



## Advocacy Highlights



*From left to right: panelists, Nzinga Blake, Carmen Linero-Lopez, Christy Anderson, and Nazareth Haysbert*

### Third Annual Careers in Human Rights

The Mgrublian Center for Human Rights hosted the third annual careers in human rights dinner panel and discussion. Students had the opportunity to dine and dialogue with human and civil rights activists in the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum on March 29, 2018.

The panelists offered students a variety of advice, suggestions, and thoughts on how students can pursue human rights as a career. Of the most significant advice the speakers gave to students, highlights include:

- Take time for yourself and engage regularly in self-care
- Travel as much as possible before settling into a permanent career
- If you don't love what you are doing or where you are working, that job is not for you
- Don't take yourself too seriously, enjoy life and all it has to offer

The amazing panelists included: **Christy Anderson**, Director of Claremont Canopy a nonprofit located in Claremont, CA which helps refugee families from Syria re-settle in Claremont and surrounding areas; **Nzinga Blake**, award winning television personality, actress, producer, and social impact filmmaker who has worked with a number of human rights organizations around the world; **Nazareth Haysbert**, Managing Partner of Haysbert, Moultrie LLP and trial lawyer who concentrates his legal practice in the areas of civil counter-terrorism litigation, class action/mass tort litigation and global human rights; and **Carmen Linero-Lopez**, western regional Campus Organizer for the Feminist Majority Foundation who has experience in grass-roots organizing for Obama for America, Hillary for America, and the ACLU of Tennessee. Students were able to have dinner with the panelists and ask them questions about working in human rights.

To learn more about the panelists and their organizations, take a look at the links below!

Christy Anderson and Claremont Canopy: <https://www.claremontcanopy.org/>

Nzinga Blake, <https://www.nzingablake.com/>

Nazareth Haysbert, Haysbert & Moultrie, LLP: <https://www.hmlaw.la/>

Carmen Linero-Lopez and the Feminist Majority Foundation: <http://www.feminist.org/>

## Task Force Highlights: Amnesty International

*Amnesty International held a variety of events this month. Check them out [here](#) and on their Facebook page!*



### **Boba Fundraiser: Rohingya**

By Tallan Donine '21

On February 28, Amnesty held an awareness fundraiser for the Rohingya Muslims who are currently fleeing ethnic persecution in Myanmar. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people are seeking refuge in surrounding countries. We raised \$475 for the Zakat Foundation which will go directly to emergency relief for those displaced. By taking part in this fundraiser, students had an opportunity to purchase boba and stand in solidarity with the Rohingya people.

### **Visit from AI's Executive Director!**

By Jennifer Collao '21

Margaret Huang is the Executive Director of Amnesty International USA. On March 21, CMC student Amnesty leaders talked personally to Ms. Huang about her journey as a human rights advocate and the changes Amnesty International has gone through over the past five years. Her experience with human rights work covers all sectors such as administrative, government and non-profit. During her visit at Scripps College, Ms. Huang discussed current crimes against humanity occurring in Myanmar, Syria, Yemen, and Sudan. She spoke about the importance of activism during times of peace and conflict. Even something as little as contributing to a letter-writing campaign can make a world of difference for victims. Activism helps change laws through actions such as lobbying. The focus of her speech was that activism is tailored to fit the issues one cares about. Anyone can be an activist by organizing events on campus and educating the community about human rights violations. Students were able to hear about different types of activism and its impact on important issues.



Top: CMC student Diana Hernandez '21 stands in solidarity with those who have been affected by gun violence at the March for Our Lives rally in LA.

Bottom: CMC AI leaders hold up signs during a petition tabling event for gun safety.



### **March for Our Lives: Human Rights and Gun Violence**

By Mohamad Moslimani '21

Amnesty International campaigns for human rights in both an international and domestic scope. This means that every country has a set of issues that they feel comfortable tackling within their own borders. Recently, Amnesty International USA has focused on the domestic issue of gun violence. In 2016, they published a statement declaring that [gun violence is a human rights crisis](#).

With all of this in mind, the CMC Amnesty International Chapter made it one of their March initiatives to rally campus support for a legislative address to gun violence. Utilizing an [online petition](#) from Amnesty International in addition to individual letters that students could mail to their senators, the CMC AI chapter made sure students' voices were heard in their call for a safe and secure American gun policy. After tabling outside of CMC's dining halls, they gave students the opportunity to take a funded trip to participate in "March for Our Lives" in LA. At this trip, students heard from a plethora of individuals that had a stake in the discussion surrounding gun violence. The groups included a local group of indigenous peoples, Black Lives Matter, the Young Democratic Socialists of America, and a number of student groups from local high schools and colleges. Students who attended the march noted this activism and as a breath of fresh air in the world of large-scale activism.

## Task Force Updates (Continued)



On March 23, the Power of Women task force partnered with Scripps College's Sally Tiernan Field House to host a women's self-defense workshop. The workshop, sponsored by the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights and the Gender and Leadership Fund at CMC, taught women from the 5 colleges basic moves and maneuvers of self-defense. The workshop was incredibly successful!

### Unchained

CLAREMONT  
AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING

Late last month, the Unchained task force hosted a screening of *Born into Brothels* at CMC's CARE Center. *Born Into Brothels* is a documentary by photographer Zana Briski and her photographing of Calcutta's underground prostitutes. In return for photographing them, she offered to teach the prostitutes' children the basics of photography so that the kids could document their own lives on the streets of one of the world's poorest cities. The resulting photographs, often astonishing, were exhibited around the world; many of them are seen in this film, which won the Academy Award for best documentary feature in 2005.

### Introducing Humans of Claremont!

On March 23, the MCHR hosted the inaugural event of a new student-led lunch series: Humans of Claremont. Humans of Claremont aims to garner support and awareness for human rights issues that students are passionate about. Started by MCHR student assistants, Will Carter '21 and Hannah Abouchar '21, they hope that these lunches will broaden student's perspectives of human rights violations occurring worldwide and how students of the 5 colleges can get involved in hu-



Organizers of the event, Will Carter '21 (left) and Hannah Abouchar '21 (right), pose with Princess Usanase '21

man rights activism and advocacy.

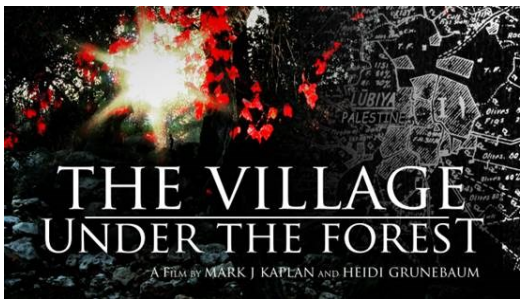
Princess Usanase (CMC '21) was the inaugural speaker in the Humans of Claremont series and discussed the reasons behind slavery in Libya, exposed the realities of it, and shared her work to raise awareness here at the 5Cs. Through her work in the Unchained task force, she, along with several other students, have made the Claremont community aware of the horrors of slavery and human trafficking and provided resources and opportunities for students to get involved in combatting it. To learn more about Unchained and Princess, email her at [pusanase21@cmc.edu](mailto:pusanase21@cmc.edu).



# Human Rights and Film

Through features, documentaries, and other creative avenues, film is an essential medium to expose human right abuses and activism to a wider audience. Films have the power to educate, raise awareness, and motivate people into action. The Center believes films can be an especially effective tool on college campuses. Take a look at the various screenings from this month.

**March 1st:** Ben Tumin (PO '12) advocates for refugee rights in his performance piece: *Monsters to Destroy*. Tumin is an improv comedian and human rights activist who is particularly passionate about the Syrian refugee crisis and the misinformation that refugees have a negative impact on the American economy and national security. Tumin's piece humanized the Syrian conflict and refugee crisis, putting names and faces on a conflict most people cannot begin to imagine the horrors of. *Monsters To Destroy* shed light on the heartbreaking, brave and terrifying journeys refugees undertake to escape the conflict of their homes. Tumin's talk was held at the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum and sponsored by the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at CMC.



**March 22nd:** *The Village Under the Forest*, directed by Mark Kaplan and Heidi Grunebaum, examines the destruction of the Palestinian village of Lubya during the founding of Israel in 1948. It strips back the layers of myth and stories of denial, to explore this tragic event through the study of the village's hidden remains. In collaboration with the Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts at Harvey Mudd College the Center sponsored the screening and a Q&A with the director, Heidi Grunebaum, moderated by CMC Professor of Literature and Film, James Morrison.

**February 28th:** *Dishonour* is a powerful drama that explores the terrifying practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). A five year old girl is caught in a struggle between her widowed father and her elderly great aunt who are both doing their best to raise her according to the customs and laws of their newly adopted home in the United Kingdom. The great aunt's misguided dedication to ancient tribal traditions and in particular FGM, leads to a very precarious situation for the young girl. *Dishonour* features the incomparable Mimi Ndiweni, who plays all six characters in this medium length feature film. The screening was co-sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Studies Sequence at CMC. Director Terrence Turner (P '16) participated in the Q&A following the film.



**March 22nd:** Amnesty International hosted a screening of the documentary *It's a Girl*. The documentary explores the heartbreaking phenomenon of female infanticide in India and China. *It's a Girl* follows individual families faced with forced abortion and infanticide by severe cultural biases, poverty, and the One Child Policy. The screening brought students from the 5 colleges together for a night of discussion and dialogue. Stay tuned for Amnesty updates on how to get involved in combatting these human rights violations. The event was organized in conjunction with Unchained and the Power of Women task forces.

To submit a film or documentary suggestion, contact Eli Zucker ('21) [ezucker21@cmc.edu](mailto:ezucker21@cmc.edu).

# 5C Partnerships



## MCHR and Social Enterprise at Harvard University

By Misha Nathani, Pomona College'18

Social Enterprise Initiative is a 5C organization that supports students who have a special interest in the social enterprise sector. With the help of The Mgrublian Center for Human Rights, four members were given the opportunity to attend the annual Social Enterprise Conference at Harvard on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> this year. We were able to learn about the work being done by leading organizations in the field like Give Directly, One Acre Fund and The Women's Bakery.



The conference also held active learning workshops to help attendees solidify their ideas and potential business models. In keeping with the conference's theme: "Mission vs Profit: What's the Balance?", representatives from larger firms like Google spoke about their Corporate Social Responsibility verticals. Multiple seminars also focused on the idea of conscious capitalism and creating sustainable economic opportunities for marginalized communities without sacrificing profitability.



One of the major highlights of the conference was the panel on Universal Basic Income, a developmental economic concept that is increasingly gaining popularity in countries like Kenya, Mexico and India. The panel ensued into an active debate on the merits and demerits of conditional cash transfers, helping students think about the issue more deeply. One of the largest takeaways for me was the experience of being surrounded by individuals who care about the global issues we face with a passion that is rare to witness. As it was consistently reiterated throughout the conference, "Talent is distributed across every country and every section of society. Unfortunately, opportunity is not." SEI and its' members hope to continue working towards a world in which it is.

For more information on the Social Enterprise Initiative at Claremont, check out their [Facebook](#) page.

# Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers and Supporters of the MCHR,

This will be my last newsletter as I am handing over “Advocacy in Action” to Mohamad Moslimani ‘21 who will serve as the new editor-in-chief for the remainder of the year and for the 2018-2019 school year. I have enjoyed writing and creating every newsletter and have enjoyed my tenure at the Mgrublian Center immensely. As I begin a new journey after graduation, I feel incredibly proud and honored to have been a part of a family of advocates and activists that are making this world a better place. The Mgrublian Center for Human Rights has provided me with a place I could call home, where I could expand my knowledge and educate myself, challenge my thoughts and beliefs, and encourage me to be the best person and human rights activist I could be.

With the guidance and support of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights and Claremont McKenna College I feel prepared to embark on the newest chapter of my life, prepared with the skills, education, and support I have received over the course of four wonderful years in Claremont and working with the MCHR. Being a part of the Mgrublian Center has been the highlight of my college career. I would like to thank all those who have supported me from Professor Wendy Lower who encouraged me to apply as a student assistant and mentored me during my time here, Kirsti Zitar who went, and continues to go, above and beyond for her students, Professor Hilary Appel who challenged me to think bigger and more globally, Professors John Roth and Jonathan Petropoulos for their continued guidance and support, and Mr. and Mrs. David and Margaret Mgrublian for their constant dedication to human rights and encouragement of student work at the Center.

I promise to carry the torch of justice throughout my life and shine a light on injustice around the world.

Thank you Claremont. Thank you MCHR.

In Solidarity,  
Your (former) editor-in-chief,  
Larissa

*To submit event/speaker suggestions, please contact Larissa Peltola, [lpeltola18@cmc.edu](mailto:lpeltola18@cmc.edu)*



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