



Human Rights Institute
GEORGETOWN LAW

2017 Fact-Finding Report Presentation and Panel

Uniformed Injustice: State Violence against LGBT
People in El Salvador

Friday, April 21, 2017

The Human Rights Institute (HRI) is the focal point of human rights at Georgetown Law and helps ensure the Law Center's place as a center of excellence in human rights teaching and training and in producing policy-relevant and influential human rights ideas and research. HRI's mission is to promote understanding of and respect for human rights and the practice of human rights law, and to develop Georgetown Law's place as a global leader in human rights. To carry out its mission, HRI works closely with the broad range of human rights faculty and staff experts at the Law Center, as well as leaders in the global human rights movement, and manages programs and projects to generate and advance the research, writing, and advocacy work of students, alumni, and faculty.

Fact-Finding Project For nearly a decade, HRI's Fact-Finding Project has engaged in systematic human rights fact-finding investigations and prepared research reports analyzing human rights violations and proposing law and policy reforms based on documentation of the lived experiences of persons whose human rights have been violated. Each year, HRI pursues work on one human rights issue with a small team of students, giving them the opportunity to research a human rights problem in depth, conduct extensive interviews on the subject, draft a comprehensive report on their findings, and engage in related advocacy.

2016-2017 Fact-Finding Project This year the Fact-Finding Project investigated violence against LGBT individuals in El Salvador committed by law enforcement and justice system officials. Over the course of a week in January 2017, the team interviewed over 50 people including LGBT individuals, activists, human rights defenders and government officials. After returning to DC, the students wrote a report on the findings from these interviews with recommendations to relevant actors.

Fact-Finding Team Biographies

RICARDO ABEND VAN DALEN

Ricardo is a 2L at Georgetown Law. A native of Venezuela, he has done work on Latin America and human rights at the Due Process of Law Foundation, an NGO in DC. He often volunteers as a Spanish-English interpreter in asylum cases.

CAITLIN E. ANDERSON

Caitlin is a 2L, and came to Georgetown by way of Seattle and New York. She has always had an interest in human rights, having worked in the Peace Corps and with the ACLU. She will no doubt continue to contribute to the public interest field.

SOPHIE E. BONES

Sophie is an LL.M. from the UK. She has experience in international law and worked on cases at the International Court of Justice. Sophie's background is in public interest, having worked at a charity that does appeals work for death row inmates in the United States, and for a child detention NGO in the West Bank.

CARLY DOOLEY

Carly is a 2L from Minnesota. She has prior experience working with refugees and immigrants both in Minnesota and with the Africa Centre in Ireland. Carly has a background in chemistry research including project design, implementation and reporting. At law school Carly has continued to focus on public interest issues.

Fact-Finding Team Biographies

IGNACIO GRAZIOSO

Ignacio is an LL.M. from Guatemala and a practicing lawyer. He has experience in human rights, having worked on cases at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as a visiting professional. His knowledge of the region and of the Inter-American human rights system was of great use to the team.

MEGAN IORIO

Megan is a 2L who grew up in New Jersey. She worked with UNRWA in the West Bank, documenting human rights abuses. Her victim interviewing skills were put to use during the trip to El Salvador. Megan also has experience lobbying Congress on foreign policy issues.

MARY E. KENAH

Mary is a 2L, and originally from New Jersey. Before coming to law school, she worked in Brooklyn with underprivileged youths in schools, combating violence through teaching conflict-resolution. Mary has also worked with refugees from all over the world.

JACOB C. TRAVERS

Jacob is a 2E, and is originally from Washington, D.C. He has experience with vulnerable populations having worked for an NGO that seeks to end human trafficking. At law school he has sought to expand his human rights experience, and joining the project was the perfect way to do that.

Panelist Biographies

NICOLE SANTAMARÍA

Co-founder of Colectivo Alejandría

Nicole was one of the founders of Colectivo Alejandría, and a member of the Salvadoran Network of Defenders of Women's Human Rights. Nicole is an activist, artist, designer, facilitator, and art therapist. Through her work as an activist she has served as a: petitioner before the IACHR hearing for Hate Crimes against the LGBTI community in El Salvador (2013); panelist in the meeting of experts for the Education, Culture and Arts with the OAS, fellow of the Mujeres Adelante Program to stop gender-based violence for the Department of State (2014); fellow for social changers at iLEAP and Seattle International Foundation (2014); panelist at the White House meeting on bias-motivated violence against the LGBTQI community in El Salvador (2015); and part of the LGBTQI delegation to the World meeting of Families with Pope Francis in Philadelphia. Nicole was forced to flee her country and became an asylum seeker. She is very involved as a community activist for the LGBTQI community and is connected with Human Rights Defenders around the globe. Nicole has been recognized by the Pacific School of Religion for her work in El Salvador and won a scholarship to start her MA in Social Transformation. Currently, she is working as a Medical and Community Interpreter for Social Justice.

MARIEL PÉREZ-SANTIAGO

Senior Associate, LGBT Campaign, Human Rights First

As Senior Associate in Human Rights First's LGBT Campaign, Mariel conducts research and builds relationships with advocates around the world to inform U.S. government advocacy to advance the human rights of LGBT people globally. Mariel's work with the campaign has focused on efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean; she has conducted field research and drafted reports and other advocacy documents on the situation for LGBT people in Jamaica, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. Prior to her work with the LGBT Campaign, Mariel provided programmatic and administrative support to the Director of Government Relations at Human Rights First. Mariel previously served as the Human Rights Fellow at the U.S. Office on Colombia. Mariel received a BA in International Studies with a minor in French from Baylor University and an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

Panelist Biographies

RUBY CORADO

Founder of Casa Ruby

Ruby was born in El Salvador and fled the Salvadoran civil war when she was 16 years old. For the last 20 years she has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advocate for the inclusion of Transgender, Genderqueer and Gender Non-conforming Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people in mainstream society. Ruby's tireless work as an advocate and leader for social justice has been recognized by many awards including: The Capital Pride Heroes in 2005, Metro Weekly, Trans America 2006, Latino LGBT History Project Heroes Exhibit 2007, 25 Most Influential Latino LGBT activists By Latino Voice 2009, Stein Democrats, Heil-Balin Community Service Award 2011, Capital Pride Engendered Spirit Awards 2011, Gay and Lesbians Activists Alliance GLLA, Distinguish Service Award 2012, the Activist of the Year by the African American Prism Awards 2012, and Gays And Lesbians Opposing Violence Community Service Award 2013. In 2012 Ruby founded Casa Ruby whose mission "is to create success life stories among Transgender, Gender Queer and Gender Non-conforming Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people."

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR FANNY GÓMEZ-LUGO

Director of International Advocacy and Policy, Global Initiatives for Human Rights, Heartland Alliance

Fanny is a lawyer and human rights specialist whose work is focused on the rights of LGBTI persons. She is currently the Senior Director for International Policy and Advocacy for the Heartland Alliance's Global Initiatives for Human Rights. Prior to that, she coordinated the work of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of LGBTI Persons of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Fanny is a graduate of Andrés Bello Catholic University (UCAB) in Venezuela, and earned a Master of Laws degree with a concentration in international law from McGill University, Canada. She also completed the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program at Georgetown University Law Center. Fanny is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center, where she teaches courses on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, and sexual and reproductive health, including the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 HRI Fact-Finding Practicums.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WELCOME

Professor Andrew I. Schoenholtz

Adjunct Professor Fanny Gómez-Lugo

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Caitlin E. Anderson

MAIN FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Ignacio Grazioso

Sophie Bones

EXPERT PANEL WITH Q&A

MODERATOR: Mary Kenah

PANELISTS: Nicole Santamaría, Mariel Pérez-Santiago, Ruby Corado,

Adjunct Professor Fanny Gómez-Lugo

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Caitlin E. Anderson

DRINKS & PUPUSAS TO FOLLOW!



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