

Human Rights Program – Summary of Proposal

This proposal combines a new research agenda with an institutional innovation to deepen cross-regional and interdisciplinary research for faculty as well as educational opportunities for students across campus. It will create a cross-campus Human Rights Program (HRP) using the momentum created by the recent Human Rights Initiative and the administrative and coordinating capacity of the Global Legal Studies Center (GLS). We are convinced that an outstanding opportunity to further the principles outlined in the call for proposals is to synergize existing resources in a way that creates a unique research platform for a wide range of scholars and students on campus while promoting a significant institutional innovation that will help to strengthen and sustain human rights as an important dimension of our international capabilities. While GLS will serve as the administrative home, a steering committee comprising the Project Leaders, representatives from Title VI Centers involved in the HRP, and representatives of the four research clusters that make up the research base of the HRP will lead the HRP.

The HRP will be constituted by four broadly defined yet distinctive human rights research clusters – state and non-state violence; health; the environment; and rights to land and water – which will engage each other through a common intellectual framework. This framework will include a special focus on four domains of human rights policy and practice – advocacy and mobilization; policy and social analysis; law and implementation; accountability and memory – that will enable the different clusters to engage in a deep cross-regional and interdisciplinary dialogue. A joint speakers series, brown bag discussions, a summer graduate student fellowships and a larger teaching mission - undergraduate and graduate/professional courses, and a human rights clinic enabling faculty and students to work on projects together with and on behalf of human rights organizations - will facilitate this engagement.