

PUBLISHED BY MINNESOTA ADVOCATES

HUMAN RIGHTS



FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

OBSERVER

International Women's Day A Celebration 10 Years after Beijing

Minnesota Advocates' annual International Women's Day celebration in March marked the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women with workshops, performances and the perspectives of women whose work advances the cause of international women's human rights.

More than 500 people gathered in Coffman Memorial Union at the University of Minnesota for the celebration, which was co-presented by Minnesota Advocates and the U of M's Human Rights Program. The event, which grew out of the UN's Beijing conference, was an opportunity to celebrate progress on the Beijing Platform for Action, and to inspire continued work on women's human rights issues. The event took place just as the UN Commission on the Status of Women completed its 10-year review of the platform's impact on the world's women.

The event's focus came from two keynote speakers – Zainab Salbi, President and CEO of Women for Women International; and Winona LaDuke, Program Director of Honor the Earth, Ralph Nader's running mate in the 1996 and 2000 presidential campaigns, and Founding Director of White Earth Land Recovery Project.



Zainab Salbi

Salbi's organization has helped thousands of women in countries torn by war and genocide. She spoke eloquently about the devastating effects of armed conflict on women, both in her native Iraq and in other war-ravaged countries where her organization has worked to help women rebuild their lives.

Despite the media's portrayal of women as victims of war, she said, women in Iraq and other areas are courageously breaking their silence and beginning their recovery. Salbi said that women's issues are societal issues, and that social and political change are not sustainable unless they come from women at the

grassroots level. "Stronger women," she said, "will lead to stronger nations."

Winona LaDuke, Native American, environmental and political activist, drew a parallel between the concepts of conquest of the land and conquest of women. "We are people witnessing this continued separation of humans from the land, (a separation that) leaves us lost and accepting a level of violence against the land and against people that is unthinkable."



Winona LaDuke

LaDuke said many people and communities are saying, "That will be enough!" through their efforts to protect sacred sites and native crops from destructive develop-

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Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Presents

THE 2005 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS DINNER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SEYMOUR HERSH

This year's awards will be honoring

The American Refugee Committee and

The Center for Victims of Torture

June 7, 2005

The Depot, Downtown Minneapolis

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Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

The mission of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, we build broad constituencies in the United States and selected global communities. Minnesota Advocates was founded in 1983 by a group of Minnesota lawyers who recognized the community's unique spirit of social justice as an opportunity to promote and protect human rights here at home and worldwide. We are a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents immigrants and refugees in our community who are human rights victims; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy in Minnesota to engage the public, policy makers and children about human rights and cultural understanding. Minnesota Advocates holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.

From the Director's Desk

At Minnesota Advocates' upcoming Human Rights Awards Dinner in June, we will highlight our 20 years of advocating for the human rights of refugees and immigrants. As we have thought about the hundreds and hundreds of indigent people who have found asylum over the years with the help of our staff and volunteers, it has also been sobering to consider how significantly their rights have deteriorated in this country.

Even before September 11, the U.S. began abandoning its long history of refugee protection. Every day at Minnesota Advocates, we learn more about the growing challenges faced by refugees and immigrants in our community.

Since 1996, changes in U.S. laws and procedures have made it more difficult to seek asylum. The due process guarantees so central to the U.S. system of justice have little application to many asylum seekers. Individuals who request asylum at an airport or border now risk summary deportation under new, immediate "expedited removal" procedures. These decisions receive no judicial review. Congressional proposals this session to overhaul the asylum system threaten to further limit asylum seekers' ability to secure protection in the United States.

Asylum-seekers who are allowed hearings on their asylum claims face significant new obstacles. They tell us they are experiencing humiliation as they are publicly handcuffed, shackled and transported through airports. In Minnesota, asylum-seekers in administrative detention are held in county jails. Typically, they are detained for months, like criminals, while their case is decided. Often they are not even provided adequate nutrition.

In addition, many of the government's actions in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks have further marginalized non-citizens without making the country any safer. People have been detained without charge, sometimes for long periods of time without the knowledge of their families. Others have been called by the FBI for interviews based solely on their

nationalities and not on their activities or relationships to suspects of crimes. Male non-citizens from certain designated countries have also been subjected to special registration procedures based solely on their ages and nationalities. These practices have contributed to a growing climate of fear in many immigrant communities.

New proposals such as identifying immigration status on drivers' licenses and requiring local police to enforce national immigration laws have also contributed to this climate of fear. The rhetoric of the past election was more likely to inflame than inform public opinion on immigration policy. Hate speech, vandalism and disparate treatment in schools and jobs have reportedly increased. The media have in many cases reinforced negative stereotypes of immigrants and refugees in reporting on current events.

As we begin our third decade of work protecting the human rights of refugees and immigrants, we must hold both our public officials and the media accountable for contributing to the atmosphere of fear in this country and in our community. We must make sure that proposed laws balance the right to security with the rights of non-citizens. We must respond to unbalanced media accounts that contribute to myths and misunderstandings about immigration. We must also provide safe places for refugees and immigrants to express and discuss their concerns.

Minnesota Advocates is committed to continuing to work with you in the future to improve the ways our country and our community treat our newest neighbors. We look forward to having you join us on June 7 for our Human Rights Awards Dinner to support this work.



Robin Phillips
Executive Director

Individuals who request asylum at an airport or border now risk summary deportation . . .

2005 Awards Dinner to Honor ARC and CVT

Keynote Speaker: Seymour Hersh

Minnesota Advocates' 2005 Annual Human Rights Awards Dinner will take place Tuesday, June 7, at The Depot in the historic Mill District of downtown Minneapolis.

Our keynote speaker will be Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Seymour Hersh**, who first told the world about the human rights violations at both My Lai and Abu Ghraib. His is among the most informed and candid voices in the media exposing human rights violations.

This year our Human Rights Awards honor **The American Refugee Committee** and **The Center for Victims of Torture**.



Seymour Hersh

The American Refugee Committee was founded in 1979. The Minneapolis-based organization works in Africa, the Balkans, Central Asia and Thailand for the survival, health and well-being of a million refugees and displaced people every year, providing support that rebuilds lives of dignity and purpose.

When The Center for Victims of Torture was founded in Minneapolis in 1985, it was the first organization of its kind in the United States. Dedicated to healing the wounds of government-sponsored torture, the center works locally, nationally and internationally to build communities where torture victims feel welcomed, protected and healed. Minnesota is home to as many as 30,000 torture survivors.

Pangea World Theater will receive a special recognition award for its work to promote human rights through the arts. The 2005 Volunteer Award Recipients include **Robert Vaaler** for his work building the constituency for human rights; **Cliff Anderson** for his advocacy against the death penalty;

Dianne Heins for her work in human rights monitoring; **Mark Lee** for his work on behalf of asylum seekers; **Sherry Kempf** for her work to promote human rights education; and **Julia Kashaeva** for her work on behalf of women's human rights.

Our Master of Ceremony will be **Tou Ger Xiong**, a Hmong diversity consultant, comedian and storyteller. Xiong was born in Laos and came to the United States as a refugee.

This year, our Human Rights Awards will also celebrate the anniversary of our own Refugee and Immigrant Program, which for the last 20 years has helped thousands of indigent immigrants in our community seek asylum from persecution and torture in their home countries.

Minnesota Advocates' Human Rights Awards Dinner is the organization's largest fundraiser, but the event is also a gathering of friends and an important forum for human rights and the work of Minnesota Advocates – investigating and exposing human rights violations; representing immigrants and refugees in our community who are human rights victims; training and assisting groups that protect human rights; and working through education and advocacy in Minnesota to engage the public, policy makers and children about human rights and cultural understanding.

Invitations will be mailed in April. For information on sponsorships and tickets, visit our website (www.mnadvocates.org) or call 612-341-3302, ext. 110.

This year, our Human Rights Awards will also celebrate the anniversary of our own Refugee and Immigrant Program, which for the last 20 years has helped thousands of indigent immigrants in our community seek asylum from persecution and torture in their home countries.

Request for Silent Auction Donations

Minnesota Advocates' 2005 Human Rights Awards Dinner on June 7 will include a Silent Auction to support our work and we are currently in search of donations.

Donations to the 2004 Silent Auction included: a homemade gourmet dinner, wine, coffee delivery, gift baskets, tickets and season passes to sport, music and theater events, cabin and timeshare donations, gift certificates for restaurants and retailers as well as musical performance, design consultation, visual art and salon services, artwork from Minnesota artists, as well as handmade crafts from all over the world.

To donate or for more information, please contact Min Chong at (612) 341-3302 ext. 115 or mchong@mnadvocates.org.



The Refugee and Asylum Report

U.S. Supreme Court

Jama Deportation Set

In a closely divided 5-4 decision on a Minnesota Advocates case, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in January that it is legal for U.S. immigration officials to remove a Somali refugee – in this case, Minnesota Advocates client Keyse Jama – back to his war-torn country without the acceptance of the Somali government.

In *Jama v. I.N.S.*, the court ruled that Jama, a Somali refugee who has been jailed by the U.S. immigration officials in Minnesota, can be deported to what is essentially a lawless country because the U.S. does not legally need permission to remove someone to another country.



Keyse Jama, right, with lawyer Kevin Magnuson, Minnesota Advocates volunteer from the firm of Briggs and Morgan.

Jama was represented by Minnesota Advocates volunteer lawyers Jeffrey Keyes and Kevin Magnuson of the firm of Briggs and Morgan. They are two of more than 300 lawyers who volunteer with Minnesota Advocates to represent hundreds of indigent refugees seeking asylum in the U.S. from persecution and torture in

their home countries. Keyes and Magnuson usually concentrate their practices in antitrust and trade regulation litigation counseling.

“We hoped to spare Mr. Jama the ordeal, and the danger, of deportation to Somalia before it returned to stability,” said Michele Garnett McKenzie, Director of Minnesota Advocates’ Refugee and Immigrant Program. “But what’s most important is that everyone – citizens and noncitizens – have access to due process at the highest levels. This case points to the importance of the right to access to the courts for everyone.”

In 1991, Jama and his family fled Somalia for Kenya to escape the inter-clan civil war in their homeland. They resettled in the United States as refugees in 1996, when Jama was 17 years old. The INS brought deportation proceedings against Jama in October 1999 when he was convicted of assault, and ordered him deported in 2001. Jama contacted Minnesota Advocates. Keyes and Magnuson challenged the imminent deportation on the grounds that U.S. law requires that the receiving country agree to accept the individuals before they may be legally deported.

“There are several pending cases around the country that now will have to be resolved consistently with the Jama case,” said Garnett McKenzie. Since the filing of *Jama v. I.N.S.* in 2001,

courts throughout the U.S. have considered challenges to deportations to Somalia. Most notably, the Ninth Circuit, in *Ali v. Ashcroft*, upheld a nation-wide class action that halted the removal of individuals to Somalia on the same grounds raised in *Jama*.

According to the U.S. State Department, Somalia remains in a state of anarchy since civil war broke out in 1991. In spite of that, immigration authorities have deported Somali immigrants without any acceptance or internationally recognized travel documents.

U.S. immigration authorities admitted in this and other litigation that, until courts stopped the practice, it used a variety of means to transport Somali deportees to Somalia—dropping them off at the Somali border, putting them on one-way regional flights into several Somali cities, or sending them via chartered carriers to Mogadishu. In some cases, Somali deportees have been left in areas where local residents are hostile to the deportee’s ethnic group. Although news from inside Somalia is limited, news agencies and individuals have reported that Somali deportees arriving from America have been attacked, killed or are living in hiding.

As Minnesota Advocates’ newsletter went to press, there was no date set for Jama’s deportation to Somalia, where he has not lived since he was 12 years old.

Refugees’ Freedom

11 New Asylum Victories

Since last fall, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights successfully secured asylum for people from seven African countries – Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Somalia, Sudan and Togo.

Each of these people can now stay in the United States without fear of persecution. Under U.S. Refugee Law, asylum allows those who have fled their home countries to remain indefinitely in the United States, free from persecution on account of their race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership in a particular social group. Meanwhile, hundreds more asylum cases are pending with representation by Minnesota Advocates staff and volunteers.

At every stage of the asylum process, Minnesota Advocates’ volunteers play an integral role in representing their clients. One Egyptian man who was persecuted because of his sexual orientation succeeded in his asylum request with the help of an expert from Human Rights Watch and a volunteer Minnesota physician who testified on his behalf. A volunteer university professor’s expert testimony helped an African women and her daughter find asylum after they fled genital mutilation in their home country.

Continued on next page

One recent case was particularly compelling – a client represented by attorney John Ella, was granted asylum seven years after he applied.

The Refugee and Immigrant Program of Minnesota Advocates has rapidly grown from representing three clients in 1984 to providing immigration assistance to more than 1000 individuals every year. The success of our clients and the Refugee and Immigrant Program comes from the dedication of the volunteer attorneys, medical professionals and interpreters who donate their valuable time and expertise.

“Many clients coming to Minnesota Advocates have faced unspeakable acts in their home country,” said Michele Garnett McKenzie, Director of Minnesota Advocates’ Refugee and Immigrant Program. “We know that their chance of being granted asylum is dramatically increased when we are able to place them with a volunteer attorney. With an asylum win, they can eventually reunite with their families and start their lives over in the United States. Our clients go from worrying about their personal lives to sharing the Minnesota experience with their families.”

Many thanks to the following volunteer attorneys who have recently reported asylum victories to Minnesota Advocates: **John Ella, Kerri Hermann, John Liethen, Caroline Ostrom, Sally Silk, Evon Spangler, Mark Thieroff, and Heather Toft.**

Thank you to the following consulting attorneys who volunteered their assistance in these asylum cases: **Hargwayne Geziabrhe, Rose Grengs, Jeff Larson, Kathy Moccio, and Patricia Mattos.**

The following people donated their valuable expertise: **Dr. Lisa Ide** of the Center for Victims of Torture, **Dr. Diana Saari, Scott Long** of Human Rights Watch and **Elizabeth Heger Boyle** of the University of Minnesota. Finally, thank you to interpreters **Stephanie Amorosa, Jules Matembo Kitoy, and Blaise Tumanjong**, for volunteering their language skills for these successful cases.

“The Refugee and Immigrant Program of Minnesota Advocates has rapidly grown from representing three clients in 1984 to providing immigration assistance to more than 1000 individuals every year.”



A Traveling Asylum Lawyer: A Lesson in Texas

Emily Good, a Staff Attorney in Minnesota Advocates’ Refugee and Immigrant Program, spent a week in Texas in January studying asylum work there.

Minnesota has a lot of action in immigration legal cases, as witnessed by the hundreds and hundreds of refugees and immigrants who receive counsel every year from the staff and volunteer lawyers of Minnesota Advocates.

After a week in the hearing rooms, detention centers and legal aid offices of southern Texas, I now know about busy immigration dockets of another kind. I traveled to Harlingen, Texas, with six law student from the University of Minnesota Law School as their supervising attorney. They were part of The Asylum Law Project, a group of first-year law students who do volunteer legal work on asylum cases, with agencies like ProBAR, where we volunteered in Harlingen. It was a chance for the students to experience hands-on legal work and to see the different practice required in a border area near Mexico.



It was a memorable experience in the faster-paced immigration system of South Texas, and a great opportunity to learn and meet other dedicated pro bono attorneys and students who may be our next Minnesota Advocates volunteer lawyers. Texas is, of course, different. For instance, a common issue in asylum cases in Minnesota is proving that the asylum applicant has filed within the one-year deadline of their arrival. In Harlingen, this is not an issue. Most of their clients are caught crossing the nearby border and detained in a large processing facility in Port Isabel, Texas. Detainees are centralized – one judge works full-time out of a building on the grounds of the center. With no travel time, detainees make their appearances without shackles or handcuffs. However, there is even less private space in the court area for attorneys to meet with their clients than we have in Minnesota. Attorneys have to go to the main detention facility for extended client visits.

South Texas has a facility dedicated to caring for unaccompanied minors who cross the border. ProBAR travels weekly to the facility, a sort of secure boarding school, to meet with the children and find out if they have family in the U.S., or if they need to proceed alone with an asylum case. ProBAR, like Minnesota Advocates, represents or finds volunteers to represent these children.

While in Texas, we stayed at a place called La Posada Providencia, which is a refuge for asylum seekers. Run by the Sisters of Divine Providence, La Posada hosts a rotating cast of residents who do chores, study English, and dine together during their stay. We ate authentic homemade tamales with the residents one night, dining with people from Ethiopia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Liberia.

Continued from front page

ment. She challenged men and women to work to recover their relationship to land and place, in order to sustain our culture and identity.

Two breakout sessions featured ten panels and workshops highlighting implementation of several of the Beijing Platform planks, including Women and War, Women and the Economy, Violence against Women, and Women in Power and Women in Decision-making, as well as other issues of women's health, girls' empowerment, LGBT rights, local/global connections, and changes in the field of women's rights.

The speeches, workshops, and performances touched and inspired the crowd. In comment cards, one participant wrote, "Thank you for the day, for the lunch, for the inspiration." Another wrote of Salbi, "I will never forget how she empowered me."

One Congolese woman approached Salbi after her speech. The woman had suffered under the wartime conditions that Women for Women International had worked to improve. The woman shook Salbi's hand and said, "You are our angel."



Zainab Salbi found time to speak with many of the people who attended International Women's Day.

and Freedom, from Jane Evershed, and from the "Voices and Images of Women" collection provided by Luella Greene, enhanced the meeting spaces. Mila Vocal Ensemble performed songs from a variety of countries and cultures, and Ananya



Ananya Dance Theater performed during the 10th Anniversary celebration of International Women's Day.

Dance Theater closed the day with a performance of an excerpt from their upcoming production, *Bandh, A Meditation on Dreams*.

Financial support for the event was provided by the **Women's Foundation of Minnesota** and the following groups at the **University of**

Minnesota: Office for University Women; Institute for Global Studies, through a Title VI grant in International Studies from the U.S. Department of Education; Center on Women and Public Policy, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; Human Rights Center; Department of Women's Studies; MacArthur Program/Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change; The Arleen C. Carlson Chair in Political Science; Event Partnership Grant Provided by the Student Activities Office; Administrative Grant for Student Initiatives; The University of Minnesota Academic, Community, and Campus Life Initiatives in Partnership with Coca-Cola; Graduate and Professional Student Assembly. Additional support was provided by numerous co-sponsoring organizations and individual donors.



Artist Jane Evershed contributed artwork and a reading.

Over 100 volunteers contributed to the planning and smooth running of IWD.

Thank you to **Tammy Tucker of Sweet Tea Design** for her design talents, **Melissa Toft** for her photography, and to **Jane Evershed** for providing her painting, "Many Voices, One Vision," as the image for this year's event.

Thank you also to the following restaurants, food co-operatives, and companies for donating delicious food for the lunch provided at IWD:

Acme Deli, Au Bon Pain, Café of the Americas, Coffee News Café, D. Brian's Deli, Franklin Street Bakery, Good Earth Restaurant/Roseville, Linden Hills Co-Op, LUNA Bars, North Country Co-Op, Peace Coffee, Seward Co-Op, Signature Café, Trotter's Café and Bakery, Turtle Bread Company, Whole Foods Market/St. Paul and Wilde Roast Café.

Battered Immigrant Women Report Released

“Battered refugee and immigrant women face serious obstacles”

As part of our celebration of Human Rights Day in December, Minnesota Advocates released a report finding that, while domestic violence is a serious problem for women of all backgrounds, refugee and immigrant women are particularly vulnerable to certain forms of abuse and face unique problems in gaining protection from violence.

These obstacles include language barriers . . .

The report – “The Government Response to Domestic Violence Against Refugee and Immigrant Women in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area: A Human Rights Report” – was the

result of 18 months of research and interviews with more than 150 community members about the government response to violence against immigrant and refugee women. With a team of nine volunteer attorneys and other professionals, the Women’s Program interviewed police, prosecutors, judges, doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, shelter advocates, service providers and community organizations.

The results: Battered refugee and immigrant women in the Twin Cities area face serious obstacles in accessing protection from domestic violence and government services, and in pursuing accountability for their abusers. These obstacles include lan-

guage barriers and inadequate access to interpretation services; barriers within immigrant communities; fear of government institutions and immigration authorities; inadequate funding of necessary services and programs; ineffective screening of individuals seeking assistance; poor documentation of domestic violence crimes and injuries; inadequate coordination of services across government systems; and limited access to culturally-specific programming.

The release of the report included a roundtable discussion with more than 30 government officials from local, state and federal agencies that have regular contact with refugee and immigrant victims of violence – the Minnesota Supreme Court, police, city and county officials and federal immigration authorities. The report is already having an impact. Several government agencies have scheduled trainings for their employees to gain information about how to improve their response to immigrant victims of violence, and the Minnesota Supreme Court is changing its rules governing complaints and disciplinary measures for court interpreters.

The complete report can be downloaded, without charge, or ordered in hard copy on our website at www.mnadvocates.org/publications.

Bulgaria Approves Law Inspired by Minnesota

Order for Protection Will Help Battered Women

The Bulgarian Parliament in March approved The Law on Domestic Violence, one of the first laws of its kind in the region to include a civil Order for Protection. The law was modeled after a similar law in Minnesota.

Minnesota Advocates has worked since 1997 with our partner, the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, in support of the law. A civil Order of Protection is a significant new remedy for battered women that enables them to have an abusive person quickly removed from their residence without filing a criminal



complaint. In Minnesota, this kind of law created safety for many battered women.

“We are thrilled for our colleagues at the BGRF and for all the advocates in Bulgaria who have worked on this law,” said Cheryl Thomas, Director of the Minnesota Advocates Women’s Program. “We are

very hopeful that this new legal remedy will make a huge difference in the lives of domestic violence victims.”

A large team of Minnesota Advocates staff members and volunteers worked with our Bulgarian partners to share our experience with Order for Protection remedies and legal reform on domestic violence. Over the years these Minnesotans consulted with our partners in Bulgaria and spoke to members of parliament, judges, lawyers, police and advocates in support of the law. Thanks in particular to Marna Anderson, Aviva Breen, Julie Brunzell, Linda Foreman, Loretta Frederick, Rachel Johnson, Marlene Kayser, Mary Louise Klas, Kathryn Quaintance, Malinda Schmiechen, and Julie Tilley. Also special thanks to Helen Rubenstein, who organized a local and national letter writing campaign last year to the Bulgarian Parliament in support of the law.

“We are very hopeful that this new legal remedy will make a huge difference in the lives of domestic violence victims.”

BGRF and Minnesota Advocates recently received a grant from the Oak Foundation to continue our work together. Over the next two years we will be training judges and police in Bulgaria on issues regarding Order for Protection remedies and an improved justice system response to domestic violence.

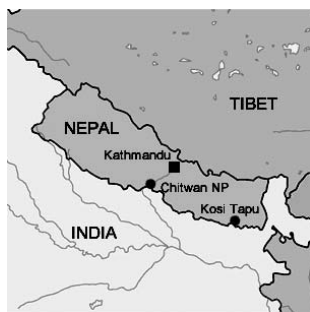
Generous Donors for the Nepal School

Changing Lives Half Way Around the World

Minnesota Advocates' school for poor children in Nepal has recently benefited from several generous supporters.

Three Keys Café & Bakery restaurants in the Twin Cities last fall began to display donation collection boxes at the cash register counters in its locations in downtown Minneapolis, downtown St. Paul, and in the Midway. The change and dollar bills that customers drop in the boxes has accumulated into significant contributions.

Also, in February, long-time Minnesota Advocates' volunteers and supporters Peter Dahlen and Mary Carlsen hosted a gathering in their home in Northfield, Minnesota, to inform friends, colleagues and neighbors about the children of Nepal, a country



with one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. A large group of 50 adults and children converged on their home to hear Minnesota Advocates board member and generous school supporter David Parker talk about his experiences in Nepal.

Both of those efforts help support the Sankhu Community School in

the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal. Minnesota Advocates founded the school in 1999 in partnership with Hoste Hainse, a Nepali non-profit organization. The school provides free education, a daily meal, and regular health care for 174 underprivileged children who might otherwise be forced to work in the local brick-yards, fields, quarries, or carpet weaving factories.

The concept is basic: The right to education is a fundamental human right of all children. But realizing the right to education is often difficult in impoverished countries, particularly for girls. The Sankhu Community School Project of Minnesota Advocates addresses the right to education for children in Nepal, while also addressing several other related rights such as the right to healthcare and nutrition and the right of women and girls to be free from discrimination.

The Northfield group raised enough money to support 10 children at the school for one year. What difference will those contributions make? As one Nepali parent said, "As parents we now have realized that we should send our children to school. We now feel the importance of education. Being illiterate, we are now facing hardships and hurdles – we could not even earn [enough] to provide the basic needs. So now we will educate our children for their better future. We will do our best to fulfill their ambitions."

Another story from the Sankhu School: The local police chief used to commonly read letters and legal documents for the vil-

lage's citizens, most of whom are illiterate. But the chief told a Minnesota Advocates staff member that he is now doing much less reading for the people of the village – their children now do the reading for their parents.

In partnership with Keys Café & Bakery, and generous supporters like Peter Dahlen and Mary Carlsen, and David and Mary Parker, Minnesota Advocates is helping combat child labor and break the cycle of poverty through education.

Please visit our website for ideas about how you can support the Sankhu Community School.

We also invite you to come to a House Party Fundraiser on May 12, 2005, at 5:30 p.m., at the home of the Parkers, 2808 River Parkway West, Minneapolis, where you can learn more about the school and its students.



Of Darfur, and a New Women's Program Report

An overflow crowd of nearly 120 people attended the Women's Human Rights Program house party over the holidays, hosted by Minnesota Advocates' board member Marlene Kayser. The guest speaker was former Executive Director of Minnesota Advocates and leader of a disaster assistance relief team in Sudan, Lynn Thomas (left, with Cheryl Thomas, Director of the Minnesota Advocates Women's Program, and Marlene Kayser). Lynn Thomas spoke about the challenges of her work in the Darfur region, and Cheryl Thomas outlined highlights of the new human rights report, *The Government Response to Domestic Violence Against Refugee and Immigrant Women in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area: A Human Rights Report*.

The Minnesota Advocates Events Page

Working with Diverse and Low Income Clients - CLE

Presented by the Volunteer Lawyers Network and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Tuesday, April 5, 2005 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (12:00 p.m. New Attorney Meeting)

Hennepin County Bar Association Offices, Minnesota Law Center, City Center, 600 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

Michele Garnett McKenzie, Director of the Refugee and Immigrant Program at Minnesota Advocates will present on how to provide legal services to an increasingly diverse population and how poverty impacts the legal representation of clients. One Elimination of Bias credit is being applied for. For more information, please contact the Volunteer Lawyers Network at (612) 752-6655 or vln@hcba.org.

Asylum Network Training

The Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluation: Learn How to Conduct Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluations for Individuals Seeking Asylum

Co-sponsors: Minnesota Advocates, the Center for Victims of Torture, and University of St. Thomas, Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services.

Wednesday, April 6, 2005 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Opus Hall Room 201 and 202 (Minneapolis campus)

Michele Garnett McKenzie of Minnesota Advocates and Wayne Siegel, Ph.D., ABPP, LP from Forensic Psychology Services will be presenting. The Asylum Network consists of a group of attorneys, psychologists, psychiatrists and general physicians who volunteer to assist individuals seeking asylum. The psychological/psychiatric evaluation often plays a crucial role in whether or not asylum is granted. A certificate will be provided for submission of Continuing Education Units. For more information or to RSVP, contact Michele Garnett-McKenzie at (612) 341-3302 ext. 117 or mckenzie@mnadvocates.org.

Education Program/BIAS Project House Party

Friday, April 15, 2005 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by Amanda and Peter DuPont

6117 Westridge Blvd., Edina

Join us in celebration of publishing the second edition of “Energy of a Nation: Immigrants in America” and the 10th year of the Building Immigrant Awareness and Support Project, including performances by members of our Moving Lives Speakers Bureau. Proceeds from this event go to support the Education Program and BIAS Project of Minnesota Advocates. For more information, please contact Kathy Seipp at (612) 341-3302 ext. 124 or kseipp@mnadvocates.org.

Human Rights Speaker Series - CLE

The Treatment of Immigrants and Refugees Under Minnesota Law: Dreams and Reality

Presented by Fredrikson & Byron and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Thursday, April 21, 2005 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Fredrikson & Byron, PA, 4000 U.S. Bank Plaza, Minneapolis

Jorge Saavedra, Chief Legal Officer at Centro Legal, Inc. and Mario Hernandez, Management Analyst at Chicano Latino Affairs Council will speak on the DREAM Act and other immigrant-related legislation in Minnesota. Application for one CLE credit will be made. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Min Chong at (612) 341-3302 ext. 115 or mchong@mnadvocates.org.

Nepal School House Party

Thursday, May 12, 2005 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by Dr. David and Mary Parker

2808 River Parkway West, Minneapolis

Join us in celebration of our Nepal School Project. Proceeds support the Sankhu Community School Project which provides education to 180 children at risk of child labor. For more information, contact Colleen Beebe at (612) 341-3302 ext. 114 or cbeebe@mnadvocates.org.

Justice Without Borders - CLE

Presented by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association

Co-Sponsored by Minnesota Advocates, Minnesota District Judges Association, MSBA Criminal & Immigration Law Sections, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Minnesota Council on Crime and Justice

Friday, May 13, 2005 Luncheon and keynote speaker: 12:00 p.m. Seminar: 1:15 p.m. Reception: 5:30 p.m.

Grand Hotel, 615 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis

Seminar topics will be “Citizens vs. Enemy Combatants” and “Criminal Law Meets Immigration Law”. Five CLE credits applied for, including Elimination of Bias credit. For more information, contact Honorable Catherine L. Anderson, Chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section at (612) 348-2050.

Training in Minneapolis

Georgians Participate in Training on Domestic Violence Legal Reform

In late January, 11 people from the Republic of Georgia came to Minneapolis as guests of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, to learn about the Minnesota model for leadership on domestic violence legal reform.

The Georgians, all lawyers, represented a working group that has drafted a new law on domestic violence in the former Soviet republic. They visited Minnesota to learn about American experience with similar legislation, the history of the domestic violence movement, as well as international legal norms and model laws.

Members of the delegation included a judge, a prosecutor, a Member of Parliament, and directors and staff of NGOs and women's organizations. The Georgians also learned something about Midwestern home cooking – they were welcomed in many homes during their stay – and they experienced the opportunities and challenges presented by the St. Paul Winter Carnival and the Mall of America.

“I was thrilled to be part of the training and impressed with the depth and breadth of the training product we created,” said Aviva Breen, President of Minnesota Advocates’ board and a member of the training team. “I was energized and awed by the hard work, dedication and flexibility that the Georgians showed in analyzing the work they had done and the work ahead of them.”

Said one Georgian in an email upon returning home, “I’m very impressed by your country and your hospitality. I appreciate the knowledge and practice that I got during our seminars and wish to continue this cooperation.”

The Georgians hoped to use their time in the Twin Cities to learn how they could import the Minnesota model back to their home country. Training sessions in Minnesota Advocates’

offices included background on the general dynamics of domestic violence and the domestic violence movement in the United States and in Minnesota. Trainers presented information on legislative reforms in other European countries and international standards on domestic violence.

The training sessions were conducted in English and, with two interpreters, in Georgian. Trainers – many of whom are part of the Minnesota history of leadership on issues of domestic violence – included Cheryl Thomas, Mary Louise Klas, Breen, Sharon Rice Vaughan, Rose Thelen, Loretta Frederick, Kristine Lizadas, Sandy Davidson and Michael Paymar. Breen and Klas also helped develop the training curriculum and took care of many details during the two-week visit.

In addition to the training, the Georgians observed domestic violence related court proceedings in Hennepin County District Court and a hearing at the Minnesota Supreme Court. They visited Casa de Esperanza’s outreach and referral office; the Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center; the Juvenile Justice Center; the State Capitol; the Ramsey County Attorney’s office; and the Women’s Advocates shelter. Some members of the group also participated in St. Paul Police Department ride-alongs.

Other social and cultural events arranged for the group included attendance at the Minnesota Women’s Consortium 25th Anniversary event; a reception hosted by Women’s Program Advisory Committee member Lou Ann Matossian and the Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota and dinners hosted by Robert and Sandy Klas and by Advisory Committee member Marlene Kayser.

“I think our training will have a significant impact on the reform of domestic violence laws in Georgia,” Thomas said. “These two weeks of training will affect women’s lives for many decades to come.”

Minnesota Advocates was selected to host the Georgians by World Learning/Georgia.



Human Rights Monitoring: A House Party Update

Minnesota Advocates’ second human rights monitoring house party in March highlighted our ongoing international monitoring work in Peru and Sierra Leone, and introduced our new local monitoring projects – drawing on the community of immigrants in the Twin Cities to document human rights conditions in Ethiopia; and investigating the impact of 9/11 on the refugee and immigrant communities of Rochester, St. Cloud and the Twin Cities. The event also recognized our dedicated volunteers, including the attorneys, interpreters and study group members who make the monitoring possible.

Minnesota Advocates extends a special thanks to Aviva Breen, chair of Minnesota Advocates’ Board of Directors for hosting the event; Jesus Purisaca, who performed music he wrote to honor those who have dedicated their lives to human rights work; and to **Summit Brewing Company, Lunds, Kowalski’s Markets, Rainbow Foods, Hamdi Restaurant, Chiang Mai Thai, Falafel King, It’s Greek To Me, Safari Restaurant, Marina Grill & Deli** and the **Oromo American Citizens Council** for their generous support.

Training in Bulgaria

Minnesota Advocates Trains Court Monitors in Eastern Europe

Minnesota Advocates over the winter helped launch a new court monitoring program in Sofia, Bulgaria. Minnesota Advocates collaborated with the Open Society Institute and WATCH, the Minneapolis-based court monitoring organization, to introduce this first of its kind court-monitoring program late in 2004. WATCH is a volunteer-based court monitoring and research organization that follows cases of family and sexual violence and provides feedback to the justice system. Founded in Minneapolis in 1992, WATCH works to improve the justice system's response to cases of domestic abuse, child abuse and sexual assault.

That was the concept that Cheryl Thomas, Minnesota Advocates Women's Program Director, Marna Anderson, Executive Director of WATCH, and Hennepin County District Court Judge Kathryn Quaintance took to Sofia. They trained criminal justice personnel, volunteers and students in the principles and logistics of monitoring court cases involving violence against women.

With participants from four Bulgarian jurisdictions, the training was a primer for justice system personnel on the concept and practice of court monitoring. Judge Quaintance presented information about the value of court monitoring from the perspective of criminal justice personnel. Other training introduced sample

monitoring projects and practical logistics of sending volunteers to monitor court cases.

"It's amazing how much of an impact this kind of training can have," Thomas said. "Bulgaria's transition from communism is a little more than 10 years old, and advocates there are doing a tremendous amount of work to improve transparency in the courts. I hope that we were able to accelerate their work."

WATCH, one of the first court monitoring organizations in the United States, is an example of the impact that court monitoring can have on reducing violence against women. Court monitoring programs were developed to systematically observe the justice system and routinely report back to judges, prosecutors, probation officers, court administrators, and other criminal justice system personnel about procedures, behaviors, and practices that affect victim safety and offender accountability. Organized and routine court monitoring normalizes the observation and information-gathering process, and provides a comprehensive way to examine a local justice system.

"This is part of the revolution of change for women in Eastern Europe," Thomas said. "And Minnesota is playing an important role in making the revolution happen."

Staff and Intern Update

Laura Nelson joined Minnesota Advocates as our new Women's Program Staff Attorney. Laura holds a B.A. in Political Activism: A Study of Law and Human Rights from the University of Redlands-Johnston Center. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2003. Previously, Laura was a law clerk for the Honorable Kathryn L. Quaintance, a Hennepin County District Court Judge. Welcome Laura!

Jawad Towns has joined Minnesota Advocates as our new Administrative Assistant/Receptionist. Jawad is a native of New Orleans. He has a B.A. in Political Science from Louisiana State University. Upon graduating from LSU, he joined the office of the late U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone as a Constituent Advocate. Most recently, Jawad served as an Organizer with National Voice, a non-profit organization that worked to maximize civic participation in the past election. Welcome Jawad!

Megan Powers left Minnesota Advocates after three and a half years as Education Program Director. Megan is now pursuing a Master's Degree in Peace Studies in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Good luck Megan!

Christine Tefft left Minnesota Advocates after one and a half years as a Staff Attorney in the Women's Program. Christine has taken a position with the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative project of the ABA in Tajikistan, where she works with partners in Dushanbe and Khujand to set up women's legal advocacy centers. Good luck Christine!

Beth Varro left Minnesota Advocates after one and a half years as Administrative Assistant/Receptionist. Beth has moved to a full-time position at the Science Museum of Minnesota where she works as a Membership Assistant. We miss her!

Our work continues, as always, with the help of a large number of dedicated and talented interns and volunteers. Thanks to our Spring volunteers and interns: **Sara Phillips, Erika Rood, Peter Thiede** and **Melissa Toft** in the Education Program and B.I.A.S. Project; **Megan Belterman, Berglind Halldorsdottir, Brianna Mooty, Hannah Pofert, Emily Rohde, Sarah Sweeney, Carey Thuente,** and **Karla Vehrs** in the Refugee and Immigrant Program; **Andrea Amidon, Heidi Andres, Sana Ansari, Sara Baber, Heidi Braunwarth, Heidi Christine, Bo Connelly, Briana Connors, Fowzi Hassan, Sarah Hollinger, Kate Krile, Laura Mapp, Leah Morgan, Kai Shideman, Sarah Shiundu, Peggy Theobald, Mike Tierney, Sam Walling** and **Heidi Wegleitner** in Special Projects; **Clarke Athman, Lilo Bayati, Katharine Horowitz, Sarah Hunt, Julia Kashaeva, Helen Kim, Jenny Mojica, Joseph Montgomery, Lindsay Shaw** and **Vanja Temim** in the Women's Program.



Laura Nelson and Jawad Towns

Classroom Guides for Human Rights

New Curricula for Immigration and Transitional Justice

“Energy of a Nation”

An Updated Classroom Tool

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has released an updated edition of its teaching guide, “Energy of a Nation: Immigrants in America.”

Since it was first published in 1997, educators in more than 30 states have used this valuable resource to teach about immigrants and immigration in classrooms and the community.

A talented group of Minnesota Advocates staff and volunteer educators updated the curriculum over the last year. The new teaching guide uses easy-to-read and up-to-date charts, tables, graphs, and maps to convey important information about immigration in the United States. Both students and community members learn about who comes to settle in the U.S., why they come, the process by which they are allowed in, where they settle, their impact on the economy, and the basics of U.S. immigration policy. Immigration is described with a historical context, through firsthand accounts and in role-playing activities.

Aimed at middle school through adult audiences, the teaching guide can be used in a wide variety of classes – current events, civics, economics, geography, history, law, social studies, art, and literature among them. The updated curriculum also includes a new Midwest and Minnesota focus and a special lesson that explores emerging issues facing immigrants since September 11, 2001.



Educators have found the teaching guide to be invaluable. In one lesson, students are asked to gather information from a variety of sources to support or refute commonly held assumptions about immigrants and immigration policies. Students are then asked to suggest reasons for bias and stereotypes about immigrants, and to reflect on any discrepancies between facts and beliefs.

One teacher said, “As a citizen of a quickly changing community with large numbers of immigrants, [the teaching guide] was personally interesting to me. Also, my AmeriCorps members work with new immigrants in the schools, so these materials were great.”

After receiving training on the issues addressed in the teaching guide, a school principal said, “When kids learn about human rights, it impacts how they deal with each other on a personal level, as well as how they regard situations in their own com-

munity or in other parts of the world...Since our area is continuing to become more diverse, a greater understanding of the world is necessary for young people.”

Minnesota Advocates is grateful to the dozens of volunteers and staff members who worked to produce this second edition. To purchase a copy of this new educational resource, visit our website <http://www.mnadvocates.org/publications> for more information. You may also access the curriculum online and free of charge at: www.mnadvocates.org/Energy_Teaching_Guide.html.

Teaching Truth and Reconciliation

A Classroom Guide

Minnesota Advocates’ Human Rights Education Program will be publishing a new curriculum called “*Road to Peace: A Teacher’s Guide on Local and Global Transitional Justice*,” coursework for students grade 8 through adult who have a general knowledge of human rights.

The curriculum draws on the expertise and experience of Minnesota Advocates’ human rights monitoring teams, which have recently worked in Peru and Sierra Leone. Our Education Program is creating this teaching guide to introduce students to the concepts of transitional justice – the process by which nations address human rights abuses that occurred in the past in an attempt to reform society and bring about democratic changes. One of the most prominent examples of transitional justice is in South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but Peru and Sierra Leone are examples of the growing impact of this strategy around the world.

The new guide provides teachers with a brief background of human rights, and includes information on large-scale human rights abuses, conflicts and war. The teaching guide uses as examples countries that have gone from conflict to participating in a truth and reconciliation process. Exercises connect human rights with the daily lives of students so they understand that personal decisions about resolving conflict can have global impact.

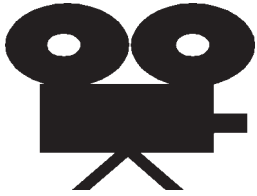
The guide includes a mock tribunal, in which students and teachers learn first-hand about the truth and reconciliation process. They will also be given an opportunity to create a hands-on project that addresses the need for conflict resolution locally in their own classes or communities.

Copies of the curriculum will be available for sale by mail or can be downloaded free this summer. Visit the Education page of Minnesota Advocates’ website, www.mnadvocates.org.

A Human Rights Video Series

Our Partnership with the Saint Paul Library

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is co-sponsoring, with the Saint Paul Public Library, the Human Rights Video Project, a human rights film series.



The project was created to “increase the public’s awareness of human rights issues through the medium of documentary films.” Minnesota Advocates’ staff and volunteers are introducing and leading discussions for four of the twelve films in the series, including

“Behind the Labels: Garment Workers on U.S. Saipan”, “Well-Founded Fear” and “Long Night’s Journey into Day: South

Africa’s Search for Truth and Reconciliation.”

Please join Rose Park, Minnesota Advocates staff attorney, in viewing the last film in the series – “Calling the Ghosts: A Story About Rape, War and Women” – at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, at Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul.

The film examines the impact of war on women in Bosnia through the personal stories of two Muslim women who were detained and experienced systematic rape as a means of humiliation and annihilation.

The Oromo Project Study Group

Researching Human Rights in the Horn of Africa

Minnesota Advocates has created a study group as part of our research on the treatment of ethnic Oromos in Ethiopia.

A diverse group of volunteers is conducting its research with guidance from Laura Provenzino, Minnesota Advocates’ Wellstone Legal Fellow. Their goal is to corroborate and provide context for the information they gather as Minnesota Advocates documents the overall human rights context facing the Oromos. The study group will review primary and secondary sources and hear from guests from the Oromo Community of Minnesota and the Oromo American Citizens Council. Minnesota is home to one of the world’s largest Oromo populations outside of Africa.

“One of our main objectives is to raise the level of awareness of the history and current situation of the Oromo people,” Provenzino said. “We have such a large community in Minnesota and North America that we need to know more about each other, and see what we can all do to effect change.”

The group’s first reading – “Ethiopia: A New Start?” – presented information on the nearly 80 ethnic groups in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. It challenged the group to view the Oromos as a minority because their political power does not nearly match their large numbers. The group next discussed Ethiopia’s special relationship with the United States and how the “war on terror” shapes political discourse and the

resulting human rights context. Ethiopia’s military and natural resources and its proximity to the Islamic world were cited as factors prompting U.S. fiscal and military aid.

Academic repression in Ethiopia formed the basis of the next study group discussion. The group considered a 2003 report documenting obstacles to Oromo students’ access to education and the inability of teachers to organize. The study group then discussed the 2004 expulsion of Oromo students from the

University of Addis Ababa and the current denial of access to higher education throughout Oromia.

In future sessions the study group will review the ongoing University of Minnesota and Center for Victims of Torture study of torture and trauma in the Oromo and Somali populations; the environmental implications of human rights violations; the role and objectives of the Oromo Liberation Front; the challenges and issues confronting Oromos in refugee camps; the human rights standards provided in Ethiopia’s constitution and international human rights conventions; and Oromo culture and heritage, including traditional democratic structure, language and dress.

For more information on the Oromo Project and the study group, please contact Laura Provenzino, Wellstone Legal Fellow, 612-341-3302, ext. 128 or lprovinzino@madvocates.org.



The Oromo Study Group: (left to right, back row) Lane Ayres, Robsan Itana, Zecharias Hailu, Susan Dingle, Habtamu Awetu; (left to right, front row) Johara Mohammed, Laura Provenzino.

Protecting the Unprotected: Rights and Representation Two-Day Human Rights Seminar

Human Rights Law and Policy

(7 CLE credits to be requested)

Thursday, June 2, 2005

This training will introduce lawyers to a wide range of laws, procedures, policies and advocacy strategies regarding the promotion and protection of human rights locally, nationally and internationally.

- **International Refugee Protection:** Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **Battered Refugee & Immigrant Women in Minnesota:** Cheryl Thomas, Women's Human Rights Program Director, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
- **Rights of Indigenous Peoples - International Human Rights Advocacy:** Julie Fishel, Western Shoshone Defense Project
- **International Protection of Religious Freedoms:** Mark Hetfield, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

20th Annual Asylum Conference

(7 CLE credits to be requested)

Friday, June 3, 2005

Asylum Basics for the Pro Bono Attorney (Morning Track 1):

Prof. Karen Ellingson, Prof. Virgil Wiebe, UNHCR Sr. Protection Officer Andrew Painter, and Richard Hess from the **Chicago Asylum Office** will train pro bono attorneys and others new to asylum practice on the essentials of preparing, filing and winning an asylum claim. **Patricia Shannon, Clinical Psychologist**, Center for Victims of Torture, will train attorneys to work effectively with torture survivors.

Strategies for Asylum Litigation (Morning Track 2):

Former Board of Immigration Appeals Member **Lory D. Rosenberg**, immigration attorney **Benjamin Casper**, and volunteer attorney **Sally Silk** will discuss current federal and Board of Immigration Appeals cases and strategize with attorneys litigating asylum cases. **Michael H. Davis** will moderate the session.

Immigration Court Practice Panel:

Immigration attorney **Steve Thal** will moderate a discussion with **Immigration Judge Joseph Dierkes** and **ICE Assistant Chief Counsel Terry Louie** on effective techniques for asylum practice before the Immigration Court.

June 2005 CLE Registration Form

Name: _____
Firm/Org./School: _____
Work Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Day Phone: _____
Email: _____

____ Check Enclosed or ____ Visa/Mastercard
 Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: ____/____
 Name on Card: _____

Costs:	*Attorneys	Non-Profits	Students
Human Rights Law and Policy	\$125	\$50	\$30
Annual Asylum Conference	\$125	\$50	\$30

***Attend both courses for \$200 total (Save \$50)!**

I will attend the following CLE courses:

- ____ Human Rights Law and Policy
(7 CLE credits) June 2nd
- ____ Annual Asylum Conference
(7 CLE credits) June 3rd

Please call **(612) 341-3302 ext. 118** with any questions.

Please mail this form to:

CLE Registration
 Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
 650 Third Avenue South #550
 Minneapolis, MN 55402

Refund/Cancellation: All cancellations will be charged a \$25 administration fee. Paid registrants who do not attend will receive the written materials.

Volunteer Corner A Very Receptive Group



Minnesota Advocates is a volunteer-based organization whose important work could not happen without the generosity, dedication, and talents of the approximately 50 active volunteers we have for each paid staff member.

This group of volunteers came to our assistance this winter while Minnesota Advocates was searching for a new Administrative Assistant/Receptionist. During the nearly two-month search period, fifteen volunteers filled in at the front desk, greeting visitors and clients, providing general administrative assistance and working on the many projects that we gratefully presented to them. Our group of front desk volunteers exemplifies the range of backgrounds, skills and interests that all of our volunteers bring to Minnesota Advocates.

Thank you to each of our volunteers who provided us with invaluable assistance: **Alecia Anderson**, a senior at Drake University who also volunteered her time for IWD 2005; **Amanda Baer**, a Lutheran Volunteer Corp member; **Rebecca Burch**, a graduate student at the Humphrey Institute concentrating in Women and Public Policy; **Ada Chan**, visiting from her native China for six months to train with the U of M Agriculture Department; **Rebecca Coolman**, who recently moved from San Diego and is the new Director of Development at the Minnesota chapter of the ALS Association, an organization supporting people with Lou Gehrig's disease; **Guen Easley**, who has practiced law for 18 years and recently moved from Topeka; **Jennifer Gulbrandson**, who offered her 13 years of administrative

experience in academic, corporate and international environments; **Sarah Herder**, a graduate student at the Humphrey Institute; **Jillian Hoover**, a senior at the U of M, studying philosophy and history with a focus on asylum issues regarding gender; **Sarah Hunt**, an employee at Thrivent Financial and the St. Paul Conservatory of Music who also volunteered for IWD; **Helen Kim**, a senior in political science at the U of M and an IWD volunteer; **Jules Matembo Kitoy**, who also volunteers as an interpreter for some of our asylum clients; **Joseph Rotondi**, a recent graduate of the U of M Law School who was studying for the bar exam; **Lindsay Shaw**, a former Women's Human Rights program intern and current extern; and **Mary Treacy**, who served as the director of Metronet, a network of 500+ libraries in the twin cities, for 18 years.



After her time with Minnesota Advocates, Mary Treacy wrote to us, "I want you to know that I had a really great time at MAHR. I'm impressed with the work, the dedication and the amazing connections. Everyone made me feel welcome and appreciated - which is all a volunteer needs, of course. Thanks for the opportunity!"

If you would like to be added to our Volunteer Opportunities e-mail listserv, please contact Min Chong at (612) 341-3302, ext. 115 or mchong@mnadvocates.org.

Staff

Robin Phillips	Executive Director
Ronald L. Barnes	Administrative Director
Colleen R. Beebe	Education Program Director
Amy Beier	Refugee & Immigrant Program Assistant
Tony Brown	Development/Communications Director
Min Y. Chong	Administrative Assistant/Assistant to Executive Director
Manpreet S. Dhanjal	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Michele Garnett McKenzie	Refugee & Immigrant Program Director
Emily Good	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Mary Hunt	Women's Program Associate
Emma Kelty	Refugee & Immigrant Program Assistant/Lutheran Volunteer Corps
Laura Nelson	Women's Program Staff Attorney
Rosalyn Park	Staff Attorney, Special Projects and Women's Program
Jennifer Prestholdt	Deputy Director
Laura Provinzino	Wellstone Legal Fellow
Kathy Seipp	Education Program Associate
Cheryl Thomas	Women's Program Director
Jawad M. Towns	Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

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The Mila Vocal Ensemble's performance at International Women's Day was rooted in the harmonic traditions of Eastern Europe.



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