

Student Engagement



Humans of Claremont Student-Led Speaker Series

By Will Carter '21

This month's Humans of Claremont lunch featured freshman, **Cindy Duong**. Cindy has been involved in anti-human trafficking programs since she was just starting high school in San Jose, California. She was the President of the Freedom Club at her high school, a club that fundraises and educates to help fight local human trafficking efforts. We provided Cindy with a space and an audience to share the work she's done and what she's learned. Sixteen students attended the conversation and we provided free Chipotle lunch. Cindy began her talk by giving us a brief overview of human trafficking - the trade of humans for material gain. Cindy proceeded to explore the different kinds of human trafficking that occur each day: sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and even militant trafficking where you literally buy soldiers.

The audience was very engaged and were able to make the lunch more of a discussion. We discussed what kind of policy we thought would be most effective in combating human trafficking. We eventually decided that analyzing human trafficking as a market would be the best means to craft effective policy. What shocked me the most in Cindy's presentation was when she informed us that Pomona has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the country. Holt Avenue, a street in South Pomona, is known as a frequent host of human trafficking and prostitution. Holt Avenue is a fourteen minute drive from our school. I think the realization that human trafficking is so close to all of us, encouraged the audience to be engaged in the discussion as well as motivated to combat human trafficking in the future.

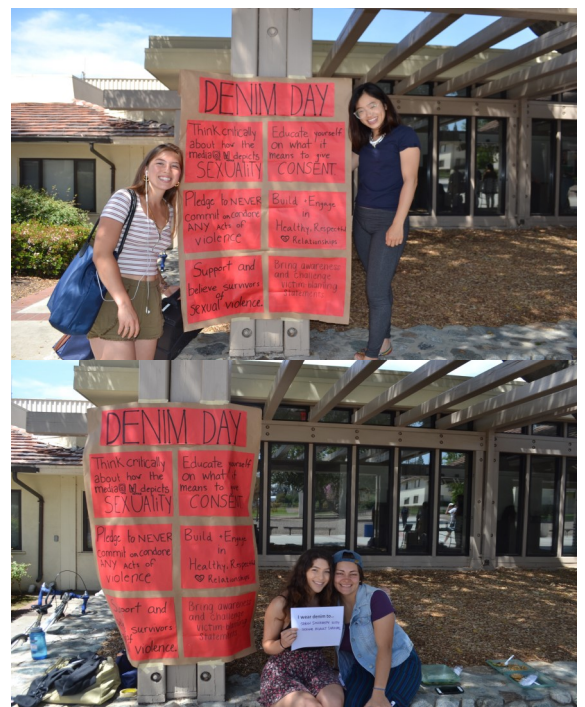
Power of Women, Student-Led Task Force

On April 24th, the Power of Women task force tabled outside of Collins Dining Hall in honor of Denim Day.

"Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault" (taken from denimdayinfo.org/about).

During their event, the Power of Women captured pictures of people with signs showing phrases that indicated their support for survivors.

They also held an open event where people came to paint denim in honor of survivors; the painted denim was then displayed outside of Collins and plans are currently in the works to have them later displayed at either the CARE Center or elsewhere on campus.



Student Engagement cont.

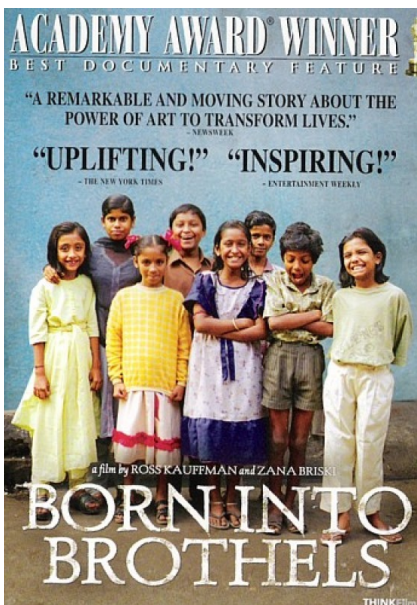
Unchained, Student-Led Task Force

By Princess Usanase '21

At the beginning of the spring semester, the Unchained (anti-human trafficking) task force hosted a movie screening in the CARE center. We showed the documentary *Born Into Brothels*, which follows the story of a British photographer working in the red light district of Bangalore, India. The film exposes the harsh reality of the cycles of prostitution, poverty, and discrimination that plague many communities. It also highlights how access to education can help keep young girls out of sex trafficking and prostitution.

By Nandeeni Patel '21

On April 12th, the Unchained Task Force held a movie screening for the film *Taken* starring Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace. The purpose of this screening was to raise awareness about the prevalence of human trafficking in developed countries, and to promote consciousness of the idea that trafficking can affect anyone, at any given time. The screening was held at the CARE Center, where several CMC students enjoyed their Thursday night relaxing on the couch and eating treats, while also gaining perspective of this silent, daily infraction of human rights.



**MOVIE SCREENING:
TAKEN W/ LIAM NEESON**

**CARE Center
7pm - Thursday, April 12th
Snacks from SomeCrust!!!**

Unchained is hosting a screening of the movie *Taken* in the CARE Center on Thursday, April 12th, followed by a short discussion about human trafficking.

Human Rights at the Athenaeum

Human Rights Abuses and the Role of US Policy in the Middle East

Sarah Leah Whitson - On April 12th, the Center hosted Sarah Leah Whitson to deliver the 4th Annual Mgrublian Lecture on Armenian Studies. Ms. Whitson is the Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Division at Human Rights Watch (HRW) and has participated in many commemorative events on behalf of the Armenian community. In her talk, she provided an analysis of current developments in the Middle East and how they tie into U.S. foreign policy. Based on HRW's work in the Middle East, her talk focused primarily on the conflicts in the region in which the U.S. is currently involved.

At HRW, Ms. Whitson oversees the work of the division in 19 countries, with staff located in 10 countries. She has led dozens of advocacy and investigative missions throughout the region, focusing on issues of armed conflict, accountability, legal reform, migrant workers, and political rights. She has published widely on human rights issues in the Middle East in international and regional media, including *The New York Times*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. She appears regularly on Al-Jazeera, BBC, NPR, and CNN. Ms. Whitson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and speaks Armenian and Arabic.



Authoritarian Consolidation and the Criminalization of Knowledge Production in the Middle East

On Monday April 16, Asli Bâli, professor at UCLA Law School, examined the ways in which authoritarian consolidation in Turkey has produced new frameworks through which rule-of-law discourse is inverted and deployed to undermine rather than protect academic freedom. She then examined the ways in which similar frameworks have been developed across a number of other contexts in the Middle East and concluded with some reflections on why incipient forms of populist authoritarianism across the region have come to treat knowledge production as a particularly dangerous threat.

Bâli is faculty Director of the Promise Institute for Human Rights, Director of the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies, and professor of law at the UCLA School of Law where she teaches in the International and Comparative Law Program. Her edited volume, *Constitution Writing, Religion and Democracy*, was published by Cambridge in 2017. She also currently serves as co-chair of the Advisory Committee for Human Rights Watch-Middle East.



Armenian Genocide Commemoration

California Legislature Commemorates Armenian Genocide



SACRAMENTO - Both houses of the California State Legislature passed resolutions on Monday April 23 recognizing the Armenian Genocide and urging Washington, which continues to deny the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915, to follow suit. The legislature also held a State Capitol observance for the 103rd anniversary. During the Senate and Assembly floor sessions Senator Wilk and Assembly member Nazarian honored Professor

Above: Professor and Mgrublian Center Board Member Richard Hovannisian is honored by California State legislators on April 23 at the State Capitol. *Asbarez (2018)*

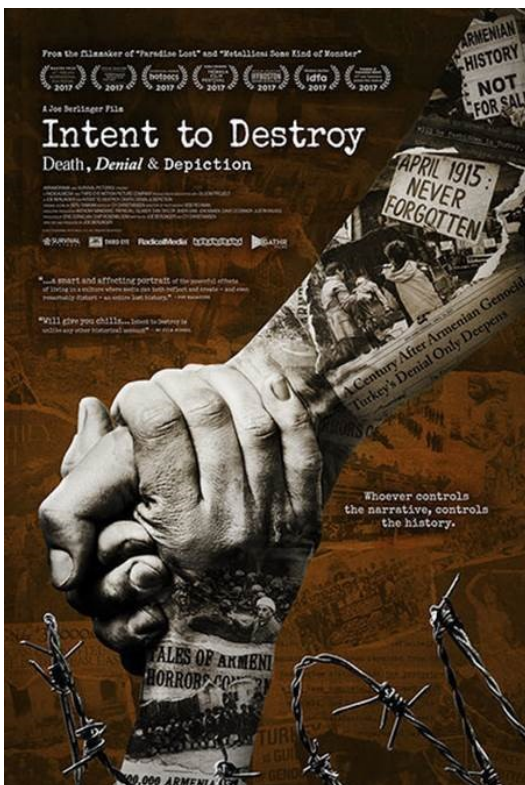
and Mgrublian Center Advisory Board Member, Richard Hovannisian, as an outstanding Armenian-American and presented him with a Joint Legislative Resolution commemorating the genocide.

Professor Hovannisian is a well-respected scholar known for his five-volume history of the First Republic of Armenia. He is a professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History and the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); a Distinguished President's Fellow at Chapman University; and an adjunct professor of history at the University of Southern California to work with the Shoah Foundation. A full link to the above article can be found on [Asbarez](#) HERE.

Intent to Destroy: Death, Denial & Depiction

On April 19th, members of the CMC and local Claremont communities as well as the executive board of Amnesty International convened at the Laemmle Theater in downtown Claremont for a screening of *Intent to Destroy*. The film, a documentary by award-winning filmmaker Joe Berlinger, discusses the challenges involved in filming the movie *The Promise* (released in April 2017 and screened by the Mgrublian Center) and the devastating effects of Turkish denial on generations of Armenians. Below is a review of the documentary from ANCA, the Armenian National Committee of America.

"Intent to Destroy is a timely reckoning with the large-scale suppression of a historical tragedy. Berlinger confronts the fraught task of shedding light on the Armenian Genocide — whose witnesses and descendants are still fighting to be officially acknowledged as such by the international community — how it was carried out during World War I as the reign of the Ottoman empire drew to a close, and how it laid the groundwork for the genocides that followed."



Research Highlights

The History and Future of Holocaust Research

By Professor Wendy Lower, Returning Director of the MCHR

On April 25th, Professor Wendy Lower gave her keynote address, *The History and Future of Holocaust Research: How newly opened archives, a wider European scope, transnational narratives, and integrated big data are changing our understanding of the Shoah*, at the Future of Holocaust Research Conference hosted by the Graduate Center at City University of New York. Her address was subsequently published in *Tablet Magazine* and a portion of it will also be published in the forthcoming volume: *A Companion to Nazi Germany*, eds. Baranowski, Nolzen, Szejnmann (John Wiley and Sons, 2018).

Professor Lower has been on leave as Director of the Mgrublian Center since January of 2017 while she served as Interim Director at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She will resume her Directorship at the Mgrublian Center and Professorship at the college in July 2018. We look forward to welcoming her back to campus. A link to the entirety of Professor Lower's presentation can be found [HERE](#).

2017 - 18 Human Rights Research Fellowships

This year the Center supported six student research fellows, each focused on a different topic within the fields of human rights, Holocaust, or genocide studies. Fellows spend the entire academic year working independently and in conjunction with a faculty advisor to develop and conduct their research. On April 27, the Center hosted an afternoon with the research fellows whereby each gave presentations highlighting their research, their methodology, significant findings, and areas for future exploration. The six research fellowships for 2017/18 include:

Asher Greenberg '18: "A Case Study on Conspiracy Theories Related to Nazi Germany". Faculty Advisor – Jonathan Petropoulos.

Medina Latic '20: "Analysis of International Intervention and its Impact on the Bosnian War, 1992-1995". Faculty Advisor – Katja Favretto.

Ravi Sadhu '19: "Sociocultural Determinants of Child Mortality in India". Faculty Advisor – Aseema Sinha.

Pallavi Deshpande '19: "Is Education the Path to Peace in Kashmir?" Faculty Advisor – Aseema Sinha.

Marcia Yang '18: "The Great Leap Forward, Tiananmen Square, and the Falun Gong: A Study Tracking Changing Attitudes of Chinese Baby Boomers". Faculty Advisor – Minxin Pei.

Malea Martin '19: "Educational Strategies of Holocaust Museums: POLIN in Comparative Perspective". Faculty Advisor – Hilary Appel.*

*Malea is abroad this semester and was not able to participate in the oral presentations. A link to the final papers submitted by each fellow is available on our website.

Letter from the Editor:

Dear Readers and Supporters of the MCHR,

My name is Mohamad Moslimani and I will be serving as your new editor-in-chief for the remainder of the year and for the 2018- 2019 school year. I am a rising sophomore and am currently undeclared, but plan to major in either PPE, or dual-major in International Relations and Economics with a focus on the Middle East. My passion and support for the work of human rights is informed by my empathy and wish to ensure material security to the communities in which I grew up. As a first-generation, low-income college student, I've come to recognize that the issues that mean the most to long or short-run material security are those same issues that inform the human condition and the struggle to be free of need. Put simply, my understanding of human rights has been shaped by my experiences and the experiences of my communities to seek the simplest forms of security in the present and future. By way of that passion, I've found dedication to activism for disenfranchised communities of many identities.

I've also realized that my passion is best actualized at CMC. From my time as a prospective student to these very final weeks of the second semester of my first year at Claremont McKenna College, I have enjoyed the wonderful privilege of knowing and working with wonderful students, faculty, and staff. Of the students, I have worked closely with Larissa Peltola. From my time as a prospective student, she introduced me not only to the Center, but to CMC's own Amnesty International chapter. Since connecting with her, I have enjoyed a great deal of personal development in my role at the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights, either by writing op-eds for the newsletters or by supporting Amnesty International craft new initiatives.

Now I have the ever-greater pleasure of attending to the MCHR newsletter. I look forward to putting the training with which Larissa has provided me to good use. I also look forward to working with dedicated faculty and staff who, from my relatively meager time at MCHR so far, have shown an unstoppable dedication to the work of the Center. Like Larissa, I promise to carry the torch of justice throughout my life and shine a light on injustice around the world. Thank you all for privileging me with this task, and I will make sure to service it with the deference it deserves.

In Ambition,
Your editor-in-chief,
Mohamad

To submit event/speaker suggestions, please contact Mohamad Moslimani, mmoslimani21@cmc.edu



MGRUBLIAN CENTER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

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With special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. David and Margaret Mgrublian,
Professor Hilary Appel, and Kirsti Zitar

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