Intensive Course on Health and Human Rights: Concepts, Implementation and Impact

Wednesday, June 4 through Friday, June 6, 2014
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA

Course Description

Professionals and leaders in law, development, governance, urban planning, education, public health, humanitarian intervention and medicine are increasingly expected to integrate human rights into their policy and programs. However, training and education programs rarely equip decision-makers with the skills necessary to apply methods and practices grounded in basic human rights.

Recognizing the importance and utility of the intersection between health and human rights, this three-day intensive program, hosted by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, equips these professionals with the concepts, skills, and tools to integrate human rights into their professional activities. Participants will acquire an in-depth knowledge of international human rights and humanitarian law through the lens of real-world application, especially in contexts of poverty, conflict and social upheaval. Participants will also develop insight into methods used to analyze the human rights dimensions of public health programs and policies, and international mechanisms and procedures that further the human rights of vulnerable individuals and populations. This program will critically examine existing institutions and systems from the perspectives of both theory and practice, and assess their role in promoting and protecting a broad range of economic and social human rights with a bearing on health.

Topics include: Rights-based approaches to public health, international human rights and humanitarian law and systems, child labor and human trafficking, refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers, human rights and torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and 21st century human rights challenges and innovations. Small group sessions, receptions, and “topic table” lunches will provide further opportunities for interaction and networking with faculty and fellow participants.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Understand the principles and links between health and human rights in programs, policies, and organizational strategy
- Apply human rights-based frameworks, tools, and methods to participants’ fields of practice
• Evaluate existing health-related policies, programs, and legal instruments through rights-based approaches
• Mobilize colleagues, communities, and resources to achieve positive change by influencing health-related decision-making

Who Should Participate

Professionals, leaders and scholars advancing the protection, promotion and fulfillment of health and human rights, especially those responsible for the design and implementation of health-related programs, policies and research. Ideal candidates include, but are not limited to, those working in the following domains and roles:

Roles:
• Division leaders, including CEOs, COOs, Presidents, Chiefs of Staff and Managers
• Government agency officials and senior staff
• Policy-makers
• Staff and officers of NGOs and community-based organizations
• Staff and officers of international agencies, such as UNHCR, UNICEF, UNHCHR, UNESCO, and the ICRC/IFRC
• Advocates and activists
• Scholars and researchers
• PhD and advanced masters students

Domains:
• Public and community health
• Clinical and field medicine, especially in development, disaster and resource-constrained settings
• International law
• Domestic health law and human rights law
• Social, economic, and community development
• Humanitarian and disaster response and relief
• Public policy

Program Co-Directors

Jennifer Leaning

Jennifer Leaning, MD, SMH, is the Director of the Harvard François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University, and the FXB Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at Harvard School of Public Health. As Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, she is a faculty member in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Prior to her
current appointment, Dr. Leaning served for five years as co-director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. From 1999 to 2005, Dr. Leaning directed the Program on Humanitarian Crises and Human Rights at the FXB Center. During the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Leaning held progressively responsible roles in medical management at Harvard Community Health Plan -- now Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates -- and worked clinically in emergency medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She has served on the boards of Physicians for Human Rights, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Oxfam America and currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of the United States and the American Red Cross of the Eastern Massachusetts Region. She is on the editorial boards of several journals and a member of the Board of Syndics at Harvard University Press.

Her research interests focus on issues of public health, medical ethics, and early warning in response to war and disaster, human rights and international humanitarian law in crisis settings, and problems of human security in the context of forced migration and conflict. She has field experience in problems of public health assessment and human rights in a range of crisis situations (including Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Kosovo, the Middle East, Pakistan, former Soviet Union, Somalia, the Chad-Darfur border, and the African Great Lakes area) and has written widely on these issues.

The author of many academic articles, she has also edited two books, including Humanitarian Crises: The Medical and Public Health Response, published by Harvard University Press in 1999. She earned her B.A. magna cum laude from Radcliffe College, her Master's of Science from Harvard School Public Health, and her M.D. with honors from the University Of Chicago Pritzker School Of Medicine.

**Stephen M. Marks**

*Stephen Marks, Docteur d'État, Dipl. IHEI*, is the François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he directs the Program on Human Rights in Development. He also teaches human rights in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard College and is affiliated with the University Committee on Human Rights Studies, the Center for International Development, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. He holds academic degrees from the Universities of Stanford, Paris, Strasbourg, Besançon, Nice and Damascus, and has held teaching positions at the Universities of Columbia, Princeton, Phnom Penh, Cardozo School of Law, Rutgers University School of Law, City University of Hong Kong School of Law, University of Hong Kong Law School, and the New School for Social Research.

The emphasis of Stephen Marks’s work is on the interface of health and human rights, drawing on the disciplines of international law, human rights, public health, international politics, international organizations, development, peace and conflict.

His recent research has focused on integrating human rights into sustainable human development; biotechnology and human rights; impunity for mass atrocities; terrorism and human rights; cultural rights; tobacco control; access to medicines, and human rights education. He has published recent books, articles or book chapters in each of these areas, and directs Harvard Series on Health and Human Rights at Harvard University Press.

For a full list of faculty, please visit the FXB Center’s website.