



Introducing new Acting Director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights: Professor Hilary Appel.

Professor Appel, the Center's Acting Director, specializes in Comparative Politics, East Europe and Russia, and International Political Economy. She joined CMC's Government Department in 2000. Professor Appel received her B.A. in 1991 from Williams College in Political Science and Russian Language, and in 1992 received her M.A. in 1998 in Russian and East European Area Studies from Stanford University, and in 1998 completed her PhD in political Science from University of Pennsylvania. In this interview, Professor Appel shares a few thoughts on her role.

Q: What are you most excited about for this year at the MCHR?

A: I am most excited to work with the amazing students involved at the Center. I have been impressed with their passion, their commitment, and their initiative. What I appreciate most is that the students have a sophisticated understanding of the world's tremendous human rights challenges but nonetheless remain inspired, if not optimistic, about effecting change.

Q: What do you believe students can do to make a difference and promote human rights on campus?

A: There are many things students can do to promote human rights. For example, the student-led task forces are impressive examples of focused efforts to take on a particular human rights issue and look for ways to organize students and contribute in some capacity to solving a human rights problem or ameliorate, even if only in some small way, the pain someone is suffering from the violation of their basic rights.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish during your time as the Director of the MCHR?

A: I am excited to continue the excellent work of Prof. Lower during her leave and to maintain the momentum that she and Kirsti Zitar (Assistant Director) have created on campus. That said, I also plan to draw on my own areas of expertise and bring programming to campus that builds on my background in political science and in Eastern Europe and Russia in particular. Finally, I hope to expand the number of students enrolled in the Human Rights, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Sequence by reaching out to a broad group of students currently majoring in Government and International Relations.

Professor Appel has taken over the role for Professor Wendy Lower who is taking a year sabbatical to be Acting Director at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. Professor Lower is set to return to Claremont in 2018. We wish Professor Appel and Professor Lower the best of luck in their new positions!

MCHR Speaker Series

Adotei Akwei



The MCHR was pleased to welcome Adotei Akwei, Managing Director of Government Relations for Amnesty International USA. Mr. Akwei is also the Africa advocacy expert and in his capacity as the Government Relations Director works closely with government officials, heads of state, other NGOs and more. Students at CMC were able to meet with Mr. Akwei during several student focuses events and activities. His first day in Claremont consisted of a coffee chat with students, followed by lunch and a discussion on human rights in South Africa. Freshman Medina Latic explained, “One of the moments I will always keep with me is when I sat down with Mr. Akwei at the Mgrublian Center and

we journeyed back to when he was in my age. Being undeclared, it was a relief to realize that a man who has worked with CARE USA, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and so many other NGOs had no set path in his academic career. Ultimately, during our Ath Tea conversation I realized his passions began with a documentary called “Hearts and Minds” and from then on human rights flooded into his heart. Having dinner with him in the village allowed me to introduce my interests in learning about genocides, and genocide prevention, specifically that in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His visit gave me an opportunity to really get to know him on a more personal manner, and I could not be more thankful.” Krista Cabrera ‘19 explained her experience with Mr. Akwei,



“My favorite part of Mr. Akwei’s visit was having one on one time with him during tea at the Ath. It was great getting to know him and hearing about what led him to fight for human rights and join amnesty international. He was very kind and willing to give advice on how we as students can do our part to change the world. What I learned from him was to keep fighting for what we believe in even when it gets hard. Especially right now, Mr. Akwei acknowledges that some of his hard work may be reversed due to the administration change in D.C. Yet, he remains optimistic even during this difficult time. He encouraged me to fight for those who have no one on their side.” The MCHR thanks Mr. Akwei for his commitment to human rights and for taking the time to visit CMC.



Student Voices: Activism on Campus



Protesting the Travel Ban:

Students across the 5 Claremont Colleges joined together in protest of President Trump's likely unconstitutional Muslim travel ban. Organized by Amnesty International CMC, Mi Gente, and the Young Progressives Demanding Action, students were courageous to call their senators and write letters expressing their outrage for the executive order issued last month. Students from the consortium are outraged by this blatant disregard for human rights. Many students and their families have been affected or impacted by this travel ban.

Here are a few facts about the Muslim travel ban:

- 90-day immigration ban covers travelers from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.
- The US Embassy has said nationals and dual nationals of these countries cannot enter the US and will not be issued visas for 90 days.
- The ban suspends all US refugee programs for 120 days, would "endanger lives",

"I think that it is important to use our voices to support members of the Muslim community at this crucial time," Mi Gente! member Jeremy Anderson CM '19 said. "Not only are some members of the Latino community Muslim, but also, we are all struggling for fairness, respect, and equal protection under the law." The event garnered over 250 letters to senators and over 150 calls. The event was covered by The Student Life and can be found [here](#).

No Lost Generation (NLG) was created in 2015 as a network of student leaders from across the nation working together for the common purpose of aiding refugees. NLG is supported by the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. The movement is aimed at improving the lives of Syrian refugee youth through the expansion of access to educational opportunities. Our goal is to prevent the advent of a lost generation of Syrians. While NLG focuses on the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Syria, the organization also advocates for refugees and displaced people worldwide. The NLG-CMC chapter was founded last November and has held events to raise awareness about the refugee crisis. NLG is currently planning an event at the Athenaeum which will include a variety of experts, activists, and professionals working in the humanitarian sector to provide insight into the global refugee crisis.

The refugee crisis has reached a global high, and it is crucial for people to care if we have any interest in saving the millions of vulnerable people who lack access to basic resources, much less educational opportunities. The lives of countless people worldwide have been interrupted as a result of violent conflict.

For more information about No Lost Generation, please contact **Roxane Sazegar**, rsazegar19@cmc.edu



“Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.”
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Upcoming Events:

March 6: Maria Trujillo, *Human Trafficking: Addressing a Global Issue at a Local Level*, CMC Athenaeum

Ms. Trujillo serves as the Human Trafficking Program Manager at the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs. In this role, Trujillo coordinates the efforts of the Colorado Human Trafficking Council that was legislatively established by the Colorado General Assembly.

March 22: MCHR 4th Annual Careers in Human Rights Panel & Dinner

Please join the Mgrublian Center as we host our 4th annual Careers in Human Rights panel and dinner. Panel will feature a number of professionals working in fields related to human rights. Dinner space is limited, please look out for a follow up email from Kirsti Zitar.

April 1: McKenna Palooza and Human Rights Benefit Event

The MCHR task forces have partnered up with ASCMC for McKenna Palooza and will have a number of activities and musical performances.

April 20th: Chris Bohjalian, CMC Athenaeum

The Center is honored to welcome scholar and author Chris Bohjalian as our annual speaker about the Armenian Genocide. Bohjalian is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of 19 books. His work has been translated into over 30 languages and three times become movies. His 2012 novel, *The Sandcastle Girls* centers on a fictional tale set during the Armenian Genocide.

April 28: Style Like U Workshop

The MCHR taskforce, Power of Women (POW) will host a lunch and body positivity workshop. For more information on how to get involved, contact jseigler19@cmc.edu or ichavez19@cmc.edu

April TBD: Film Screening, *The Promise*

MCHR will be hosting a private screening of *The Promise*, the first major Hollywood production about the Armenian Genocide. The film is set to release April 21st. Space will be limited.



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HUMAN RIGHTS
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

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