Call for Applications:
2017 - 2018 Human Rights Institute Fact-Finding Project

The Human Rights Institute seeks applications from JD and LLM Georgetown students interested in joining the 2017-2018 Fact-Finding Project, which will investigate and conduct advocacy on a policy-relevant human rights issue related to LGBTI rights in the Americas with Adjunct Professor Fanny Gomez-Lugo. Students who are selected to participate in the HRI Fact-Finding Project will manage all aspects of this investigation, including developing the final research topic in close consultation with top human rights experts, carrying out a fact-finding mission during “Week One,” and drafting a major research report with legal and policy findings and recommendations. Examples of past reports are available on the HRI website. Previous advocacy efforts have included presenting findings and recommendations to Congressional committees, drafting legislative language, briefing White House staff at the National Security Council, and submitting testimony to international bodies.

Student will work closely with the HRI Dash/Muse Fellow and Professor Gomez-Lugo in conceptualizing and implementing each step of the Project. Professor Gomez-Lugo is currently the Senior Director for International Policy and Advocacy for the Heartland Alliance’s Global Initiatives for Human Rights. Previously, she coordinated the work of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) Persons of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Students selected for the project will be required to enroll in a year-long practicum course that HRI coordinates. Through this course, students will gain the substantive background and skills needed to carry out all aspects of the work. In the fall, the seminar will cover the substantive law and policy relating to this subject, as well as human rights fact-finding skills, and methodology. In January 2018, during “Week One,” the group will travel on-site to conduct interviews with all of the relevant stakeholders. Trip expenses will be covered by HRI and students will manage the project budget. In the spring, students will draft and publish a policy-relevant human rights report.

Interested students should send a statement of interest, a resume, and a writing sample to Dash/Muse Fellow Patrick Griffith (pwg7@law.georgetown.edu) by 12:00 noon on Monday, June 12, 2017. Finalists for the few remaining spots in the course will interviewed by phone on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

After June 12, 2017, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis; however, HRI cannot guarantee that the few remaining seats in the class will not have been filled.

Selection criteria to be considered include but are not limited to: a demonstrated commitment to human rights, experience interviewing or working with individuals affected by human rights violations, ability to work independently as well as in a group and to complete complicated tasks on a deadline, excellent writing abilities, and non-English language skills.

Additional information is available at www.humanrights institute.net.