

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



# MISSION

As part of The University of Iowa College of Law, the UICHR's mission is to promote and protect human rights at home and abroad through distinguished multidisciplinary leadership in human rights education, scholarship, and public service to the University of Iowa, its surrounding communities, the State of Iowa, and beyond.

The UICHR is guided by The University of Iowa's commitment to the basic tenets of a free society. In fulfilling its mission, the Center continuously revisits even the most fundamental aspects of human rights, treating human rights not as a corpus of fixed thought and action, but as a set of assumptions and choices that are open to constant rethinking because of everevolving ideas, conditions, and needs.

Following this approach, the UICHR:

Engages in a diverse array of teaching, research, and other activities designed to highlight and consider, constructively and critically, the problems and prospects of human rights worldwide.

Nurtures trans-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration that seeks to integrate artistic and literary viewpoints with legal, political, and socioeconomic human rights discourse.

Encourages the active participation of faculty, students, and others both within and beyond the UI campus in the conception and execution of its diverse activities.

Shares information with human rights specialists and the general public about its activities and about human rights issues and developments generally.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Since our founding in 1999, UICHR has educated, connected, and empowered thousands of people across lowa and around the world. Last Fall, we led a multidisciplinary, campus wide series of activities on human rights and reproductive justice, including webinars and courses and culminating in a One Community One Book lecture by the author of The Farm. We hosted faculty and student led lectures and panels on the application of international law in conflict zones. UICHR also hosted a distinguished judicial delegation from Kenya, facilitated discussions of and research about the forced dissolution of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), and hosted a statewide student research conference on human rights challenges. Finally, we facilitated the legal representation of Afghan refugees throughout the state.

Over the past year, we've also been planning numerous events in conjunction with our 25th anniversary during the 2024–25 academic year. Visit <u>https://uichr.uiowa.edu/programs/25</u>to view a continually updated list of anniversary activities.

As you read our 2023-2024 Annual Report, we hope that you gain a deeper understanding of our work, and the importance of the involvement of friends like you. We deeply appreciate your vitality and financial support, particularly in these critical times. We hope that you will consider making a donation to the Center by visiting our website at <u>uichr.uiowa.edu</u>.

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### ADRIEN K. WING

Director, UICHR Bessie Dutton Murray Professor of Law Associate Dean for International and Comparative Law Programs

### ADVISORY BOARD: A NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Before we introduce ourselves, we want to express our deepest care and condolences to the families of recently deceased board members, Shams Ghoneim and Dorothy Paul. We have so appreciated the opportunity to connect with them through our shared work with the UICHR. These women were remarkable leaders and stood up for human rights issues throughout their lives. We are blessed to have had them in our community.

This year we started collaborating on our leadership of the UICHR board, with Pete Damiano joining Mary Cohen as a Co-Chair. Mary is a professor of music education in the School of Music, whose human rights research has centered on using music-making to transform societies from cultures of punishment and revenge toward cultures of care and compassion. She previously led a combined incarcerated and non-incarcerated prison choir called the "Oakdale Community Choir." The current warden at Oakdale Prison is not allowing the choir to restart. A new 30-minute documentary film about the choir called "The Inside Singers" won best documentary short at the Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival in January 2024. It will be screened at Film Scene on Sunday, September 29 at 4 PM. The day prior, author Amy Kolen will be reading from her new memoir, Inside Voices: A Prison Choir, My Mother, and Me at Prairie Lights Bookstore at 2 PM on Saturday, September 28.

Mary has now shifted her focus to working with youth who are in conflict with the law. She has been leading music groups at the Linn County Juvenile Detention Center and continues to study and explore what is possible for artsbased diversion programs, particularly those grounded in restorative justice practices, to divert youth away from detention.



AT LEFT: Mary Cohen, Cecilia Roudabush, Derek Thorn, and Anl Perez-Brennan at the Linn county juvenile detention center this summer



Mary Cohen and Pete Damiano, UICHR Advisory Board Co-Chairs

Pete is the Bernstein Endowed Professor of Dentistry and a longtime member of the UICHR advisory board. He previously served as Director of the UI Public Policy Center (PPC) for 15 years, collaborating the UICHR on numerous speakers and events over the years. His research concerns aspects of health policy, such as access to care, and health disparities for vulnerable populations. He views the overlap with human rights in both people having the ability to adequately access needed health care as well as the broader access to health itself. In particular, he has emphasized the study of the social determinants of health such as adequate housing, employment, income, child care, and education that are too often not considered a part of health policy but are more critical to a person's health status than accessing health care delivery systems. On a personal level, Pete has a band called HomeBrewed that primarily supports non-profits, many that have a human rights mission.

We appreciate the contributions of the UICHR board members: Newman Abuissa, Rima Afifi, Kingsley Botchway, Matsalyn Brown, Diana Cates, Cynthia Chou, Robin Clark-Bennett, Alyssa Clayden, Gina Crosheck, Dimy Doresca, Heather Erwin, Gregory Hamot, Jim Leach, Dave Leshtz, Britta Loftus, Roger Lusala, Mazahir Salih, Maureen McCue, Joan Nashelsky, Aaron Page, Justin Rempe, Rita Bettis Austen, Shannon Roesler, César Rosada Marzán, Suzie Pritchett, Madison Rush, Lisa Schlesinger, Harold Walehwa, Sherry Watt, and Ryan Westhoff. And we have deep gratitude to our six UICHR staff members: Jo Butterfield, Erika Christiansen, Brian Farrell, Mary Sleichter, Amy Weismann, and Adrien Wing.

We are both extremely excited for our upcoming events to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the UICHR this academic year and invite you to join us in this celebration!

# <mark>In Memoriam</mark>

#### **Shams Ghoneim**

Shams Ghoneim served on the UICHR Advisory Board from 2013 until her death in September 2023, and brought her intellect, insight, and deep compassion to this position. She fostered a strong commitment to interfaith dialogue and championed mutual understanding; hers is a voice that is deeply missed during these troubling times.

Sham's public service work was expansive. She was committed to public service. She served as the president and vice-president of the ACLU of Iowa, the first Arab and Muslim to do so. In addition to her commitment to UICHR and ACLU she also gave her time, brilliance, and energy to the Iowa City Human Rights Commission; Iowa City Press Citizen Editorial Board; UI Council on Disability Awareness; the Iowa City Consultation of Religious Communities; and the Muslim Public Affairs Council of Iowa. She served as a support group member for the Mother Mosque of America in Cedar Rapids and volunteered with the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.





The 2023 Human Rights Day lecture, "Beyond the 'War' on COVID: Portal to a More Just Society" by Professor Catherine Powell of Fordham Law School was dedicated to Shams' memory and her lasting impact on UICHR, the state of Iowa, and the world.





#### **Dorothy Paul**

Dorothy Paul was a firm believer in making an impact on people in the state and in her community. Her grassroots political activism was focused on the United Nations, global issues, the environment, human rights, women and children, nuclear proliferation, and social justice.

For over 20 years, (1979- 2000), she was the Executive Director of the Iowa United Nations Association (UNA-USA). In 1999 Dorothy, along with two UI Professors, Burns H Weston, and Rex Honey, and Gina Crosheck, organized the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights (UICHR). In 2001, she accepted the position of UICHR Associate Director for Community Affairs and coordinated the "One Community, One Book" project from 2001 to 2006. The program continues successfully in Iowa City today.

She also served for many years on the UICHR Advisory Board. In 2018, UICHR presented her with a Courage of Conviction Award in honor of her role in founding and sustaining the UI Center for Human Rights.

## **STAFF**

The Center's core staff consists of Director & Dean Adrien Wing; Associate Director & Professor Brian Farrell; Assistant Director & Professor Amy Weismann; Education and Student Support Specialist & Professor Jo Butterfield; Program Assistant Mary Sleichter; and Program Manager Erika Christiansen.

In addition to regular duties and responsibilities, the Center supports the participation of its staff in training, networking, and scholarly professional development and service work.



Back: Mary Sleichter, Adrien Wing, Jo Butterfield Front: Erika Christiansen, Brian Farrell, Amy Weismann

#### Highlights include:

Adrien Wing won the Journeys Award from the Iowa National Bar Association this year. She attended a European Union Comparative Workshop on Global and European Perspectives on Systemic Racism, in Paris. She lectured on her forthcoming chapter "USA 2050: Lessons from the Legacy of Apartheid," for the Global Systemic Racism book, to be published by Cambridge Press. She did two lectures in Kenya pursuant to the Law School's Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenyan judiciary. She also did a presentation at the Strathmore Law Schook in Nairobi. Wing continues to serve as a member of American Bar Association Council for the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar as well as a Board member for the International Law Student Association and the Blacks of the American Society of International Law Task Force. Adrien was also honored with the College of Law's 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award.

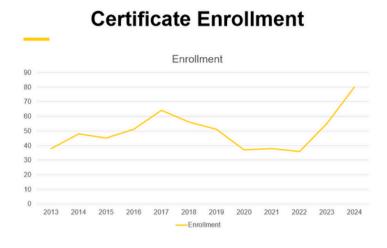
Brian Farrell was recognized as a 2023 recipient of the Iowa Board of Regents Staff Excellence Award and honored with the College of Law's 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award. He continues to serve as a regional representative for Human Rights Education USA and was on its inaugural Youth Action Award selection committee. He serves as a member of the steering committee of the Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics and on the boards of the Linn County Bar Association and Justice101, and on multiple working groups of the Iowa Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission. Brian was recently appointed by the chief justice to serve on the Court Navigator Task Force. He attended the American Society of International Law's Annual Meeting and participated in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Educator Workshop in Omaha, both in April.

Amy participated in the inaugural Midwest Incubator Workshop: Fostering Narrative Research Across Disciplines. Amy continued as the UI contract manager for the legal services support project ALL Iowa, serving Afghans throughout the state (more below). She also served as a panelist at the Fall 2023 Refugee Summit organized by the Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa. Amy accompanied University of Iowa students to Washington D.C. to attend Student Advocacy Days and as a faculty discussant for the 2024 Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics student conference in April.

Jo continues to serve as the faculty advisor for the Iowa Model UN student organization and on the International Studies Academic Advisory Board. Much of her time is spent advising the growing number of Certificate students. She taught the History of Human Rights course for the UI Department of History in Spring 2024 and will teach Human Rights and War: Iowa and the World in the fall. Jo presented on UICHR student opportunities to student organizations, including the Phi Alpha Delta (pre-law) society. Jo hosted an informal lunch between current pre-law, certificate students and alumni of the certificate program who are current Iowa law students. She also has been working with the Center's historical files in preparation for the 25th Anniversary as well as a transfer of material to the university archives.

Erika currently teaches undergraduate students as the staff instructor in the President's Leadership Class, offered a sophomore experiential education course, and in the First Gen Hawks program. She remains active as an advisor to student organizations Ignite UI and PAWs at Iowa, and mentors students working to make positive change with others.

# TEACHING



#### IOWA CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Center provides innovative and meaningful academic and co-curricular opportunities for students. Central to the Center's educational programming is the 18-semester hour Human Rights Certificate program awarded by the College of Law.

Certificate program faculty consist of Center staff and others appointed through the College of Law to teach these undergraduate courses, including: Stefanie Bowers; Jo Butterfield; Erika Christiansen; Brian Farrell; Aaron Page; John McKerley; Stephanie Patridge; and Amy Weismann. In addition, Jovana Davidovic and Jo Butterfield hold appointments through Philosophy and History, respectively, and teach courses offered by those departments which contribute to the Human Rights Certificate. Faculty profiles are available <u>here</u>.



Staff continue to work to grow and strengthen the Certificate program through expanded outreach to raise its profile across campus and provide one-on-one mentorship and facultystudent interactions.

Enrollment trends suggest that the 18 semesterhour Human Rights Certificate program has not only recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic decline, but has continued to steadily expand.



ABOVE: 2024 Advocacy in Action: From the Classroom to Congress students on Capitol Hill

The Center deepened its partnership with Scholars At Risk to provide Certificate students with experiential learning opportunities in advocacy through the course, *Advocacy in Action: From the Classroom to Congress* taught by Amy Weismann. Amy also served on the national Planning Committee for the Scholars at Risk Student Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. and led a student delegation to the in person convening in late March. The Center's engagement with Scholars at Risk represents one of the Center founders' original key objectives, that of working to mitigate human rights violations experienced by scholars around the globe.



As the Certificate program grows, we remain dedicated to providing certificate program students with unique offerings to expand their understanding of human rights challenges and mitigation efforts through teaching, programming, and experiential opportunities. Center faculty are working to strengthen students' ability to effectively translate their undergraduate academic work into meaningful internships, relevant careers, or to better position them to gain admittance and succeed in graduate programs or professional schools.

-Jo Butterfield, UICHR Academic Advisor

# **Spotlight: Amy Weismann**

My journey as a human rights educator and lawyer began as a young humanitarian aid worker in Croatia during the war in the territories of the former Yugoslavia. I lived in a refugee camp, where thousands of people displaced by violence awaited opportunities to rebuild their lives in a safe place. I grew up in lowa and returned home from Croatia to discover many people from Bosnia resettling in lowa. I worked as a refugee resettlement caseworker for several years to support these newcomers, and other new lowans coming from all over the world to find that safe place. These experiences motivated me to attend law school, where I found invaluable instruction about the law and policy shaping forced migration and the human rights implications of these processes.

Years later, I joined the staff of UICHR and have had the amazing opportunity to develop meaningful initiatives to support and serve immigrant and refugees in Iowa, most recently coordinating the ALL Iowa project, and to contribute to human rights education of undergraduate students as an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the UI College of Law's Human Rights Certificate Program.

Along the way I've taught and learned from our outstanding students, many of whom have entered the human rights legal field, collaborated with amazing colleagues, advocates and leaders on campus and around the state to help promote and protect human rights, all the while supported by beautiful family: my husband, Amir Hadzic, and our daughter, Hana.



I look forward to the next steps my journey with UICHR and to participating in the vital community of human rights innovators it fosters and serves.





# **INTERNSHIPS**



Kenneth J. Cmiel and Burns H. Weston Human Rights Internship Funding Program

Thanks to the generosity of the UI-Stanley Foundation Support Organization and the Burns H. Weston fund, the Center awarded six students Kenneth J. Cmiel Human Rights Internship funding, and one law student Burns H. Weston Internship funding, totaling \$12,500, to support students' summer internships with organizations pursuing human rights promotion and/or protection.

Tiffany Brinkman, a rising 2L received Cmiel funding. She interned with the New York State's Attorney General's Office.

Tristen Prouse, a rising 2L, received Cmiel funding and interned with the Waterloo Public Defender's Office.

Lauryn Jensen, an undergraduate, received Cmiel funding. She interned with Barcelona-based Fundació Solidaritat.

Jane Jozefowicz is a rising 3L. This summer she interned with the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Office of the Assistant Attorney General.

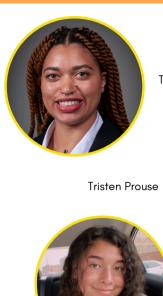
Harper Dunne, an undergraduate, received Cmiel funding. She interned with Iowa City-based Open Heartland, which empowers immigrant families.

Hana Bradshaw, a rising 2L, received Cmiel funding and interned with the pro-bono Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic based in Salt Lake City, UT.

Grace Jobgen, a rising 2L, received Cmiel funding. She interned with Beyond Legal Aid, a Chicago-based non-profit that works to provide legal services for underserved communities.

Anna Raskamp Maguire, a rising 3L, received Weston funding. She interned with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor.

Dani Arkfeld, a rising 2L, received Cmiel funding and interned with the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court.



Tiffany Brinkman



Lauryn Jensen



Harper Dunne

Hana Bradshaw

Jane Jozefowiczl





Grace Jobgen

Anna Raskamp Maguire





Dani Arkfeld

# **SCHOLARSHIP**

# Select and Recent Books, Chapters, and Articles

- Adrien K. Wing, Reparations under International Law for Enslavement of African Persons in the Americas and the Caribbean, Proceedings of the Second Reparations Symposium, American Society of International Law 34 (2024).
- Adrien K. Wing & S. James Anaya, Introduction to Symposium, American Journal of International Law Unbound 103 (2024).
- Adrien K. Wing et al, Roundtable on Family Law and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa, Transnational Law. & Contemporary Problems Journal (2024)
- Adrien K. Wing, Palestine, in Family Law and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: Change and Stasis Since the Arab Spring (Adrien Wing & Hisham Kassim eds., Cambridge, 2023).
- Adrien K. Wing, Introduction, in Family Law and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: Change and Stasis Since the Arab Spring (Adrien Wing & Hisham Kassim eds., Cambridge, 2023).
- Adrien K. Wing, America 2050: Lessons from Apartheid, in Global Systemic Racism (Kirsten Barnes ed., Cambridge, forthcoming 2025).





- Adrien K. Wing, Human Rights, COVID, Global Critical Race Feminism, and Can We Rise, in Race, racism, and International Law (Justin Desautels-Stein ed., Stanford, forthcoming 2025).
- Adrien K. Wing, Introduction, in Oxford Handbook on Women and International Law (Nienke Grossman ed., Oxford, forthcoming 2024).
- Brian R. Farrell & Daria Fisher Page, One Crisis or Two Problems? Disentangling Rural Access to Justice and the Rural Attorney Shortage, 98 Washington Law Review 849 (2023).
- Brian R. Farrell & Daria Fisher Page, Behind the Unique Hurdes of Rural Access to Justice, Law360, Mar. 2024, available at https://www.law360.com/articles/1815 350.
- Brian R. Farrell, Daria Fisher Page, & Ryan Sakoda, Theorizing Legal Vulnerability to Enhance Rural Access to Justice, 69 South Dakota Law Review (forthcoming July 2024).

# Spotlight: Burns Weston Internship Funding Awardee: Anna Roskamp-Maguire





Fom a young age, I understood the value of hard work. At fifteen, I worked my first job as a detasseler. I remember sleepily making my way through the rows of corn and getting drenched by the morning dew. After the corn leaves covered my arms in itchy thin cuts, I quickly learned to wear long sleeves. Since then, I have worked a lot of other jobs. I worked as a receptionist, an office manager, an event planner, a house cleaner, a vending machine servicer, and a tutor.

Through these experiences, I learned the crucial role that work can play in determining whether a person flourishes or suffers. I learned how it sets the contours of our days, weeks, months, and years. I learned the unique challenges that face different kinds of work and the necessity of protecting workers.

This summer, I had the privilege of interning at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor (SOL) in Chicago. The SOL is the legal arm of the U.S. Department of Labor, which is dedicated to promoting the welfare of workers and retirees, improving working conditions, and ensuring the enforcement of labor laws. My experience at the SOL was both eye-opening and rewarding, offering me a unique opportunity to contribute to the important work of protecting workers' rights.

During my internship, I had the opportunity to directly contribute to the SOL's work. I assisted attorneys in drafting litigation documents for cases where employers overworked and failed to pay their employees a fair wage. I attended and prepared documents for hearings that held companies accountable for violating a worker's right to just work conditions. I also researched emerging areas of the law involving workplace safety and how it might apply to warehouse work. I saw how the attorneys continued to fight for workers even in the face of frustrating practices by companies. While they recognized that the justice they sought could not undo the immediate and long-term harm on the affected workers, they still faithfully pursued accountability against employers.

One of the most impactful aspects of my internship was learning about the SOL's efforts to protect vulnerable populations, particularly migrant workers, from abuse. It was inspiring to see the dedication of department lawyers who tirelessly searched to uncover the facts, enforce the law, and tried to achieve the best outcome for workers—whether it was lost wages or job security. Their work often involved and relied on courageous employees who, in spite of their vulnerable positions, came forward as witnesses to hold abusive employers accountable.

This internship reinforced my commitment to advocating for workers' rights and deepened my appreciation for the complexities of labor law. I am incredibly grateful to the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights and the Weston Summer Internship Funding Program for making this experience possible. Their support enabled me to contribute to meaningful work that aligns with my passion for workers' rights.

## Spotlight: Ayub Shinwari-Empowering Afghans in Iowa

Coming to lowa seemed a bit difficult at first. I thought I would face many challenges, but later I realized that most people are willing to help refugees. While it was hard to find legal assistance to have status in the U.S., the Drake Legal Clinic accepted my request and helped me to prepare my asylum application. After my successful claim, I reached a stage to help other needy people.

As part of the ALL lowa project, I now work at lowa Migrant Movement for Justice (lowa MMJ), and under the supervision of an attorney or DOJ Accredited Representative, I have filled out many applications for Afghans who need legal assistance. Recently I completed my own process to obtain DOJ accreditation to work on Afghan immigration cases.

I now provide legal services for Afghan evacuees and will include SIV, TPS, Asylum, Family Reunification and familybased petitions and applications. I have already coordinated and participated in group processing clinics as appropriate for Temporary Protected Status and family reunifications.

lowa MMJ is the pathway where I can facilitate Afghan evacuees and help them achieve self-sufficiency.







ABOVE: Original artwork by Afghan-Canadian artist Ghazal Farkhari. This illustration serves as the ALL Iowa emblem.

ALL lowa partners have provided more than **1570 legal services** to **800+ Afghan community members** to date since the project began in Fall 2022.

RIGHT: Participants in the 2024 celebration of Afghan Independence Day supported by ALL Iowa in Polk City



#### ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

#### 2024 Iowa Human Rights Research Conference

The lowa Network of Human Rights Academics and UICHR hosted the annual Iowa Human Rights Research Conference on April 20, 2024 at the University of Iowa. Twenty-six undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from institutions across the region presented projects on a variety of human rights topics. Over 125 people attended the conference, including students and faculty members representing nearly 25 different colleges and universities. Prof. Mark Celinscak, a genocide scholar from the University of Nebraska Omaha, delivered the keynote address. Iowa City West High School student Reem Kirja was presented with the Human Rights Educators USA Youth in Action for Human Rights Award during the conference plenary.

RIGHT: Student Presenters at the 2024 Iowa Human Right Research Conference





ABOVE: Emma Anderson BELOW: Roya Green



#### **Burns H. Weston Human Rights Essay Prizes**

Students from across the state were invited to submit papers for consideration by a faculty and advisory board selection committee recognizing outstanding undergraduate and graduate student essays in promotion of human rights.

This year the committee awarded the undergraduate prize to **Emma Anderson** of the University of Iowa for her essay, "Understanding Iran's Theocratic Regime and Geo-Political Dynamics: Advocating for the Release of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali". The selection committee noted the essay's intersection of scholarship and advocacy and Emma's passion for the subject matter.

The graduate prize was awarded to UI law student **Roya Green** for her essay, "Al-Powered Solutions for Atrocity Prevention". The committee found the work to excel in its articulation of the potential uses of AI to predict and prevent human rights atrocities. Furthermore, they were impressed with the manner in which Green confronted the concomitant challenges of AI use.

The Center is fortunate to have had both Human Rights Certificate faculty Stefanie Bowers and members of the UICHR advisory board, Dave Leshtz, Joan Nashelsky, Mazahir Salih, and Rita Bettis Austen give generously of their time to read, review, discuss, and select students to receive awards for both the summer internship funding programs and the essay prize.

# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

# **GRANT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

#### Providing Legal Services for Afghans in Iowa (ALL Iowa)

UICHR is coordinating a state-wide collaboration with the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services, the University of Iowa Legal Clinic, the Drake Law School Legal Clinic, and the lowa Migrant Movement for Justice, to facilitate and provide immigration legal services to Afghans admitted into the United States as humanitarian parolees since August of 2021. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services) allocated approximately \$1 million over two years to support these services. Activities have included: clinics in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids to help Afghans apply for re-parole, Temporary Protected Status, family reunification and asylum; trainings for attorneys to represent Afghans on a pro bono basis; hiring of Afghan interpretation staff; supporting certification of Afghan staff to become DOJ Accredited Representatives; and implementation of a Virtual Help Desk to support Afghans representing themselves pro se. In 2023, the project received an additional \$1.5 million to sustain the work through August 2025. The project to date has served over 930 individuals and provided more than 1500 legal services.

Additional information can be found at the project website: <u>www.alliowa.org.</u>

#### Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Legal Research

UICHR is coordinating a project to support the <u>Center for</u> Truth and Justice (CFTJ) in Yerevan, Armenia, as it researches international law violations related to the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, known by its ethnic Armenian population as Artsakh. Pursuant to UI's agreement with Artsakh State University and with facilitation from International Programs, UICHR hosted representatives from CFTJ in early September 2023 for a public presentation and to launch this collaborative research project. Three student research assistants from the College of Law, under the supervision of Brian Farrell and Adrien Wing, are continuing legal research on war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during and following the 2020 military conflict. The RAs are now finalizing drafts analyzing a variety of topics which may form the basis of public reports, communications to international and regional intergovernmental organizations, and potential legal action.



# Promoting Culturally Appropriate Care for New lowans

A team of researchers, including UICHR Assistant Director Amy Weismann, successfully completed a multi-year intervention study, undertaking a needs assessment in refugee communities followed by a training series to pilot use of Problem Management Plus (PM+). PM+, developed by the World Health Organization, is an innovative intervention to promote mental health in low resource settings. As a result of this successful effort, the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services is now supporting an additional implementation phase of the project to "scale up" the work and engage communities throughout Iowa in PM+ trainings. Project staff with faculty from the New School of Social Research and George Washington University completed outreach to resettlement agencies and healthcare providers and organized a train-the trainers event for recruited staff members from these agencies and a helpers training for members of refugee communities to provide peer assistance through the PM+ program. UICHR has developed a human right to mental healthcare short course that will be offered to supervisors and helpers as a continuing education offering.

#### Researching Homebuilding in the Heartland

UICHR Assistant Director Amy Weismann and UI Department of Anthropology faculty member Brady G'Sell received an internal funding award to participate in a small-scale project on the meaning of "home" in refugee resettlement contexts. Goals include: 1) creation of a database of organizations that work with and support African refugee women in Iowa; 2) participant-centered pilot data on the refugee resettlement experience in Iowa; and 3) development of a team of African refugee partners to guide future research endeavors. Interviews are underway and have included women from Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to date.

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT : WEBINARS AND WEB SERIES

Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, UICHR continued providing in-person and web-based, responsive programming with over 3600 attendees and viewers. Program highlights from the past year are described below. Details of past and current programs and links to recording can be found at <u>https://uichr.uiowa.edu</u> and by visiting the <u>UICHR</u> <u>YouTube channel.</u>

#### Human Rights & Reproductive Justice Webinar Series

UICHR's Fall 2023 webinar series examined the relationship between human rights and reproductive justice by interrogating the complexity of factors that impact the ability to parent, gain access to care, and achieve positive health outcomes. The series concluded by exploring how advocates are working to promote and protect human rights in order to attain reproductive justice.

• Parenting moderated by Natalie Fixmer-Oraiz

This first webinar in our Fall series explored parenting as a key tenet of reproductive justice and human rights. It examined the role the state, past and present, in fostering one's ability to raise children and to do so in safe and healthy communities without fear of violence.

• Accessing Care moderated by Lina-Maria Murillo This webinar, the second in the four-part series, examined the status of reproductive care in local, national, and international contexts. It considered the challenges and opportunities that the promotion and protection of human rights brings to accessing reproductive care.

• Outcome Disparities moderated by Amy Weismann Maternal death rates in the U.S. have doubled in the last two decades. This webinar, the third in the four-part series, examined the complex factors that contribute to the stark disparities within this bleak trend and considered the role that the promotion and protection of human rights can play in working toward equitable maternal outcomes.

• *Envisioning the Future* moderated by Adrien K. Wing This webinar, the final in the four-part series, explored the work of practitioners in the medical, legal, and policy fields who are applying a human rights framework to advance reproductive justice.



#### Family Law & Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: The Future

UICHR hosted a unique virtual roundtable discussion to launch the new Cambridge University Press volume Family Law & Gender in the Middle East and North Africa, edited by Adrien Wing and Hisham Kassim. The volume serves as reference point for anyone interested in the Middle East and North Africa as well as for those interested in women's rights and family law, generally or in the MENA region. With authors from around the world, each chapter of the book provides a history of personal status law both before and after the revolutionary period. Tunisia emerges as the country that made the most significant progress politically and with respect to women's rights. A decade on from the Arab Spring, across the region, there is more evidence of stasis than change. This online roundtable featured many of the contributing authors and focused on providing reflections on the future of family law and gender in the region.

#### International Human Rights in Artsakh: From Evidence to Prosecution

Attorney Arsine Grigoryan and Judge Gassia Apkarian discussed how to legally combat the human rights violations by Azerbaijan against Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Some have called this blockade, which led to starvation, a genocide under international law. The talked occurred in person and was livestreamed on Zoom.

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: WEBINARS AND WEB SERIES

#### The Rights of the Child Webinar Series

This series examined the current status of international law, pressing crises, and advocacy strategies directed at advancing the promotion and protection of children rights by exploring conflict zones, the workplace, and approaches to addressing economic, social, and cultural rights violations.

- **Children & Conflict** The first webinar in our Spring 2024 series examined children in conflict situations. Panelists described the issues and particular vulnerabilities that children face in conflict zones, explained the applicable legal frameworks to protect children, and discussed efforts to mitigate risk and provide humanitarian assistance.
- **Children & Labor** This webinar, the second in the Rights of the Child series, explored hazardous child labor, immigration policy, and the rollback of child labor protections as part of larger attacks on labor standards, and ongoing enforcement gaps. Panelists with expertise in child labor law and standards, immigration, and violation mitigation for children in our community, examined the interdependence of children's rights and approaches to fostering child wellbeing both within and beyond workplaces.
- Economic, Cultural, & Social Rights This webinar, the third in the Rights of the Child series, explored the economic, social, and cultural rights of children. Panelists with expertise in the law and theory of children's rights, as well as child service providers, examined the interdependence of children's rights as well as approaches to fostering children's rights, a foundational societal duty.



#### Second Looks for Second Chances: State and Federal Mechanisms for Decarceration

This webinar discussed second-look mechanisms under both lowa and federal law and considered how and why we need these "sentencing safety valves" to help ameliorate over-incarceration and protect the rights of people in custody. Panelists discussed the increasingly robust ability to revisit previously imposed sentences in the federal system, and contrasted federal practices to the barriers that incarcerated lowans face in having their terms of imprisonment reevaluated in light of changing circumstances.



#### The Role of International Courts in Conflict

In this webinar, University of Iowa faculty members provided background on the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court and discussed the relevance and impact of these institutions' work as well as recent decisions, including the genocide case recently brought against Israel by South Africa.



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

#### Kenyan Judicial Academy Visit

From April 22-26, the Center organized the visit of a delegation from the Kenyan Judicial Academy to explore future collaborations between the College of Law and the Kenyan judiciary. This visit builds on past capacity-building trainings organized by the Center for the Kenyan Judicial Service Commission in 2021 and 2022. The delegation participated in meetings with university and collegiate leaders and included days at the Johnson County Courthouse and Tippie College of Business.







### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK

The 2023 One Community, One Book selection was The Farm by Joanna Ramos. UICHR, the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, and the generous support of campus and community partners, brought Ms. Ramos to campus for an engaging live lecture. Ms. Ramos also visited with multiple classes and groups while on campus, discussing the importance of sharing stories to illustrate complex human rights issues.

UICHR staff, convened a series of events to discuss reproductive justice, a central theme explored in *The Farm*. UICHR hosted webinars and discussion forums. Also included in programming was a student-led book club. Johnson County Libraries hosted book clubs that focused on UICHR's fall themes.

The 2024 One Community One Book Selection is Wastelands: The True Story of Farm Country on Trial by Corban Addison. Program Manager, Erika Christiansen worked with the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative, UNESCO City of Literature, Center staff, and other stakeholders to select the right to a sustainable environment as the Center's fall programming theme. Stay up to date on all fall programming by visiting

<u>https://uichr.uiowa.edu/programs/one-community-</u> <u>one-book</u>.

### ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK Author Keynote 2024

Save the Date Sunday, October 20 3:00 - 4:15pm

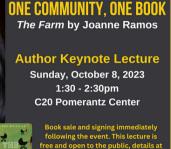
#### Wastelands: The True Story of Farm Country on Trial by Corban Addison

Book sale + signing immediately following the event

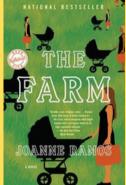
This event is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative, and the Iowa City UNSECO City of Literature Book Eastival

> nt will have ASL interpretation. Individuals lifes are encouraged to attend all University ponsored events. If you are a person with a who requires a reasonable accommodation o participate in this program, please contact ZHR in advance at uich?@uiowa.edu









Corban hopes this book can help shed light on this form of environmental racism, but also encourage readers to become more thoughtful consumers across the board:

"We've been fed this illusion that all the stuff we buy to wear and eat just magically appears," says Corban. "But we're realizing there's an origin story behind every product, and we are voting with our pocketbooks. We are deciding what is right and wrong based on where we spend our money. It's not always easy to be a fully transparent and conscientious consumer, but at minimum you can ask questions and educate yourself. You'll soon realize it's not just bacon."

# FULL LIST OF CENTER ACTIVITIES 2023-24



#### 2023-24 ACTIVITIES

1.) June 20, 2023: "International Law in Iowa," Iowa State Bar Association Annual Meeting, organized by Brian Farrell; Ankeny, Iowa (UICHR staff-engaged event).

2.) August 22, 2023: "Out of the Archive Film Series: DRYLONGSO" (1998, new restoration), directed by Cauleen Smith; Iowa City (UICHR cosponsored event with FilmScene).

3.) September 3, 2023: "A Critical Moment for Palestine: Perspective from a Young Palestinian," speaker Adam Manasra, United Methodist Church; 11:45 a.m.; and Iowa City Public Library; 3:00 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with Iowans for Palestine).

4.) September 4, 2023: "International Law, Secularism, and the Islamic World," speaker Adrien Wing; Strathmore Law School, Nairobi, Kenya; 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).

5.) September 5, 2023: "Out of the Archive: Envisioning Blackness – Eve's Bayou" (1997 director's cut), directed by Kasi Lemmons; post-screening conversation with Ashley Howard and Deborah Whaley; Iowa City (UICHR cosponsored event with FilmScene).

6.) September 6. 2023: "Separation of Powers in the United States: The Role of the Judiciary and the 2024 Elections," speaker Adrien Wing; Kenyan Judicial Academy Colloquium, Mombasa, Kenya (UICHR staff-engaged event).

7.) September 7, 2023: "Kenya Judicial Services Commission—University of Iowa College of Law Collaboration," speaker Adrien Wing; Kenya Judicial Academy Colloquium; Mombasa, Kenya (UICHR-staff engaged event).

8.) September 8, 2023: "International Human Rights in Artsakh: From Evidence to Prosecution," speakers Judge Gassia Apkarian & Arsiné Grigoryan; 245 BLB and via Zoom; 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. (UICHR event cosponsored by International & Comparative Law Programs, International Programs, Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and the Department of German).

9.) September 13, 2023: "Human Rights and Reproductive Justice: Parenting," panelists Grover Wehman-Brown, Showing up for Racial Justice, Deputy Director of Communications; Natalie Lira, University of Illinois Assoc. Professor, Department of Latina/Latino Studies, Gender and Women's Studies; and Karen Musalo, University of California, College of Law, Professor & Director, Center for Gender & Refugee Services; moderated by Natalie Fixmer-Oraiz, University of Iowa F. Wendell Miller Assoc. Professor Communication Studies, Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

10.) September 21, 2023: "Remnants: Embodied Archives of the Armenian Genocide," speaker Elyse Semerdjian, Chair of Genocide Studies, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University; 302 SH Commons; 5:30 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with Department of History).

11.) September 22, 2023: "Theorizing Legal Vulnerability in the Rural Context," South Dakota Law Review's Rural Lawyer Symposium, presenters Brian Farrell & Daria Fisher Page; USD Knudson School of Law; Vermillion, South Dakota (UICHR staff-engaged event).

12.) September 28, 2023: "Humanizing Critical Race Theory: The Case for Critical Race Feminism," keynote speaker, Adrien Wing; University of Illinois-Chicago; 5:00-7:00 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).

13.) October 3, 2023: "Out of the Archive: Envisioning Blackness – program of short films," Torriano Berry director; Iowa City (UICHR cosponsored event with FilmScene).

14.) October 4, 2023: "Human Rights & Reproductive Justice: Accessing Care," panelists, Robin Marty, West Alabama Women's Center; Francine Thompson, Emma Goldman Clinic; Melissa Upreti, UN Working Group Expert; moderated by Lina-Maria Murillo, University of Iowa, Assistant Professor Departments of History and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event). 15.) October 8, 2023: "One Community, One Book: The Farm," speaker and author, Joanne Ramos; C20 Pomerantz Center; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

16.) October 13, 2023: "Reframing Assessment of Rural Access to Justice: Developing New Measurements of Legal Infrastructure and Need," presenters Brian Farrell & Daria Fisher Page; International Access to Justice Forum 2023; University of California Irvine School of Law, Irvine, California (UICHR staff engaged event).

17.) October 18. 2023: "Honoring a Mentor: Professor William Gould IV," speaker Adrien Wing; Stanford Law School; 3:30–5:00 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).

18.) October 25, 2023: "Human Rights & Reproductive Justice: Outcome Disparities," panelists, Lastascia Coleman, UIHC; Nicole Novak, UI College of Public Health; and Julie Croll, National Health Services; moderated by Amy Weismann, UICHR; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

19.) October 25, 2023: "Demarginalizing Race, Class, and Gender in International Education in the Post-COVID World," speaker Adrien K. Wing; International Commons – 1117 University Capitol Centre; 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. (UICHR staff-engaged event).

20.) November 3, 2023: "Roundtable-'Family Law & Gender in the Middle East and North Africa'-The Future," (Cambridge University Press, 2023) moderated by Adrien Wing; via Zoom; 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m. CST (UICHR event cosponsored with College of Law International & Comparative Law Program; Journal of Gender, Race & Justice; Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems Journal; International Law Society; and International Law Students Association).

21.) November 7, 2023: "Out of the Archives: Envisioning Blackness – program of short films," directed by Edward Owens; presentation by Emily Martin; Iowa City (UICHR cosponsored event with FilmScene).

22.) November 8, 2023: "Human Rights & Reproductive Justice: Envisioning the Future," panelists Ebonie Bailey, Iowa Black Doula Collective; Simran Singh Jain, SisterSong; Isabelle Breitfelder and Lex Baumann, Iowa Law Chapter of If/When/How; moderated by Adrien K. Wing, UICHR; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

23.) November 11, 2023: "Theorizing Legal Vulnerability to Enhance Rural Access to Justice," Law & Rurality Workshop, presenters Brian Farrell, Daria Fisher Page, and Ryan Sakoda; via Zoom (UICHR staff-engaged event).

24.) December 5, 2023: "Out of the Archive: Envisioning Blackness – One Way or Another" (1977), directed Sara Gómez; postscreening conversation with Elizabeth Rodriguez Fielder and Kathleen Newman; Iowa City (UICHR cosponsored event with FilmScene).

25.) December 3, 2023: "What's Happening in Gaza?" panelist Brian Farrell; Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (UICHR staffengaged event).

26.) December 6, 2023: "Beyond the 'War' on COVID: Portal to a More Just Society," speaker Professor Catherine Powell, Fordham Law School; moderated by Adrien Wing; UICHR Human Rights Day Lecture in Honor of Shams Ghoneim; via Zoom; 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. (UICHR organized event cosponsored by UI International & Comparative Law Programs).

27.) January 17, 2024: "In the Shadow of Atticus: A Panel on Wrongful Convictions and Other Second Look Mechanisms," panelist Brian Farrell; BLB (UICHR staff-engaged, cosponsored event with Journal of Gender Race & Justice, and Hancher Auditorium).

28.) January 18, 2024: Presentation on the Statute of the International Court of Justice for Iowa Law students, speaker Brian Farrell; BLB; (UICHR staff-engaged event).

#### 2023-24 ACTIVITIES

29.) February 1, 2024: "Protecting Armenian Cultural Heritage: A Legal Case Study," speaker Arsiné Grigoryan, Esq.; Spring 2024 Speakers Series: Accountability, War Crimes and Justice; Blank Honors College; 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. (UICHR co-organized event with International & Comparative Law Programs; International Programs; Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Department of German; Global Memory Studies Humanities Lab).

30.) February 8, 2024: "Wartime Destruction and Looting of Cultural Property: Investigating World War II, Iraq, Ukraine and Artsakh," speaker Katalin Andreides, LLM; Spring 2024 Speakers Series: Accountability, War Crimes and Justice; Blank Honors College; 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. (UICHR co-organized event with International & Comparative Law Programs; International Programs; Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Department of German; Global Memory Studies Humanities Lab).

31.) February 12, 2024: "The Role of International Courts in Conflict," panelists Brian Farrell and Sara Mitchell; moderated by Adrien Wing; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.; (UICHR organized event).

32.) February 22, 2024: "An Invisible Conflict: Why We Should Care about the Forced Dissolution of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh)," speaker, Judge Gassia Apkarian; Spring 2024 Speakers Series: Accountability, War Crimes and Justice; Blank Honors College; 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. (UICHR co-organized event with International & Comparative Law Programs; International Programs; Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Department of German; Global Memory Studies Humanities Lab).

33.) February 26, 2024: "The Art of Black Liberation," panelists Alex Lodge and Crystal Pound; moderated by Adrien Wing; via Zoom; 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with College of Law and BLSA).

34.) February 27, 2024: "The Rights of the Child: Children & Conflict," panelists Sam Holmes, Waitlist on Children and Armed Conflict; Rima Afifi, UI; moderated by Brian Farrell; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

35.) February 28, 2024: "Order of the Coif Distinguished Lecture: The Constitution of Difference," Guy-Uriel Charles, Harvard Law School; moderated by Adrien Wing; in-person and via Zoom; 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with College of Law).

36.) March 5, 2024: "International Law: Human Rights and Humanitarian Law," speaker Brian R. Farrell; Spring 2024 Speakers Series: Accountability, War Crimes and Justice; Blank Honors College; 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. (UICHR co-organized event with International & Comparative Law Programs; International Programs; Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Department of German; Global Memory Studies Humanities Lab).

37.) March 6, 2024: "The Rights of the Child: Children and Labor," panelists Debbie Berkowitz, Kalamanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, Georgetown University; Ryan Drew, Local 150 and President of the SE Iowa Building and Construction Trades Council; Jen Sherer, Director of the State Worker Power Initiative, Economic Policy Institute; Norma Lopez, Chair of the Child Labor Coalition's Domestic Issues Committee; moderated by César F. Rosado Marzán, UICHR Board Member; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

38.) March 7, 2024: "Night of 1000 Dinners," Unitarian Universal Society; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; (UICHR cosponsored event with Johnson County UNA and Global Ties).

39.) March 24, 2024: Screening of "Stranger at the Gate" and post-film Q&A with film director and two main subjects; FilmScene; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with Iowa City Foreign Relations Council and Global Ties Iowa).

40.) March 26, 2024: "The University of Iowa Center for Human Rights," presenter Brian Farrell; University of Iowa Libraries IDEAS Council, Iowa City, Iowa (UICHR staff-engaged event).

41.) April 4, 2024: "Mentoring for Careers in International Law," panelist Adrien Wing; American Society of International Law; Washington, DC (UICHR staff-engaged event).

#### 2023-24 ACTIVITIES

42.) April 9, 2024: "Application and Enforcement of International Law," speaker Brian Farrell; Rapid Response History: Perspectives on the Crisis in the Middle East, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa (UICHR staff-engaged event).

43.) April 10, 2024: "The Rights of the Child: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights," panelists Stephanie Patridge, UI and Otterbein University; Jonathan Todres, Georgia State University, College of Law; Debbie Ackerman, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc.; moderated by Roger Lusala, UICHR Board Member; via Zoom; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

44.) April 19, 2024: "Critical Race Theory: What It Is and What It Isn't," speaker Adrien Wing; St Louis University, Missouri (UICHR staff-engaged event).

45.) April 20, 2024: Iowa Human Rights Research Conference; University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (UICHR co-organized event with the Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics).

46.) April 20, 2024: 28th Annual University of Iowa Powwow; Johnson County Fairgrounds, Iowa City, Iowa; 11:00 a.m. (UICHR cosponsored event with UI Native American Student organization and the UI Powwow Committee).

47.) April 22-26, 2024: Kenya Judicial Academy delegation visit; Iowa City (UICHR organized and cosponsored event with the College of Law).

48.) April 22, 2024: "Introduction to Comparative Law," speaker Adrien Wing; Kenya Judicial Delegation, UI College of Law; 10 a.m.-noon (UICHR organized and cosponsored event with the College of Law).

49.) April 27, 2024: "America 2050: Lessons from the Legacy of Apartheid," speaker Adrien Wing; European Union Comparative Workshop on Global and European Perspectives on Systemic Racism; Paris, France (UICHR staff-engaged event).

50.) May 8, 2024: "Second Looks for Second Chances: State and Federal Mechanisms for Decarceration," panelists Alison Guernsey, UI; Shanna Rifkin, FAMM Foundation; Andrew Wendel, UI; Dell Pippins, UI; via Zoom; 12:00-1:00 p.m. (UICHR organized event).

# HELP US CELEBRATE UICHR'S 25TH ANNVIERSARY THROUGHOUT THE 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR!



View a continually updated list of anniversary programming at: uichr.uiowa.edu/programs/25

