Focus Area - Human Security

MAKING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE CENTRAL TO GLOBAL SECURITY

Across the world, persistent and narrow focus on national security has arguably led to an equally widespread increase in human rights violations. Those issues that make humans insecure – war, violence against women, terrorism, climate change, poverty – undoubtedly make nations similarly insecure. We need to shift the conversation from its top-down idiom of ‘national security’ to one that instead measures the impacts on the ground, of policies and programs on ‘human security.’

TORTURE AS PUBLIC POLICY

The Carr Center for Human Rights Policy’s Torture Project applies research and policy analysis to identify and quantify the costs and consequences of the decision by the United States to use torture as a weapon of war in the period from 2002 to 2009. In addition to the research component, the project will also include a speaker series at Harvard Kennedy School, several symposia, and publications.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

The Transitional Justice Program examines the challenges of countries attempting to regain balance and redress legacies of massive human rights violations. It encompasses issues of legitimacy, criminal prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations, and various kinds of institutional reform necessary to protect vulnerable segments of a society and insure stability.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

Expands the understanding of human trafficking in all its dimensions and develops specific policy recommendations to address this global affront to human dignity. The program conducts research and academic teaching; connects scholars, policymakers, and practitioners; and engages anti-trafficking stakeholders and leaders globally.

Focus Area - Practice

ADVANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTITIONERS

We seek to build the capacity of students to become strategic practitioners of human rights. This is no simple task: we believe that there are large institutional voids in terms of the training of human rights practitioners. The Carr Center seeks to instill or support the will to succeed and produce outcomes, the recognition that there is a struggle where norms and laws are important, but are not sufficient to achieve those outcomes. New skills and tactics are needed.

PEOPLE

A Harvard report on Colombia’s reparations program caught the eye of President Juan Manuel Santos, who asked Kathryn Sikkink and Phuong Pham (Phuong at left) to present their findings. Douglas Johnson, director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, was the third member of the fact-finding team.

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The Carr Center holds regular events of interest for both the HKS and greater Boston communities. Signup for our newsletter on our website for weekly updates on upcoming events, faculty and fellows research projects, and opportunities to get involved with the Carr Center, including:

**Carr Talk and Coffee**

**Human Rights Research Seminar**

**Carr Center for Human Rights Policy**

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