



MGRUBLIAN CENTER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

MCHR ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2016



Syrian Refugee Art Exhibit: Hosted by MCHR and the Amnesty International task force, the art exhibit took place over a week in October 2015, in the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum. The exhibit raised over \$500 which was donated to Amnesty International USA in their efforts to support Syrian refugees fleeing mass atrocities and human rights violations. The exhibit, featuring one of a kind artwork lent to the Center by the Abaunza family, received critical acclaim from students, faculty, and the administration. Amnesty will be hosting another exhibit in the coming year to raise funds for a Syrian refugee family they have adopted, currently living in the Pomona area.

Speaker Series: John Prendergast is a human rights activist and best-selling author who has worked for peace in Africa for 30 years, including helping facilitate the end of the Ethiopian and Eritrean conflict in the late '90s. Prendergast is the founding director of the Enough Project, an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity. During his visit to CMC, Prendergast met with MCHR students, administration, and professors sharing his personal experiences working for government and NGOs. Prendergast has been short listed for the Nobel Peace Prize several times, and has agreed to accept at least one MCHR student every summer as an intern in his NGO, The Enough Project, located in Washington, DC.



Human Rights in Film: The MCHR believes that the use of multimedia including films and documentaries are an essential way to engage with individuals, raise awareness for human rights abuses



and atrocities, and promote dialogue and discussion in combatting the most egregious forms of human rights violations. The Center has embraced the use of film in the study of human rights. During the 2015-2016 academic year, MCHR screened over 10 films, including, *The Look of Silence*, *The Hunting Ground*, *The Good Lie*, *American History X*, *Blood Diamond*, and *the E-Team*. In addition to the annual film series, the Center has a library of over 100 human rights films and documentaries, made available for students.

Fellowship Highlights

Task Force Highlights

Research Fellowship Projects

2015-2016

Nikhil Kanade '16 ~ *Interpretations & Reinterpretations of Jihad up to the 21st Century*

Evelyn Mittler '18 ~

Sex Trafficking as Modern Day Slavery

Quincy Brown '19 and Chris Raguz '19 ~

The Intersection of Race, Poverty, and Gentrification: A Case Study of Human Rights Violations Through American Urban Renewal

Larissa Peltola '18 ~ *Rape As a Tool of War:*

An Examination of its Historical and Contemporary Tactical Uses, Effects on Victims and Societies and Psychological Explanations

Jack Earley '16 ~ *Breaking a Violent Cycle:*

Human Rights and Governance in Post-Genocide Rwanda

Human Rights Benefit Concert:

March 4th, 2016

MCHR task forces hosted a concert to raise awareness about various human rights issues ranging from access to girl's education, the refugee crisis, sex trafficking and sex slavery, and the lack of civil or human rights in North Korea. The concert featured student performers from the 5 Claremont Colleges.

Women's Self Defense clinic

The Power of Women task force hosted a women's self defense clinic for CMC students to learn basic self defense tactics. The clinic took place in December 2015.

"The Defector Escape of North Korea"

April 20th, 2015

LINK, Liberty in North Korea, hosted a documentary film screening followed by a panel discussion on led by LINK leaders.

Amnesty International

Highlights:

- ◆ "Effective Advocacy workshop" led by AI regional coordinator, Muna Sharif. Sharif explored the topics of coalition building, communication tactics, and examining college advocacy within the human rights framework.
- ◆ Students attended the 'Rally for Justice' in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in the spring of 2015.
- ◆ 2016-2017: The Amnesty International task force, will sponsor several events, speakers, and conferences designed to engage its human rights network of over 140 CMC students in human rights grassroots activism. The student-led group will be attending Amnesty International's annual western regional conference Oct. 28th-30th.

Looking Forward:

Lessons and Legacies XIV: sponsored by the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University will consist of roundtables, panels, workshops, and discussions relating to recent advances in scholarship in the field of Holocaust Studies. The conference will take place November 3rd through 6th.

Amnesty International:

- Linda Cruse: international aid worker and humanitarian will come to speak Oct. 16th addressing the importance of humanitarian work and human rights advocacy. Cruse will highlight her experiences from her over 15 years on the frontlines of wars, genocides, and mass atrocities around the world.
- Women's Coalition: Following Amnesty International's "My Body, My Rights" campaign addresses the attack on women's reproductive rights both in the US and internationally, discrimination against women, and protection of refugee women. The Amnesty chapter will be collaborating with various student groups on campus including the Women's Forum and the Power of Women task force.
- Conflict Free Campus Initiative: The goal of this movement is to support peace, accountability, and prosperity in Congo. Amnesty is working with the administration to phase out the use of technology on campus which contains minerals mined in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, minerals that are fueling the deadliest war since WWII.

MCHR Speaker Series:

John Prendergast, Oct. 3rd-Oct. 7th: Activist and humanitarian John Prendergast will join the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights October 3rd through 7th. Prendergast will explore topics such as: film and human rights, the role of law and civil society, and new approaches to countering war and atrocities in Africa.

Adotei Akwei, Feb. 7th 2017: Managing Director for Government Relations for Amnesty International USA, will address the policy brutality and gun violence in the United States and Amnesty's shifting focus on domestic human rights abuses.

Chris Bohjalian, April 20th, 2017: Annual Mgrublian Lecturer on Armenian Studies, will examine contemporary views on the Armenian genocide.

Annual Human Rights Career Panel & Networking Dinner: Date TBD

MCHR students will have the opportunity to interact and network with individuals working in various fields pertaining to human rights.

Power of Women Workshop: Date TBD

The Power of Women task force will host a workshop in the fall addressing issues relevant to college age women. The workshop will explore topics such as body image, portrayal of women in mainstream media, and how to combat sexism and gender based discrimination.

Film Series:

MCHR will continue their annual film series, highlighting impactful films which address various human rights topics. The first film in the series will be *The Heart of Nuba* a documentary film chronicling the life of Dr. Tom Catena, the only doctor for over a million people in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, who are facing an ethnic cleansing campaign of massive proportions committed by Sudanese dictator, Omar Al-Bashir. The film will be screened on campus Friday, October 7th, following a panel discussion on human rights in film led by John Prendergast.