

2009 Human Rights Advocates Program

Human Rights Advocacy & Globalization

Center for the Study of Human Rights ▪ Columbia University

2009 HRAP Overview

The Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) is a capacity building program designed to strengthen the skills, knowledge, and networks of proven human rights defenders from the Global South and marginalized communities in the United States.

HRAP's current focus has emerged in recent years as a response to the negative effects of globalization on those with the least access to decision-making processes. Given their physical and symbolic distance from centers of power, grassroots leaders are typically unable to lobby for equitable outcomes from global policymakers.

The design of HRAP is intended to help level the playing field for those lacking the access and relevant skills or knowledge to lobby effectively for their causes. The Program provides advanced training, support, and networking opportunities to respected human rights leaders. The focus is both on strengthening the skills of the individual Advocates and providing tools for them to build sustainable organizations that advocate for disadvantaged peoples.

Program Focus

Since 2004, HRAP has concentrated its support on individuals and organizations that address issues broadly related to globalization.

The four-month intensive capacity building program based at Columbia University in New York focuses on the following key issue areas:

- Environmental injustice
- Labor rights violations
- Ramifications of resource extraction
- Public health crises
- Unsustainable development
- Intolerance, xenophobia, and social exclusion

Special attention is given to the above issues and their intersection with gender, race, ethnicity, sexual identity, and/or other sources of marginalization.

Strategy

To meet HRAP's goals, Advocates are expected to participate fully in the offerings provided by HRAP, including:

- Skills workshops on advocacy planning and strategies, fundraising, press and media, and building sustainable organizations;
- Columbia University courses on human rights, public health, the environment, development, and labor rights;
- Meetings and networking opportunities with NGO staff, activists, policymakers, representatives of international institutions, and academics.

Timing and Commitment

The 2009 HRAP will begin in the latter half of August and run until mid-December 2009. *To be considered, participants must commit to full preparation for and complete engagement in the Program.*

About the Center for the Study of Human Rights

Since its establishment at Columbia University in 1978, the Center for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) has been committed to its core goals of providing human rights education to Columbia students, fostering innovative interdisciplinary academic research, and offering its expertise in international capacity building to human rights leaders and organizations.

CSHR actively works to ensure that local peoples and human rights advocates are included in the political and economic policy decisions that affect their lives.

By convening faculty, students, and human rights leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds, CSHR creates an environment in which research, education, and international outreach contribute to the establishment of a more just and equitable world.

Admissions Information

Selection of Participants

The 2009 HRAP focuses on human rights and globalization. The Program is designed for experienced lawyers, journalists, doctors, teachers, social workers, community organizers, and other human rights activists working with NGOs on labor rights, migration, health, social exclusion, environmental justice, and corporate social accountability.

Participants are selected on the basis of their previous work experience in human rights and globalization, commitment to the human rights field, and demonstrated ability to pursue graduate-level studies. Full-time students or government officials will not be considered.

Advocates must originate from and reside in either the Global South or the United States. Fluency in English is required. Preference is given to those who have not previously had such opportunities to travel and study internationally.

Advocates must secure institutional endorsement from their organizations for their participation in the Program and must commit to returning to that organization upon completion of the Program.

Funding

CSHR makes every effort to provide full fellowships to cover program costs as well as travel and housing. A reasonable stipend is also provided to cover basic costs. CSHR staff will work with interested candidates who have been waitlisted for the Program to identify potential funding sources in cases where CSHR does not yet have the resources to provide a full fellowship.

Application Deadline

Completed applications are due by December 19, 2008. All items must be received by the application deadline. Applications may be sent by fax, email, or post. Applicants should take into consideration the time it takes for international mail to arrive. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Applicants are strongly encouraged to send materials electronically or by fax to avoid the high costs associated with private, express mail services.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Applicants are asked to complete the application in its entirety. Please complete all sections. All requested information should be typed or clearly printed in English.

Upon receipt of a completed application, a confirmation will be sent to the applicant. While every effort will be made to notify applicants of any missing materials, due to the high volume of applications, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required materials are received by the deadline.

Application Status Notification

Applicants will be notified in April/May 2009 of their status. Please be patient as the selection process can be lengthy.

Application Checklist

Before you submit your application to CSHR, please check the following required materials to be sure your application is complete:

- Section A: Personal Data
- Section B: Curriculum vitae or resume
- Section C: Institutional Statement of Support
- Section D: Letters of Recommendation

Submitting Application Materials

This form should be sent using the "Submit" button below or the "Submit" button on the last page. Additional information is available at <http://hrap.hrcolumbia.org/application>

Other materials may be sent by email (preferred), fax, or mail to:

hradvocates@columbia.edu;

Fax: +1 212.851.1654

Human Rights Advocates Program
Center for the Study of Human Rights
Columbia University
91 Claremont Ave, 7th Floor Tower
New York, NY 10027
USA

Tel: +1 212.854.3014

2009 Human Rights Advocates Program
Human Rights Advocacy & Globalization
Center for the Study of Human Rights ▪ Columbia University

Section A: Personal Data

1. Personal Information

Family/Last Name: _____ Given/First Name: _____
Middle Name: _____ Gender: _____
Date of Birth: _____ City & Country of Birth: _____
Country of Citizenship: _____ Country of Residence: _____
Country You Currently Work In: _____
How did you learn of the Human Rights Advocates Program? _____

2. Primary Organization's Information

Name of Organization: _____
Your Title: _____ Since date: _____
Status: full-time part-time volunteer other: _____
If working part-time or as a volunteer, please provide an estimate of the average number of hours a week you spend working for this organization: _____

Organization's Physical/Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
Organization's Email: _____ Organization's Website: _____

Organization's Post Office Box Address (if applicable): _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____

Mission/Purpose of Organization: _____
Age of Organization (in years): _____ Number of Staff: _____
Number of Volunteers (if applicable): _____ Number of Members (if applicable): _____
Organization's Annual Budget (in U.S. dollars): _____
Primary Funding Sources for Organization: _____
Organization's Network Membership(s) or Other Affiliations: _____

3. Home Contact Information

Residence Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
Personal Email: _____ Alternate Personal Email: _____
Residence P.O. Box Address (if applicable): _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____

4. Preferred Email Address

Email will be the primary means by which CSHR will communicate with you. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify CSHR of any changes in contact information, including e-mail address.

Preferred Email Address: _____

5. Issue Areas

Only applicants working on human rights issues related to globalization and marginalization will be considered for this Program.

Please mark the area(s) listed below that correspond(s) to your area(s) of expertise:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Accountability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Migration | <input type="checkbox"/> International Financial Institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Identity/Social Exclusion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Briefly explain exactly how your organization addresses the issue areas marked above.

Briefly describe the communities you serve. Please describe the major problems or issues you seek to address on behalf of or with these communities.

What are the causes of these problems? What are the potential solutions? Please describe how an international human rights approach relates to the problems and/or solutions.

Who has the power to make these solutions a reality? What is your strategy for realizing the solutions and influencing those with the power to make these changes? What else are you doing to address the problem?

Briefly describe your responsibilities within your organization and the greatest challenge(s) you face in your work (limit 300 words):

Please indicate in your own words why you think HRAP will meet your needs and the needs of your organization. What are the most pressing challenges you currently face in your work? How do you believe this Program will help you develop your knowledge, skills, and contacts to address these challenges? Please indicate if there are U.S.-based linkages that would enhance your work (e.g. targets for lobbying or potential partners for collaboration).

6. Applicant's Other Current Affiliations

Please detail other relevant affiliations you currently have in addition to your primary organizational affiliation listed above. For example, please provide information if you serve as a board member, or are acting as a consultant, trainer, volunteer, etc.

Name of Organization: _____ Your Position: _____
Date From: _____ Date To: _____
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ Website: _____
Mission/Purpose of Organization: _____

Name of Organization: _____ Your Position: _____
Date From: _____ Date To: _____
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ Website: _____
Mission/Purpose of Organization: _____

Name of Organization: _____ Your Position: _____
Date From: _____ Date To: _____
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ Website: _____
Mission/Purpose of Organization: _____

7. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Please list any international organizations with which you or your organization have been working or collaborating (e.g. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, etc.).

Name of Organization: _____
Contact Person (Name, Title): _____
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ Length/dates of collaboration: _____
In what capacity have you collaborated with this organization? _____
Explain the nature of the collaboration: _____

Name of Organization: _____
Contact Person (Name, Title): _____
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ Length/dates of collaboration: _____
In what capacity have you collaborated with this organization? _____
Explain the nature of the collaboration: _____

Name of Organization: _____
Contact Person (Name, Title): _____
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ Length/dates of collaboration: _____
In what capacity have you collaborated with this organization? _____
Explain the nature of the collaboration: _____

8. ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Please rate yourself:

Speaking:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent
Reading:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent
Writing:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent

How did you learn English (if it is not your first language)?

9. TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Country	Date From	Date To	Purpose

10. Education

Highest Degree You Hold:

Degree: _____ Name of Institution: _____
 Date of Graduation: _____ Institution's City and Country: _____

Other Degrees You Hold:

Degree: _____ Name of Institution: _____
 Date of Graduation: _____ Institution's City and Country: _____

Degree: _____ Name of Institution: _____
 Date of Graduation: _____ Institution's City and Country: _____

Degree: _____ Name of Institution: _____
 Date of Graduation: _____ Institution's City and Country: _____

Section B: Curriculum Vitae/Resume

Please attach your curriculum vitae or resume to this application. Include dates and locations for all activities.

Section C: Institutional Statement of Support

Note: The Program is designed for individuals who are committed to return to their organizations immediately after the four-month training period in order to implement their newly acquired skills. To be considered for HRAP, all applicants must currently be working for a non-governmental organization that protects or promotes right(s). Full-time students or government officials will not be considered.

Organizations may only support one applicant per year. Multiple applications from a single organization are not considered favorably.

On institutional letterhead, the director of your organization or your immediate supervisor is requested to write a letter of support indicating the following:

1. The applicant's title and length of employment with the organization;
2. The applicant's primary job responsibilities;
3. Why the organization decided to support this applicant for HRAP;
4. How this Program is expected to benefit the applicant, her/his organization, and the broader human rights community in which he/she works;
5. Arrangements that will be made to cover the applicant's post/responsibilities if he/she is selected for the Program;
6. How the applicant's duties are expected to change after his/her participation in HRAP.

SECTION D: Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required. All letters should be *received* no later than December 19, 2008. The applicant is responsible for making sure that letters of recommendation are submitted on time. Letters of recommendation must be received in a format that captures the original letterhead and signature. It is therefore suggested that letters of recommendation be sent by as scanned attachments by email; letters may also be sent by fax, or by post. CSHR does not have the capacity to confirm receipt of letters.

Each recommendation should address the following points:

1. How long and in what context the recommender has known the applicant
2. Applicant's level of commitment to human rights work
3. Applicant's experience related to human rights
4. How this program is expected to benefit the individual, her/his organization, and the broader human rights community in which he/she works
5. Applicant's ability/capacity to undertake intensive university-level training
6. Applicant's English fluency (if English is not the applicant's first language)

Please provide the following information for those individuals from whom you have requested letters of recommendation:

Full Name: _____
Title/Position and Department: _____
Organization: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____
 Included with application Sent separately

Full Name: _____
Title/Position and Department: _____
Organization: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____
 Included with application Sent separately

Submitting Application Materials

This form should be sent using the "Submit" button below. Additional information is available at <http://hrap.hrcolumbia.org/application>

Other materials may be sent by email (preferred), fax, or mail to:

hradvocates@columbia.edu Fax: +1 212.851.1654 Tel: +1 212.854.3014

Human Rights Advocates Program
Center for the Study of Human Rights
Columbia University
91 Claremont Ave, 7th Floor Tower
New York, NY 10027
USA