

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER
University of Minnesota Law School

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Center was inaugurated in December 1988 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Center works locally, nationally, and internationally to provide training, educational materials, and assistance to professionals, students, and volunteers working to promote and protect human rights. The Human Rights Center carries out this mission through five primary programs:

Applied Human Rights Research to assist human rights advocates and activists in improving the effectiveness of their work;

Educational Tools through the development of UN human rights monitoring and training manuals, the *Human Rights Education Series*, the *This is My Home* Human Rights curriculum (www.thisismyhome.org), human rights passports, and other training tools;

Field and Training Opportunities through the Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program, Center internships and fellowships, the International Humphrey Fellowship Program, university courses, volunteer trainings, Trainings of Trainers for Human Rights Education in the U.S, and other program collaborations;

Human Rights Online through the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library (www.umn.edu/humanrts) with over 85,000 core human rights documents in 9 different languages (including Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish), as well as the Resource Center (www.hrusa.org);

Learning Communities and Partnerships through presentations, workshops, and material distribution by our Human Rights and Peace Store (www.humanrightsandpeacestore.org), carrying more than 450 human rights education materials from more than 30 non-profit organizations in local, regional, national, and international communities.

The Human Rights Center is thankful for our **neighboring university partner**, North Dakota State University.

The Human Rights Center is grateful for the **generous support** of the Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program provided by the Albert and Anne Mansfield Foundation, the Robina Foundation, Bill Drake for the Dobiáš Human Rights Fellowship, Lucy Hartwell, Samuel D. Heins, Mark Hiemenz, Charlie Rounds, Allen and Linda Saeks, Bill Tilton, members of the University of Minnesota Law School Class of 1978, and other donors.

UPPER MIDWEST HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2012



APPLY NOW!
APPLICATIONS DUE
FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Human Rights Center
University of Minnesota Law School
Minneapolis, Minnesota
www.humanrightsfellowship.org

The Application Process

Applications are accepted from individuals residing in or connected to the states of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Applicants are encouraged to arrange placements with local, national, regional, or international human rights organizations. Applicants must secure a written commitment from the proposed sponsoring organization indicating that the organization will accept the fellow *if* funding can be arranged.

In searching for possible fellowship sites, you may wish to consult the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library links page at:

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/links/links.htm>

Applicants may wish to contact organizations that have previously sponsored interns and fellows from the Human Rights Center or to review reports from past fellows. A list of previous internship and fellowship placements is posted at:

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/center/uppermidwest/pastfellowships.html>

In addition, information about other potential placements is available from the Human Rights Center.

The Human Rights Center will award approximately twenty-five grants. Grants will ordinarily range from \$1,000 to \$4,500, averaging about \$3,200, and are intended to cover transportation, food, and lodging during the approximately ten-week fellowship experience.

People from all educational and professional backgrounds are encouraged to apply. However, resources and funding are more limited than in recent years for people who are not current law or graduate students at the University of Minnesota.

To obtain an application and for further information, please contact:

**University of Minnesota
Human Rights Center
229-19th Avenue South
Mondale Hall, Suite N120
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: (612) 626-2226
Email: hrfellow@umn.edu**

or

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/center/uppermidwest/guidelines.html>

Applications must be *received* by
**Friday, February 10, 2012
4:00 p.m. (CST)**

Decisions will be made by
March 31, 2012

Former Host Organizations

Over the past 21 years, the Human Rights Center has sponsored 457 interns and fellows to work with human rights organizations in more than 75 countries. Examples of previous host organizations are:

- The Advocates for Human Rights (Minneapolis, MN)
- Amnesty International (Chicago, IL)
- Center for Minority Rights Development — CEMRIDE (Nairobi, Kenya)
- Community Aid Network Uganda — CAN-U (Tororo, Uganda)
- ECPAT — Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
- Fundación Cimas del Ecuador (Quito, Ecuador)
- Indian Law Resource Center (Helena, MT)
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (Arusha, Tanzania)
- Loreta Day School in Sealdah (Kolkata, India)
- Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains (Rabat, Morocco)
- People in Need Foundation (Prague, Czech Republic)
- St. Cloud Human Rights Office (St. Cloud, MN)
- UN Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (New York, NY)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women — UNIFEM (Abuja, Nigeria)
- Voting Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Women Living Under Muslim Laws (Lahore, Pakistan)

"Upon my arrival, my ideas and perspectives were surpassed. I was able to have a better understanding [and] a closer, better look at the impact of the increased political pressure that human rights [activists] face in Burundi. When we are not really familiar with the field, we only have a few ideas on how we should fight against human rights violations and how to define them. Working with Ligue Iteka gave me new perspectives about human rights; it gave new ways of discovering and working within this field. I realized that human rights involve every area of someone's life."

**Benita Kaneza
St. Cloud State University
Ligue Burundaise Des Droits de l'Homme ITEKA – Bujumbura, Burundi**

"I started to learn a new language, Tzotzil. Many of the people that I worked with in outlying communities spoke Tzotzil. Thus, when Spanish was spoken within the community, we were all conversing in a second language. In addition, I connected with a number of people from the international human rights community from Spain, Switzerland, France, Sweden, Germany, Italy, and Mexico. Also, I made great organizational contacts while working at CAPISE and CDHFBC that will be key to continue working not only in Chiapas but will be great sources of information while at the University of Minnesota. My connection with CAPISE and CDHFBC [has] also opened up new opportunities for future Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellows."

**Joseph Towle
University of Minnesota
Centro de Análisis Político e Investigaciones Sociales y Económicas A.C. (CAPISE), and
Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas (CDHFBC) – Chiapas, Mexico**