

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022 - 2023



**WATSON INSTITUTE**  
INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS  

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**BROWN UNIVERSITY**



**CENTER FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
& HUMANITARIAN  
STUDIES**





## MISSION

*Our mission is to promote a more just, peaceful and secure world by furthering a deeper understanding of global human rights and humanitarian challenges and encouraging collaboration between local communities, academics and practitioners to develop innovative solutions to these challenges.*

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# WELCOME

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## Letter from the Director

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As the Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies (CHRHS) at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, I am delighted to share with you our 2022-2023 annual report. Over the past year, CHRHS has continued its mission of furthering a deeper understanding of global human rights and humanitarian challenges through the conduct and publication of high-quality research, while also bringing Brown students and faculty together with global practitioners and local communities to develop equitable and sustainable solutions to these challenges.

This year, CHRHS welcomed important new additions to our growing community. Professor Poulami Roychowdhury joins us from McGill University as a new faculty member at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. Her research analyzes how political mobilization influences the evolution, implementation, and enforcement of human rights, with special attention to rights against gender-based violence, providing CHRHS with an additional depth of expertise in these areas. In addition, Maggie Murphy joined us as our new Program Manager, overseeing the administration of CHRHS and the supervision of our student assistants. Maggie holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Human Rights Law from Queen's University Belfast and previously served as a program coordinator for Brown's Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America. Finally, Alexandria Nylen transitioned from her former role as Program Coordinator to her new role as Research Associate, in order to better contribute to the rapid growth of our research and scholarship at CHRHS.

Last fall, CHRHS launched a new partnership with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to study food insecurity in humanitarian settings. With funding from WFP, CHRHS is currently conducting qualitative research in a variety of complex emergencies, including Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, and Haiti to explore the current barriers to humanitarian access and identify lessons learned from humanitarian negotiations with state and non-state actors. In April, CHRHS released a new report in partnership with the Refugee Dream Center titled "Then, We Lost Everything: Afghan Evacuee Experiences of Operation Allies Refuge and Operations Allies Welcome" which provides the first study of the largest humanitarian evacuation in history told from the perspective of the evacuees themselves. Just one month later, CHRHS published its report on "Civilian-Military Coordination in the US National Response to COVID-19." Funded by the Australian Civil-Military Centre, this research explored how the US used its military and national guard in response to its largest public health crisis in a century.

CHRHS also funded new research seed grants led by two of our Global Fellows, one on "Non-Governmental Organization Decision Making During Complex Disasters" and the other on "Gender Identity, Health, and Barriers to Access for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon" as well as a writing workshop on "Governing Compound Disasters in Southeast Asia." In addition, we had five publications this year in leading humanitarian and public health journals for research previously funded or conducted by CHRHS.

In addition to our growing research portfolio, CHRHS has continued to enable Brown students to become engaged in human rights and humanitarian work through action-learning opportunities. Last year we continued to support the administration of the Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice (SCIJ) at Brown University, training a new group of 17 undergraduate students to provide free legal representation to asylum seekers and to organize for immigrant justice. For the first time this year, we were able to ensure that students received academic credit through Brown University for their participation in their intensive, 14-week training, after which students were paired with supervising lawyers and local refugees in Rhode Island seeking asylum from persecution in their countries of origin. In addition, we funded six students to participate in summer internships with leading global human rights and humanitarian organizations, allowing them to gain hands-on experience to complement their academic education in these topics. This past fall we also held our fifth annual Hack for Humanity event, bringing together undergraduate, graduate, and medical students to tackle pressing challenges in global human rights and humanitarianism. This year's theme focused on "Global Climate Change: Exploring Scalable Solutions to Climate Induced Disasters," and included eight teams of 4-5 students competing for a \$3000 seed grant to pilot their innovative solutions, guided by more than a dozen faculty and fellow mentors.

In terms of programming, CHRHS hosted or co-hosted more than a dozen events this past year, ranging from a workshop on artificial intelligence in humanitarian assistance and disaster response to a Q+A with YouTube's Global Head of Human Rights Malika Saar, and from a rapid teach-in on the earthquake in Turkey and Syria with local academics and activists to a panel discussion on Haiti's overlapping crises with three Haitian experts. In May, we also held our largest ever Research Symposium and Workshop on Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination, bringing together over 100 leaders from the US and foreign militaries, major UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and academia to present cutting-edge research and discuss the most intractable humanitarian challenges in modern disasters and conflicts.

Finally, this past year also marked the launch of the Brown Human Rights and Humanitarian Leadership Initiative, the very first Brown alumni group for individuals working in these fields. Led by Steering Committee Co-Chairs Sara Darehshori '89 and Maria Kasparian '06, this new initiative is developing networking opportunities for alumni working in the human rights and humanitarian fields as well as establishing a new mentorship program for Brown students seeking careers in these fields.

On behalf of CHRHS, I want to express my sincere thanks to our staff, students, affiliated faculty, global fellows, visiting scholars, engaged alumni, advisory board, and donors for all of the time, effort, money, support, and guidance they have provided us over this past year. I am excited by the opportunities that lie ahead in FY2024, and look forward to the continued growth of CHRHS as we enter our fifth year at Brown.

Sincerely,

Adam C. Levine, MD, MPH  
Perri Peltz and Eric Ruttenberg Professor of Practice in Human Rights  
Director, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies  
Brown University Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs



# PEOPLE

## Leadership & Staff

**Adam Levine**  
Director

**Alexandria Nylen**  
Civil-Military Research Associate

**Maggie Murphy**  
Program Manager

## Student Assistants

**Afia Akosah-Bempah**  
SCIJ Campus Organizer

**Xuanjie “Coco” Huang**  
IAPA Refugee Dream Center  
Research Assistant

**Ahad Bashir**  
Pandemic Response Research  
Assistant

**Tevah Gevelber**  
Civil-Military Program Intern

**Marzia Glambertoni**  
US Security Partnerships Research  
Assistant

**Nilab Ibrahimy**  
Afghan Evacuation Research  
Project Assistant

**Tristan Keyser-Parker**  
CHRHS Events Student Assistant

**Kethural Manokaran**  
Pandemic Response Research  
Assistant

**Diksha Pandey**  
WHO-CHRHS Intern

**Annie Schwerdtfeger**  
WFP Research Assistant

**Lucie Smith**  
Sanctions Research Assistant

**Ava Ward**  
Humanitarian-Development  
Research Assistant

**Anik Willig**  
CHRHS Student Assistant &  
Afghan Refugee Project Intern

## Affiliated Faculty

**Ruhul Abid**  
Associate Professor, Division of  
Cardiothoracic Surgery

**Adam Aluisio**  
Assistant Professor of Emergency  
Medicine

**Robert Blair**  
Joukowsky Family Assistant  
Professor of Political Science and  
International and Public Affairs

**Christopher Bull**  
Senior Lecturer in Engineering

**Abdullah Chahin**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Stephanie Garbern**  
Assistant Professor of Emergency  
Medicine

**Rob Grace**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of  
Political Science

**James Green**  
Carlos Manuel Céspedes Professor of  
Latin American Studies

**Patrick Heller**  
Professor of Sociology and  
International and Public Affairs

**Elizabeth Dean Hermann**  
Professor of Landscape  
Architecture, RISD

**Jennifer Johnson**  
Associate Professor of History

**Seny Kamara**  
Associate Professor of Computer  
Science

**Ramu Kharel**  
Assistant Professor of Emergency  
Medicine

**Catherine Lutz**  
Thomas J. Watson, Jr. Professor  
Emerita of Anthropology and  
International and Public Affairs

**Katelyn Moretti**  
Assistant Professor of Emergency  
Medicine

**Emily Oster**  
Royce Family Professor of  
Teaching Excellence, Professor of  
Economics

**David Polatty**  
Senior Fellow in International and  
Public Affairs

**Josiah Rich**  
Professor of Medicine and  
Epidemiology

**Craig Spencer**  
Associate Professor of the Practice  
of Health Services

**Selim Suner**  
Professor of Emergency Medicine  
Professor of Engineering,  
Professor of Surgery

**Nina Tannenwald**  
Senior Lecturer in Political Science

**Elizabeth Toll**  
Professor of Pediatrics and  
Medicine

**Suresh Venkatasubramanian**  
Professor of Data Science and  
Computer Science

**Tara White**  
Assistant Professor of Behavioral  
and Social Sciences

**Vazira Zamindar**  
Associate Professor of History

## Affiliated Fellows

**Cyril Bennouna**  
PhD Candidate, Political Science

**Giovanna De Luca**  
Global Emergency Medicine  
Fellow

## Visiting Scholars

**Mark Ferullo**  
CHRHS Visiting Scholar

**Amany Qaddour**  
CHRHS Visiting Scholar  
Regional Director of Syria Relief  
and Development (SRD)

**Chiara Romano Bosch**  
CHRHS Visiting Scholar

## Advisory Board

**Paulo Abrão**  
Former Executive Secretary of the  
Inter-American Commission on  
Human Rights

**Alfredo Ayala**  
Managing Director, Ayala  
Corporation  
CEO Ayala Education, Inc. and  
LiveIT Investments, Ltd.

**Omar Bah**  
Founder & Executive Director,  
Refugee Dream Center

**Seth Berkley**  
CEO, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance

**Chevaan Daniel**  
Executive Group Director, The  
Capital Maharaja Organization  
Ltd., Sri Lanka

**Blanche Greene-Cramer**  
Epidemiologist, Health Emergency  
Information & Risk Assessment,  
World Health Organization

**Susan Lebovitz-Edelman**  
Co-chair of The Edelman Family  
Foundation

**Robert Malley**  
Former President & CEO,  
International Crisis Group

**Michael Marx**  
Senior Humanitarian-Military  
Advisor, World Food Programme

**Kenneth Roth**  
Former Executive Director,  
Human Rights Watch

**Armand Sprecher**  
Public Health Specialist. Médecins  
Sans Frontières

**Julie Thompson**  
United Nations Office for the  
Coordination of Humanitarian  
Affairs, Geneva

**Rabih Torbay**  
President & CEO, Project HOPE

**Shari Turitz**  
Vice President for Programs,  
American Jewish World Service

**Samantha Wolthuis**  
Vice President, Global Operations,  
Resolve to Save Lives

**Sam Worthington**  
Former CEO, InterAction



**Global Fellows**

Siautu Alefaio-Tugia

Tayseer Alkarim

Markrid Antossian

Laila Ashrafun

Aisha Azhar

Temesgen Beyene

Camila Braga

Pamela Gloria Cajilig

Juliana Carvalho Cortes

Cecilia Corsini

Jasmin Lilian Diab

Rania El Rajji

Nadine Elshokeiry

Bianca Fadel

Henrique Garbino

Awet Hailu Woldegiorgis

Hassan Hussein Ibrahim

Chinwoke C. Ifeanyi-obi

Rabiul Islam

Mohamed Jelle

Nattawut Kasem

Marshall Kraft

Chris Kwaja

Nicolas Jude Larnerd

Meray Maddah

Saadia Majeed

Loveness Makonese

Muhammad Nasir Malik

Jerome Marston

Allan Mendoza

Stanislava Mladenova

Deus Mwijuke

Maiwen Ngalueth

Victor O. Okorie

Raphael Oidtmann

Maria Carinnes P.

Alejandria

Samia Qumri

Jonathan Robinson

Tarekegn Sakato

Alaaddin Salih

Jhuma Sen

Rashmi Sharma

Carolina Silvia-Portero

Devina Srivastava

Christopher Stockdale-Garbutt

Lambert Tatah

Zein Tayyeb

Sangeetha Yogendran

# PROGRAMS







# Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination

The Program in Civil-Military Humanitarian Coordination was created in 2020 with generous support from the Robert Dudley Harrington Jr. Charitable Foundation. The program leverages the existing Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies partnership with the U.S. Naval War College's Humanitarian Response Program (HRP) to break new ground within the humanitarian space, expanding upon the current evidence base for effective coordination during humanitarian emergencies, developing new avenues for information sharing between humanitarian, military and academic communities, and creating vibrant educational offerings for the multitude of actors who respond to crises.

This ongoing partnership has resulted in seven annual workshops, each attended by nearly 100 military and humanitarian leaders, designed to enhance the collective humanitarian response capacity of civilian and military actors by supporting a community of practice, identifying key opportunities for professional education and training and developing a comprehensive research agenda focused on global humanitarian civil-military coordination. This partnership has established strong working relationships with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the UN World Food Programme (UNWFP), the World Health Organization, leading international humanitarian organizations, and U.S. and international militaries.



## 7th Annual Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination Research Symposium and Workshop

May 22 - 24, 2023

In partnership with the US Naval War College's Humanitarian Response Program, UNOCHA, and UNWFP, CHRHS hosted our 7th Annual Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination Research Symposium and Workshop at Brown University from 22-24 May 2023. The theme of this year's workshop was "Adaptive Planning and Crisis Response: Opportunities and Challenges for Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination in Future Conflict." This event brought together international leaders from UN agencies and humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Governmental Organizations (IGOs), the U.S. armed forces and allied militaries, and academe to explore current and future challenges in humanitarian response.



## Civilian-Military Coordination Research Symposium

May 22-24, 2023



Our research symposium on May 22nd featured 16 oral presentations and over a dozen poster presentations of recently completed empiric studies, several of which have grown out of working group discussions at our prior workshops, which cover a range of contemporary challenges in global humanitarian action. This year's presentations covered several timely topics, including civil military coordination during humanitarian evacuation, humanitarian access in complex emergencies, climate change and coastal resilience, and public health emergencies.

Participants participated in working groups that met during the workshop to discuss and refine both a policy and research agenda for five major thematic areas, including humanitarian access, protection of civilians, aid worker security, climate change and coastal resilience, and outbreaks. Four cross-cutting sessions allowed participants across the thematic groups to meet for further discussion. The final summary report for this event is forthcoming.

## Workshop in Collaboration with the Center for Strategic and International Studies



June 13, 2023

For the first time in the event's seven-year history, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and CHRHS collaborated on an after-event hosted at CSIS's Washington DC headquarters. The event comprised two segments: a public panel discussion titled 'Opportunities and Challenges in Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination,' and a closed roundtable event called 'Assessing Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination.' During the public discussion, the focus was on the key findings of the workshop, while the closed event delved into the significant operational and access challenges the humanitarian community faces in large-scale combat operations.

# RESEARCH

CHRHS conducts and facilitates interdisciplinary research on pressing global human rights and humanitarian challenges. In addition to our core research projects at CHRHS, we annually fund pilot research studies through our Seed Grant Program. This program is designed to stimulate original, innovation-driven research that addresses topics of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, post emergency reconstruction, and human rights.





# Civilian-Military Coordination Research

## Afghan Evacuee Experiences of Operation Allies Refuge and Operations Allies Welcome

On 30 August 2021, the last US military plane departed Kabul ahead of President Biden's 31 August deadline to withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan. The humanitarian evacuation of Afghan citizens that took place during the weeks leading up to this event - dubbed Operation Allies Refuge (OAR) - marked the end of the US's 20-year military presence in the country and represents the largest non-combat airlift in US history. It also opens a new, complicated, and uncertain chapter for the Afghan evacuees as well as for their receiving nations. As the number and scale of complex humanitarian emergencies worldwide continues to grow, so too does the need for increased coordination between civilian and military actors. It is critical to understand the perceptions and experiences of this type of coordination from the crisis-affected communities themselves to gain novel insights.

Working with the Refugee Dream Center in Providence, Rhode Island, CHRHS produced a report that examines OAR and Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) from the perspectives of those most affected - the Afghan evacuees themselves. This research is structured around two overarching questions:

- 1) What are the experiences and perceptions held by Afghan evacuees during Operation Allies Refuge and Operation Allies Welcome?
- 2) What are the immediate and long term needs within the Afghan evacuee population resettling in Rhode Island?

The newly published report, 'Then, We Lost Everything:' Afghan Evacuee Experiences of Operation Allies Refuge and Operation Allies Welcome draws on 32 interviews with Afghan evacuees who experienced both OAR and OAW and have resettled in Providence, Rhode Island.

[Read the full report here.](#)



*"The main thing we need to do is inquire, rather than assume, so that we can work with the refugees in a more culturally attuned way as they begin their integration journey in the U.S."*

Omar Bah  
Director of the Refugee Dream Center



## Civilian-Military Coordination During the U.S. National Response to COVID-19

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In the early months of the COVID-19 outbreak being declared a global health emergency, many countries, including the U.S., involved their military in responding to the crisis. Guidelines from the United Nations outline when and how military assets should be used in humanitarian disasters, though they were originally developed primarily for geologic and climatologic disasters as opposed to epidemics and pandemics.

This project focuses on how civilian and military forces worked together during the first year and a half of the U.S.'s COVID-19 response, specifically in the Eastern United States. By examining relationships, roles, and decision-making, the project provides valuable insights into their collaboration. The report's key findings cover Adaptations and Innovations, Communication, Coordination, and Challenges, and it offers eight recommendations based on these findings to improve future disaster responses.

[Read the full report here.](#)



## Negotiating Humanitarian Access and Civil Military Coordination in Burkina Faso, Haiti, and Ethiopia: Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

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The COVID-19 pandemic and increasing conflicts have led to a high level of global humanitarian need, affecting around 274 million people in 2022—a 17 percent rise from the previous year. Unfortunately, humanitarian space is shrinking, making it harder for aid workers to reach vulnerable populations due to limited access and increased attacks on them. This research project, in partnership with UN WFP, examines different humanitarian responses in challenging contexts, like the 2021 Haiti Earthquake, recent conflict in Tigray, and the ongoing civil conflict in Burkina Faso. These responses involve non-state armed groups and assertive state governments, which hinder external humanitarian assistance despite lacking the capacity to provide help themselves.

The project aims to understand the role of civilian-military coordination in restricted access areas during humanitarian responses. It seeks to document best practices and challenges when state governments or non-state armed groups block external aid in both natural and manmade disasters. The project's main objectives are to conduct interviews with humanitarian responders, identify common themes in civil-military coordination and solutions in restricted environments, and share research findings with key stakeholders in WFP and beyond.

[Read more here.](#)

## U.S. Security Partnerships Case Analysis

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In collaboration with InterAction and the Security Assistance Monitor, CHRHS produced a series of issue briefs focusing on U.S. security cooperation with Ethiopia, Mali, and Nigeria. These briefs offer key facts, data, and analysis of the complicity of U.S. security partners in violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

The research involved comparing U.S. security partners' actions in these three countries to understand their varying contexts and levels of U.S. investment. The analysis was based on information gathered from public sources and online interviews, highlighting civilian harm and humanitarian concerns. The aim was to explore how the U.S. can influence its partners to better protect civilians. While specific information on U.S. actions to promote protection of civilians and civilian harm mitigation was not always available, the research concludes with seven recommendations for defense policymakers.



## GloMag Sanctions Database: Baseline Data on Human Rights Sanctions

In November 2018, the United States imposed sanctions on 17 Saudi Arabian officials involved in journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder. This marked a significant use of sanctions to hold human rights abusers accountable. The sanctions were enacted under the Global Magnitsky Act (GloMag), which aims to promote accountability for human rights abuses and corruption worldwide. Since its introduction in December 2017, GloMag has led to sanctions against 202 individuals and 250 entities.

Targeted sanctions like GloMag have become more popular among policymakers as they condemn harmful behavior without causing widespread harm to civilians, unlike conventional country-wide sanctions. However, the rationale and implementation of GloMag have received limited scrutiny. To address this gap, CHRHS created the GloMag Sanctions Database (GSD) as a resource for researchers to study and analyze the use of sanctions for human rights abuses and corruption. The GSD aims to consolidate data, identify trends in designees' traits, and understand the deployment of GloMag sanctions.

## Seed Grant Funded Research

The CHRHS Research Seed Grant Program stimulates original humanitarian and human rights-focused research. Seed grants further a deeper understanding of human rights and humanitarian challenges or test innovative solutions to these challenges.

### NGO Decision-Making During Complex Disasters: An Ecological Approach

Pamela Cajillig - Curiosity Design Research

Mona Nasser - University of Plymouth

### Gender Identity, Health and Barriers to Access for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon's Northern Regions

Dr. Jasmin Lillian Diab - Institute of Migration Studies, Lebanese American University

### Civil-Military What?! Making Sense of Competing Civil-Military Relations Concepts

Jonathan Robinson - CHRHS Global Fellow and contracted operations specialist supporting the US Naval War college's Humanitarian Response Program

[Read more about these projects here.](#)

## Peer Reviewed Publications

[Development and assessment of novel virtual COVID-19 trainer-of trainers course implemented by an academic-humanitarian partnership](#) | Global Health Action | December 2022

Authors: Ramu Kharel, Janette Baird, Himanshi Vaishnav, Nidhi CHillara, J Austin Lee, Alicia Genisca, Alison Hayward, Vlatko Uzevski, Asmaa Elbenni, Adam C. Levine, Adam R. Aluisio

[Emergency unit assessment of seven tertiary hospitals in Nepal using the WHO tool: a cross-sectional study](#) | International Journal of Emergency Medicine | February 2023

Authors: Ramu Kharel, Ghan B. Thapa, Tamara Voor, Samriddha R. Pant, Samir K. Adhikari, Bimal S. Bist, Pryanka Relan, Timmy Lin, Derek Lubetkin, Giovanna Deluca, Olita Shilpakar, Sanu K. Shrestha, Yagya R. Pokharel, Santosh Paudel, Ajay S. Thapa, Yogendra M. Shakya, Achyut R. Karki, Nishant Dhakal, & Adam R. Aluisio

[Moving Humanitarian-Military Relations Forward: A New Typology](#) | Journal of International Humanitarian Action | February 2023

Authors: Rob Grace, Maria Carrines Alejandria, Madison Bates, Samuel T. Boland, Alexandria J. Nylen, Zein Tayyeb, and Adam Levine

[Civil-Military Engagement During Public Health Emergencies: A Comparative Analysis of Domestic Responses to COVID-19](#) | Stability: International Journal of Security & Development

Authors: Samuel Boland, Rob Grace, and Josiah Kaplan

[The role of civil society organizations \(CSOs\) in the COVID-19 response across the Global South: A multinational, qualitative study](#) | PLOS Global Public Health | 2023

Authors: Levine AC, Park A, Adhikari A, Alejandria MCP, Bradlow B, Lopez-Portillo ME, Mutwafy S, Zumbyte I, Heller P





# TRAINING

CHRHS strives to re-imagine the education and training of the next generation of humanitarian and human rights researchers, educators, and responders. In addition to the Center's core training initiatives, CHRHS provides training seed grants to support the development of new curriculum, workshops, and simulation-based learning, both within existing institutions and as a kick-starter for independent initiatives.

[Read more about these training seed grants here.](#)



## Training Seed Grants

### Governing Compound Disasters in Southeast Asia: Writing Workshop for Publication

The writing workshop is envisioned to gather scholars working in the Southeast Asian Region to develop manuscripts exploring the governance of compound disasters in the region with specific focus on the management of the COVID-19 pandemic alongside environmentally related hazards.

### Developing a Pre-Clerkship Elective Course in Humanitarian Medicine & Refugee Health for the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University

It is becoming increasingly important for medical professionals to become competent in caring for refugees and understanding the unique challenges that this population faces. This grant was used to develop an introductory course on humanitarian medicine and refugee health for medical students in their first year of training. The course includes a mix of lecture-based content as well as a service-learning opportunity. Topics include humanitarian law and standards, refugee camp health, the resettlement process, local refugee services, social determinants of health and barriers to health care in the US, and mental health.

### Mass Casualty Training for Prehospital & Emergency Providers in Kigali, Rwanda

Rwanda experiences a combination of both natural and man-made disasters. However, there has been little training to help the medical system prepare and address these disasters. The goal of this training is to teach skills critical to responding to mass casualty incidents (MCI) to first responders, prehospital providers and hospital personnel. The course will be taught to members of Healthy Persons Rwanda, SAMU (EMS system) and Rwanda Emergency Care Association (RECA). Members of RECA include paramedics, nursing staff, and physicians that participate in emergency care.



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

CHRS is committed to training the next generation of leaders by offering Brown University students exciting opportunities to engage with human rights and humanitarian communities. With a focus on action oriented learning, each year we connect students with top humanitarian and human rights organizations through our summer internship program, train and empower students to provide direct legal representation to local asylum seekers through our partnership with the Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice, and provide engaging research assistant opportunities. Much of our student programming has been made possible through generous funding from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.



## Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice

Through a collaborative partnership now entering its fourth year, CHRS and the Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice (SCIJ) train and mobilize undergraduate students to provide free legal representation to asylum seekers and to organize for immigrant justice. Through SCIJ's training program, our students gain a deep knowledge of immigration law, learn about the history of and systemic issues with US immigration, and build skills in community organizing. After students have been trained, they are mobilized to provide representation to asylum seekers by pairing students with SCIJ's partner attorneys and immigration organizations. As students work on cases, they create intentional relationships with clients, the local immigrant community, and other immigration organizations to understand and identify issues most directly impacting immigrants locally, and then organize for policy change. Seventeen Brown undergraduate students were trained this past year.



*"My experience with SCIJ has taught me so much about the legal world and about my capacity to create meaningful change."*

Javier Niño-Sears, Class of 2025

*"The opportunity to work with SCIJ is an invaluable experience and I always see it as a way to honor my parents who have also immigrated."*

Melanie Morales Aquino, Class of 2024



# CHRRHS Summer Internship Program

CHRRHS integrates education and research with on-the-ground action by connecting students with experts through funded internships at top humanitarian and human rights organizations. These curated internships are carefully crafted with our partners so as to provide students with valuable hands-on experience and working knowledge of humanitarian and human rights issues and best practices. Partnering with organizations like Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group, Project Hope, the Gammadda Initiative, the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, and the Refugee Dream Center, the Center placed six students in internship roles for Summer 2023.

*"Interning at Human Rights Watch has been an invaluable experience which has allowed me to learn from dedicated and knowledgeable professionals in the field. Under supervisors in the Global Health Team, I have collaborated on an initiative trying to stop the EU's approval and export of toxic pesticides. I have gained a new understanding of this area of health and environmental policy, as well as the general process of conducting investigations into human rights violations. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work in an organization with such devoted advocates and such a large impact."*

Anik Willig, Class of 2024



# Hack For Humanity

## Global Climate Change: Exploring Scalable Solutions to Climate Induced Disasters

Hack for Humanity is an annual humanitarian focused hackathon that brings together students to learn about the most pressing needs in the human rights and humanitarian sphere. The hackathon encourages students to develop creative ideas for innovative programs or technologies that could help improve the lives of disaster and conflict affected communities around the world. This year's hackathon focused on how to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change across the globe. Students worked together to develop creative ideas for innovative programs, systems, or technologies that could improve how we anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate induced disasters.

This event would not have been possible without the generous support from the Hearst Foundation, the Brown Global Health Initiative, the Institute at Brown for Environment & Society, and the Climate Solutions Lab at the Watson Institute.

**Keynote Address: Professor Kim Cobb**  
Director of the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society

Kim Cobb is an award-winning climate scientist whose research focuses on building capacity for climate solutions. In her research, Cobb seeks to advance understanding of future climate change impacts, with a focus on climate extremes and coastal flood hazards.



**Winning Presentation: Bonita Salud**  
Team Members: Neil Rupani, Elina Pipa, Ava Ward, Asennette Ruiz, Hailey Chen

The mission of Bonita Salud is to build community resilience against extreme heat events by fostering deep social support networks for isolated elderly populations, preparing them for heat emergencies and monitoring their well-being throughout such events. Their vision is to help vulnerable communities in Mexico and beyond become resilient against extreme heat events by helping the elderly reintegrate into society.



# PROGRAMMING

CHRHS provides an intellectual space for faculty, visiting scholars, students, and practitioners from around the globe to reflect upon and evaluate current human rights and humanitarian policies and procedures, while supporting interdisciplinary research by faculty and students into both the causes of, and solutions for, the most pressing global humanitarian and human rights challenges. CHRHS hosts annual conferences, workshops, and lectures that encourage collaboration, best practices, shared learning, cross-regionalism, and multi-disciplinary thinking.



## CHRHS Events

### Afghan Perceptions of the US Military

September 21, 2022

At this CHRHS event, a panel of experts discussed the ongoing research project conducted in collaboration with the Providence-based Refugee Dream Center. The research aims to document the personal experiences of Afghan civilians who worked with the US military in Afghanistan and were part of the evacuation from Kabul. The panelists included Omar Bah, Alexandria Nylen, and Subhan Mohebi.

### Parallels in Humanitarian Responses: Syria & Ukraine

November 3, 2022



What can we learn about humanitarianism in general from international responses in two very different contexts? How do thematic issues within both responses differ and overlap? During this event, CHRHS Visiting Scholars, Chiara Romano Bosch (United Nations World Food Programme) and Amany Qaddour (Syria Relief and Development), provided insights into the humanitarian responses in Syria and Ukraine from a practitioner perspective. Both scholars shared their extensive experience in the humanitarian sector, having worked in both countries. The event featured a moderated panel discussion hosted by Alexandria Nylen, CHRHS's Civil-Military Research Associate.







## Big Tech’s Responsibility to Protect Human Rights - Malika Saada Saar ‘92

November 10, 2022

Malika Saada Saar, a Brown alum and human rights lawyer, currently holds the position of YouTube’s Global Head of Human Rights Partnerships. In this role, she leads the platform’s initiatives in collaborating with activists, nonprofits, and external partners to promote human rights causes, including criminal justice reform, gender equality, and racial justice. During a conversation with CHRHS Director, Dr. Adam Levine, she shared insights into her experiences in the human rights sector and discussed the growing challenges for the tech industry in upholding and safeguarding human rights, as well as its role in humanitarian actions.

## 36 Years of Terror: Bobi Wine Awakens Uganda: Film Screening & Discussion

December 6, 2022

In celebration of International Human Rights Day, the Watson Institute hosted a film screening of “Bobi Wine: The Ghetto President” followed by a panel discussion with Bobi Wine, Nubian Li, and Kenneth Roth.

Thank you to our cosponsors – the John F. Kennedy Jr. Initiative for Documentary Film and Social Progress, the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies, the Africa Initiative, and the Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre.

## “More of us might be killed - but we will win”: Hazara Persecution and Resistance in Afghanistan

December 9, 2022

CHRHS organized a compelling panel forum that focused on the persecution and resistance of the Hazara community in Afghanistan. The panelists for this important discussion were Khadija Nazari, Javed Rezayee, and Azizulla Royesh. During the forum, the panelists shed light on the challenges and hardships faced by the Hazara people in Afghanistan, a community that has historically endured persecution. They also highlighted the courageous efforts and resilience of the Hazara in the face of adversity, showcasing their spirit of resistance and determination.

## AI for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

February 17, 2023

AI can play an important role in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR). To ensure AI’s success on such use cases (and for all users), it is critical to consider its human element: the different stakeholders in the HADR environment, their distinct goals, pain points, and design needs, how they’ll interact with AI technologies in the field, how to apply AI technologies fairly and ethically, and more. Put differently, we must emphasize human-centered design, think deeply about human computer interaction, and practice responsible AI. This half-day mini summit featured group discussion as well as speakers from academia, government, military, NGOs, and the technology sector.

## Beyond the Numbers: Teach-in on the Earthquake in Turkey & Syria

February 27, 2023

This teach-in on the earthquake in Syria and Turkey explored the impact of the devastation in the very different contexts of northwest Syria and southern Turkey. Attendees heard from aid workers, doctors, and activists about the various ways this humanitarian disaster has been intersecting with political and economic factors. The panelists attempted to better understand the way people have been affected and the challenges they are currently facing in the aftermath. The panel also explored the humanitarian assistance and solidarity initiatives that have emerged locally, nationally, and transnationally. The panelists included: Tayseer Alkarim, Jomah alqasem, Evin Jiyan, and Fulya Pinar.

## Haiti’s Overlapping Crises: Is there a way through?

April 4, 2023

In partnership with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, CHRHS held a hybrid panel discussion featuring three experts who reflected on the current situation in Haiti and offered ideas for a way forward. Dr. Jacqueline Gautier, Advisor and Coordinator for Development and Fundraising for NPH Haiti’s St. Damien Pediatric Hospital discussed both the significant humanitarian need and humanitarian access challenges currently affecting the country. Historian Yveline Alexis, Professor of Africana Studies and Comparative American Studies at Oberlin College, spoke about the historical roots of the current overlapping crises in Haiti. Finally, Sabine Lamour, Professor of Sociology and Gender at the State University of Haiti, focused specifically on the impact that current crises have had on women and girls in Haiti.



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**We encourage you to reach out to us for more information on how to get involved with CHRHS. We are always looking to collaborate with new partners and individuals on a variety of research, training, and programming initiatives. We look forward to hearing from you!**



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