

ABOUT US

The International Council on Human Rights Policy (ICHRP) was first conceived in 1994 by a group of eminent human rights advocates, scholars and policy-makers to address the dilemmas and challenges of translating international human rights principles and standards into policy realities. It provides a forum for applied research, reflection and forward thinking, grappling with the challenge of translating universal human rights principles into policy realities and between 1998 and 2011 undertook more than 30 research projects addressing a wide range of policy questions.

The ICHRP has identified issues that impeded the promotion and protection of human rights in policy-making across the globe, and through its work proposed strategies to advance that purpose.

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is, sadly, the final activity report of the ICHRP, as the Executive Board has decided to close down, effective the end of February 2012, in light of continued financial vulnerability.

The year 2011–2012 was a challenging year for the organisation. The leadership transitions (with the departures of Robert Archer and Maina Kiai) over 2009–2011 led to many institutional and strategic disruptions. Coming as these did in the context of significant contractions in the funding environment, especially for human rights policy research, it left the ICHRP in a highly vulnerable position in early 2011.

As a response, the Secretariat, under my leadership beginning March 2011, took several ambitious steps, the first of which was finalising a new strategic plan. We focused on (a) adopting a broader strategic framework to guide our activities; (b) developing new methodologies of collaborative research; (c) enhancing our capacity for activities oriented to policy advocacy; and (d) reconfiguring our institutional capacities towards a greater focus on communications and external engagement.

This last period has thus been a very dynamic one during which the Secretariat led the way in initiating new research (on areas such as penalising poverty, the city and human rights, multicultural justice, data governance and accountability, rethinking evaluation of human rights work, human rights defenders); completing and publishing older projects (privacy, and climate technology policy); engaging in a series of outreach initiatives in Geneva and elsewhere; as well as a greatly enhanced web and electronic communications strategy, including the launch of the *Governing Poverty*, *Risking Rights* forum on openDemocracy.net as well as the ICHRP blog. This report captures our key activities during the year 2011–2012.

While there is no doubt that the very significant changes, mostly contractive – at least for our kind of work – in the funding environment affected ICHRP adversely, a range of internal institutional factors and bottlenecks at various levels also played a role in undermining our strengths. We need to reflect on and indeed share these insights with the wider human rights community.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to everyone, too numerous to single out by name, who has participated in or encouraged and supported our work, especially over the past year or so. The fact that throughout this past

year in crisis the Secretariat remained creative, committed and positive speaks volumes for all my colleagues and their dedication, for which I am very grateful. The Secretariat is closing with a sense of accomplishment.

For more than a decade the ICHRP stimulated co-operation and exchange across the non-governmental, governmental and intergovernmental sectors, and strove to mediate between competing perspectives; our intellectual autonomy, willingness to engage with complexity, readiness to risk breaking boundaries of discipline and practice, commitment to rigour and collaboration will continue to render ICHRP's work and approach relevant for many years to come.

Vijay K. Nagaraj

Executive Director

OUR ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



CONFLICT, MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH ASIA: REPORT FROM A ROUNDTABLE

Published electronically in May 2011.



In November 2010, the ICHR (along with the Centre for Media and Cultural Studies of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and PANOS South Asia), co-convened the Kathmandu Roundtable on Conflict, the Media and Human Rights in South Asia, bringing together senior media professionals, social scientists, peace and human rights advocates, and security analysts to consider how conflict, peace and human rights questions are discussed in the public domain, especially in the media, in South Asia. In May 2011, the ICHR published a report presenting the main themes and outcomes of the discussions. A summary of the report is also available.



NAVIGATING THE DATAVERSE: PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN RIGHTS

Published electronically, June 2011.

This ICHR Discussion Paper examines the human rights implications of the immense diffusion of data-gathering technologies across the world in recent years. It starts from the premise that the relevant issues, while much discussed, are not yet well understood and are evolving rapidly, both of which contribute to widespread anxiety. The Discussion Paper explores the roots of this anxiety and attempts to determine its sources and effects. It queries the degree to which data-gathering technologies pose problems that represent (or are analogous to) human rights threats and asks whether and how human rights law may help to assess or address those problems.

The purpose of the Discussion Paper is to open up a set of issues for consideration by human rights groups and scholars and also to encourage those in the privacy field to think about human rights. It is intended as a platform for further investigation and research into the full implications of current trends in information technology for human rights and to determine how those concerned by these impacts might orient themselves in the future.

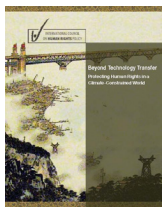


CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA (ICHRP TRANSLATIONS IN SPANISH AND ARMENIAN)

Publication Date: June and July 2011, respectively.

The second ICHR corruption report was translated into Spanish in collaboration with FUNDAR, a public policy think-tank based in Mexico City. For details on the launch events in Mexico, see below.

The report was translated into Armenian in partnership with the Mobilising Action Against Corruption (MAAC) programme, and launched in Yerevan with representation from the ICHR (see further details below).



BEYOND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN A CLIMATE-CONSTRAINED WORLD (REPORT AND SUMMARY)

Published electronically and with limited print run, September 2011.

The report aims to bridge the divide between the language and concerns of environmental activists and those of human rights advocates so that common principles might be found and a common position forged. Climate technology policy has generally been conceived as a means to address a central injustice associated with climate change – that activities that have primarily benefited the inhabitants of the world's richest states will disproportionately affect those living in the world's poorest states. As a result, 'technology transfer' has long been recognised as an indispensable element of a stable future and a global deal, both practically and politically. The ICHR report shows that technology transfer is more than this, however: it is also a principal means by which basic human rights standards can be reached for the world's most vulnerable people in a climate-constrained future.

This report's September publication followed the release of the executive summary at a high-level Human Rights Council side-event with a panel that included Mary Robinson, the President of the Maldives, the Deputy High-Commissioner for Human Rights and Stephen Humphreys, ICHR Consultant and the author of the report. The summary includes the report's recommendations, addressed separately to all governments, Annex 2 country governments, non-Annex 1 country governments, and UN and other international agencies respectively. See further details on the event below.



ADVANCING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA AT THE UNITED NATIONS : A SUPPORTING PAPER TO THE 2011 REPORT OF THE PANEL ON HUMAN DIGNITY

Published December 2011.

Building on ICHR's work on climate change, this paper complements the recommendations of the final report of the Panel on Human Dignity, a Swiss government initiative to mark the 60th anniversary of the UDHR, on climate change. It outlines some of the many possible measures to advance the climate change agenda within the UN human rights system, under the aegis of the mandate of the UN Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The paper was presented at the December 2011 report launch.



SEXUALITY, HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN REGION (COLLABORATIVE REPORT WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION)

Published January 2012.

The report is the result of a global project on sexual health and human rights and is the result of a collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the World Health Organisation (WHO). It contributes to the recognition, understanding and application of human rights standards related to sexuality and sexual health and seeks to provide normative guidance for states, activists, policy-makers and other human rights practitioners through a legal and jurisprudential analysis of regional data.



NO PERFECT MEASURE: REDEFINING ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORK – REPORT FROM A WORKSHOP

Publication Date: February 2012.

This report focuses on the political and normative issues underlying these questions and concerns regarding the assessment of the impact of human rights work. Drawing on discussions at a workshop involving advocates, donors, social scientists and evaluators, this report is a continuation of the ICHRP's work on generating critical reflection on redefining approaches to evaluating and assessing human rights work. Examining questions of power and accountability, the particularities of human rights work and other issues, the report also points to possible ways in which the frames of evaluation and assessment maybe changed including peer review and a greater emphasis on learning rather than judgement.

WEB-BASED OUTREACH



**GOVERNING POVERTY: RISKING RIGHTS:
A DIALOGUE ON OPENDEMOCRACY.NET**

Status: Launched in partnership with openDemocracy, August 2011.

The well-known current affairs website openDemocracy.net and the ICHRP are hosting an online dialogue for discussion and analysis of issues surrounding the penalisation of poverty. *Governing Poverty, Risking Rights* went live on 1 August 2011 and to date 15 articles have been published. The contributions illustrate and investigate diverse aspects of this widespread problem; some of the themes addressed have included policing of welfare, governance of urban spaces and homelessness, drug policy, urban militarism etc. The articles, written by activists, scholars and other experts from around the world, have been often featured among the 'most read' or 'featured' articles on openDemocracy. In addition to providing a platform for debate on issues largely invisibilised, the forum has also provided an impetus to further collaboration and research.



ICHRP HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY BLOG

Status: Launched July 2011.

The ICHRP Blog provides an informal platform for commentary and critical thinking on human rights challenges relating to government policies, NGOs and international organisations. It is designed as a collective exploration of the themes and issues on which ICHRP is currently concentrated, connecting our cutting-edge research to current human rights developments and challenges. Launched in July 2011, the blog has so far featured 46 posts (usually 1–2 a week) on a variety of topics, including corruption in healthcare, the London riots, gender identity, and the intervention in Libya, by ICHRP staff, interns, consultants, Council

Members and guest writers (26 contributors in total). In the near future, our aim is to update the blog's design, layout and structure to increase the accessibility of our work, opinions and discussions. The blog forms part of a more agile communications strategy, which includes better engagement with social media and a redesigned, more accessible website.

KEY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

ICHRP EXPERT MEETING ON PENALISING PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY

Event date: March 17 – 18, 2011.

The ICHRP held an international workshop in Geneva to share experience and analysis and contribute to the development of a new project on the Penalisation of People Living in Poverty. The workshop gathered over 20 experts including human rights advocates, advocacy groups for the urban poor, representatives of grass roots organisations, and UN experts and academics working on issues related to penalisation of poverty or related themes in different regions of the world. Issues discussed included anti-vagrancy laws, police move-on powers, pretrial detention, urban planning, the right to the city, poverty as a ground for discrimination in human rights law, public health regimes, the criminalisation of abortion and the governance of welfare. Many of the participants at the meeting have since contributed to the Governing Poverty: Risking Rights Dialogue on openDemocracy (see above).

INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA (ARMENIAN TRANSLATION LAUNCH EVENTS)

Event Date: 26 July 2011.

At the invitation of Mobilising Action Against Corruption Armenia (MAAC), the ICHRP presented the report in a meeting with civil society actors (including the local chapter of Transparency International) in Yerevan, and to staff of the Armenian Human Rights Ombud.

The contents of the two ICHRP corruption reports were also used in a day of training on the links between corruption and human rights, and a human rights approach to tackling corruption, delivered to the lawyers who staff the MAAC legal advice centres around the country.

INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA (SPANISH TRANSLATION LAUNCH EVENTS)

Event Dates: 26–29 August 2011.

This translation was launched at the National Human Rights Institution of Mexico City (CDHDF). The launch initiated a high-level discussion around the issues covered in the report. The book was presented by

Luis Armando González Placencia, President of CDHDF; Irma Eréndida Sandoval Ballesteros, Director of the Observatory against Corruption and Transparency of the University Nacional Autónoma de México; Magdalena Sepúlveda, ICHRP Research Director; and Christian Gruenberg, ICHRP consultant. The event was well attended by civil society organizations, staff of the Ombudsman office, academics and the general public. Copies of the report were distributed at the event and several others were sent to all federal national human rights institutions in Mexico.

This event marked the culmination of a series of activities undertaken by the ICHRP in Mexico. Two public meetings were held, at the Comisión Nacional Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal and at FUNDAR (Centro de Análisis e Investigación). The aim of the meetings were to strategize with several human rights and anti corruption organizations as well as with the Office of the Ombudsman how to implement the recommendations of the report and how to move forward on integrating human rights in governance, with particular emphasis on National Human Rights Institutions and local government, as included in the ICHRP Strategic Plan.

LAND AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A DAY OF REFLECTION AND DEBATE

Event Date: 15 September 2011.

Coordinated in collaboration with ESCR-NET and hosted by FES, panel discussions highlighted some of the principle legal/normative, institutional and political challenges in strengthening an international recognition of the human rights in relation to land. The day culminated in a strategy session aiming to define more clearly some key opportunities for advocacy and the potential for closer collaboration between interested organizations. The meeting gathered a number of activists and researchers working with key organisations and institutions including FIAN, to engage in a joint reflection and strategy session on topics of common concern.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WTO: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISMS, PANEL AT THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM

Event Date: 21 September 2011.

In collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the ICHRP moderated a panel discussing possible avenues for incorporating human rights considerations into the international trading system. The discussions centred specifically around incorporating human

rights considerations through the WTO dispute settlement and trade policy review mechanisms, with a view to ensuring policy coherence and synergy between international trade law and international human rights law and the World Trade Organization.

The panel featured Sanya Reid Smith of the Third World Network, Dr. James Harrison of the Centre for Human Rights Practice at the University of Warwick, Hunter Nottage from the Advisory Centre on WTO law, and Dr. Andrew Lang of the LSE, all contributing significant expertise in human rights practice, WTO law, and legal theory on the possibilities for an international trade regime that better respects human rights. The event brought together a large audience composed of trade delegations, lawyers, human rights actors, academics, and interested members of the public.

LEGAL PLURALISM, CONFLICT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE, SIDE-EVENT AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Event Date: 23 September 2011.

In partnership with the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), the ICHRP moderated a panel at a side-event at the Human Rights Council. The contexts in which people claim rights and voice justice claims are almost always characterized by a plurality of values. The panel specifically addressed questions raised in the context of development, post-conflict justice and rule of law in general with regard to pluralism in law.

Building on our work on legal pluralism and the work of the IDLO on customary justice, this side-event focused on the human rights concerns raised by legal pluralism in the context of development, post-conflict justice and the rule of law in general. The panellists were: Robert Husbands, Rule of Law Unit, UN OHCHR; Caitlin Reiger, Policy Director, International Centre for Transitional Justice; and H.E. Ambassador Slimane Chikh, Permanent Observer, Organisation for Islamic Cooperation.

TOWARDS REDEFINING APPROACHES TO ASSESSING AND EVALUATING HUMAN RIGHTS WORK: A PRACTICE AND RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Event Date: 3–4 October 2011.

The workshop, hosted by the ICHRP, focused on the challenges of understanding, describing and assessing what are variously described as the contributions, impacts, outcomes, results, or value of human

rights work. It brought together advocates, researchers, evaluation practitioners and theorists, and other relevant experts to reflect on the challenges faced, to examine the adequacy of existing methodologies and approaches, and to understand how these various approaches are themselves affecting human rights theory and practice.

Participants included representatives from the Open Society Foundation, Amnesty International, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, HURIDOCS, the International Commission of Jurists, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Conectas, Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and other experts, including academics and evaluators.

A report tracing important insights from the workshop and possible ways forward will be published in early 2012.

SIDE EVENT ON THE PENALISATION OF POVERTY AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DONOR ROUNDTABLE

Event Date: 25 October 2011 (New York).

The ICHRP, in collaboration with ATD Fourth World, the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations, and the NGO Sub-Committee for the eradication of Poverty, coordinated a side-event at the UN General Assembly which was co-hosted by the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. The theme was *Punishing the Poor: Exploring Measures in Social Policy that Penalize, Segregate, Control, or Undermine the Autonomy of People Living in Poverty*; panelists included representatives from the Open Society Justive Initiative, Amnesty International, UNDP and the Special Rapporteur.

OTHER KEY EVENTS IN WHICH THE ICHRP PARTICIPATED

REENGINEERING THE CORPORATION: HUMAN RIGHTS, THE CORPORATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CONFERENCE AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST SCHOOL OF LAW)

Event Date: June 2011 (Belfast, Northern Ireland).

Kate Donald (Research Fellow) participated in the conference, which examined new approaches to corporate accountability, especially in terms of environmental crimes. The conference inspired some new approaches to our work on business and human rights and forged some new collaborations with academics and activists working on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASIAN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONSORTIUM

Event Date: August 2011 (Chiang Mai, Thailand).

Vijay Nagaraj (Executive Director) spoke at the Assembly on questions of culture and rights at the General Assembly of the Asian Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Consortium. Originally a UNDP- initiated network, an array of representatives from NGOs, legal networks, National Human Rights Institutions and judicial bodies attended from across Asia.

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (AWID) INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY MEETING ON RESISTING AND CHALLENGING RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISMS

Event Date: 7–9 September 2011 (Istanbul, Turkey).

Vijay Nagaraj attended this consultative strategy meeting convened by AWID on religious fundamentalisms and the impact they are having on rights agendas across regions, sectors and constituencies. The conference brought together 25–30 rights activists from different regions, generations, sectors and key networks. This engagement flowed from ICHRP work on legal pluralism and engagement with MUSAWAH last year, as well as co-hosting a side-event with AWID at the Human Rights Council in February of this year.

CLIMATE CHANGE SIDE-EVENT AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (SPONSORED BY THE MISSIONS OF IRELAND AND THE MALDIVES TO THE UN)

Event Date: 13 September 2011 (Geneva, Switzerland).

Stephen Humphreys, ICHRP consultant and author of ICHRP's report on climate technology policy report, spoke on a panel that included the President of the Maldives, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Mary Robinson. Copies of the executive summary of the ICHRP report on climate technology transfer were distributed.

SEMINAR ON WOMEN, CORRUPTION AND CAPITAL FLIGHT

Event Date: 22 September 2011 (Oslo, Norway).

Magdalena Sepúlveda on corruption and its human rights dimensions at this event, organized by JURK – Legal advice for women – and Publish what you Pay, Norway.

MAASTRICHT PRINCIPLES ON EXTRATERRITORIAL OBLIGATIONS OF STATES IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Event Date: 26 – 27 September 2011 (Maastricht).

The ICHRP is a member of the ETO Consortium, a network of over 30 NGOs, university institutes and individuals who work on extraterritorial states obligations for economic, social and cultural rights. During the Maastricht session, attended by Magdalena Sepúlveda (Research Director), the Consortium adopted international legal principles for Extraterritorial Obligations, clarifying the human rights obligations of States beyond their own borders in the area of economic, social and cultural rights.

CITIZENS AND SERVICE DELIVERY: ASSESSING THE USE OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY APPROACHES IN THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SECTORS

Event Date: October 5 – 6, 2011 (Helsinki).

Vijay Nagaraj attended the World Bank Forum in Helsinki to comment on the report entitled: Citizens and Service Delivery: Assessing the use of Social accountability approaches in the human development sectors. This event explored the relevance of human rights in service delivery,

including that of the banking sector, as well as education and health provision.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: WHO'S ACCOUNTABLE?' CONVENED BY THE OHCHR AND CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Event Date: 2–3 November 2011 (Geneva).

Magdalena Sepulveda was invited to participate in this expert consultation.

"NATIONAL FORUM ON STREET POPULATION" (FORO NACIONAL POBLACIONES CALLEJERAS), ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MEXICO CITY (COMISION NACIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS DEL DISTRITO FEDERAL)

Event Date: 4 November 2011 (Jalisco, Mexico).

Magdalena Sepulveda (Research Director) made a video presentation about the penalisation of poverty at this event.

TALK ON SOCIAL CONTROL AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Event Date: 11 December 2011 (Belfast).

Vijay Nagaraj was invited by Queen's University Belfast to speak about ICHRP's research on social control to students and faculty of the law and criminology departments, and for discussions on future research collaboration.

DEVELOPING AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH AGENDA ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Event Date: 13–14 December 2011.

Vijay Nagaraj attended the Centre for Applied Human Rights Research workshop entitled Developing an Academic Research Agenda on Human Rights Defenders held at the University of York. He was featured as a discussant on the role of human rights defenders.

RIGHT TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND ITS APPLICATION

December 2011.

Vijay Nagaraj was invited by UN HRC Independent Expert Farida Shaheed to provide expert advice at the December 2011 consultation on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. This event was organized to clarify definitions and concepts, identify best practice, and reflect upon the core issues raised in conceptualizing the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON FOREIGN DEBT

Event Date: 17–18 November, 2011.

Vijay Nagaraj was invited by the UN HRC Independent Expert on Foreign Debt to participate in a consultation to draft a set of guiding principles on all aspects of foreign debt and human rights.

LAUNCH OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PANEL ON HUMAN DIGNITY

Event Date: 20 December 2011 (Geneva).

Vijay Nagaraj chaired a panel on climate justice on the occasion of the launch of Swiss Government initiated Panel on Human Dignity. The ICHRP's supporting paper *Advancing the Human Rights and Climate Change Agenda* at the United Nations was released alongside the Panel's full report. The Panel on Human Dignity was part of the Swiss Initiative to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Fouad Abdelmoumni (Morocco)	Hina Jilani (Pakistan)
Monica Aleman (Nicaragua)	Douglas Mendes (Trinidad & Tobago)
Magda M A Ali* (Sudan)	Juan E. Mendez (Argentina)
Ghanim Al-Najjar (Kuwait)	Tessa Morris-Suzuki (Australia)
Fateh Azzam* (Palestine)	Chidi Anselm Odinkalu* (Nigeria)
Hossam Bahgat (Egypt)	Jelena Pejic (Serbia)
Radhika Balakrishnan (India)	Sorpong Peou (Canada/Cambodia)
Maggie Beirne* (United Kingdom)	Emma Playfair* (United Kingdom)
Cynthia Brown (United States)	Devendra Raj Panday (Nepal)
Santiago A. Canton (Argentina)	Usha Ramanathan (India)
Kamala Chandrakirana (Indonesia)	Abbas Rashid (Pakistan)
Pablo de Greiff (Colombia)	Marco Sassoli (Switzerland)
Dina Haynes (United States)	Joseph Schechla (United States)
Maya Hertig Randall* (Switzerland)	Tamar Tomashvili (Georgia)
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