HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT
“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home... the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

“Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

– Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
AN INNOVATIVE AND
DYNAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS
PROGRAM, UNIQUE AMONG
LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Bridging the gap between local and
global human rights—from Hartford
to Darfur

Trinity College’s Human Rights Program, the first such
program at a liberal arts college in the United States,
is committed to excellence in the study and practice
of human rights. The program seeks to foster critical
debate about human rights problems, interdisciplinary
dialogue, and conversations that bridge the divide
between local and global concerns.

The program offers an unparalleled range of activities
for an undergraduate institution: a strong human rights
curriculum, dynamic lecture and film series, summer
internships at leading human rights organizations, access
to local and international activists and experts, as well
as the opportunity to cross disciplinary boundaries and
research cutting-edge issues.

Created in 1998, the Human Rights Program was the
first in the country to offer students the opportunity
to minor in human rights and design their own major.
Recognized for its innovation and dynamism, it has
received several major grants and honors. And as a
leader in undergraduate human rights education, the
program regularly advises other institutions seeking to
create similar programs. It is directed by a Trinity
faculty member, overseen by a faculty advisory board,
and supported by an international advisory board of
prominent scholars and human rights advocates
worldwide.
“Students will find that the Human Rights Program offers an important and exciting blend of theory and practice, each tempering and influencing the other. Students and professors alike continue to be challenged in response to new situations, events, theories, and analyses from various viewpoints in a constantly changing world.”

Donna-Dale Marcano,
Associate Professor of Philosophy, and Director,
Human Rights Program
Learning in a community of scholars, grappling with human rights complexities

The study of human rights draws on multiple disciplines and perspectives to address fundamental questions relating to the humane treatment of people—theoretically, historically, and globally. For example, what are internationally recognized human rights norms and what are their origins and controversies? Why do human rights conditions vary so widely? How are human rights abuses and aspirations expressed through art and performance? And how might we approach the study of human rights critically, questioning its assumptions and applicability across diverse contexts?

Trinity students can enroll in a variety of human rights courses and dozens of electives across campus, design their own major, or pursue a minor. Students are encouraged to undertake local internships and study abroad—including programs in Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Trinidad, or Vienna. These are some of our global learning sites that focus specifically on human rights and include an internship component. Many human rights courses, moreover, have a community-learning segment, partnering students with groups beyond the College to work on an array of projects.

The Individually Tailored, Interdisciplinary Major

Students who wish to pursue an in-depth examination of human rights may enroll in an individually tailored, interdisciplinary major in human rights studies. They follow a pre-approved template of courses, including three core courses, two specialized electives, five general electives, an internship, and an integrating exercise.

The Human Rights Minor

The human rights minor provides an interdisciplinary overview of the key questions and concerns shaping the study of human rights. Students explore the complexities underlying civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, both in theory and practice. Drawing on a variety of perspectives and cases from around the world, including the United States, courses equip students to think comparatively and critically about a wide range of human rights issues.

The minor consists of six courses, including three core courses, two electives, and an integrating internship.

Sample Human Rights Courses

Introduction to Human Rights
First-Year Seminar: Children’s Rights
Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations
International Human Rights Law
Human Rights through Performance
Women’s Rights as Human Rights
Human Rights: Question of Justice
The Politics of Human Rights in Latin America
Contemporary Africa: Resource Wars and Human Rights
Music and Human Rights
Cultural Rights
HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER FELLOWS

Hands-on advocacy that will transform your perspective

Each year, the Human Rights Program selects several Trinity students to serve as summer fellows. These students work for 12 weeks as paid interns at major human rights organizations. While most national internships are highly competitive and unpaid, Trinity’s program places students at leading organizations and provides them with stipends so they can devote themselves full-time to human rights work. A unique opportunity for students to translate what they have learned in their Trinity courses to hands-on professional experiences, the internships prove to be transformative. Students return to campus with a more sophisticated understanding of human rights issues and the world of advocacy.

Recent Internship Sites
Amnesty International (Washington, D.C.)
International Rescue Committee (New York City)
Lawyers without Borders (Hartford)
Physicians for Human Rights (Boston)
Urban Justice Center (New York City)
Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict (New York City)
Witness (New York City)
Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children (Washington, D.C.)

“Meeting the country specialists has allowed me to network and make connections I know would be nonexistent if it were not for this internship.”

– Hannah Kaneck ’12
Amnesty International
Washington, D.C.
“My internship in South Africa allowed me to experience the work ethic of a legal non-profit organization, see its effects in the city and surrounding townships, and work alongside interns from around the world.”

– Nicolette Laume ’11
Women’s Legal Centre
Cape Town, South Africa

“Working with a team of experienced advocates gave me direct exposure to human rights campaigns around the world. I’ll never forget my work on a petition denouncing political violence against women in Zimbabwe.”

– William Pollock ’10
Witness
New York City
“Students will find that the Human Rights Program offers an important and exciting blend of theory and practice, each tempering and influencing the other. Students and professors alike continue to be challenged in response to new situations, events, theories, and analyses from various viewpoints in a constantly changing world.”

Donna-Dale Marcano, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

“The study of human rights offers a window into the liberal arts. It allows us to explore a multiplicity of connections across disciplines and other borders; to think critically about enduring questions and contemporary concerns; and to develop the intellectual skills to engage the world around us creatively and responsibly.”

Sonia Cardenas, Associate Academic Dean, and Professor of Political Science

“Two of my students spent the summer interning at Amnesty International, thanks to Trinity’s Human Rights Program. Having worked with Amnesty myself as an undergraduate summer intern, I know this experience will shape their lives in profound ways. This is a program that can change the course of people’s lives and that can make a real difference in the world.”

Cheryl Greenberg, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of History
LECTURES, FILMS, PERFORMANCES

A rich array of co-curricular events, linking Trinity students to cutting-edge human rights lectures, films, and performances

Every academic year, Trinity’s Human Rights Program sponsors a series of speakers, films, performances, and exhibits. The lectures bring to campus leading human rights academics and advocates, who often interact with students in small-group settings. Speakers have included former international judges and foreign leaders, prominent human rights scholars, directors of major human rights organizations, current and former government officials, leading defense attorneys, as well as human rights survivors and local activists. Topics cover the spectrum of human rights issues, including the war on terror, ethics, health and science, women’s rights, international law, children’s rights, the environment, and truth commissions.

The program sponsors events at the intersection of human rights and the arts. A film series presents human rights feature films and award-winning documentaries from around the world. The program also hosts human rights performances and exhibits—from dance to photography to poetry readings.

Coursework is often linked to human rights co-curricular events, creating a synergy between what students do in and out of the classroom.

Other Co-Curricular Events

Advocacy Fellow-in-Residence

Human rights advocates from here and abroad come to campus for a week in the spring. They attend classes, deliver a lecture, and meet with students, faculty, and community organizers. Past advocates have included a Nigerian student activist; human rights advocates from Belfast and Mozambique; a forensic physician from Turkey; a Palestinian child psychiatrist; a youth and rights organizer from Atlanta, Georgia; and an internationally recognized activist who works with Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic.

“The arts bring the discussion of human rights to a human level, communicating viscerally, kinesthetically, intellectually and emotionally—expanding the field of our understanding and helping us to both think and feel about these issues in new and different ways.”

Judy Dworin ’70,
Professor of Theater and Dance
TRINITY COLLEGE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The International Advisory Board is a consultative body composed of prominent human rights scholars and activists from around the world who support Trinity’s Human Rights Program. It is complemented by an internal Faculty Advisory Board, representing numerous disciplines and perspectives.

**Marjorie Agosín.** Professor of Spanish, Wellesley College; award-winning author, poet, and human rights activist.

**Christine Chinkin.** Professor of International Law, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, London School of Economics; leading expert on women’s human rights.

**Jack Donnelly.** Andrew Mellon Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver; internationally prominent human rights scholar.

**David Forsythe.** University Professor and Charles J. Mach Distinguished Professor, University of Nebraska; recognized for his eminent contributions to the human rights field.

**Hon. Richard J. Goldstone.** Former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; former justice, Constitutional Court of South Africa; recipient of numerous international human rights awards.

**Ryan Goodman.** Ehrenkranz Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU.

**Priscilla Hayner.** Co-founder, International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ); leading expert on truth commissions.

**Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann.** Former Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights; Professor, Wilfred Laurier University; areas of expertise include economic rights, gay and lesbian rights, and human rights in Africa.

**Alice Miller.** Senior Fellow, Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, Berkeley Law School; activist and scholar working at the intersection of health, sexuality, and human rights.

**Amii Omara-Otunnu.** UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, University of Connecticut; advocate and scholar of human rights in Africa.

**Sir Nigel Rodley.** Chair, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, UK; professor and former UN Special Rapporteur; foremost authority on the law of torture; knighted for his contributions to human rights and international law.

**Kathryn Sikkink.** Regents Professor and McKnight Presidential Chair in Political Science, University of Minnesota; leading human rights authority and winner of the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order.

**Christina Storm.** Executive Director and founder, Lawyers without Borders.

**Eric Stover.** Director of Human Rights Center and Adjunct Professor of Public Health, UC-Berkeley; former Executive Director of Physicians for Human Rights; prolific writer and expert witness for medico-legal investigations in conflict zones.

**José Zalaquett Daher.** Professor and Co-Director of Human Rights Center, University of Chile Law School; former president of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and member of Chile’s National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation.

To find out more about the Human Rights Program, please contact **Donna-Dale Marcano**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, and Director, Human Rights Program, Trinity College,
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www.trincoll.edu/Academics/SpecialPrograms/HumanRights
Books by Human Rights Program speakers who have visited Trinity College
Photos by Bob Handelman, Nick Lacy, and John Marinelli