



Weill Cornell Medicine Center for Human Rights

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Statistics

As of April 2019, the WCCHR has conducted **548** evaluations for **476** clients from **73** countries. **153** clients or **95%** of the cases that have been adjudicated have already been granted asylum or another form of relief.

Upcoming Events

- Dr MacKenzi Hilliard and Dr. Thomas Kalman will be giving a lecture to the first year medical students on May 24th at 11:30 AM as part of a pilot program integrating human rights into the medical school curriculum

Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights 7th Annual Networking Luncheon

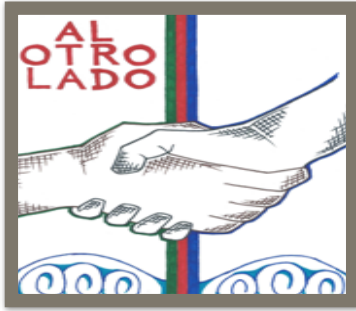
On April 27, 2019, students, faculty, and guests interested in human rights had the opportunity to have a panel discussion with Anand Balakrishnan, a lawyer specializing in immigration work at the ACLU, Dr. Neeraj Kaushal, a Professor of Social Work and a economist and journalist by training, and Dr. Spyros Orfanos, a psychologist at the WCCHR 7th Annual Networking Luncheon.

The luncheon enabled the audience to hear and learn about the dynamics of historical and current federal immigration policy from experts who have worked in the field. Panelists offered their insight on recent policy changes regarding immigration, the ongoing case against ICE, the depiction of asylees in media, and historical trends of immigration in the United States and abroad.

The luncheon was an opportunity to contextualize the mission and efforts of WCCHR in the larger fight for immigration reform and just policy in the United States.



A Conversation with Noah Habeeb



Photos courtesy of Noah Habeeb's presentation

This month, the WCCHR board members hosted a presentation by Noah Habeeb and Taylor Lampe, two members of Al Otro Lado's Border Rights Project. This organization provides free legal advice for prospective asylum seekers at the border and documents human rights violation against these asylum seekers. The group works primarily in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Tijuana, Mexico. This talk focused on their volunteer work in Tijuana providing know-your-rights training to those in migrant shelters. In addition to sharing stories about the challenges and obstacles faced by asylum seekers in Tijuana, this event provided information on the legal process of applying for asylum. Overall it was a great way for the WCCHR board to gain greater understanding of both the legal and humanitarian sides of asylum seeking.

In the News...

Attorney General Barr just handed ICE more power to keep asylum seekers in detention (April 17, 2019)

"Attorney General William Barr has unilaterally revoked the right of asylum seekers who enter the US illegally to ask an immigration judge for release on bond. The decision, released Tuesday night, is the first time Barr has used the attorney general's power to issue binding precedent on the immigration courts that determine whether immigrants can be deported from the US — a power that has been used aggressively by President Donald Trump's attorneys general."

"If Barr's ruling is allowed to go into effect, which it is set to do in 90 days, the only way for an asylum seeker to be released from detention during the weeks or months it takes for her case to be heard by a judge would be for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to allow her to be released on parole."



Photo credit: Karen Ducey/Getty Images

Link to article: <https://www.vox.com/2019/4/17/18411929/william-barr-attorney-general-immigration-detention-asylum-bond>

Spotlight on...

Nivita Sharma

WCCHR Evaluation Scheduler

Nivita Sharma is currently a first year medical student and graduated from The University of Georgia in 2018. Although she is not certain on pursuing a particular specialty just yet, Nivita has a growing interest in reproductive medicine and will further explore this field as she conducts research at the Center for Reproductive Medicine this summer. The ability to volunteer with WCCHR was a critical factor as Nivita was deciding among medical schools. She says the opportunity to "overcome the feeling of helplessness when you hear stories about refugees seeking asylum is rooted in the work we do here at WCCHR." As an evaluation scheduler, she has realized that the power of medicine goes far beyond than just treating patients in a clinic, but also has the power to improve people's lives outside of a diagnosis and treatment.



Chelsea Dodgen

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Chelsea Dodgen is a psychotherapist specializing in recovery from trauma and violence. She received her MSW from the University of California, Berkeley and worked from 2006-2013 at the UCSF Trauma Recovery Center / Survivors International, where she treated victims of violent crimes and torture as well as those seeking asylum. From 2013-2017 she treated victims of terrorist attacks and those bereaved by homicide in greater London with ASSIST Trauma Care of the UK. While in London, Ms. Dodgen also co-founded and taught a yoga class and support group for homicide bereavement. Recently her cognitive behavioral therapy clinic received a grant from The Family Center to provide free trauma-focused psychotherapy for unaccompanied immigrant minors. She joined the WCCHR after attending the WCCHR training in March 2018.

