The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 to honor the late Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and his life-long commitment to human rights, international cooperation, and public service.

The program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for a year of professional development and related academic study and cultural exchange. The program is sponsored by the United States Department of State and is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE), which assigns Fellows to a host university based upon each Fellow’s interests and needs. This year’s program includes 220 Fellows from 94 countries, who are being hosted by 17 universities throughout the United States.

The goals of the Humphrey Fellowship Program at the University of Minnesota Law School are:

- to enable each Fellow to foster personal and professional growth and prepare the Fellow for leadership roles in his or her country;
- to provide opportunities for a rich exchange of information among Fellows, and also between Fellows and host families, community members, professional colleagues, and students and faculty at the University; and
- to help Fellows understand as broadly and deeply as possible U.S. cultural, political, legal, and economic systems.

Each year Humphrey Fellows come to the University of Minnesota Law School to pursue studies and professional development work in the areas of human rights, law, and law enforcement.

Since 1981, the University of Minnesota has hosted 412 Humphrey Fellows from 98 countries who have specialized in a wide array of professional fields, including agricultural science, business and management, corrections, finance, foreign affairs, government, human resources, human rights, human trafficking, international trade, journalism, law enforcement, mass communication, mediation and arbitration, medicine, policing public administration, public health, rule of law, and social work.

The Human Rights Center, the Law School, and the University of Minnesota are working together to fulfill the program goals for each of the Fellows. Collaboration among University faculty, alumni, an extensive network of affiliated professionals, host families, and the Fellows creates an extraordinary environment for cross-cultural learning. The Human Rights Center also collaborates with the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, which is hosting 15 Humphrey Fellows in Public Administration this year.
HUMPHREY FELLOWS 2010

Kathya Cibelle Abreu de Sousa
Brazil

Ms. Abreu de Sousa is a Public Defender at the Penitentiary of Matilia. She holds a Bachelor of Law degree and a Master of Science in Civil Law and Criminal and Civil Procedure, and a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology. In her current position, she provides legal aid to the inmate population at the penitentiary—writing petitions and appeals to the local and supreme courts in order to enable prisoners to exercise their right to challenge their detention. Due to her work with the inmate population, she wants to focus on both public agencies and NGOs, and she is interested in issues of crime, prison systems, rights of incarcerated populations, and international human rights development. Her interests also include human rights before issues of women’s and children’s rights. (Email: abreu0092@umn.edu)

Agataeska Dabrowiecka
Poland

Ms. Dabrowiecka is the Director of the Human Rights Unit of the Polish Justice Department, which consists of five divisions that deal with human rights issues, including: development of activities and mechanisms, e.g., the European Court of Human Rights, the UPR, UN treaty bodies; drafting state reports to the UN; providing support for crime victims; and, promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution. Ms. Dabrowiecka holds a degree in Law from the University of Gdańsk and a certificate in Human Rights Law and Practice from the University of Birmingham. During her fellowship year, Ms. Dabrowiecka would like to gain knowledge of current international human rights standards, human rights advocacy and gender issues. She is also interested in further training in courts and in the U.S. experience with international monitoring bodies. (Email: dabro011@umn.edu)

Marina Aristova
Russia

Ms. Aristova has been working as an Attorney at Law in the Chamber of Attorneys of the Samara Region in Russia. Some of Ms. Aristova’s duties include protecting human rights and legal interests by providing legal consultations, drawing up legal documents, representing and defending people’s rights in all stages of legal proceedings. She renders legal assistance to different segments of the Russian population. During her Humphrey Fellowship year, Ms. Aristova would like to gain knowledge in the field of international trade law and international business transactions. She is interested in investigating developing countries’ integration process into world trade, the role of international trade organizations in the integration process and settling international disputes in the field of world trade activity. (Email: aristova05@umn.edu)

Almaz Salmorbekovich Kasybekov
Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Kasybekov works in the agriculture sector as a Deputy CEO for the Kyrgyz Agricultural and Food Corporation. He coordinates design and implementation of development strategy, support for foreign economic activity, investment, business projects, and legislative developments in food processing. He has introduced and developed skills concerning development of the agro-industrial complex of Kyrgyzstan, geoeconomic expansion of partnerships, and implementation of large business projects. He holds a degree in Law with honors from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University and is a PhD candidate in Law. Previously he worked in criminal justice for the Ministry of Justice and for NGOs. As a Humphrey Fellow he intends to study marketing management and business practices in international and national organizations. He hopes to identify marketing-based international business opportunities and implement international business projects and to strengthen his leadership and managerial skills. (Email: kasy004@umn.edu)

Vipula Bhatt
India

Mr. Bhatt was a consultant for the Child Protection Team, UNICEF – India Country Office, in the Indian government’s Ministry of Women and Child Development. Previously he worked as a program staffer and consultant for various non-governmental organizations. Although child protection issues to public attention, worked in the juvenile justice system, and combated child trafficking and child labor. He earned his degree in Psychology and has a M.A. degree in social work from Jamia Millia Islamia University, and a Bachelor in Law from the University of Delhi. He plans to study human trafficking with a focus on the trafficking of children and organized crime. He also hopes to increase his expertise and skills in tackling child trafficking and to study the application of international law for the protection of victims of child trafficking. (Email: blh114@umn.edu)

Zhelja Munirke
Philippines

Ms. Munirke is a prosecutor with the Department of Justice in the Philippines. She prosecutes criminal cases in family court involving minor victims of sexual abuse and women victims of domestic violence. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from San Beda College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English studies from the University of the Philippines. As a Humphrey Fellow, she would like to study best practices for combating human trafficking with particular attention to the areas of law enforcement and prosecution. She hopes to affiliate with government agencies and NGOs involved in the prosecution and investigation of trafficking cases. She is also interested in increasing her knowledge of child sexual abuse and domestic trafficking. (Email: maan006@umn.edu)

Masango Matimura
Zimbabwe

Mr. Matimura is the Programs Manager at the Peace-building and Capacity Development Foundation (PACDEF) in Mutare, Zimbabwe. His responsibilities include supervising officers, writing project proposals for funding, monitoring and evaluating organizational performance, providing training to field officers, planning organization activities and programs, implementing organizational projects in the communities, and conducting performance appraisals. Mr. Matimura has a Bachelor’s degree in Peace and International Relations and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Development. As a Humphrey Fellow, he plans to study human rights and conflict resolution, and to rights-based training. His interests include human rights advocacy, development, and conflict resolution matters. (Email: matim002@umn.edu)

Rommel Miranda
Philippines

Mr. Miranda is a Police Superintendent of the Philippine National Police. He is the Chief, PPO and Spokesperson of the National Capital Region Police Office, supervising the provision of information to the public and the dissemination of initiatives that enhance police and community cooperation. He holds two bachelor degrees in law and in electrical engineering and has undertaken various police training and professional development courses. During his fellowship year, he intends to gain professional experience that would help him formulate better institutional practices, policies, and capability on the philosophies and principles of Policing, law enforcement and management. He is interested in developing a monitoring and investigation system, training program and equipment build-up for police use-of-force, to prevent violations of human rights and legal standards in connection with organizations that advocate human rights and with law enforcement agencies that specialize in use-of-force norms. (Email: miram057@umn.edu)

Peppita Jane Petralba
Philippines

Ms. Petralba is the Chief Provincial Prosecutor of Cebu with the Philippine Department of Justice, responsible for: approving, filing, and prosecuting cases involving all criminals committed in the Province of Cebu as well as the management of the prosecutor’s office. She contributes to policy-making on women’s concerns as Commissioner of the Cebu Provincial Women’s Commission, and she is Vice-Chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force against Trafficking. Ms. Petralba holds a Bachelor of Law from Southwestern University in Cebu City, with a Certificate of Human Rights and Human Rights law from the International Institute of Human Rights. As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Petralba hopes to adopt a bottom-to-top approach to the prevention of human trafficking and violence against women and children, and to develop high-level policies on the protection of trafficking cases and witness protection. (Email: petra067@umn.edu)

Vinetu Polatside
Latvia

Ms. Polatside is Head of Projects for the International Organization for Migration in Latvia and is the local contact point for victims of trafficking. She is responsible for the development of strategies and projects related to human trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants. Ms. Polatside holds a course in “Humanitarian Sciences from the University of Latvia and a Higher National Diploma of Law from the College of Law in Riga. She is the co-founder and a board member of the NGO shelter “Safe House,” the primary organization in Latvia working with issues of trafficking. During her Humphrey Fellowship year, she would like to engage in coursework that addresses trafficking, participate in field trips and specialized seminars, and complete an international organization or NGO working on human trafficking. (Email: pola0601@umn.edu)

Jolanta Samusolyte
Lithuania

Ms. Samusolyte, as the Legal Director of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI), is primarily responsible for monitoring the human rights situation, conducting research studies and strategic litigation, preparing shadow reports and developing educational programs. As an OSI Justice Initiative Fellow, Ms. Samusolyte obtained her LL.M. in Human Rights from Central European University in Budapest. She holds a Bachelor of Jurisprudence in International and EU Law from Concordia International University of Estonia, Tallinn. As a Humphrey Fellow, Ms. Samusolyte is interested in advancing her knowledge of international human rights law with special focus on discrimination, enforcement of international standards, and the use of innovative human rights advocacy strategies. She also hopes to enhance her skills in public speaking and in use of the media for addressing human rights issues. (Email: samus002@umn.edu)

Laila Ziadah
Palestinian National Authority (West Bank)

Ms. Ziadah served as head manager of the Community Work Project at the Ramallah Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah. She was responsible for managing, planning, and evaluating; developing policies; representing the project in national and international forums; and, fundraising efforts. She also worked on advocacy for and empowerment of vulnerable women, and mobilization. Ms. Ziadah has a master’s degree in Gender, Development and Law from Bir Zeit University. During her fellowship year she would like to focus on human rights law and advocacy, and the mechanisms of implementation of human rights on the national and the international level, in order to be able to one of those who will contribute to progressive changes in legislation and administrative rules, to improve the crucial situation of the disadvantages faced by people such as women, children and persons with disabilities. (Email: ziad001@umn.edu)