and provide protection and care for survivors.

Left Director Kim Thuy Seelinger traveled to Gulu, Uganda, with students in November 2018 for the start of the Thomas Kwoyelo trial. She is pictured here with Jane Amooti, legal counsel to the victims in the case.

Below The Sexual Violence program and students from Berkeley's International Human Rights Law Clinic conducted research on the treatment of intimate partner violence in asylum applications in the Americas. Seelinger (third from left) and Julia Uyttewaal (second from left) are pictured here in Santiago, Chile, with colleagues from UNHCR and the National Institute for Human Rights.



2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Handbook for the Investigation, Prosecution, and Adjudication of Sexual and Gender-based Violence Crimes in Uganda — With local partners in Uganda, we are developing a handbook for survivor-centered investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence. This practical tool will be the first of its kind to link health, law enforcement, justice, and military sectors to promote coherent responses to sexual violence.

Technical Assistance to Investigators, Prosecutors, and Judges — We assist local lawyers and judges in prosecuting sexual violence as war crimes or crimes against humanity in national courts. In 2018, we contributed to the case against Thomas Kwoyelo, a former commander with the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda, and on European cases involving alleged Liberian and Syrian war criminals.

Sexual Violence and International Law — Guided by the world's pre-eminent experts, we are developing an online resource that tracks the evolution of sexual violence under international criminal law throughout the 20th century to be a resource for local prosecutors to access precedents and strengthen cases worldwide.

Protection for Asylum Seekers in the Americas Region — Many migrants are at risk of sexual and gender-based violence along the route through Central America and Mexico. Our recommendations and practice tools to improve safety and make it easier to disclose violence were adopted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in the Americas region.



TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

To advance the use of emerging technologies in human rights investigations, reporting, and prosecutions.

Left An image of a woman at an April 8 protest in Khartoum, Sudan, taken by Lana H. Haroun (@lana_hago) went viral on social media. **Below** Students in the Human Rights Investigations Lab analyze photographs of potential war crimes during a training session (photo by Andrea Lampros).



Investigations Lab — Our lab, the first of its kind in the world, is training more than 100 undergraduate and graduate students from some 25 majors and minors in open source investigations each year. Students learn to find and verify information from social media to expose and potentially prosecute human rights violations and war crimes. This year we have worked with more than 25 partners, from Amnesty International to Reuters to UN fact-finding teams on 39 investigations, contributing to investigative reporting, case building, and more.

Protocol on Open Source Investigations — We are bringing together investigators, lawyers, technologists, government officials and members of civil societies to draft **the world's first protocol for open source investigations**. With the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the draft will become a living document later this year.

Tech Companies and Human Rights — We **advise tech companies** on how they can better support human rights—preventing online hate that leads to real-world violence.

“I went to a conference recently where experts wore red badges and everyone else wore blue badges. This system encouraged people to only seek to talk to those in red badges. That’s when I knew that our Investigations Lab was special. At the lab, I have learned from every single person. At the lab, we don’t wear badges.”

CARLY MILLER, STUDENT LAB MANAGER AND BERKELEY UNDERGRADUATE, CLASS OF 2019

What Rights are in Play

1.

- **The Right to Privacy** what does it mean when parents bring a toy with surveillance capacities into a child's life?

2.

- **Data misuse** who has the right to store a child's data, and for what uses?

3.

- **The duty to protect** does a company have to issue a red flag warning when a toy has surveillance capacities? Where do we draw the line?



BerkeleyHaas



HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

To equip students and future business leaders with the attitude and aptitude to advance business respect for human rights everywhere.

Left Berkeley Law student Pearle Nwaezeigwe speaks at the Artificial Intelligence for Social Impact conference sponsored by the Human Rights Center, Business for Social Responsibility, and Microsoft (photo by Andrea Lampros). **Below** Director Faris Natour leads the Human Rights and Business Initiative, a joint program of Berkeley Law's Human Rights Center and the Center for Responsible Business at Berkeley-Haas (photo by Manali Anne Photography).



Workshops — From tackling large-scale global challenges, such as poverty, education, and disease, to addressing local issues that disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, the 2019 Berkeley-Microsoft conference brought together more than 150 students, practitioners, experts, and leaders from business, academia, and civil society to explore cutting-edge questions, such as: **How will business scale Artificial Intelligence in a responsible way to support and not infringe on human rights?**

Courses — We offer dedicated courses on human rights and business to undergraduate and graduate students. We have introduced a new curriculum on the human rights implications of “fake news” dissemination and the responsibility of social media companies.

Research — We engaged technologists, human rights experts, and corporations to examine the role of technology in addressing human rights abuses in global supply chains. We explored how technology can provide new opportunities to empower workers, suppliers, and companies to respect human rights, strengthen protections, and address abuses.



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

To provide training and funding so students can contribute their energy and expertise to support human rights defenders worldwide.

Left Recent arrivals from the migrant caravan through Central America play at El Barretal camp in Tijuana (photo by matthew william richard @mattainable.)

Below Our 2018 Human Rights Center Fellows include (alphabetically): Heba Alnajada, Safa Ansari-Bayegan, Pieter Baker, Karin Bashir, Tania Docarmo, Derrika Hunt, Jennifer Jones, Seigi Karasaki, Bernadette Lim, Sammy Mehtar, Sophie Perl, Reed Rafei, Olivia Rempel, Aleksandra Simonova, Mavis Siu, Yasemin Taskin-Alp, and Levi Vonk.



2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Student Fellows — Our student 17 fellows in 2018 worked with local organizations confronting a range of issues, including parole reform in Alabama, the health and mental wellness of asylum-seekers in U.S. detention, infectious disease in Syria, child labor in corporate supply chains, and LGBTQ+ rights in Lebanon. Our fellows produced documentaries, published articles, installed art shows, and continue to positively impact the communities they serve. We selected 14 more in 2019.

Alumni Award — We granted our first HRC Fellowship alumni award to Thanh Mai Bercher, a 2016 HRC Fellow, to work with asylum seekers in Tijuana.

Fellowships for Indigenous Scholars — With support from the Full Circle Fund, we have launched a number of initiatives to support indigenous students working with indigenous communities worldwide.

With special thanks to Dr. Thomas J. White for making the program possible.

“Not only did I have the chance to work on a topic that I am passionate about, I also learned more about the human rights field. If I had not gotten this fellowship, I might have never known how I could contribute effectively to advancing human rights. This fellowship experience . . . has been one of the most incredible of my life.”

ANONYMOUS 2018 FELLOW

Books and Reports

HRC's Executive Director Alexa Koenig, Sam Dubberley, and Daragh Murray are the editors of ***Digital Witness: Using Open Source Information for Human Rights Documentation, Advocacy, and Accountability*** (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Sexual Violence Program Director Kim Thuy Seelinger is co-editing a book with Sharon Weill and Kerstin Carlson about the landmark trial of **Hissène Habré**, the former president of Chad, who was the first former president to be convicted of wartime rape as a crime against humanity (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Faculty Director Eric Stover is working with Advisory Board members Thomas J. White and Henry Erlich on ***Silent Witness***, a book about **DNA and human rights**, featuring multiple countries and contexts (Oxford University Press, 2020).

"In 2018, there was a dramatic reduction in tear gas incidents in Aida Refugee camp, to around six incidents the whole year. Though we cannot say for sure, we believe at least part of this reduction is thanks to you and all the people who worked on this study. You provided us with the needed evidence to advocate with the authorities and internationally on the dangerous health effects of exposure to excessive and repeated tear gas in residential areas like Aida camp. Unfortunately, other Palestine refugee camps in the West Bank are still exposed to tear gas on a weekly basis, so it is critical the academic work continues."

ALLEGRA PACHECO, SENIOR TEAM LEADER, UNRWA,
PROTECTION AND NEUTRALITY DEPARTMENT

In 2018, the Human Rights Center published:

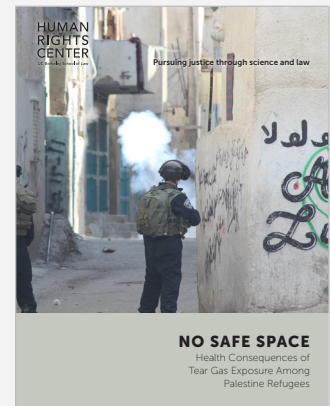
The Future of Work: 2018 Conference on Business, Technology, and Human Rights

A report from the 2018 conference at the Haas School of Business, co-hosted by the Human Rights Center and Microsoft, about the future of work.



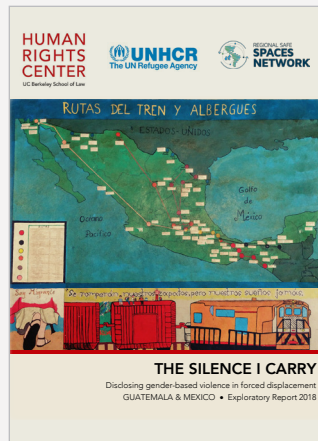
No Safe Space

A report on the frequency of exposure to tear gas among refugees who live in Aida and Dheisheh camps in the West Bank and the potential medical and psychological symptoms (both acute and chronic) associated with this exposure.



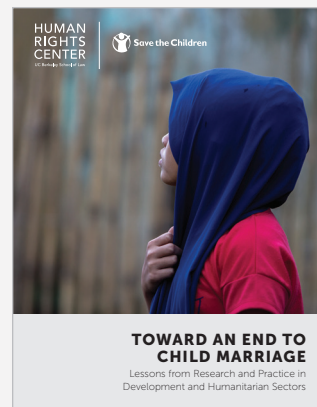
The Silence I Carry: Disclosing Gender- based Violence in Forced Displacement

Recommendations and practice tools to improve safety and make it easier to disclose sexual and gender-based violence faced by migrants in the route through Central America and Mexico.



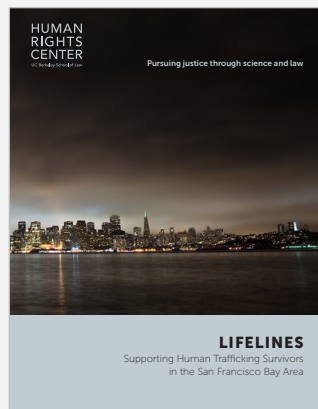
Toward an End to Child Marriage

The study gathered findings from efforts to prevent and respond to child marriage in both development and humanitarian contexts to determine what Save the Children and other organizations can do to improve their response to this critical issue.



Lifelines: Supporting Human Trafficking Survivors in the San Francisco Bay Area

The first comprehensive look at anti-human trafficking efforts across the Bay Area. The report is a companion to the 2017 Building Trust, which looked at efforts in Los Angeles County.



Events



The International Human Rights Law Clinic's Co-Director Roxanna Altholz leads a remembrance of disappeared human rights activists at Berkeley Law on El Día de Los Muertos. The family members of murdered Honduran environmental activist Berta Cáceres are present.



United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet visits the Human Rights Center in April 2019 to meet with our staff and hear from Investigations Lab students.



The United Nations Association honored Alexa Koenig with its Global Human Rights Award.



Visiting scholar Wai Wai Nu spends nine months at the center.

Students

2018/2019 Courses

- Health and Human Rights
- Human Rights Investigations Lab Seminar and Practicum
- Human Rights Research and Practice
- Refugee Law

Students are at the heart of all we do at the Human Rights Center. Hundreds of students participate in Human Rights Center classes, research within programs, and the Investigations Lab. We send students to conduct research on the front lines and to international conferences. Our students are often leading the way as researchers, investigators, and practitioners.



Staff, Board, and Fellows

Staff

Eric Stover, Faculty Director

Alexa Koenig, Executive Director

Alexey Berlind, Programs Administrator and Events
Coordinator

Julie Freccero, Director, Health and Human Rights Program

Lindsay Freeman, Legal Researcher

Andrea Lampros, Associate Director

Félim McMahon, Director, Technology and Human Rights

Program and Human Rights Investigations Lab

Faris Natour, Director, Human Rights and Business Initiative

Jesse Nishinaga, Program Lead, Human Rights and
Business Initiative

Kim Thuy Seelinger, Director, Sexual Violence Program

Julia Uyttewaal, Researcher, Sexual Violence Program

Audrey Taylor, Researcher and Fellowship Coordinator

*With thanks to Kat Madrigal, former Development Manager, who
moved on in 2019.*

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Sarah Warshauer Freedman | Vincent Iacopino

Gilles Peress | Victor Peskin | Hernán Reyes

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Research Fellows

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Lindsay Freeman | Rohini Haar | Eliot Higgins | Keith Hiatt

Mark Latonero | Magali Maystre | Benjamin Schiff

Cathy Zimmerman

2018/2019 Visiting Scholar

Wai Wai Nu

Human Rights Investigations Lab Managers in 2018–2019

Leenah Bassouni | Nilsu Celikel | Diana Chavez-Varela

Amy Choi | Michael Elsanadi | Arnold Foda | Charlotte

Godart | Arabi Hassan | Dominique Lewis | Shakiba

Mashayekhi | Carly Miller | Monica Namo | John Allen

Ortilla | Sonnet Phelps | Sarah Solieman | Sang-Min Kim

Fabian Unser-Nad | Greg Waters | Haley Willis

Student Administrators

Jenny Weng | Ana Fung | Lili Spira



Human Rights Center staff: front row: Andrea Lampros, Julie Freccero, Audrey Taylor, Alexa Koenig, Kim Thuy Seelinger, and Kat Madrigal; back row: Eric Stover, Faris Natour, Julia Uyttewaal, Alexey Berlind, and Félim McMahon.

Donors 2018–19

Thank you!

*Many thanks to
our generous donors.
You make our work
possible!*

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Charlene Lee
Chris Lee
Michael Levin
Sherman Lew
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Katerina Linos
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Bertram Lubin
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 Jonathan Marshall (in memory of Walter W. Marshall)
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 Ariel Meyerstein
 Senna Milstead
 Kevin Milyavskiy
 Barbara Mitchell (in honor of Wai Wai Nu or other fellows/visiting scholars)
 Faris Natour
 Elena Nightingale (in honor of Eric Stover)
 Monique Olivier
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 Darcy Paquette
 Yumi Park
 Brian Perlman
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 Jack Tame
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 Jeremy Thorner
 Sylvia Tiwon
 Julia Uyttewaal
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 Molly Vitorte
 Harvey Weinstein
 Richard Weir
 Madelyn Weiss
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 Pauline White Meeusen
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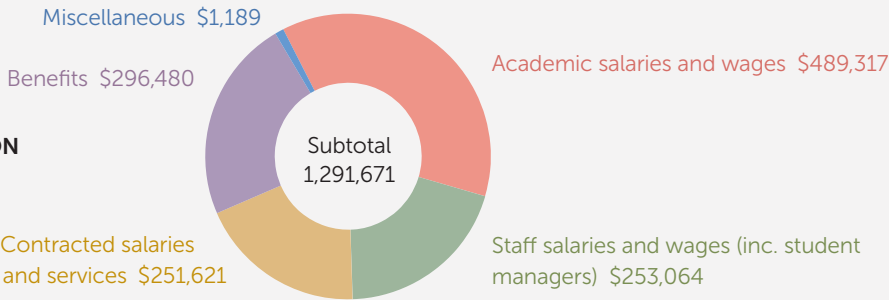
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 For Good Fund
 Full Circle Fund
 Humanity United
 International Human Rights Law Clinic
 International Rescue Committee
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 Sigrid Rausing Trust
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 UC Berkeley Wellness Fund

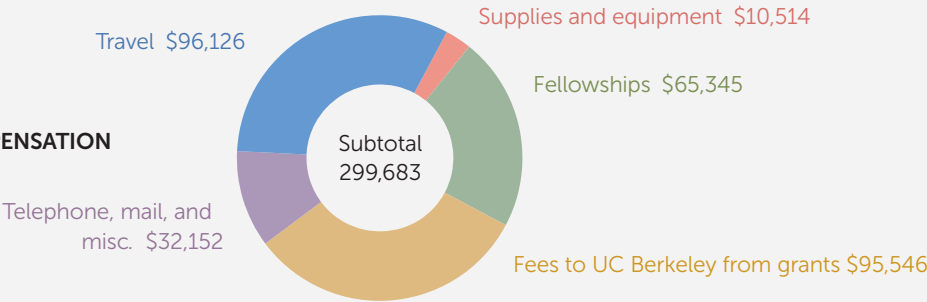
Financial Report 2018–2019

(Fiscal YTD as of 5/1/19)

COMPENSATION

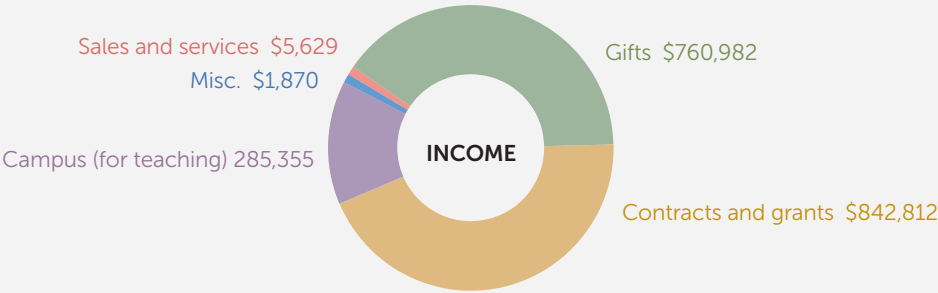


NON-COMPENSATION EXPENSES



Total Expenses
1,591,354

INCOME



Total Income
1,895,648



Director Kim Thuy Seelinger was invited to the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony and banquet to honor Dr. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad for their work on behalf of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Pictured left to right: Seelinger, Dr. Mukwege, Professor Inger Skjelsbaek, and UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten.

Problems affecting women should not be seen just as “women issues.” They should be regarded as humanity issues. Because when a woman’s livelihood is destroyed, it affects communities and nations. The world doesn’t need to wait for anything else before acting. The worst is already happening. Girls are being abducted on a mass scale in Nigeria. Women are being systematically raped during conflicts. And women are used as prizes by terrorist groups. Now tell me, what do world leaders need to wait for? We need action now.

DR. DENIS MUKWEGE, WINNER OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 2018

It's easy to think . . . that we have our human rights.
They will be there forever. They cannot be taken away.
But they're like the air you breathe. You don't think
about it until you are gasping for your last breath.

ZEID RAAD AL HUSSEIN, FORMER UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS