The Advocates Launches Groundbreaking Training on Human Rights Approach to Social Justice


With the support of the U.S. Human Rights Fund, The Advocates developed the training to build the human rights movement in the United States and to strengthen the capacity of organizations to use human rights to combat entrenched inequality, injustice, and discrimination.

The training’s three core modules, presented in an intensive two-day workshop or in separate sessions, help service providers, advocates, and activists frame their social justice work within the human rights movement. This hands-on training combines short presentations with a host of interactive activities designed to help participants...

Enforcing and Improving Laws on Violence Against Women

The Advocates, in partnership with The Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, presented a Workshop on Monitoring Implementation of Domestic Violence Laws on October 4-7, 2010, in Sofia, Bulgaria. The workshop was funded by the Open Society Institute, UNIFEM and the Oak Foundation. Participants included advocates and activists from 14 different countries with a strong interest in improving their government’s response to domestic violence. The keynote address was given by Aileen Marques, Legal Officer for the Lawyer’s Collective, Women’s Rights Initiative (LCWRI) of India, one of the authors of the excellent and comprehensive...

(continued on page 3)

(continued on page 8)
Empowering Social Justice Workers... 1, 3
Monitoring Domestic Violence Laws... 1, 8
From the Director’s Desk... 2
Taking Local Human Rights Global... 4-5
Advocating for Indigenous Rights... 4
Community Reconciliation in MN... 6
The Advocates at the MN State Fair... 7
Our Work on DV in Kazakhstan... 9
Our Work on DV in Croatia... 9
Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation... 10
Human Rights in the Classroom... 10
Nepal School Graduation... 11
Asylum Case News... 12
Death Penalty Case of Intellectually Disabled Man on Death Row... 13
Volunteer Corner... 14
Interested in Volunteering?... 14
Staff and Intern Update... 15
Running for Human Rights... 15

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The Advocates for Human Rights

The mission of The Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. The 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 victims of human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy in Minnesota to engage the public, policymakers and children about human rights and cultural understanding. The Advocates holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.

The Advocates at the MN State Fair

Our work at The Advocates for Human Rights is based on a shared vision of a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, equality, justice, and peace. The year 2010 brought renewed energy and hope to this work. The talent and passion of our staff, board and volunteers combined with the generosity and commitment of our supporters has allowed us to turn economic challenges into opportunities and opportunities into successes.

Locally, The Advocates continued to change how Minnesota responds to human sex trafficking, making victims safer and increasing penalties for perpetrators. In April, The Advocates received an AWARE Award from the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault for its leadership in combating human sex trafficking. Also in Minnesota, The Advocates implemented a community dialogue and reconciliation process with Liberians to promote the unification of Liberians across ethnic, political and social divisions.

Continuing our work on behalf of immigrant groups, The Advocates traveled throughout Greater Minnesota, presenting anti-bias workshops and holding educational events. Much of this work was in southern Minnesota, where neo-Nazi groups are actively fomenting fear and anti-immigrant attitudes. The Advocates also collaborated with teachers to integrate our groundbreaking human rights curricula into classrooms and developed a new training and manual to strengthen the capacity of organizations to combat entrenched poverty, discrimination, and injustice, called Discover Human Rights: A Human Rights Approach to Social Justice Work.

Nationally, we advocated for improvements in the immigration system, especially regarding the treatment of detained persons. Along with Detention Watch Network, we launched the Dignity Not Detention campaign, which highlights the continuing human rights violations of the U.S. immigration system. Our staff and volunteers also continued the life-saving work of providing legal representation to asylum seekers.

Around the world, we worked with partners in Morocco, Croatia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, and elsewhere to advance the right to freedom from violence. We provided commentary on draft domestic violence laws; held a regional workshop in Bulgaria on monitoring implementation of domestic violence laws (many of which The Advocates previously helped pass); and trained police, judges, and NGO staff on effectively using law reform to protect and empower women.

As part of our work to bring local human rights issues to the international community, we used our United Nations Special Consultative Status to participate in the first-ever review of the United States by the United Nations Human Rights Council, providing submissions on human rights issues in the U.S. and monitoring the review process. The Advocates also participated in the review of Liberia and Bulgaria by the Human Rights Council, as well as in the Committee against Torture’s review of Ethiopia.

We measure success in new beginnings for asylum seekers who find freedom and safety in the United States, in changed laws that provide safety and accountability in the U.S. and around the world, in changed attitudes that improve conditions in our communities, and in children (and adults) understanding not only about fundamental human rights, but also their responsibility for respecting the human rights of others. To learn more, sign up for email updates, donate, or find ways to take action, please visit us at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.

Thank you to each of our supporters and volunteers for all you do to promote human rights. May 2011 bring us even closer to realizing our shared vision.

Robin Phillips
Executive Director

December 2010 • Volume XXII, Issue 2
analyze their work and evaluate how applying a human rights framework can enhance their approach to creating social change. The training centers around the experiences of practitioners participating in the workshop and ten best-practices case studies of effective human rights organizations around the United States.

**Module 1**: International Human Rights (3 hours). This module sets up the training, providing a basic primer on human rights and the international human rights system. The module also offers participants a chance to explore the connection between human rights and social justice work in the United States.

**Module 2**: Strategies of a Human Rights Approach (3 hours). This module sets out the key definitions, principles, and elements of a human rights approach. The four key strategies for applying a human rights approach are explained in detail, as well as how these strategies affect an organization’s social justice work in planning and action.

**Module 3**: Applying a Human Rights Approach (6 hours). This module lays out specific tools and strategies for the practical implementation of a human rights approach in social justice work. Each of the tools provided corresponds to the different human rights-based strategies explained in Module 2. Participants finish Module 3 with a detailed action plan for how they can start incorporating human rights into their work.

By re-framing social justice issues as human rights violations, social justice organizations, service providers, advocacy organizations, human rights advocates, and others can build sustainable, participatory solutions to problems. The human rights approach provides common standards against which to measure domestic policies, enhances accountability beyond the U.S. justice and political systems, and expands the circle of allies to the global human rights movement. To schedule a training and get your organization started in implementing a human rights approach, please contact Emily Farell at 612-341-3302, ext. 124 (efarell@advrights.org) or Madeline Lohman at 612-341-3302, ext. 135 (mlohman@advrights.org).

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**Monthly Giving**

- **It’s effective.** You reduce administrative costs.

- **It’s flexible.** Choose when and what you want to give. Adjust your donation level or cancel anytime.

- **It’s hassle-free.** Your contribution is automatically deducted on the date you choose.

- **It works for you.** You can budget more easily and build a larger tax deduction.

*Put your beliefs into action - and your donation to work!*

To become a monthly donor, visit The Advocates’ website at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Monthly_Giving.html or contact David Hamm at dhamm@advrights.org or 612-341-3302x110.
Taking Local Human Rights Concerns to the Global Community

The Advocates sent a team to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in the first-ever review of the United States by the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Advocates’ team (made up of Deputy Director Jennifer Prestholdt, Board Chair Jim Dorsey of Fredrikson & Byron, and volunteers Jim O’Neal of Faegre & Benson and Janet Munro-Nelson) also participated in the reviews of Liberia and Bulgaria and the Committee against Torture’s review of Ethiopia.

United States

The United States of America was reviewed for the first time by the United Nations Human Rights Council on November 5, 2010. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process is designed to be an interactive dialogue between the country being reviewed, its own civil society members, UN agencies, and other governmental members of the Human Rights Council.

This was the first time that the U.S. participated in the UPR and it was clear that the U.S. government took the process seriously. There were 33 members of the U.S. delegation, led by Department of State Legal Advisor Harold Koh and Under Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner. After presenting their report to the Council, the U.S. took questions and recommendations from Council members. While some countries considered unfriendly to the U.S. were first to ask questions, overall the review was surprisingly balanced. More than 50 countries complimented the U.S. on improvements in human rights protections and raised concerns about a wide range of issues – issues similar to those raised by The Advocates in the months leading up to the UPR.

The most common recommendations related to areas where the U.S. differs from the international community: 1) the use of the death penalty; 2) the lack of an independent national human rights institution to monitor human rights violations and coordinate with state and local governments; and 3) the need to ratify core human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Other common themes included excessive use of force by police, juvenile life without parole, closing Guantanamo, racial profiling, rights of Native Americans and racial disparities in access to education, housing, and healthcare.

Working in coordination with the U.S. Human Rights Network, The Advocates made a written submission prior to the review critical of the United States’ human rights record regarding migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. More than 13 countries sent a team to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in the first-ever review of the United States by the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Advocates’ team (made up of Deputy Director Jennifer Prestholdt, Board Chair Jim Dorsey of Fredrikson & Byron, and volunteers Jim O’Neal of Faegre & Benson and Janet Munro-Nelson) also participated in the reviews of Liberia and Bulgaria and the Committee against Torture’s review of Ethiopia.

Advocating for Minority and Indigenous Rights with NGO Partner in Kenya

After disputed presidential elections in December 2007, Kenya erupted into violence that lasted into the early days of 2008. Ethnic communities fought against one another, leaving thousands dead, injured or displaced. These violent protests spurred many reforms, including the passage of a new constitution, electoral reforms, and the establishment of a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC).

For the past decade, the Kenyan NGO Center for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) has advocated on behalf of marginalized ethnic communities in Kenya, including pastoralists and other indigenous communities. In 2009, The Advocates provided comparative research and other technical assistance to support CEMIRIDE in developing its strategy for engagement with the TJRC. The law firm of Gray Plant Mooty, along with The Advocates’ interns Jon Moler, Kathy Carroll and Nathan Madson, provided critical research support to the project.

In 2010, the organizations worked together to produce a briefing note based on The Advocates’ research and CEMIRIDE’s on-the-ground advocacy experience. Gray Plant Mooty provided in-kind production support. The briefing note was released on World Day for Indigenous Peoples 2010 and is being used by CEMIRIDE for advocacy and education in Kenya. It can be found at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/uploads/kenya_book_ltr_r.pdf.

Young Kenyans after a traditional ceremony
took up issues related to the treatment of non-citizens in the U.S., with several countries expressing concern about the recently passed Arizona law and detention of non-citizens (both the use of detention in immigration enforcement and conditions of detention). Trafficking in women and girls, another issue raised by The Advocates in our submission, was discussed by a number of other Council members. At the next Human Rights Council meeting in March 2011, the U.S. will indicate which of the recommendations it will commit to achieving by the date of the next UPR in four years.

Following the review, the U.S. government held a Town Hall meeting with representatives of civil society. The U.S. delegation indicated that they will continue to engage actively with civil society when they return to the U.S. The Advocates plans to hold them to that promise as we move ahead to the next phase of the process – implementation.


Liberia

Liberia was reviewed under the UPR process for the first time on November 1, 2010. Members of the Human Rights Council commended Liberia for the progress being made on human rights and acknowledged the many challenges faced by the country. Council members repeatedly affirmed the need for Liberia to implement the recommendations of its recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission and improve access to justice and judicial reform. The Council focused on the rule of law, specifically the need for accountability for those most responsible for gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law during the conflict.

Council members also raised concerns about gender-based violence, including domestic violence and female genital mutilation. Many members strongly criticized Liberia for the 2008 law on armed robbery that reinstated capital punishment and called on Liberia to abolish the death penalty. Council members also called upon Liberia to do more to address issues of corruption.

Bulgaria

The Advocates has worked with a Bulgarian partner, the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF), for more than 10 years. The Advocates and the BGRF made a joint submission on domestic violence in Bulgaria for the first Universal Periodic Review of Bulgaria on November 4, 2010. The Advocates was joined in Geneva by BGRF’s Elena Trifonova and Tania Tisheva.

Our Bulgarian partners welcomed hearing many countries voice the need for further protections for women and make strong recommendations related to the rights of women. BGRF has plans to use the recommendations made during the UPR process to support their advocacy for women’s rights in Bulgaria.

Ethiopia

The Advocates delegation also participated in the Committee against Torture (CAT) (the body of 10 independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by its State parties) review of Ethiopia. All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee about their compliance with their treaty obligations. Ethiopia ratified the Committee in March of 1994, but due to delays in reporting was not reviewed until November 2010.

The Committee questioned the Ethiopian government about its treatment of the Oromo ethnic group. In a recently published report, The Advocates noted that the current government (like its two predecessor regimes) uses torture against the Oromo population and other ethnic groups. Both men and women reported a wide range of severe sexual violence. The report also identified extra-judicial executions and inhumane and unsanitary conditions within prisons. The Advocates provided this report and additional information about the treatment of the Oromo directly to the Committee.

The United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland
Community Reconciliation in Minnesota

For years, The Advocates for Human Rights has been an ally of the Liberian community in Minnesota. The Advocates has worked on hundreds of Liberian asylum cases in the 1990s, and from 2006 through 2009, The Advocates assisted the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), an independent body set up to bring peace, unity and national reconciliation to the West African nation after years of war. Since the end of the TRC, The Advocates has sought to implement a community dialogue and reconciliation process with Liberians here in Minnesota. The Advocates began working with various stakeholder groups in May 2009 to promote community reconciliation and the unification of Liberians across ethnic, political and social divisions.

In August 2010, The Advocates convened the first phase of a community dialogue and problem solving process. The Advocates partnered with Congressman Erik Paulsen to intervene in a major Liberian community leadership crisis as part of the organization’s overall community reconciliation efforts.

Congressman Paulsen moderated a community discussion, attended by more than 50 Liberians, about conflict within the Liberian diaspora community in Minnesota. Rep. Paulsen has also committed to moderating a second community discussion about next steps in the community reconciliation process.

The Advocates also facilitates the Liberian Women’s Roundtable, another community reconciliation effort. The Roundtable meets monthly and has focused on increasing dialogue about community concerns, leadership development and action on key issues of concern to the group. The women members of the Roundtable are currently focusing their efforts on supporting Liberian parents to get more involved in the educational lives of Liberian youth. Many Liberian parents and young people in the community are dealing with a legacy of war that creates added challenges when trying to adapt to life in a new country and educational system. The Roundtable is gathering information from parents about barriers they face in beginning and maintaining involvement, and is trying to raise awareness of the issue through media interviews and public events.

Give to the Max Day a Success

November 16 was “Give to the Max Day”—a one-day, state-wide event encouraging Minnesotans to donate to nonprofit organizations. Thank you to everyone who supported The Advocates and helped us raise over $10,000 dollars for human rights! You are giving hope to victims of human rights violations and building the human rights movement.

Comments from donors on Give to the Max Day included:

“We are proud and feel fortunate that we have such strong leaders in the human rights movement here in MN.”

“Thanks for your important work for those who have no where else to turn!”

“The Advocates has a five-star rating from Charity Navigator and is doing critically important work for human rights.”

Women’s Human Rights Film Series: Spring 2010 Line Up

Playground
6:30 pm on Jan. 31, 2011
Highland/Hillerest Library, 1974 Ford Parkway, St. Paul
This film is a sensitive investigation into the grave problem of child sexual exploitation in the U.S.

Killing Us Softly 4
7:00 pm on Feb. 22, 2011
Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul
This film challenges a new generation of people to think critically about the media and its relationship to the sexualization of children and violence against women.

Africa Rising
7:00 pm March, date TBD
This film is a powerful documentary portraying the indomitable grassroots movement to end female genital mutilation.
Immigration Fuels Our Nation:
Building Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants in the U.S.

The Advocates for Human Rights headed to the Grandstand at the Minnesota State Fair again this year to build support for the human rights of migrants in the United States. With a team of over 90 volunteers, board members and staff, The Advocates engaged nearly 3500 people in discussions about immigration law and policy and strategies for building welcoming communities.

Hot button issues – including Arizona’s new immigration enforcement law, English-only laws, and calls for the repeal of the 14th Amendment – sparked debate and drew concern from many fairgoers. A number of visitors asked how to keep Minnesota from passing anti-immigrant legislation, which was introduced at the end of the 2010 Minnesota legislative session and is expected to be reintroduced next session. Hundreds of people signed on to The Advocates’ call for lawmakers to consider the fundamental human rights of safety and security, due process of law, family unity, freedom from discrimination, and freedom from arbitrary arrest and inhumane conditions of detention. Add your voice to the Call for Rights at www.energyofanation.org/call_for_migrants_rights.html.


Although hopes for comprehensive immigration reform evaporated in 2010, a number of bills introduced in Congress reflected a regard for the protection of human rights of refugees and immigrants. Bills ensuring humane conditions of detention, family unity, and protection of refugees and asylum seekers were introduced, and many of these human rights protections were included in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2010, introduced at the end of September by Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

A number of bills introduced during the past two years would also help bring the United States into compliance with its international human rights obligations regarding non-citizens. A new volunteer team at the law firm of Faegre & Benson, headed by Peggy Abram, worked with The Advocates throughout last year to develop a human rights assessment tool for pending legislation.

Sign up at www.energyofanation.org to receive Immigration Alerts from The Advocates for Human Rights.

Call for Rights

Every person in the United States has the fundamental human right to safety and security, family unity, freedom from racial or religious discrimination, freedom from arbitrary arrest and inhumane conditions of detention, and due process of law.

These human rights are guaranteed to every person in our country. They protect us all, regardless of our immigration status, when or how we entered the United States, our ethnic and cultural background, and whether or not we speak English. The very fact that our laws apply to and protect every person - not just some - reflects America’s highest ideals and values.

We urge every lawmaker to fulfill America’s commitment to ensuring the human rights of every person within our borders by enacting fair, just, and humane immigration laws. We urge you to reject laws which undermine our commitment to the human rights of any person in our country.

Sign the call at www.energyofanation.org!
monitoring studies of India’s domestic violence law published by the LCWRI each of the past three years.

Women’s Program Director Cheryl Thomas, Research Director Rosalyn Park and Staff Attorney Mary Ellingen presented on monitoring techniques and skills that are specific to the implementation of domestic violence laws, including research and document review, interviewing, case file review, court observation, data collection, report writing, and developing recommendations. Guest speakers from Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia and the United States gave presentations on different aspects of quantitative monitoring. Rose Thelen, of Praxis International and the Gender Violence Institute, and currently a Wright County, Minnesota, Commissioner, placed her discussion of quantitative monitoring for new laws in the context of the history of domestic violence in Minnesota. She demonstrated, with real-life examples, how an activist can collect statistics on what is happening to victims as they interact with the justice and social service systems and then use this information to advocate for change.

Stories from participants revealed how urgent it is to continue monitoring the implementation of new domestic violence laws. In their countries, women are arrested along with men at a disturbingly high rate. In some cases, it is because the legal definition of domestic violence includes psychological violence, which the batterer can turn against the victim. In other cases, it is because of a seeming lack of interest in identifying and documenting self-defense wounds and injuries.

On the final day of the workshop, our partner, the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, led a discussion on the strategic use of monitoring reports to advocate for changes in law, social attitudes, and budgetary allocations. Then, each participant created an advocacy plan for monitoring domestic violence laws in their country that addressed their priority objectives, noted potential allies, and outlined the next steps they would take upon returning home. The other participants were extremely supportive of these plans and made good suggestions for their colleagues. Presenters and participants continue to share ideas and monitoring techniques through a workshop website.

The Advocates will present another Monitoring Strategies Workshop for countries of the former Soviet Union in Istanbul in the spring of 2011.

Thank you to hosts of summer and fall house parties:

Kathleen Seestadt and Michael Martino  
Supporting the Oromo Community and the International Justice Program

Marlene Kayser  
Supporting the Women’s Human Rights Program

David and Mary Parker  
Supporting the Sankhu-Palubari School in Nepal

Jim and Andrea Rubenstein  
Supporting the Refugee and Immigrant Program
Cheryl Thomas, Director of the Women’s Human Rights Program, was invited this fall to provide technical assistance and training on monitoring implementation of the new domestic violence law in Kazakhstan. Podrugi, a women’s human rights group in Almaty, hosted Cheryl from October 10-13.

Prior to the new law’s passage in December 2009, activists in Kazakhstan had worked for many years to build support for the law, which contains new remedies for domestic violence victims. In 2008 and 2009, at the invitation of the United Nations and the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, The Advocates provided commentary on and recommendations to draft versions of the law. Preliminary statistics show that in August and September of 2010 alone, police issued over 5,000 orders for protection under the new law. While passage of the law is a good start, it should be strengthened to provide stronger emergency protective provisions and to create a longer-term judicial order that would allow officials to remove violent offenders from the home.

Participants at the October meeting included Podrugi staff and an independent consultant who is a former police official. The three-day meeting focused on identifying effective methods to determine whether the legal system’s enforcement of the law is effectively protecting women’s safety and holding offenders accountable for their violent behavior. At the meeting, Cheryl Thomas explained The Advocates’ monitoring methodology for domestic violence laws, which has been developed over 17 years of working in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Participants at the October meeting included Podrugi staff and an independent consultant who is a former police official. The three-day meeting focused on identifying effective methods to determine whether the legal system’s enforcement of the law is effectively protecting women’s safety and holding offenders accountable for their violent behavior. At the meeting, Cheryl Thomas explained The Advocates’ monitoring methodology for domestic violence laws, which has been developed over 17 years of working in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

From October 9-15, a delegation from The Advocates traveled to Zagreb, Croatia to monitor implementation of Croatia’s domestic violence law. The Advocates is carrying out this monitoring project in collaboration with two regional partners, the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF) and the Autonomous Women’s House Zagreb (AZKZ). Staffpersons Mary Ellingen and Rosalyn Park, along with the regional partners, interviewed various legal actors and NGOs and met with police, judges, prosecutors, shelter workers, advocates, lawyers, and government officials to learn about the effectiveness of Croatia’s laws and their practical application to domestic violence.

In 2003, Croatia adopted a law (amended in 2009) to protect against domestic violence. Under this misdemeanor law, a domestic violence victim can obtain remedies such as expulsion of the batterer from the home and a prohibition against stalking or harassment. While the availability of victim protection is a welcome move, there are some fundamental concerns with the law itself. For example, the law prescribes “psychosocial treatment” for the batterer as one of the protective measures, which is very often ordered as the only remedy; psychosocial treatment has not, however, been demonstrably effective at stopping violence, promoting accountability or protecting victim safety.

The team will return to Croatia to continue its monitoring for two weeks in January. It will travel to different cities throughout the country to gain a broader understanding of the law’s implementation, which will result in a report with recommendations to improve the law and its implementation. The Advocates intends to publish the report in the fall of 2011.

From left to right: Andy Ansell, Carolyn Jasperson and Redwan Hamza; guests at host Kathleen Seestadt’s house; and Executive Director Robin Phillips
The Need for a Change:
Legislation to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation of children is a widespread and devastating problem facing youth in Minnesota and around the world. Studies show that nearly 300,000 children are at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. According to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, “among children and teens living on the streets in the United States, involvement in commercial sex activity is a problem of epidemic proportion. Approximately 55% of street girls engage in formal prostitution. Of the girls engaged in formal prostitution, about 75% worked for a pimp... The average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12-14... for boys and transgender youth, the average age of entry into prostitution is 11-13.”

Although these children are victims of crimes, current Minnesota law contradicts itself: children who are found to be “engaging in prostitution” are simultaneously victims of sex trafficking, maltreated minors, and delinquents.

The Advocates for Human Rights, in partnership with ECPAT-USA and The Family Partnership, is currently working to eliminate the conflict in Minnesota’s law to clarify that sexually exploited children are crime victims, not criminals, and to start crafting a system that responds appropriately and effectively to victims of sexual exploitation. Watch for updates throughout Minnesota’s legislative session at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.

A Teacher Infuses Human Rights into Her Classroom

Sherry Kempf has been a teacher at the Creative Arts High School in St. Paul for 13 years. Since 1993, she has taught and implemented Human Rights Education in her classrooms.

When asked about the impact Human Rights Education has on her students, Kempf said that she has students “who have seen difficulties such as homelessness, drugs, and parents who are not around,” as well as GLBT students having difficulties in school. “[They] feel isolated, like they are the only ones with problems. But when they learn about human rights, they see themselves as part of humanity, as opposed to one person who is different from every other person in the world. It can change how they perceive the world, how they vote and how they’ll go on to be an adult.”

Over the years, Kempf has taught about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and co-authored a curriculum entitled, Economic and Social Justice: A Human Rights Perspective. This fall, she developed a class at Creative Arts called “Human Rights Education and Literature.” She recently took a position as the Outreach Coordinator for the Multicultural Research Center for the St. Paul Public School District. In her new role with the district, she intends to continue to promote human rights education and collaborate with The Advocates for Human Rights in new, exciting ways. Congratulations, and thank you for your work, Sherry!

Women’s Program House Party

From left to right: Cordelia Anderson; Senator Sandy Pappas and Women’s Program Director Cheryl Thomas; and Cathy Ansen and Sarah Stoesz
Nepal School Celebrates Students’ Graduation

A delegation from The Advocates for Human Rights celebrated with the recent graduates of the Sankhu-Palubari Community School in Nepal. In August, a recognition ceremony was held for eighth graders graduating from the school, as well as for tenth-graders who received scholarships from the Advocates to continue their education. The school, run jointly by the Advocates and its Nepalese partner Hoste Hainse, provides a free education to nearly 300 Nepalese children who otherwise would be at risk of forced child labor.

The Advocates’ Executive Director Robin Phillips, who attended the ceremony, says she’s seen a ripple effect in the community over the 12 years that the school has been in operation. “When you educate children, they share knowledge with their families,” says Phillips. “There’s been a dramatic increase in the desire for kids to be educated as families see the benefits of education.” Graduates are excited about new opportunities outside of the village, but are also deeply committed to the school and hope to continue improving the community through education.

Looking for Holiday Giving Ideas?

This year, give a unique and meaningful gift to those you care about… a gift to advance human rights.

You can designate support for a specific issue close to someone’s heart: advancing women’s rights, preventing child labor, abolishing the death penalty, teaching children about human rights, advocating for just public policies, bringing peace to war-torn communities, or providing legal services to asylum seekers.

Recipients will be sent a beautiful holiday card, notifying them of your generous and thoughtful gift. Your gift will help save lives, fight injustice, and restore peace in our world.

Go to www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org or call 612-341-3302.

Nepal School House Party

From left to right: Deputy Director Jennifer Prestholdt; Dan Pennie addressing guests, including Jonathan and Gretchen Sage-Martinson, Sangeeta Jain, Rajiv Garg, Dipankar Mukherjee, and Kiran Belani; and Carole Martin and Mary Cerkvenik
Asylum Case News

Mark Frey won asylum in two cases. One client was a woman from Guinea who feared a second circumcision and a forced marriage. The second was a man from Ethiopia who had been detained and tortured due to his Ogaden ethnicity and suspected support for the Ogadeni political party.

University of Minnesota Law School Clinic’s Elsa Bullard, Elizabeth Super, Brianna Mooty and Professor Steve Meili won asylum for a woman from The Gambia, who had been subjected to female genital mutilation and feared the same treatment for her daughters.

Dick Zonneveld won asylum for a man from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The client was an evangelical Christian and a praise singer who helped an opposition political party raise awareness of human rights violations.

Noel Evans of Thomson Reuters provided counsel to a Somali man on his “nunc pro tunc” asylum claim, which was granted.

A team of attorneys from Faegre & Benson, including Jennifer Dukart, Pamela Stein and Elaine Kumpula, won asylum for a Somali woman who had been subjected to female genital mutilation and opposes the practice. Also from Faegre & Benson, Jeb Bowlus, Annie O’Neill, Rachal Romsaas, Carline Vantine and Elaine Kumpula won asylum for a man from Ethiopia. Their client had suffered because of his Oromo ethnicity, as well as for educating fellow citizens about democracy, working as an election monitor, and participating in opposition political parties.

Jana Bruder of Dorsey & Whitney and Anne Applebaum (formerly of Dorsey & Whitney, now with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota) worked on behalf of a Kenyan woman and her children who suffered severe domestic abuse. Marianne Krljic and John Ohle of Thomson Reuters, with assistance from consulting attorney Naomi Perman of the Perman Law Firm, successfully won asylum for their client, a Kenyan woman, due to past female genital mutilation.

Helkei Hemminger and Elizabeth Tolzmann, with support from consulting attorney Lesley Guyton, won asylum for a man from Cameroon who had been persecuted because of his political opinions. Upon learning of his grant of asylum, he said, “A big thank you for my asylum issue. Indeed, you have exerted so much effort and, thank God, the efforts have yielded fruits. I lack words to express my happiness over the issue.” Brian Dillon, Jason Stover and Greg Merz of Gray Plant Mooty, assisted by consulting attorney Jeff Larson, won asylum for a woman from Cameroon before the Immigration Court. The client was targeted because she provided food and other support to membership of the opposition political party.

Dori Handy, with consulting attorney Kathleen Lohmar-Exel, won asylum for a young woman from Saudi Arabia who was a victim of domestic abuse.

After four years of work and appeals, Tara Harkins of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, assisted by consulting attorneys Ben Casper and Sally Silk, won permanent residence for her client from Ethiopia.

Francisco Gonzalez of the State of Minnesota Department of Labor, with assistance from consulting attorney Julie Zimmer, won Withholding of Removal for a Palestinian man.

Thank you to the following attorneys who worked diligently on cases that are now concluded: Christian Franken, Dick Zonneveld, Jennifer Hassemer, Britta Loftus, Amanda Igbani, Joel O’Malley, Nancy Johnson-Maloney, Sam Walling, Jenny Zanner, Arthur Brown, and Chris Huntley.

Refugee and Immigrant Program House Party

From left to right: Hung Nguyen, Executive Director Robin Phillips, Board Chair Jim Dorsey, Gayle Fuguit, Nathan Swenson, Carolyn Chalmers, and Gail Chang Bohr; Jim and Sally Martineau with Mohammed Salih; John Guterman, Mohammed Salih, Kathleen Seestadt, Sam Myers, and other attendees.
Thank you to the following volunteers who have taken on new cases, provided consultations to new volunteer attorneys, and translated and interpreted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rogers Akemboum</th>
<th>Linda Close</th>
<th>Munazza Humayun</th>
<th>Johara Mohamed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ijaabo Ali</td>
<td>Sydney Crowder</td>
<td>Sarah Novak Fassbender</td>
<td>Tom Moibi</td>
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<td>Paul Amla</td>
<td>Phil Eide</td>
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<td>Joy Anderson</td>
<td>Meghan Elliott</td>
<td>Christian Franken</td>
<td>Mohamed Omer</td>
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<td>Anne Applebaum</td>
<td>Jamal Elmi</td>
<td>Mark Frey</td>
<td>Annie O’Neill</td>
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<td>Sandaw Aye</td>
<td>Lesley Guyton</td>
<td>Elizabeth Holmes</td>
<td>Paschal Nwokocha</td>
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<td>Bill Borene</td>
<td>Dan Hammer</td>
<td>Kathryn Johnson</td>
<td>Jonathan Nygren</td>
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<td>Scott Borene</td>
<td>Dianne Heins &amp; the team of attorneys at Faegre &amp; Benson</td>
<td>Douglas Kilgore</td>
<td>Wayne Popham</td>
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<td>Angela Bortel</td>
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<td>Scott Kranz</td>
<td>Matthew Randol</td>
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<td>Jeb Bowlus</td>
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<td>Elaine Kumpula</td>
<td>Kristen Rinaldi</td>
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<td>Max Bremer</td>
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<td>Brian Liefeld</td>
<td>Michelle Rivero</td>
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<td>Jana Bruder</td>
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<td>U of M Law School Clinic</td>
<td>Sharon Roberg-Perez</td>
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<td>Camilla Bryant</td>
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<td>George Maxwell</td>
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<td>Ben Casper</td>
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Thanks also to the many other volunteers who have generously donated their time to advance human rights through The Advocates.

The Advocates’ Wish List

Your donation of materials or services can promote positive social change:

- Laptop computers
- Video editing software
- Flip video camcorders
- Blackberry Storms
- Membership in the American Bar Association

To see The Advocates’ full wish-list, please visit: http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Donating_Items.html.

If you would like to make an in-kind donation, please contact The Advocates at (612) 341-3302 or hrights@advrights.org. Thank you!

The Advocates Challenges Imposition of Death Penalty in Case of Man with Intellectual Disability on Death Row

The Advocates for Human Rights recently signed on as amicus, or “friend of the court,” in a brief filed before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Bruce Webster. He is represented by a pro bono team at Dorsey & Whitney. Mr. Webster, who sits on federal death row, was convicted of a capital murder 15 years ago. At the time of his trial, a federal law prohibited the execution of the intellectually disabled, and he presented substantial evidence of his disability, including expert testimony from psychiatrists and psychologists who administered IQ tests. The prosecution argued that Mr. Webster was feigning intellectual disability, even though they presented no full IQ test scores of their own. He was convicted and sentenced to death, and his subsequent appeals denied. Since then, newly discovered evidence of Mr. Webster’s intellectual disability has come to light. The Fifth Circuit has rejected a motion brought by the Dorsey & Whitney team to bring a successor petition based on this evidence, stating that it lacked the jurisdiction to authorize a successive petition based on newly discovered evidence of a defendant’s intellectual disability rather than evidence that would negate his guilt of the crime for which he was convicted -- even though, as a concurring judge of the 5th Circuit noted, the new evidence “virtually guarantees” that Mr. Webster would be found intellectually disabled and thus ineligible for execution. A pro bono team at Fredrikson & Byron authored the amicus brief for The Advocates.

Execution of people with intellectual disability is a violation of the Eight Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, as ruled by the U.S. Supreme Court in Atkins v. Virginia (2002).
Volunteer Corner: Richard Cox

Richard Cox retired in 2009 and has steadily contributed time to The Advocates since then. While a paralegal at Faegre & Benson, he assisted on a number of asylum cases through the 1980s and 90s, carrying out witness interviews, obtaining documents from immigration service, and presenting the closing argument in a successful asylum interview. Since his retirement, Cox has increased his level of volunteering at The Advocates, helping out with various organizational needs.

His first project with The Advocates as an independent volunteer was to help cite-check A House with Two Rooms: Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia Diaspora Project. Despite the daunting number of footnotes—more than 3,000—Cox diligently chipped away at the citations with a cheerful attitude. Staff Attorney Laura Young, who helped oversee this project, says, “Richard is one of the friendliest, most dedicated, and most helpful people I have met. He is amazingly detail-oriented, which is a huge help. It is always a pleasure to see Richard around the office!”

Since then, Cox has worked on numerous projects with The Advocates. In particular, Cox has been committed to the Death Penalty Project. When California’s Department of Corrections issued a public call for comments on proposed lethal injection regulations, Cox drafted a powerful letter for The Advocates stating that the inherent flaws of the capital punishment system are so great, regardless of any amended procedures, that California should abolish the death penalty.

In his spare time, Cox enjoys playing the French horn, listening to music, reading, watching movies, and exercising.

Interested in Volunteering?

Interested in volunteering for The Advocates for Human Rights? The Advocates hosts one-hour new volunteer orientations at our office so individuals can learn how they can volunteer their time and talents. Volunteers are needed for a wide variety of projects, including research, legal representation, medical assessments, photography/videography, graphic design, interpretation, writing K-12 lesson plans, and more. Questions, please contact Rosalyn Park, 612-341-3302 ext. 106 or rpark@advrights.org.

The next orientation meeting will be held at:
The Advocates for Human Rights’ office
650 Third Avenue South, #1240, Minneapolis, MN 55402
Date: February 23, 2011
Time: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
No RSVP required

Seeking Silent Auction Donations!

We are currently seeking donations for our Human Rights Awards Dinner silent auction to be held in June 2011.

Please contact David Hamm at (612) 341-3302 ext. 110, or dhamm@advrights.org for more information.

Connect with Us Online!

www.facebook.com/TheAdvocatesforHumanRights
www.twitter.com/The_Advocates

December 2010 • Volume XXII, Issue 2
Staff and Intern Update

Mary Ellison accepted a position as Director of Policy for Polaris Project in Washington, DC. The Polaris Project is one of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in the United States and Japan, with programs operating at international, national and local levels. We will miss Mary, but we are glad to have a strong advocate in DC working to end trafficking.

After finishing her year as an AmeriCorps Vista with the Education Program, Anna Donnelly began in July as Program Associate with the Women’s Human Rights Program. Anna received a Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, in Global Studies and Spanish from the University of Minnesota, with a focus on human rights and Latin America. In 2008, Anna worked with the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo – Founding Line in Argentina. As an Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellow, Anna worked with the Genocide Intervention Network-Minnesota to develop educational materials and build the anti-genocide movement.

Margot Goodnow finished her year as an AmeriCorps Vista and began work this fall in Medford, MA as a residential advisor at a transitional house for people with severe mental illness.

Michaela McLaughlin has joined The Advocates as a Refugee and Immigrant Rights Program Assistant through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Michaela received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Latino Studies from St. Olaf College in May, 2010. Welcome, Michaela!

Thank you to our summer and fall interns!

Caitlin Alli (Notre Dame), Bill Borene (University of St. Thomas Law School), Maggie Brunk (Macalester College), Emily Buehler (MA Candidate, American University), Elsa Bullard (University of Minnesota Law School), Greger Calhan (New York University Law School), Brian Claeys, Laura Danielson (William Mitchell College of Law), Annette Dias (St. Catherine University graduate), Patrick Finnegan (University of Minnesota), Blair Harrington, Keith Harris, Leah Headrick (University of Minnesota – Duluth), Kelly Heitz (University of Minnesota), Kelsi Hines (University of Wisconsin – Madison), Matthew Holm (Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellow), Chelsey Jonason (Depauw University), Mike McHaney, Yeukai Mudzi (Macalester College), Sarah Nilsson Dolah (Macalester College), Annie Ringo Vine (University of Michigan Law School), Grace Rybak (Columbia University), Alex Schmidt (Illinois Wesleyan University), Alex Sevett (University of Wisconsin – Madison), Maura Shramko (Humphrey Institute), Amanda Sicoli (Knox College), Jennifer Singleton (University of Minnesota Law School), Megan Thompson (St. Olaf), Siobhan Tolar (William Mitchell College of Law), John Tribbett (Hamline Law School), Shiveta Vaid (Macalester College), Tricia Wendt (Macalester), Jennifer Wilkins (University of St. Thomas), Julia Wolfe (Penn State), and Marina Yakhnis (Drake University).

Running for Human Rights

Volunteers contribute to The Advocates in many ways, but Apekchaya Karki is the first to run 26.2 miles to raise money for The Advocates’ Sankhu-Palubari School in Nepal. Apekchaya grew up in Kathmandu, Nepal. In 2006, she came to the United States to study urban planning and public policy at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School. Apekchaya decided to run the 2010 Minneapolis Marathon and that she would use her marathon effort to raise money for the school. She set a fundraising goal of $500 (the cost to feed and educate two kids for a year) and asked friends and family to contribute to the school. “I always wanted to do something to contribute to the community,” she says. “Coming from Nepal, I have seen how things are. Being able to help them out is important. In one way, I was motivating myself to accomplish my goal of completing a marathon. And I knew the success side of the project, so knew it would really help the kids. Helping them make their future was a big motivation.”

Apekchaya met her goal of completing the 26.2 mile Minneapolis marathon. She raised $945 -- enough to send 3 kids to school for a year.
### Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>James E. Dorsey</td>
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<td>Howard S. (Sam) Myers, III</td>
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<td>Hung Nguyen</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Regis</td>
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<td>Jonathan Sage-Martinson</td>
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<td>Ellen Sampson</td>
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<td>Irfan Khan Sandozi, M.D.</td>
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<td>Max J. Schott, II</td>
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<td>Samuel Kofi Woods, II</td>
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### Staff

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Robin Phillips</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Donnelly</td>
<td>Women’s Program Associate</td>
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<td>Mary Ellingen</td>
<td>Women’s Program Staff Attorney</td>
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<td>Emily Farell</td>
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<td>Emily Good</td>
<td>Refugee and Immigrant Program Director</td>
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<td>David Hamm</td>
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<td>Sarah Herder</td>
<td>Education Director</td>
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<td>Kay Kautio</td>
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<td>Madeline Lohman</td>
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<td>Michele Garnett McKenzie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michaela McLaughlin</td>
<td>Refugee and Immigrant Program Assistant, LVC</td>
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<td>Beatriz Menanteau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosalyn Park</td>
<td>Research Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Prestholdt</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Seipp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ahmed Sirleaf</td>
<td>International Justice Program Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Tennant-Jayne</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant/Receptionist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl Thomas</td>
<td>Women’s Program Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Wilcox</td>
<td>Development and Communications Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Young</td>
<td>International Justice Staff Attorney</td>
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Minneapolis, MN 55402