
The Advocates submitted a statement for the record that read: “The title of today’s hearing seeks to suggest that people in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will be treated to a ‘holiday’ at taxpayer expense because of ICE’s proposed detention standards. This offensive and misleading title ignores the mistreatment that countless immigrants have endured and the desperate need for accountability, oversight, and sound policy that is based on considerations of public safety, cost effectiveness, and respect for human dignity.”

The Advocates submitted a report to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants outlining key failures of the United States to protect the human rights of people in immigration custody. The Advocates raised significant concerns about the human rights of detained people, including:

- Violation of the right to due process, including access to counsel;
- Arbitrary detention, including mandatory detention, prolonged and indefinite detention, and lack of access to court review of custody determinations;
- Violation of the right to safety and security of the person, including sexual assault of women and transgender persons in detention and lack of access bars, separated from their families, with minimal if any access to legal services, and vulnerable to the same substandard medical care and abuses that have characterized ICE detention to date. Most important, the proposed detention standards are not enforceable or legally binding, and contain no independent oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance.

Earlier this year, The Advocates and the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights submitted a report to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants outlining key failures of the United States to protect the human rights of people in immigration custody. The Advocates raised significant concerns about the human rights of detained people, including:

- Violation of the right to due process, including access to counsel;
- Arbitrary detention, including mandatory detention, prolonged and indefinite detention, and lack of access to court review of custody determinations;
- Violation of the right to safety and security of the person, including sexual assault of women and transgender persons in detention and lack of access bars, separated from their families, with minimal if any access to legal services, and vulnerable to the same substandard medical care and abuses that have characterized ICE detention to date. Most important, the proposed detention standards are not enforceable or legally binding, and contain no independent oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance.
From the Director’s Desk

It is rare for citizens of the United States to have the opportunity to vote directly on issues that impact human rights in their own communities. This fall, Minnesotans will face two key state constitutional amendment questions at the polls – the Marriage Amendment and the Voter ID Amendment. Both of these ballot initiatives pose significant human rights concerns.

The Marriage Amendment

On November 6, Minnesota voters will be asked whether to amend the state constitution to recognize that “[o]nly a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota.”

This amendment will permanently enshrine discrimination by restricting the freedom of Minnesotans to choose their spouses and establish their own families. It runs contrary to the fundamental human rights principles of non-discrimination and freedom. While no treaty language expressly addresses sexual orientation or a specific right to same-sex marriage, international human rights bodies are increasingly recognizing that LGBT people face particular human rights challenges and are identifying those laws that deny benefits to individuals based on sexual orientation as contrary to human rights norms. Most recently, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton addressed the Human Rights Council on the subject of LGBT rights, proclaiming that “gay rights are human rights” and called for efforts “to reach a global consensus that recognizes the human rights of LGBT citizens everywhere.”

The Advocates for Human Rights opposes the Marriage Amendment. The Advocates is one of over 300 nonprofit, civic, and faith organizations that have endorsed the Minnesotans United for All Families campaign to defeat the ballot initiative that affects so many Minnesotans and their families. Sign the pledge to vote “no” in November and learn how to become more involved at mnunited.org.

The Voter ID Amendment

Minnesota voters will also be asked, “Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid photo identification to vote and to require the state to provide free identification to eligible voters, effective July 1, 2013?”

The right of citizens to vote is a fundamental human right. Article 21(3) of The Universal Declaration for Human Rights states: “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.”

For the first time in Minnesota’s history, the proposed amendment would narrow suffrage. This amendment was not proposed in response to identified voter fraud. Instead, it is part of a recent wave of voter suppression laws which, according to New York University’s Brennan Center for Justice, threaten to disenfranchise five million eligible voters in the United States. According to the Minnesota League of Women Voters, those most likely to be affected by the amendment include:

- 18 percent of elderly citizens who do not have a government-issued photo ID.
- 15 percent of voters earning less than $35,000 a year who do not have a government-issued photo ID.
- 18 percent of citizens aged 18-24 who do not have a government-issued photo ID with their current address and name.
- 10 percent of voters with disabilities who do not have a government-issued photo ID.
- 25 percent of African-American citizens of voting age who do not have a current, government-issued photo ID.

Voting is a human right, not a privilege. We all must be vigilant in protecting this right. The Advocates for Human Rights opposes the constitutional amendment to require photo identification when voting. The Advocates is also part of the Our Vote Our Future campaign. To join the campaign, go to ourvoteourfuture.org.

Take Action - Vote NO in November

So, when Minnesotans go to the polls on November 6, The Advocates urges them to protect human rights by voting “no” on these two unnecessary and harmful amendments.

Robin Phillips
Executive Director

The mission of The Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards in order to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. The Advocates accomplishes this mission by involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, and building broad constituencies in the United States and selected global communities.

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The Advocates for Human Rights is offering a new curriculum guide focused on immigration issues. It is designed for grades eight through adult audiences.

Lesson four in the newly-released *Energy of a Nation* curriculum focuses on the causes of migration that have brought immigrants to the United States’ shores from the 1800s to the present. Students brainstorm the reasons people move to a new country and classify motivations as ‘push’ or ‘pull’ factors. Students are then given a card that summarizes the story of one individual and her/his reasons for immigrating. Together, the stories told on these cards represent major waves of immigration over time. Students are first asked to answer questions about their own cards and to identify relevant human rights issues. They then post their cards along a timeline, and the entire class walks the line, reading about a series of individuals and why they came to the United States. The class discusses some of the common factors that transcend time and place. In a follow-up activity, students are given information on waves of immigration by decade and region. Students reflect on past trends, project future immigration flows, and identify the push and pull factors that might drive those patterns.

This lesson is most relevant to the following 2011 Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Social Studies: 6.4.4.23.1; 8.4.3.14.5; and 9.4.4.20.2.

To download this lesson and other lessons from *Energy of a Nation*, please visit www.energyofanation.org. For more information, contact Sarah Herder, Education Director, at sherder@advrights.org or 612-746-4691.

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**2012 Legislative Session:**

**Human Rights Impact At-A-Glance**

The Advocates has introduced a new human rights at-a-glance guide to understanding the impact of proposed legislation at the Minnesota Legislature. The guide reviews the impact of legislation on the following human rights principles:

- **Safety and Security.** Everyone has the right to political, legal, economic, and social systems that ensure survival, livelihood, and dignity.

- **Non-Discrimination.** Human rights are guaranteed to all persons without discrimination of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

- **Accountability.** Human rights must be fulfilled, respected, and protected by the rule of law.

- **Participation.** Every person must have access to meaningful participation in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the community.

“People need a way to quickly understand the impact of proposed legislation on human rights,” says Michele Garnett McKenzie, Advocacy Director at The Advocates. “This visual guide helps policy makers and advocates easily identify whether a bill supports or undermines human rights in our community.”

View the guide on The Advocates’ website at energyofanation.org.
On July 20, 2011, Minnesota passed the Safe Harbors law, a public safety bill that includes protections for children who are commercially sexually exploited and clarifies that sexually exploited children are crime victims, not criminals. While the law does not have the exact language of the draft bill supported by The Advocates, it is a significant step toward securing better protections for sexually exploited youth and providing for their needs. With the passing of the bill, Minnesota became one of only a few states to enact Safe Harbors legislation. This builds on excellent efforts already in place in the state.

The new law makes six main changes to how the state protects sexually exploited children. The law:

- Excludes sexually exploited children under 16 from the definition of delinquent child;
- Includes the definition of sexually exploited youth in Minnesota’s child protection code;
- Creates a mandatory first-time diversion from arrest for any 16 or 17 year old who has been exploited in prostitution (where the child meets the criteria);
- Allows prosecutors to continue diversion or to proceed with Children in Need of Protection (CHIPS) petitions for 16 and 17 year olds coming through the system an additional time;
- Increases penalties against buyers of sex with adults, from $250 to a minimum of $500 and a maximum of $750. The revenue these fees generate will be distributed to law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers to serve sexually exploited children; and
- Directs the commissioner of public safety to work with stakeholders to create a victim-centered response for sexually exploited youth.

Certain provisions, such as the increased penalties for buyers of sex, went into effect in August 2011. However, recognizing that Minnesota’s juvenile justice and child protection systems were not yet equipped to meet the needs of children exploited through sex trafficking, the law delays certain provisions from going into effect until 2014, giving time for appropriate response systems to be built and put in place for victims. In order to build this response system, the law directs the commissioner of public safety to work with stakeholders to create a victim-centered response for sexually exploited youth.

Since Safe Harbors was signed into law, The Advocates has been actively involved in this legislatively-mandated consultation process. This process requires gathering of government ministers in Eastern Europe and Central Asia on implementation of domestic violence laws.

Speakers at the meeting included Dubravka Simonovic, a member and former chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and current chairperson of the Optional Protocol Working Group on Communication; Susan Carbon, Director of the U.S. Office of Violence Against Women in the Justice Department; Melissa Scaia, Executive Director of Advocates for Family Peace in Grand Rapids, Minnesota; and Thomas. Other participants from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Bulgaria, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Ukraine, and Russia gave presentations on the treatment of domestic violence in their respective countries.

END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE ADVOCATES SERVES AS CONSULTANT TO MEETING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The Advocates’ Director of Women’s Human Rights, Cheryl Thomas, served as an expert at a meeting in January of the United Nations’ entity for gender equality and empowerment of women. The meeting, organized by UN Women, focused on the implementation of domestic violence legislation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The two-day meeting, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, brought together government and NGO representatives from ten countries in the region to discuss progress and challenges in combating domestic violence.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for countries in the region to compare notes on the progress they’ve made, their successes and challenges in combating domestic violence, and to work together to improve the implementation of their laws in the future,” said Thomas. Participants developed a set of recommendations for use in their own countries to strengthen enforcement of domestic violence laws. The meeting also laid the groundwork for a future
that the commissioners of public safety, health, and human services, in collaboration with prosecutors, child protection representatives and services providers, develop a victim services model to address the needs of sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation. The model aims to keep public sector partners at the table and engaged in building a system that will support Safe Harbors once it is fully implemented.

The process of ensuring effective implementation of Safe Harbors includes identifying the statutory, regulatory, and policy changes that are needed for the full implementation of the law, as well as ensuring that appropriate interventions and funding link sexually exploited girls with needed services. The Advocates will use a human rights framework to assess whether the consultation process results in victim-centered systems that prioritize victim rights and successful implementation of the law. In addition to this systems-building work, The Advocates continues to be an active member of the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force and maintains its legislative outreach to build support for any further changes to Minnesota law that are needed before Safe Harbors goes into full effect.

Human trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a human rights violation and a problem of growing urgency. The Advocates has been working to promote and protect the rights of sex trafficking victims in Minnesota since 2007. Efforts have included human rights fact-finding, the publication of the Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment for the State of Minnesota, presentations and trainings for more than 2,000 individuals, and legislative advocacy and legal reform, including leading the Safe Harbors Initiative.

For more information on trafficking and Safe Harbors implementation, please visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.

Staff Attorney Beatríz Menanteau presents on the Safe Harbors law.

WE ♥ MONTHLY GIVING

Like many other nonprofits, The Advocates appreciates its Sustainers, those donors who commit to giving a certain amount each month. And our Sustainers appreciate how easy and flexible monthly giving is—a donation amount can be adjusted or cancelled any time. To become a Sustainer of The Advocates today, visit our website at: theadvocatesforhumanrights.org or contact Ellen Van Iwaarden at evaniwaarden@advrights.org or 612.746.4677.

PLANNED GIVING

Have you considered adding The Advocates to your estate plan? Please contact Ellen Van Iwaarden for more information.
Later this year, The Advocates will publish a report documenting the implementation of Croatia’s domestic violence legislation. The report will detail the challenges that different sectors face in implementing Croatia’s laws and will make recommendations to promote victim safety and offender accountability. The report will be a joint publication with The Advocates’ partners in Eastern Europe, Autonomous Women’s House Zagreb, and the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation.

Croatia passed a domestic violence law that provides both emergency and long-term protective measures to promote victim safety. These include eviction, stalking and harassment measures, restraining orders, and confiscation of weapons. Additional measures directed at offenders’ behavior include psychosocial treatment and addiction treatment. While a victim may, on her own, apply for protective measures under the law, most often police file for these measures on behalf of victims. The law’s jurisdiction lies in the misdemeanor system. Judges in this system decide whether to issue the protective measures and for what term, as well as whether to impose a jail sentence or fine on the offender. Other laws, such as the country’s Misdemeanor, Criminal, and Family Laws, also include provisions governing the state’s response to acts of domestic violence.

In 2010 and 2011, The Advocates’ Director of Research Rosalyn Park and Staff Attorney Mary Ellingen traveled to Croatia to conduct interviews about the domestic violence system. The team traveled to twelve different cities throughout Croatia and interviewed police, judges, prosecutors, NGOs, shelter advocates, medical personnel, centers for social welfare, lawyers, and prison staff. The report is based on these interviews, the team’s observations, and additional research.

The report will describe many challenges, but one of the greatest concerns is the high rate of dual arrests, in which the victim is arrested along with her offender. Because Croatia’s domestic violence law classifies psychological and economic violence as domestic violence, a victim who has verbally insulted her abuser can be prosecuted and held accountable along with the abuser who has physically beaten her.

Dual arrests are alarmingly widespread throughout Croatia. Offenders have benefited from this legal loophole when they inform police that the victim has insulted or argued with them, because the victim can be held culpable under the law. Police and judges do not always weigh psychological and physical violence equally in arrest and sentencing decisions, but there is a clear pattern of victims being arrested—and punished—for psychological violence.

The impact of a dual arrest and charge on victim safety and offender accountability is devastating—after she has been punished once for seeking help, a victim is not likely to access the justice system again.

The Advocates has recommended that the definition of psychological and economic violence be amended to include only acts that threaten the victim with physical harm or cause fear of such harm, and that all legal actors undergo comprehensive training to understand the dynamics of domestic violence and identify the predominant aggressor.

The report will be available on The Advocates’ website later this year.

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**IMMIGRANT DETENTION IS A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS**

continued from page 1

- to or inadequate medical care;
- Cruel and excessive use of solitary confinement;
- Violation of the right to unity of the family by frequent transfer of detained migrants to facilities in isolated areas far away from their families and community support networks.

To learn more about immigrant detention and how to take action, visit energyofanation.org.
The Advocates is expanding its international advocacy work before the United Nations to hold governments accountable for human rights violations within their countries. The Advocates is also expanding its efforts to hold the United States government responsible for its human rights practices. Working with diaspora communities in the United States and non-governmental organizations in other countries, The Advocates brings important human rights issues to the UN’s attention.

Two recent submissions to the UN’s Human Rights Committee are:

- **Turkey.** A report on gaps in Turkey’s domestic violence law and programs for victims of domestic violence. The report draws upon the expertise of Mary Ellingen, a staff attorney, who has interviewed lawyers, judges, shelter advocates, psychologists, and others who serve victims of domestic violence in Turkey. Ellingen subsequently used her findings to develop and teach a course for lawyers in Turkey on effective and sensitive representation of domestic violence clients. Two weeks after the report was filed with the Human Rights Committee, Turkey passed a new domestic violence law that addresses many of the flaws identified in the report. The Advocates is analyzing the new law.

- **Croatia.** A report on human rights violations in Croatia, particularly those committed against victims of domestic violence. The report also examines the challenges in implementing Croatia’s domestic violence law. The submission is based on The Advocates’ upcoming publication on Croatia (see article on preceding page).

The Advocates has made several other recent submissions to the UN, including:

- **Ethiopia.** A shadow report about discrimination against disadvantaged ethnic groups in Ethiopia, which was submitted to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The report was written by Tony Beasley, a volunteer attorney and patent litigator at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi. The shadow report draws upon The Advocates’ human rights fact-finding previously published in Human Rights in Ethiopia: Through the Eyes of the Oromo Diaspora. Ethiopia will appear before the Committee in May.

- **India.** Five stakeholder reports on India’s failure to comply with international human rights obligations to protect members of minority groups, particularly Muslims. These reports, submitted to the Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review procedure, were drafted by The Advocates in collaboration with Tanveer Ahmad from the Indian American Muslim Council and Jamia Teachers’ Solidarity Association. India will appear before the Human Rights Council in May.

- **Morocco.** A report on Morocco’s compliance with its international human rights obligations in the context of domestic violence. The report was submitted in collaboration with Global Rights and an alliance of non-governmental organizations in Morocco.

- **Morocco and Japan.** Separate reports on death penalty practices in Morocco and Japan. Working in collaboration with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, Karen Bridges, a volunteer attorney, wrote the Japan report. Morocco will appear before the Human Rights Council in May, and Japan is due to appear in October.

- **Ghana.** A report on violations of the rights of non-citizens living in Ghana, which draws upon interviews with NGOs and Liberian refugees at the Buduburam settlement. Ghana will appear before the Human Rights Council in October.

All of the reports are available on The Advocates’ website:

[theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://theadvocatesforhumanrights.org)
The Advocates for Human Rights presents the 29th Annual

**Human Rights Awards Dinner**

**Thursday, June 21, 2012**

Hilton Minneapolis

Honoring actor and human rights activist Mike Farrell with the 2012 Don and Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award

Featuring Dean Eric P. Schwartz of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs

To reserve your seat at the event, visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org or contact Mary Scott at 612.746.4680 or mscott@advrights.org.

For information about sponsorship, please contact Ellen Van Iwaarden, Development and Communications Director, at 612.746.4677 or evaniwaarden@advrights.org.

Please watch our website at theadvocatesforhumanrights.org for Silent and Almost Live Auction items available at the dinner. The Scarf Bazaar will be back!
In honor of World Day against the Death Penalty on October 10, The Advocates is chairing the working group for a commemorative event. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. The event will look at progress made and international legal developments over the past decade. These include United Nations resolutions for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, a growing number of ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, and landmark decisions from international and regional legal bodies.

World Day will also highlight trends in death sentences, executions, abolition, and moratoria of the death penalty, as well as changes in the scope of legislation for death-eligible crimes. Finally, World Day will look forward to future objectives, including the progressive restriction and continued abolition of the death penalty.

The Advocates is grateful for the assistance of the Sutherland Asbill & Brennan law firm in creating materials for World Day, including the leaflet and fact sheet. Thanks also to graphic designer Cuong Nguyen, who is designing the poster. Check the World Coalition website at worldcoalition.org for materials.

**Take Action**

To sign the petition for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, visit worldcoalition.org. The World Coalition against the Death Penalty is seeking one million signatures by December 2012.

**Women’s Human Rights Forum in Turkey**

Turkey, a country at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, was an ideal location for a recent international conference on women’s rights attended by The Advocates and volunteers in April. A group of eighteen staff members and volunteers for The Advocates participated in the Association of Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) Forum in Istanbul, Turkey from April 19 - April 23, 2012. The Forum, held every four years, is designed to allow discussion, strategizing, and celebration among women’s rights leaders and activists.

The conference included representatives from over 40 countries and was an exciting and inspiring event. Each day began with a plenary session highlighting a particular topic, included extra lunch and evening events, and was packed with interesting and educational sessions. The conference concluded with a Sunday evening march by Forum participants down Istanbul’s busy pedestrian thoroughfare Istiklal Caddesi (Independence Avenue).

At this year’s Forum, participants explored how economic power is affecting women and the planet. The Forum was designed to facilitate connections among the very diverse groups working on these issues from both human rights and justice approaches. Economic power also affects and intersects with all women’s rights issues and agendas – from violence against women to education, political participation, and health. Without economic systems that take into account women’s needs and realities and value their contributions, rights and justice are not possible. Women’s Program Director Cheryl Thomas noted, “The sessions on violence against women and domestic violence were overflowing with women committed to ending domestic violence, reinforcing our understanding that stopping violence against women is a fundamental component of world economic progress.”

The Advocates’ group also met with international partners who work with The Advocates on legal reform, met with Women’s Program funders, and visited Bahcesehir University Law School. At the law school, where The Advocates has been working to develop curriculum and train Turkish law students on representing domestic violence victims, the group learned about Turkey’s new domestic violence law from Dean Ayşe Nuhoglu, Professor Feridun Yenisey and Assistant Professor Hande Uluturk. The Advocates is grateful to the volunteers who attended the Forum, allowing The Advocates to learn more and make more contacts with our partners around the world.

Volunteer Deborah Fowler with Executive Director Robin Phillips in Istanbul

“The sessions on violence against women and domestic violence were overflowing with women committed to ending domestic violence, reinforcing our understanding that stopping violence against women is a fundamental component of world economic progress.”
They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky
by Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak, with Judy A. Bernstein

When: Friday, June 8th, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Where: The Advocates for Human Rights, 330 - 2nd Ave. S., Suite 800, Minneapolis

Join us for a discussion of the book, They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky – a true story of three “Lost Boys of Sudan” who recall their harrowing journey out of war and into safety.


Outcasts United
by Warren St. John

When: Thursday, July 12th, 5:00 -6:00 p.m. OR Friday, July 13th, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.
Where: Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 - 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis

For this summer companion book, The Advocates is partnering with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA, www.artsmia.org). Join us for a guided tour by MIA docent Carreen Heegaard and a conversation about issues explored in the text and visual art throughout the MIA. Outcasts United is the story of a soccer team comprised of young male refugees, the remarkable woman who coaches them, and the town where they live – a once-sleepy southern hamlet that has been upended by the process of refugee resettlement.

Please RSVP to sherder@advrights.org with your preferred date for the tour.

Praying for Sheetrock
by Melissa Fay Greene

When: September 11, 2012, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Where: The Advocates for Human Rights, 330 - 2nd Ave. S., Suite 800, Minneapolis

Join us for a panel discussion on voting rights, in both a contemporary and historical context. Praying for Sheetrock is a book about McIntosh County, Georgia, where black leaders challenged the corrupt power structures through several means, including a voting-rights case.


WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE PARTY:
THANK YOU TO HOSTS JAN CONLIN AND GENE GOETZ!
The Advocates co-hosted Winona State University’s Tri-State Human Rights Conference on Saturday, March 24, 2012. The theme of the conference was “The Changing Faces of Our Region: Developing Professional, Personal, and Social Responsibility and Strategies for Equity and Economic Opportunity.” Core issues for the conference included: immigration; economic and social rights; women’s rights in the workplace; equity; human rights education in K-12 schools; Native American issues; and poverty, race, and education. Keynote speakers and numerous workshops explored how the ongoing demographic shifts in the tri-state area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa) impact the relationship between economic opportunity, equity, and human rights.

The goal of the conference was to use a human rights framework to provide professionals and students with practical knowledge and concrete skills designed to address the inequities in education, income, and access that threaten to undermine economic opportunity and marginalize increasing numbers of people in the region. Participants identified the local impact of discrimination and other forms of human rights abuses and reviewed strategies to address disparities in their own professional, personal, and social lives.

Board and staff members Carolyn Chalmers, Emily Farell, Michele Garnett McKenzie, Emily Good, Sarah Herder, and Madeline Lohman hosted six workshops at the conference: Immigration for Educators; Economic and Social Rights in the United States; Human Rights Education; Discover Human Rights; Immigration 101; and Women in the Workplace. The Winona Historical Society hosted a reception during the conference.

Education Director Sarah Herder called the conference, “an impressive and important event.” She said she hopes that other colleges and universities across the state and country incorporate human rights principles into their education on social justice issues.

The Advocates has released the Spring 2012 issue of Rights Sites News. This edition focuses on the right to health, in recognition of World Health Day (April 7th) and National Public Health Week (April 2-8). The educational resource is packed with lessons, ideas, and links to numerous materials on teaching about health and human rights, both globally and locally.

To download the Right to Health issue, or to sign up to receive this quarterly newsletter, please visit: discoverhumanrights.org/Rights_Sites_Newsletter.html.
The Advocates’ clients and staff are grateful to our many volunteer attorneys who dedicate hours to preparing and defending asylum applications. As one client stated, “I would not be here if I didn’t get these lawyers to help me.” Regarding The Advocates’ services, another client said “I will not be the first or the last one to benefit...because of your help.” The Advocates appreciates the efforts of all of our volunteers; please make sure you let our program staff know when you win your case so we can properly recognize your hard work. The Advocates wants to recognize the following attorneys for their efforts on recently concluded cases.

**Asylum Office Victories**

Pam Abbate-Dattilo and Ted Koishol of Fredrikson & Byron represented a Togolese woman who won asylum based on her fear of forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

**Immigration Court Victories**

Kelly McLain, Teague Orgeman, and David Zucco of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi successfully won asylum before the immigration court for a Cameroonian man who was persecuted because of his political opinion.

The University of Minnesota’s Asylum Law Project students Joe Cabelka and Joe Schauer wrote an appeal brief for a Cameroonian man who was denied asylum but granted Withholding of Removal. More than two years later, the Board overturned the decision and found that the client is eligible for asylum.

Thank you to the following attorneys who recently concluded work on asylum cases:

- **Angela Bortel** for her work with a Togolese client.
- **Camilla Bryant**, with the help of **Mark Frey**, for their work with a Burundi client.
- **Wayne Popham** for his work on multiple cases.
- **Sally Silk** for her exceptional work on multiple appeals.
- **Jana Sullivan** for her efforts on behalf of a Congolese client.

President Omar al-Bashir has controlled the Sudan since a coup over twenty years ago. During his reign, hundreds of thousands of Sudanese citizens have starved to death or otherwise been killed in the Darfur region of the country. In 2008, the International Criminal Court in the Hague indicted President al-Bashir for his crimes in Darfur. This makes al-Bashir the world’s only head of state who has been indicted for genocide while in office.

Mr. M opposed the al-Bashir regime for imposing harsh punishments for criminal offenses, including amputations, lashings and crucifixion. In Mr. M’s words, this legislation “is inhuman and uncivilized and does not reflect the true Islam.” But being a political activist in the Sudan can come at a steep price; Mr. M was repeatedly arrested, imprisoned, and tortured by government security forces for almost three decades. J. Richard Soderberg of Fish & Richardson represented Mr. M, preparing his asylum application and attending his asylum interview. Additional guidance was provided by Larry Kolodney. Mr. Soderberg continues to assist Mr. M in applying to bring his family to join him in the United States.

Being a political activist in the Sudan can come at a steep price; Mr. M was repeatedly arrested, imprisoned, and tortured by government security forces for almost three decades.

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**Asylum Victories**

**Case Victory Feature**

Congratulations to J. Richard Soderberg and Larry Kolodney of the Minneapolis office of Fish & Richardson for successfully helping Mr. M, an attorney from the Sudan and an opponent of the regime in Khartoum, obtain asylum in the United States.

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**Ten Thousand Villages Benefit:**

Thank you to everyone who supported The Advocates on March 7!
THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE TAKEN ON NEW CASES, PROVIDED CONSULTATIONS TO NEW VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS, AND TRANSLATED AND INTERPRETED:

Oualid Abid
Mary Ellen Alden
Joel Anderson
Joy Anderson
Maggie Brunk
Cristine Daley
Katherine Devlaminck
Brian Dillon
Elizabeth Dillon
Dean Eyler
Jamal Faleel
Anders Folk
Mark Frey
John Getsinger
Francisco Gonzalez
Keith Harris
Tracy Harris
Teresa Hughes
Kim Hunter
Shauna Kieffer
Ted Koshiol
Jamie Kurtz
John Mandler
Sam Manning
Jennifer McKenna
Michelle Rivero
Sally Silk
Liz Troolin
University of Minnesota Law Clinic, coordinated by Steve Meili
Nancy Veronen
Michelle Weinberg
William Mitchell Law Clinic, coordinated by Paula Duthoy
Zemenay Wondwossen
Albert Woodward
Julie Zimmer

THANKS ALSO TO THE MANY OTHER VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED THEIR TIME TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE ADVOCATES

Interested in volunteering for The Advocates? The Advocates hosts one-hour orientations at our office for volunteers to learn how they can offer their time and talent to support The Advocates. Staff describe upcoming volunteer needs and answer questions. For more information, please contact Rosalyn Park, 612-341-3302 ext. 106 or rpark@advrights.org.

GIVE A GIFT IN HONOR OF SOMEONE SPECIAL

Give a unique and meaningful gift to those you care about…
…a gift to advance human rights.

You can make your gift to support all of our work or 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 card notifying them of your generous and thoughtful gift. Your gift will help save lives, fight injustice, and restore peace in our world.

To give, please click “Make a Donation” on theadvocatesforhumanrights.org or call 612-341-3302.

NEXT VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Location: The Advocates’ office
330 Second Avenue South Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55401

No RSVP required.
Donate Items (In-Kind)
The Advocates uses in-kind donations of products to support our work building respect for human rights and expanding the human rights movement. We are currently looking for a digital camera for teachers at the Sankhu-Palubari Community School in Nepal.

To see our full wish-list, visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org. To donate an item, contact Ellen Van Iwaarden at 612-746-4677 or evaniwaarden@advrights.org.

Planned Giving
The Advocates for Human Rights operates on the generosity of its supporters.

Please consider including The Advocates in your estate.

Combined Federal Campaign
Employees of the federal government may choose to select The Advocates through the Combined Federal Campaign.

The Advocates CFC number is 11754.

Community Shares Minnesota
Employees of Minnesota companies who support Community Shares can give to The Advocates through payroll deductions.

Thank you to all of our donors!
To learn more about how to save lives, fight injustice, and restore peace with a contribution to The Advocates for Human Rights, contact Ellen Van Iwaarden at 612-746-4677 or at evaniwaarden@advrights.org.
**STAFF AND INTERN UPDATES:**

**STAFF**

In December, Robin Phillips, Executive Director, received an award from the Sullivan Ballou Fund. The award honors “members of the community who devote heartfelt energy to those around them.”

Helen Rubenstein joined The Advocates in January as a staff attorney with the Women’s Human Rights Program. Prior to joining the staff, Helen was a longtime volunteer with The Advocates, receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2000 for her work on several asylum cases for Liberian refugees. She previously worked for the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office, including enforcing the Minnesota Human Rights Act in cases of sexual harassment and sex, race, religious, and disability discrimination; practiced health care law; and worked as a staff attorney for the Public Health Law Center. Helen received her law degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction from George Washington University.

Deepinder Mayell is The Advocates’ new Refugee and Immigrant Program Director. Emily Good is now a Staff Attorney with the Research, Education, and Advocacy Program.

The Advocates is proud to announce that Staff Attorney Beatriz Menanteau is the new President of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association.

**INTERNS**

Thank you to our winter and spring interns!

Osman Ahmed (University of Minnesota), Molly Beebe (William Mitchell College of Law), Jessica Belt (University of Minnesota), Maggie Brunk (Macalester College), Megan Crawford (University of Minnesota), Lena Deissler (Albert-Ludwigs Universitat, Freiburg, Germany), Evan Druce (University of Minnesota Law School), Matthew Jobe (University of Virginia Law School), Britt Johnson (University of Minnesota Law School), Max Kaufman (University of Minnesota), Caitlin Kelly (graduate of University of Minnesota), Bassam Khawaja (Macalester College graduate), Megan Manion (graduate of University of Wisconsin), Sam Manning (University of Minnesota Law School), Amanda Mortwedt (University of St. Thomas Law School), Josh Nelson (graduate of University of Iowa), Leah Rogotzke (University of Minnesota), Alison Schmidt (William Mitchell College of Law), Liz Troolin (University of Minnesota), Lauren Woodbury (University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs), and Ruxi Zhang (Macalester College).

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**VOLUNTEER CORNER: JOHN GUTTERMANN**

A few years ago, John Guttermann, a covenant minister with the United Church of Christ, went to his first immigrant rights demonstration, on invitation from a colleague. “I looked around,” says John, “and realized that I did not know the immigrant presence.” He began to learn about immigrants’ lives in the United States and the frustrations that are part of those lives, and about the issue of human rights in this country. During a job with Church World Services as an advocate for immigration reform, he knew he’d found his calling. When the job ended, he reached out to The Advocates.

“I have enormous respect for the work that they do,” says John, who is now a volunteer for The Advocates. John helps The Advocates educate the public about immigrant rights, including showing films and doing presentations, among other activities. The Advocates’ employees and the website are sources of information, handouts and materials for John. If he has assembled his own resources, The Advocates often print them. Michele Garnett McKenzie, Advocacy Director at The Advocates, has defined John’s role as volunteer liaison on immigrant rights with faith communities. Michele says, “John’s passion and commitment to human rights are astonishing. He has significantly expanded the reach of our work in Minnesota and is an incredible asset to The Advocates.”

John says that at faith-based or secular presentations to his mostly “Anglo” audiences, “The core message is that immigrant rights are human rights. That, in many cases, is a unifying aspect. It’s really quite helpful for a lot of people.”

“The frame of international human rights—that all people have these rights—is fundamental to the message of welcoming of immigrants. It’s such an easy community to marginalize. The Advocates says, ‘No, you can’t marginalize them.’”

“The Advocates is one of the key organizations that one can connect with. I feel supported; I feel well-resourced. I have an enormous amount of respect for the people I’ve worked with, so anyone that’s interested in volunteering will get the help, information and assistance that they want to be effective.”

John would also like to thank his wife, Dawn Schilling, for her partnership and support. “I’m extraordinarily fortunate.”

Volunteer John Guttermann
Many Ways to Take Action

Take Action

If You Have

10 Minutes

• Get the Facts. Learn more about human rights issues in the U.S. Read the Discover Human Rights Fact Sheets at www.discoverhumanrights.org/toolkit.

Stay Informed. Sign up to receive The Advocates’ updates and action alerts at www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/join_our_listservs.html.

Donate to the Cause. It’s people like you who make our work possible. Make a contribution today through our website or by mail.

Join the Online Movement to Defend Human Rights. Follow The Advocates through Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

If You Have

A Few Hours

• Write a Letter. Research and write a personal letter to the editor of your local news media or to your elected officials about a human rights issue.

• Vote for Politicians who are Human Rights Advocates. Exercise your right to vote and support local, state, and national legislators who advocate for human rights. Even if you can’t vote, you can campaign for a candidate who supports human rights. Find your legislators at www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml.

• Watch a Film and Discuss. Watch a film that addresses a human rights issue. Invite friends and neighbors and facilitate a discussion following the film. Some examples include The Visitor, Milk, The Kite Runner, and Born Into Brothels.

If You Have

A Month

• Join The Advocates’ Human Rights Book Club. The Book Club meets to discuss books with human rights themes. For more information, visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/book_club.html.

• Host a Fundraiser. Host a house party or other fundraiser for The Advocates. House parties are a great way to support The Advocates and introduce new people to our work and approach.

• Start a Petition Drive. Petitions are a good way to raise awareness about an issue, a piece of legislation, or a specific organization. For tips on beginning a petition-based campaign, try www.studentpirgs.org/activist-toolkit/petitioning.