



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CENTER**

UC Berkeley School of Law

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

UC Berkeley School of Law

Dear Friends:

The photo on our 2020 Annual Report reflects resistance and hope in this year of unprecedented global challenge: A couple clasps hands at a protest in Long Beach, California, joining with more than 15 million people in cities across this country and around the world to challenge racism and racial violence.

At the Human Rights Center, we documented this unprecedented year—working with partners in media and advocacy organizations to gather, verify, preserve, and present information about police violence, the dangers of less-lethal weapons, the use of federal agents to arrest protesters, and more. Through our Investigations Lab, we also monitored the US elections, mapped attacks on healthcare in the wake of COVID-19, and documented the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

We also worked with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to launch the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations—the first international guidelines for collecting and verifying online information of potential war crimes and violations of international human rights. And we supported 16 student fellows to work, albeit remotely, with human rights defenders worldwide.

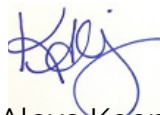
Meanwhile, our Health and Human Rights Program collaborated with leading international and local organizations to conduct on-the-ground research and develop innovative approaches to help prevent child marriage in refugee settings and to safeguard young people against the dangers of human trafficking in the Bay Area.

You've made all of this possible. Thank you. Please read on for highlights of our work in 2020 and news of what's coming in 2021.

Sincerely,



Eric Stover
Faculty Director



Alexa Koenig
Executive Director

Cover photo: A couple stands face to face with police officers during a protest in downtown Long Beach on Sunday, May 31, 2020. (Photo by Brittany Murray/MediaNews Group/Long Beach Press-Telegram via Getty Images)



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

The award-winning UC Berkeley Human Rights Center is globally recognized for its use of science and law to improve the investigation of human rights violations and potential war crimes through education, research, and collaboration. Based at the world's leading public university, the Human Rights Center has a 25-year track record of impact. In 2015, we won the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions for marshaling the expertise of the university to make change in the world. Individual donors and foundations make our work possible.

OUR GOALS

- Amplify the voices of survivors to ensure that their needs are not ignored.
- Improve the quality of human rights research and investigations to secure justice and accountability.
- Train the next generation of human rights advocates to make change.

IMPROVING HEALTH, SUPPORTING YOUTH

The Health and Human Rights Program aims to improve the health and protection of marginalized people affected by armed conflict, natural disaster, or other humanitarian crises. Using innovative methods and frontline technical assistance, we partner with leading local and international organizations to develop new tools and guidelines that can improve health and save lives.

We are currently working to understand how to prevent exploitation, including trafficking and child marriage, and better meet the needs of young people who are at risk.

We are collaborating with government and community-based partners in San Francisco to create a national model of foster care that is designed to meet the needs of youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation. In 2019, the state of California awarded us a major grant to evaluate Family and Me, a family-based foster care pilot program that delivers specialized services and focuses on developing a community of healthy family and peer relationships for young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

Our evaluation will incorporate ongoing feedback from survivors of trafficking to develop a youth-centered model that can be replicated throughout California.



IMPROVING HEALTH, DEFENDING GIRLS' RIGHTS

Through our Health and Human Rights Program, we are also supporting girls at risk of child marriage during humanitarian crises such as armed conflict or natural disaster and helping the global community respond more effectively to protect their childhoods and enable them to stay in school.

This year, we were among the first researchers to collect data on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted child marriage among refugee communities.

In 2021, we will release our findings and use them to develop new humanitarian programming together with our partners to better protect and empower girls impacted by armed conflict.



ENGAGING STUDENTS, IMPACTING THE WORLD

We are equipping the next generation of lawyers, journalists, advocates, and researchers with critical tools for tackling human rights challenges in the 21st century. Today, our HRC Investigations Lab—the first university based open source investigations program—trains more than 100 students per year to conduct hands-on investigations related to human rights. The students come from two dozen majors and minors and collectively speak some 25 languages.

This year, we welcomed Stephanie Croft, a geo-spacial expert, to direct our lab's investigations and lead the student teams to find, verify, and present digital information (including photos, videos, and posts found online) of potential human rights abuses.

Our lab led or contributed to open source investigations on Western Sahara for the Washington Post; Uyghur forced labor for the New York Times; police violence and excessive force in US protests for Amnesty International; the Khartoum massacre in Sudan for Physicians for Human Rights; the 2019 uprising in Chile; and more.

We also helped to launch a sister lab at UC Santa Cruz and have won a grant to expand this work to UCLA in 2021—making California a hub for cutting-edge, university-based human rights investigations.

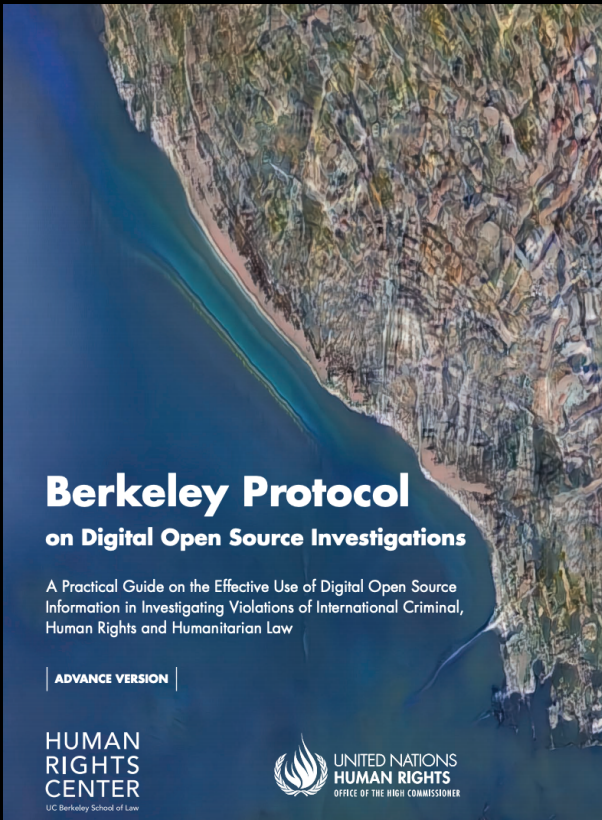


LAUNCHING THE BERKELEY PROTOCOL

In partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, we brought together 475 lawyers, activists, and investigators to launch the [Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations](#)—establishing the first global guidelines for strengthening the identification, collection, preservation, analysis and presentation of digital information in international and national courts.

Throughout the year, we collaborated with partners to support cases for justice and accountability. This includes cases filed in national or international courts, as well as reports from human rights commissions and other commissions of inquiry. Our work strengthens strategic litigation, including cases that advance human, environmental and digital rights, spanning North and South America, Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East

This year our lab's Legal Investigations Team contributed to an [investigation of chemical weapons attacks carried out by the Syrian government](#). The investigation supported a complaint, which was filed in Germany under the principle of universal jurisdiction, charging the war crime of using chemical weapons—the first case of its kind.



“The Protocol is, ultimately, about protecting human rights and advancing justice. In this regard, I welcome in particular its principles of humility, inclusivity, and dignity.”

—UN High Commissioner
Michelle Bachelet

OUR WORK IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Sheltering-in-place in response to the pandemic didn't stop us. If anything, our work took on even more importance as on-the-ground human rights work became more challenging.



- More than 40 students in the Investigations Lab worked remotely last summer to monitor disinformation, combining human analysis with an algorithm developed by Berkeley scientists to surface dis/misinformation; mapped a surge of attacks on health globally in the context of the pandemic with Insecurity Insight and Johns Hopkins University; and documented the effects of the pandemic in Latin America for Amnesty International.
- We conducted live monitoring of the US elections, with more than 60 students from our lab's Digital Verification Corps and Berkeley's Journalism School—to document violence, misinformation, and voter suppression nationwide.
- We pivoted our in-person training programs to interactive online workshops.
- We provided training and worked with partners on the ground in Jordan to conduct some of the first research on how the pandemic is affecting child marriage in refugee communities.



THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE

The Human Rights Center's Faculty Director Eric Stover is currently co-producing a PBS documentary about the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, which was one of the worst incidents of racial violence against Black people in American history. Stover and HRC Associate Director Andrea Lampros traveled to Tulsa before and during the coronavirus pandemic to interview scientists and activists now searching in Tulsa for mass graves. The documentary will air in late May 2021 shortly before the centennial of the massacre.

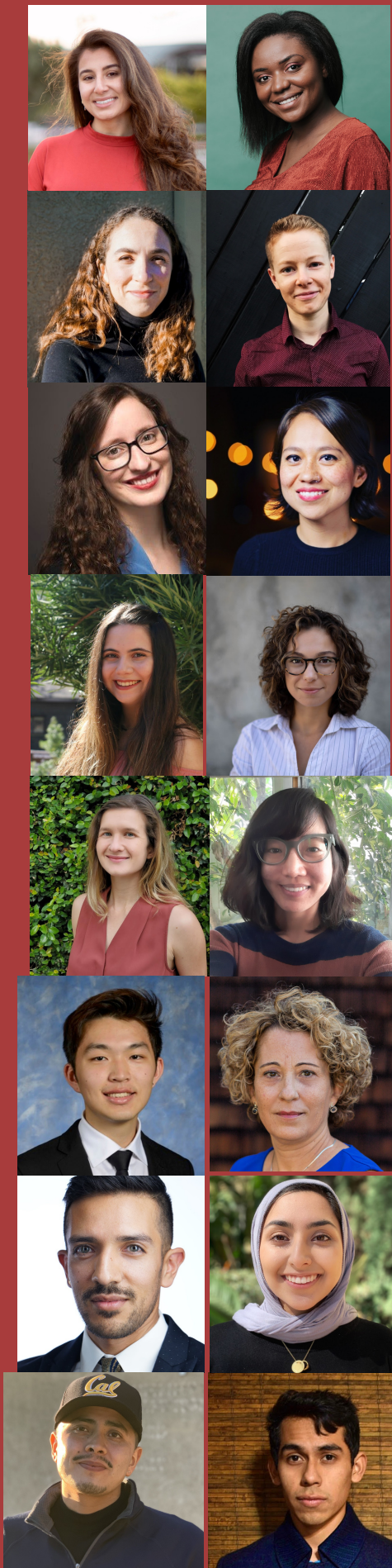
"Our hope is that the film, like today's protests, will be a wake-up call, although much too late, for all of us to work together to end racial violence in this country and to understand how it has been passed down through generations." —**HRC Faculty Director Eric Stover**



TEACHING, TRAINING, AND BRINGING THE WORLD TOGETHER—VIRTUALLY

From our international [launch of the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations](#) to our lunchtime [Human Rights Center Fellowship talks](#) to our conference with Microsoft on the Future of Work, we made the most of Zoom to connect people from around the world.

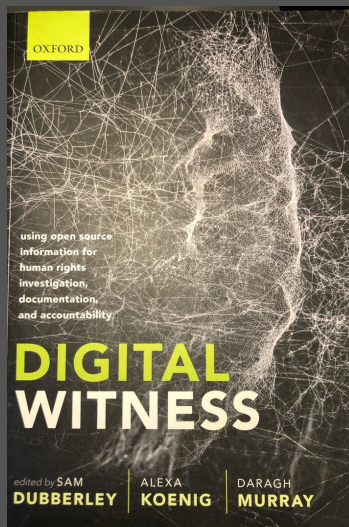
This year, we also conducted more than a dozen multi-day trainings and workshops. We led research trainings for local teams, participatory research workshops for refugee girls, and community stakeholder workshops on child marriage in Uganda and Jordan. We led trainings on open source investigations with the Berkeley Advanced Media Institute, the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, and Bard College. We organized and led trainings on open source tools and techniques for local activists from China, Syria, Chile, and Brazil. We brought together advocates and investigators to discuss ethics and tech leaders to talk about preserving videos and photos for future legal accountability.



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER FELLOWS 2020

Our 2020 cohort of Human Rights Center Fellows was selected just a week before shelter-in-place orders hit and travel halted around the world. Disappointed but not deterred, our Fellows carried on their important work, mostly virtually, with human rights defenders worldwide. They safeguarded human rights in the United States, Myanmar, Mexico, Lebanon, Kenya, and elsewhere. They advocated for people who are LGBTQ, immigrants, and Indigenous. And they used technology to advance justice. We have a feeling that the work these students will do in the world is just beginning—and that's good for all of us.

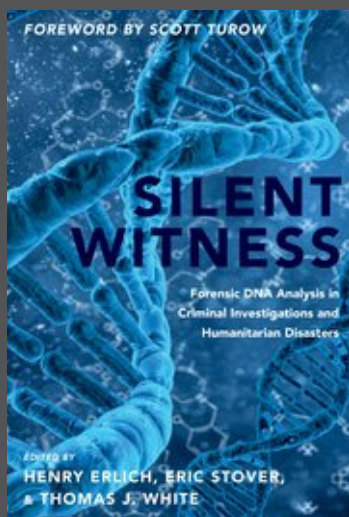
CAPTURING HISTORY AND TRENDS IN SCIENCE, TECH, AND LAW



This year, Human Rights Center staff published three books with the University of Oxford Press:

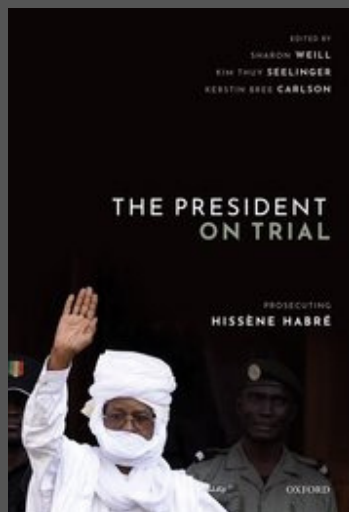
Digital Witness, edited by Sam Dubberley, Alexa Koenig, and Daragh Murray, is the first textbook on digital investigations for human rights.

Silent Witness, edited by Henry Erlich, Eric Stover, and Thomas J. White, explores the history and current relevance of DNA analysis in criminal investigations.



The President on Trial, co-edited by former HRC Sexual Violence Program Director Kim Thuy Seelinger, Sharon Weill, and Kersten Bree Carlson, examines the Hissène Habré trial and the first international prosecution of sexual violence as a war crime.

We also contributed to important conversations through research and reporting—from Research Fellow [Rohini Haar's report on crowd control weapons](#) to HRC Fellow [Elise Baker's research on mitigation strategies](#) for vicarious trauma to our Berkeley Law students' [research on the efficacy of national war crimes units](#). [Alexa Koenig's article in Foreign Affairs on evidence lockers](#) served as a game changer on where information goes when it's taken down off the internet. Our [Human Rights and Business Initiative produced a series of papers](#) on forced labor, freelance labor, and global supply chains. Our Health and Human Rights Director Julie Freccero and Research Manager Audrey Taylor published a seminal piece in the [International Review of the Red Cross on the safety risks of using cash as humanitarian assistance](#) to vulnerable communities.



THANK YOU TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Hesham Al-Alusi
Fatima Azam and
Alan Iijima
Danielle Appelman
Joan Bardez
Gail Bensinger
Ross Benson
Alexey and Raquel Berlind
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Harry Chotiner
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Elizabeth Bruce and
Robert Michael Oliver
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Wendy Kirk-Scalise
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Alexa Koenig and
Don Mercer
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Irene Kuhn
Amanda Lam
Andrea Lampros and
John Fike
Marcus Lampros
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Edward Rubin
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Rosemary Chalk
Eric Stover and
Pamela Blotner

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Rhona Weinstein
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Karina White
Thomas J. White
Luke Whiting
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Mark Gergen
Herman and
Renee Winick

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Humanity United
Langeloth Family Foundation
Microsoft
Marin Community Foundation
Oak Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Plan International
San Francisco Department on the Status of
 Women
Save the Children UK
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Student Technology Fund
The Center for Information Technology
 Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS)
Wellness Fund

Remembrances

We are saddened by the loss of HRC Advisory Board members Joan Platt and Bertram Lubin this year as well as longtime supporters Bruce Smith and Bartlett Saunders. Our hearts go out to their families.

Human Rights Center Staff



Eric Stover is the Faculty Director of the Human Rights Center and Adjunct Professor of Law and Public Health at UC Berkeley.



Alexa Koenig is the Executive Director of the Human Rights Center, Director of the Technology and Human Rights Program, and Lecturer at Berkeley Law.



Alexey Berlind is the Programs Administrator, Events Coordinator, and Fellowship Coordinator.



Faris Natour is the Director of the Business and Human Rights Program.



Stephanie Croft is the Director of the Human Rights Center Investigations Lab.



Sydney Saubestre is the Research Coordinator for the Health and Human Rights Program



Julie Freccero is the Director of the Health and Human Rights Program.



Audrey Taylor is the Research Manager for the Health and Human Rights Program.



Lindsay Freeman is the Director of Law and Policy for the Tech and Human Rights Program.

Researchers and Investigators in 2020:

Diana Chavez Varela, Michael Elsanadi, Devon Lum, Shakiba Mashayehki, John Orilla, Gisela Perez de Acha Chavez



Alan Iijima is the Development Manager of the Human Rights Center.

Graduate Student Researchers: Victoria Adebiyi, Shalini Chatterjee, Ivey Dyson, Brian Nguyen, and Boikanyo Tefu

Student assistants: Mary Mijares and Celeste Rojas

Investigations Lab team leaders: Danielle Cosmes, Ceren Fitoz, Janine Graham, Hannah Hart, Danielle Kaye, Ibrahim Khan, Sang-Min Kim, Jean li, Lily Lucero, Vyoma Raman, A.J. Schumann, Maeve Sneddon, Meher Wadhawan, Avani Yadav

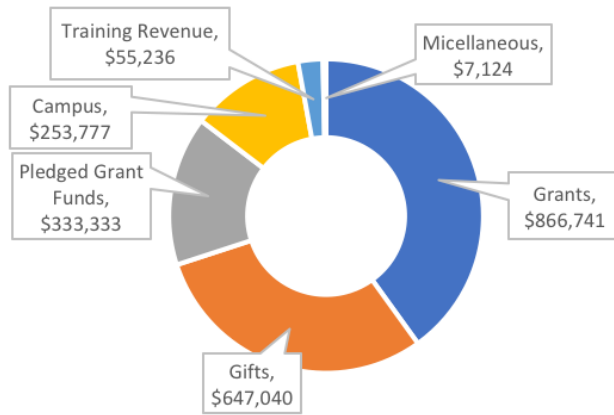


Andrea Lampros is the Associate Director of the Human Rights Center.

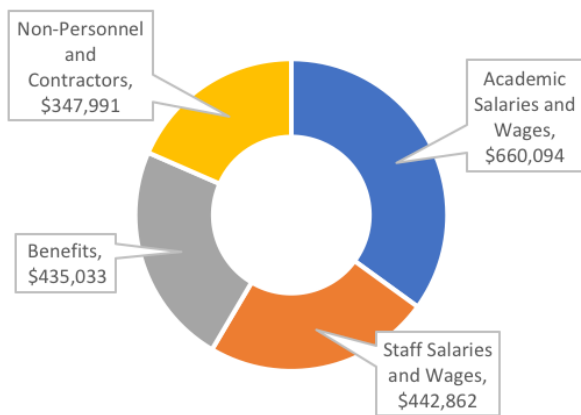
Multimedia expert: Jason MacLeod

Special thanks to staff member Jesse Nishinaga who directed the Human Rights and Business Initiative in 2020 and moved on to other endeavors.

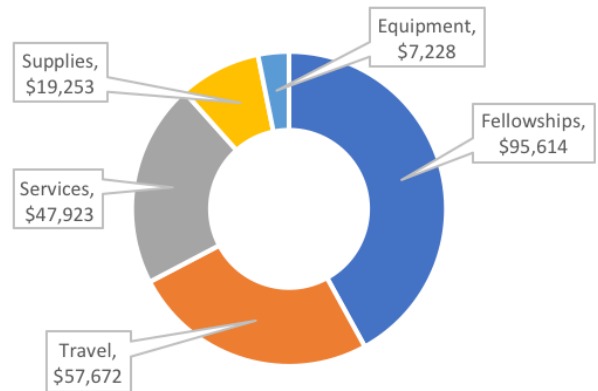
FINANCIAL REPORT 2020



Total Revenue
\$2,163,251



Compensation Expenses
\$1,885,980



Non-Compensation Expenses
\$227,690

OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON GLOBAL EDUCATION, LAW, BUSINESS, HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Donations from individuals and foundations make up nearly 90 percent of the Human Rights Center's annual budget.

All endowed or non-endowed contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law through the UC Berkeley Foundation or Regents of the University of California. Support at any level helps to make our work possible. Thank you!



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