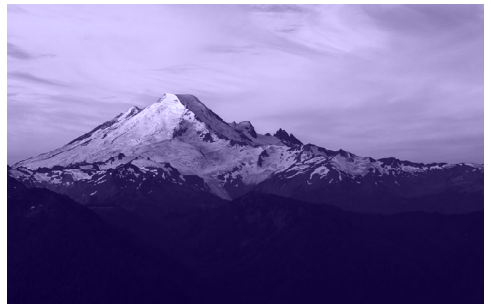
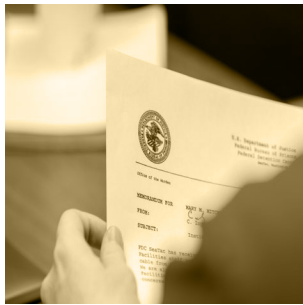
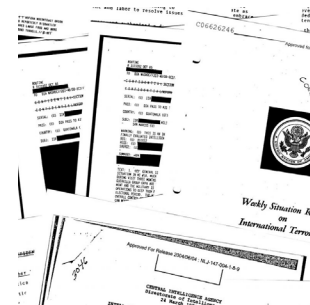
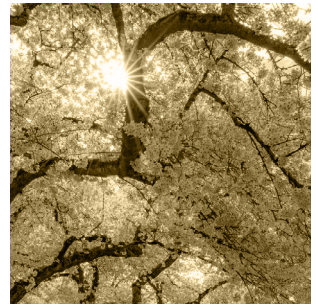
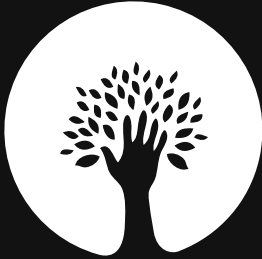




ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lately I've been contemplating history as cyclical rather than linear. In part this is because I've found myself frustrated by the fits and starts of teaching during Covid-19. (We're on Zoom! Now we're in person! Now back on Zoom!) We are all eager to leave the pandemic behind, yet it lingers, transforms, resurfaces. In my human rights work, too, I've been looking for ways to find wisdom in nature, as we clearly need to dig deeper to confront long-term justice struggles.

In a university setting, of course, it's easy to see time as operating cyclically. Each autumn, as the leaves begin to fall, new students fill our classrooms; when it's cold and wet outside, it's their questions and ideas and energies that carry us through the fallow months. And when summer sends us spilling out onto our lawns, we dispatch a new crop of graduates into the sunshine.

This relentless renewal is both hopeful and challenging: at the Center for Human Rights, I have to confess that with every graduation, a selfish part of me secretly laments the departure of what seems to be the "best ever" crop of human rights researchers. Yet as the seasons turn, I always find myself impressed anew with the students who take their places. This past year, for example, we invested \$348,022 in current students and sent off a new crop of terrific graduates, but we also welcomed freshmen (welcome, Priya!) and a new staff member into the fold. Andrea Marcos is our Center's first-ever communications manager; we're excited about her commitment to collective justice and creative communications.

Of course, there are setbacks in human rights work, too. One example is the justice work we've accompanied in El Salvador, as you'll see on page 10; while confronting rising dictatorship, our partners are exploring ways to learn from past struggles, and to amass strength for future ones. Here in Seattle, as we confront deepening challenges of climate change, our collaborators in Native communities are helping students cultivate new, more sustainable relationships with nature going forward (see page 12). And in Washington State and around the country, the gains of the migrant justice movement, while impressive, require continual monitoring and advocacy to ensure they bear fruit—so we're redoubling our existing research (see page 14) while trying out some new approaches, too.

I thank you for supporting what we do, in the moments it makes headlines and the seasons we spend gathering strength. Both forms of growth and renewal are necessary as we continue, together, our work to birth a better world.



“EACH AUTUMN, AS THE LEAVES BEGIN TO FALL, NEW STUDENTS FILL OUR CLASSROOMS; WHEN IT’S COLD AND WET OUTSIDE, IT’S THEIR QUESTIONS AND IDEAS AND ENERGIES THAT CARRY US THROUGH THE FALLOW MONTHS. AND WHEN SUMMER SENDS US SPILLING OUT ONTO OUR LAWNS, WE DISPATCH A NEW CROP OF GRADUATES INTO THE SUNSHINE.”

Angelina Snodgrass Godoy
Helen H. Jackson Chair in Human Rights
Director, Center for Human Rights
Professor of International Studies and
Law, Societies, and Justice

2021-2022 STUDENT RESEARCHERS



STACEY ALFONSO

Stacey is a doctoral student at the College of Education in the Learning Sciences and Human Development program. She is an educator, preschool director, and mom to three young children. Stacey joined the UWCHR in Winter '22 to support the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability project. Stacey works on a team collaborating with community partners from local Indigenous tribes to create digital stories that center tribal sovereignty and environmental justice. Stacey loves hiking, baking, spending time with family, and drinking chai tea lattes.



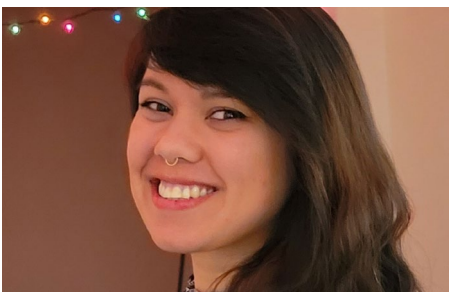
RACHEL BLAIR

Rachel is a senior majoring in international studies on the human rights track. As a member of the FOIA team for the Unfinished Sentences project, she requests and organizes information from government agencies to support the project's broader goal of documenting human rights abuses perpetrated in El Salvador during the armed conflict. In her free time, she loves backpacking in the beautiful mountains around Seattle, trying new vegan recipes, and language learning!



JADE DUDOWARD

Jade Dudoward is a member of the Tsimshian Band from Lax Kw'alaams British Columbia, Canada. Currently, he is a senior at the University of Washington double majoring in American Indian studies and environmental science and terrestrial resource management. Jade joined the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability project in 2022, bringing his passion for fostering loving connections with nature by engaging Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in the outdoors.



ANGELA GAITHER

Angela is a senior in the College of the Environment majoring in environmental studies and minoring in data science. They work on the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability project alongside a team of graduate students in collaboration with Chief Leschi School youth and staff in the creation of impactful digital stories around culture, media, environmental justice, and uplifting Indigenous voices. In Angela's spare time, they like to dance, hike, paint, bead earrings, and spend time with friends.



KARIEL GALBRAITH

Kariel is a Tlingit student in her junior year, majoring in English and minoring in American Indian studies. She is a part of the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability team and serves as a mentor to help build connections between students at the University of Washington and the Chief Leschi Schools. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, weaving, and beading.

2021-2022 STUDENT RESEARCHERS



GUADALUPE ALEX GONZALEZ

Alex is an undergraduate student majoring in political science as well as law, societies, and justice, and minoring in human rights. As a research intern for the Center for Human Rights, he primarily focuses on investigating the practices of ICE and its contractors. He is the president of Liberated Voices WA, a UW student group working to uplift and protect the rights of all immigrants in Washington State, and is a volunteer interpreter at Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network and the UW School of Law's Immigration Clinic.



TREVOR HELMY

Trevor recently graduated from the Jackson School of International Studies. He joined the UWCHR in summer 2021 and has tracked ICE Air flights, used FOIA requests to investigate abuses by ICE contractors, and explored links between the sports and deportation industries. In his spare time, he loves cooking, backpacking, and playing ice hockey.



PRIYA HENDRY

Priya is a second-year student majoring in drama with a focus on performance. She joined the UWCHR in spring 2022 working on the Immigrant Rights Observatory project, which monitors compliance with and efficacy of the Keep Washington Working Act and Courts Open to All Act. Outside of research, she enjoys reading, writing poetry, and attempting new recipes.



LUKE HISERMAN

Luke is a first-year master's student in the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs. He assists the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability team with application and grant work for ongoing collaborations with Salish Sea Tribes to promote a greater understanding of tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and environmental restoration. In his free time, Luke enjoys playing tennis, hiking, and reading.



NANCYROSE HOUSTON

Nancyrose Houston is a concurrent student in the Master of International Studies and Master of Public Administration programs. She collaborates with a team on the Immigrant Rights Observatory project, which monitors immigrant rights and compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act. Nancyrose loves tending to her vegetable garden and showering her dog, Puppet, with adoration.

2021-2022 STUDENT RESEARCHERS



LUKAS ILLA

Lukas is a senior majoring in international studies with a minor in labor studies. He joined the UWCHR at the start of 2022, researching alongside the ICE Air team. His particular focus is on identifying the financial connections between collegiate sports teams and the private charter companies that facilitate ICE deportations. In his free time, Lukas enjoys attempting to perform improv comedy and crafting dioramas.



THOMAS KAPLAN

Thomas is a law student who has been with UWCHR since spring 2020. His work ranges from research and writing to interviewing local law enforcement officials about their relationships with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Thomas is an avid forager and a proud member of UW's student employee union, UAW 4121.



BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH

Bryce grew up in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, on the rocky shoreline of the Salish Sea and under the canopy of western redcedars and bigleaf maples. As a Potawatomi guest on Coast Salish lands, he strives to build collaboration with and amplify local Indigenous voices in conversations and movements around environmental justice, treaty rights, and relationality.



SARAI MAYER

Sarai is a Washoe and Thai junior pursuing a double degree in plant biology and anthropology. She is the Food Sovereignty Liaison of wələbʔaltx̣w at the Native Garden at UW Farm. She is a mentor to students at the Chief Leschi School working to strengthen connections between communities. In her spare time, Sarai enjoys painting, dancing, hiking, and reading.



TRUNG-ANH NGUYEN

Trung-Anh is a PhD candidate at the Jackson School of International Studies. She joined UWCHR in 2019 as part of the quantitative team studying detention centers' impact on immigration enforcement. In her free time, she enjoys reading and playing with her cat, Zoey.

2021-2022 STUDENT RESEARCHERS



LUCAS OLSON

Lucas is a PhD candidate in the Jackson School of International Studies who focuses on lessons learned in Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that are applicable in a US context. At UWCHR, he works with US government enforcement data as part of the "Shut it down!" project on migrant detention facilities. For fun, he tries to spend as much time as possible on or near the water!



PATRICIA ORTIZ

Patricia is a Puyallup Tribal citizen and a student at UW Tacoma in the Masters of Interdisciplinary Studies program. Her research centers Coast Salish communities' lived experiences, decolonizing social studies curriculum while honoring the legacy of her ancestors. Patricia works on the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability project ensuring accurate representations of Tribal Youth lived experiences in the forefront of digital storytelling. In her spare time Patricia enjoys attending cultural events including canoe journeys, coastal jams, ceremonies, powwows, and reading history and ethnobotany books.



KATIE RABUS

Katie is a senior double majoring in both international studies and medical anthropology and global health, with a minor in human rights. She works on the Central American research team, specifically with FOIA, investigating and sorting classified and newly declassified documents from the US government that reveal information about human rights abuses in Panama and El Salvador. In her free time, Katie works in various aspects of student government and leadership on the UW campus, and loves to tend to her growing indoor plant collection.



JESSICA ROSE

Jessica is a graduate student in the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, specializing in Indigenous environmental justice. She was awarded the FLAS Fellowship for the First Nation language Nuu-chah-nulth in 2021-22. She joined the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability project in 2021, and has since been a lead on the digital story about resistance to the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline project.



TARA SALEH

Tara is a senior majoring in international studies. She joined the UWCHR in summer 2019 and is working on the Immigrant Rights Observatory project as part of the Human Rights at Home team to monitor immigrant rights and compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act and the Courts Open to All Act. Tara loves live music, cooking, and reading.

2021-2022 STUDENT RESEARCHERS



KRISTIAAN THOMPSON

Kris is a masters student in the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs. Kris graduated from the Jackson School of International Studies in 2017 and since has been passionate about how Indigenous rights and environmentalism work hand in hand in the Salish Sea and around the world. Kris spends most of his spare time near the water—sailing, paddling, swimming, and surfing around the Pacific Northwest.



MARÍA VIGNAU LORIA

María is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology. She joined the UWCHR in summer 2020 to work with the quantitative research team on a project that seeks to understand the consequences of immigration detention capacity on enforcement patterns. She enjoys watching and playing soccer, listening to live music, and traveling with family and friends.



JUNE YANG

June Yang is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology. Her research interests include social demography and computational methods. As part of the UWCHR's quantitative research team, June is analyzing the relationship between immigration detention capacity and decision-making by US immigration judges. In her spare time, June enjoys spending time with her daughter, swimming, and traveling.

THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

is committed to

INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCELLENCE

in the education of undergraduate and graduate students in the field of human rights,

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

as a core area of faculty and graduate research, and

ENGAGING PRODUCTIVELY

with local, regional, national, and international organizations and policymakers to advance respect for human rights.

UW CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2021-2022

271+

public records, Freedom of Information Act **requests, appeals, and mandatory declassification reviews** filed

\$348,022

granted to students to support research, coursework and human rights projects

1

new UWCHR staff member



Help us welcome our new communications manager, Andrea Marcos, by making sure you're signed up for our email newsletter and following us on social media!



www.tinyurl.com/UWCHRemail

f **t** **in** @uwchr

DEEP CHALLENGES IN EL SALVADOR

~~SECRET//NF~~

BODY

(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

COUNTRY: (U) EL SALVADOR (ES).

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 / ESAF "YELLOW BOOK" - GUERRILLA
MUG SHOT BOOK / (191) (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~NOFORN~~

Photo Credit/ UWCHR
Page from declassified Defense Intelligence Agency document.

The contemporary human rights situation in El Salvador has taken a dramatic and alarming turn over the past year. Since President Nayib Bukele took office in 2019, he has consolidated control over all three branches of government, stacked loyalists in all government ministries, purged independents from the judiciary, and built an unprecedented digital surveillance operation focused on civil society leaders critical of his administration. In March 2022, things took a dramatic turn for the worse when his administration declared a state of exception, suspending constitutional guarantees including freedom of assembly, due process, and others, and launching a program of mass arrests that, according

to official data, arrested over 43,000 people in just over two months—an estimated two percent of the population. By many estimates El Salvador now ranks second in the world in terms of incarceration per capita, after the United States.

Under the terms of the state of exception, those who have been arrested are not allowed access to legal representation; many families report that a loved one has essentially “disappeared” into the prison system. Bukele describes those arrested as terrorists and gang members—a term he also applies to journalists, human rights organizations, and government critics—and speaks about them in deeply dehumanizing terms, even suggesting at one point that the government

would cease to provide food to those it has jailed. At least sixty people have reportedly been killed inside the prisons, but without independent monitoring of these facilities, there is no way to ascertain why or how they died, nor how many others may have met a similar fate. The government has announced that within months, construction will be completed on a new prison with capacity for 40,000 detainees.

In this climate, progress has stalled on legal cases currently before the courts in El Salvador related to wartime crimes against humanity. In the El Mozote case, for example, the judge overseeing the proceedings was transferred to another court in a transparent act of retaliation for his advocacy of justice, and the new judge assigned to replace him has yet to hold a hearing. Many journalists, human rights defenders, activists, and civil society leaders—many of the individuals and organizations our Center has been working with for years—fear for their lives, or at least their livelihoods. Some have left the country, and those that remain find themselves working under

extremely strained circumstances.

This context clearly and inescapably affects our work, but we continue our behind-the-scenes archival digging. It has always been a slow process, but there are moments of satisfaction—such as

“IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SLOW PROCESS, BUT THERE ARE MOMENTS OF SATISFACTION—SUCH AS THE RECENT RESPONSE TO A FOIA REQUEST FROM THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, CONFIRMING AT LONG LAST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT’S KNOWLEDGE OF THE YELLOW BOOK.”

the recent response to a FOIA request from the Defense Intelligence Agency, confirming at long last the US government’s knowledge of the Yellow Book, a Salvadoran intelligence document our Center made public in 2014. In Spanish, this work is referred to as *“trabajo de hormiga,”* or ants’ work, relying on labor carried out

with meticulous attention to detail, sustained over time by many small acts of service. We still share our findings, quietly, with colleagues in El Salvador, and continue in our conviction that their work for justice, as circumscribed as it may sometimes be, is essential to the future of El Salvador.

Reports can be accessed on our website at:
[TINYURL.COM/UNFINISHEDSENTENCES](https://tinyurl.com/unfinishedsentences) ■



INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Photo Credit/ Jessica Rose
UW students meeting Mr. Jeffrey Thomas (Muckleshoot elder and Puyallup Tribe Timber, Fish & Wildlife Program Director) at Wapato Creek restoration project.

Since its beginnings last year, the Indigenous Rights and Environmental Sustainability in the Pacific Northwest project has worked toward centering the rights of Native peoples in discussions around climate change and environmental sustainability.

As part of this project, twenty-three UW students went on field excursions to Tulalip and Puyallup communities, where they visited key sites of environmental restoration and contestation such as Wapato Creek and Qwuloolt Estuary, the Hibulb Cultural Center, and the liquid natural gas facility in Commencement Bay, and had a chance to speak with and interview Tribal elders and council members.

Student researcher Jessica Rose has been working on developing short films highlighting the Transmountain Pipeline, featuring various environmentalists and Indigenous leaders, activists, and elders.

With storytelling as a core practice in this project, the team has also partnered with two groups of Chief Leschi students and begun storyboarding digital stories and films. The two films reflect on the transformative experience young people have participating in the Lummi Canoe Journey and look at the curriculum of the Chief Leschi school system, a Tribal school operated by the Puyallup Tribe, as it focuses on connections between the Fish Wars, Indigenous cultural resurgence, and environmental restoration.

Learn more about this project:
[TINYURL.COM/INDRIGHTSENVSUSTAIN](https://tinyurl.com/indrightsenvsustain) ■



CALLS TO NOWHERE: CONDITIONS AT THE NWDC

Photo Credit/ Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Womens' pod at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA.

In May 2022, UWCHR released the latest installment in our series of research reports about human rights conditions at ICE's Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, Washington.

Drawing on documents we obtained from ICE through FOIA requests and litigation, we examined the handling of sexual assault and abuse cases at the facility in recent years, discovering abundant evidence of neglect. Despite years of research documenting conditions at the facility, this was still a surprising finding: thanks to the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), we had expected that if there were one area in which compliance was strong, this would be it. Yet we found ample disregard for PREA, in ways so

blatant as to make a mockery of compliance with PREA requirements. For example, ICE operates national hotlines for the reporting of sexual assault in its detention facilities, and makes calls to those hotlines free from within its facilities, but the agency's own documents show that while calls from the NWDC to these hotlines were registered in call logs, no action was taken to investigate complaints. We took the title of our report, "Calls to Nowhere," from this practice.

Read the full "Calls to Nowhere" report:

[TINYURL.COM/CALLSTONOWHERE](https://tinyurl.com/callstonowhere) ■



IMMIGRANT RIGHTS OBSERVATORY

Theodor Jacobsen Observatory on UW Seattle campus.

UWCHR researchers assigned to our Immigrant Rights Observatory have continued our work monitoring the implementation of the Keep Washington Working and Courts Open to All Acts, two pieces of “sanctuary” legislation passed in 2019 and 2020. UW undergraduate and graduate student researchers have gathered data from public records requests, interviews, and conversations with community leaders to monitor on-the-ground practices. We have found that despite the passage of these laws, some jurisdictions continue the harmful practices of racialized policing and collaboration with federal immigration authorities. However, we’ve also

found that when our partner organizations such as the ACLU-WA, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, and Columbia Legal Services have reached out to encourage greater compliance, local law enforcement

agencies have often responded by changing their practices. This gives us hope that our research can continue to bring about on-the-ground improvements in Washington State communities.

“THIS GIVES US HOPE THAT OUR RESEARCH CAN CONTINUE TO BRING ABOUT ON-THE-GROUND IMPROVEMENTS IN WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITIES.”

To access our report and project updates visit:
[TINYURL.COM/HROBSERVATORY](https://tinyurl.com/hrobservatory) ■



ABUSES IN THE AIR

UWCHR graphic depicting connections between abuses, sports travel, and ICE deportations.

This past year we experimented with new directions in research about deportation flights. In 2019, our analysis of ICE's ARTS database, released to us under FOIA, focused national attention on the problem of on-flight abuses for the first time, and led King County to cease its involvement in deportation flights. This year, we followed up with a report focusing on connections between sports travel and deportation flights. It turns out, the same companies that contract with ICE to carry out deportations provide charter flights to dozens of collegiate and professional sports teams, from the National Football League, Major League Soccer, the National Hockey League, the National Basketball Association, to many collegiate sports organizations.

“UNDERSTANDING THE WAY OUR DAILY LIVES CONNECT TO THE INSTITUTIONS THAT PERPETUATE ABUSE CAN—WE HOPE—ENCOURAGE A RETHINKING OF THESE PRACTICES.”

As a result, collegiate and professional athletes are flown to games by the same companies, and routinely on the very same planes used to deport migrants, often after a very quick turnaround. Focusing on these connections can help expose the ways private companies, including those associated with some of our country's favorite pastimes, benefit financially from deportations. Understanding the way our daily lives connect to the institutions that perpetuate abuse can—we hope—encourage a rethinking of these practices.

To access our report and project updates visit:
[TINYURL.COM/ABUSESINTHEAIR](https://tinyurl.com/abusesintheair) ■

THE RESEARCHERS BEHIND THE “ABUSES IN THE AIR” REPORT



Lukas, Alex, and Trevor sit in front of Smith Hall on the Seattle UW Campus.

Interview with student researchers Guadalupe Alex Gonzalez, Trevor Helmy, and Lukas Illa

By Andrea Marcos

Andrea: How did the “Abuses in the Air” report start out?

Trevor: It started with someone reaching out to the Center wondering about a connection between this one sports team, the air travel company they used, and ICE deportation flights. Then it kind of spiraled in a bunch of different directions. How are sports teams using the same planes ICE is using for deportation flights? Why? In the beginning, Alex and I were really heavy in the FOIA

request side of things—we put out a bunch of requests for contracts, paperwork. It was like a fishing expedition trying to catch something without a clear direction for it yet. We connected with Tom from Witness at the Border. They had this system for tracking, so we started tracking these planes with all these online tools, which brought out this giant web of what was going on—sports teams using the same planes that ICE was using for deportation flights, and all the money being made on it.

Alex: From the beginning it was an overwhelming process because we were some of the first people really looking into these connections. There were a lot of times where we just didn’t know where to look and how to look. It was like constructing this whole web of data systems. We also had to interact with these companies that just flat out lie to your face. It can be dissuading, but the fact is, the more we look into it, the deeper it goes and the more interconnected it all is.

Trevor: We were asking questions no one wanted to answer or be accountable to. It's tricky when you have these travel brokers, and they've been confronted about these issues before, and they just don't care. But then there's this whole other network of people who are adjacent to them—universities, sports teams, owners of some of these planes—and they'll take the same approach as others when asked about the connections, saying, "I don't know what's going on. That's not my issue." Everyone's pointing to each other. And it's frustrating, especially when we can spend a few hours digging in and there is obviously a connection.

"THE FACT IS, THE MORE WE LOOK INTO IT, THE DEEPER IT GOES AND THE MORE INTERCONNECTED IT ALL IS."

Lukas: It's horrifying how much actual money these air charter companies and the brokers themselves make for even just a single deportation flight. I've been tracking mainly the collegiate sports teams while Alex has been doing the professional sports. In collegiate sports, millions of dollars go to

these companies in contracts for sports travel during their seasons. And of course, the teams and athletes that are on these planes have all this messaging around diversity and inclusion, yet they are sitting on planes used in deportation flights with documented human rights abuses occurring, sometimes just days before or after. And when we bring it up, we get hit with "Why can't you keep politics out of sports?"

Alex: Right. When we have major sports teams flying their athletes on a plane that was used to deport Haitian refugees without non-refoulement a week earlier—that's not "keeping politics out of sports."

One of our largest issues is trying to find someone to take accountability for it. We've been trying to figure out who's responsible here for human rights abuses occurring on flights. Who's in charge of making sure people are OK? We have elected officials in Washington State who sit on committees involved in enforcing air safety standards. What are they doing?

Trevor: It's not an accident either; the way ICE uses contractors helps them evade responsibility of overseeing what is going on. It's then the

private air travel companies' responsibility to report something, and that has to climb the chain to get back to ICE and be documented.

Alex: Right, we're essentially asking the systems that benefit from these types of abuses to police themselves. Where's the oversight?



GUADALUPE ALEX GONZALEZ



TREVOR HELMY



LUKAS ILLA

How do you see the role of research in stopping these human rights abuses from happening?

Lukas: Well, for one, it's hard to get information, and that is something researchers are good at. We've been requesting contracts between universities and charter air travel companies and seeing how much they're spending, what the stipulations are. Coming into this, especially seeing how much work Alex and Trevor have done—tracking each plane, where it was flying to, et cetera—all of that creates a basis to put pressure on these systems we are trying to hold accountable. We are dealing with this system that has all these decentralized parts, but our research helps put that together to understand how the process is working, where the money is flowing, who is responsible.

Alex: I strongly agree. When I explain the value of our research to friends and family when they ask what we're doing, I say that while we might not always be at the frontlines of what's going on, we're helping to create toolkits, graphics, and data that can be utilized by people actively fighting for human rights. As researchers, our job is really just to get down to the basics of information, see what's happening, and share what we find in a way that others can

take it and continue their work. We're working in systems that constantly are trying to make it as complicated as possible to see what's going on, so our job is to make it all fit into something understandable for people, so people can say, "Hey, that's messed up," because it is!

"AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHEN YOU SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY WORKING ON THESE ISSUES PICKING UP ON OUR RESEARCH AND FINDING IT USEFUL, USING IT IN CAMPAIGNS AND LEGAL CLINICS, SEEING THAT IS INCREDIBLY MOTIVATING."

Lukas: Right, I try to personalize it, too. Yes, it's important for us to synthesize information and put it out there for media to pick up, but it's just as important to break these things down. For instance, with this research, your average student can understand what's going on and how they or their school might be implicated in the deportation industry and be able to act on that.

Trevor: One tricky thing about research, too—it can be kind of

easy to lose sight of the larger picture when you're in the weeds of researching one particular hockey team and what plane they use on what day. But then there are the moments when it all comes crashing back, like when we get documents back from a FOIA request, and it's a list of twenty grievances or abuses we haven't seen anywhere else. And then you're like, "Oh, I know what plane that happened on! I know what teams are implicated in that." And so even though it can be difficult to be in the weeds of research, there are real-world connections that are huge. And at the end of the day, when you see people who are already working on these issues picking up on our research and finding it useful, using it in campaigns and legal clinics, seeing that is incredibly motivating.

Alex: There's a real human cause behind everything. Sometimes there's days where I'm at my computer for six hours and I'm looking at the fortieth flight in a row, and eventually it all starts to merge together and become just digits on a screen. But I try to remember that every single one of these deportation flights is about thirty or forty people, people who came to the US seeking a better life and have to interact with this incredibly abusive immigration system. One thing that really firmed that up for me was when we

did the sexual abuse research at the Northwest Detention Center, going through 500 pages of grievances; that was an emotionally draining process for me because it's very sad. It reminds me that everything we look at during our day as researchers carries a lot of meaning; the information we're working with, even if sometimes it's hard and confusing, there's a real cost to its production.

Lukas: Yes, and doing research alone sometimes can feel like you're up against the system alone, one undergraduate researcher up against a whole system that can wait you out. This might seem trivial, but being together at the Center, hanging out, this keeps me in the work, keeps me hopeful. We have each other to support and it's such a key part.

What will you take with you from your time with UWCHR?

Lukas: I really appreciate how the UWCHR is rooted in the truth that it's a community effort to do human rights work. And that it takes deep connection to community organizations; it can't be a completely removed, academic, ivory tower center that operates on its own and decides what's best for the community. The basis of our work is rooted in what communities are already

doing and trying to accomplish. Another thing is this work has really emphasized for me just how little faith I have in the state and an electoral process that will bring change. The systems we're trying to hold accountable are so well supported by the state. We come up with this research, we hand it to decision makers, and they often don't do anything with it unless pressured.

“WHEN WE HAVE MAJOR SPORTS TEAMS FLYING THEIR ATHLETES ON A PLANE THAT WAS USED TO DEPORT HAITIAN REFUGEES WITHOUT NON-REFOULEMENT A WEEK EARLIER—THAT’S NOT ‘KEEPING POLITICS OUT OF SPORTS.’”

Trevor: I unfortunately agree. I have cynicism about the lengths that these institutions will go to to protect the status quo. It's a hard thing to accept, but that's definitely going to stick with me from this work.

Alex: Something I'll take with me is this idea about proximity. I feel like often we hear about these horrible human rights abuses that occur overseas or in the past. And it's easy to say, “Well I'm glad that's not happening

anywhere near me.” And if this work has revealed anything for me, it's that there are horrible things occurring around us every day that we could easily have an impact on but we're simply not knowledgeable enough. It's really the importance of information. You can't really solve anything if you don't know it exists. You can't find it if you don't know what to look for. The second thing I'll take with me is the importance of verifying your information and making sure you have an iron-clad argument. When you're up against giant institutions, who often don't have their data straight, the quality of your data gives you an edge.

Trevor: I'm going to be graduating and out of here in a few weeks and it's a funny feeling. There's no end point to this work, no easy, clean accomplishment that I'm ending on. I'm leaving a whole bunch of undone stuff for Alex and Lukas to work on. But that's just the nature of it. It takes some time to come to terms with that, but that's the nature of the work—it's ongoing.

Lukas: Oh Trevor, we're going to abolish ICE before you graduate in the next few weeks.

Alex: I have that on my schedule for Wednesday.

Lukas: 3 o'clock right? See you there.

What advice do you have for future UWCHR student researchers?

Trevor: Take better notes! The biggest breakthroughs we've had have come through the tiniest of details. Pay constant attention; keep track of everything as best you can.

Alex: If you have grounds to object, object to your fullest extent, especially when it comes to challenging big institutions in your research. Never just

take "no" from them. If you think that you can make an argument against them as per the information, do it. Because there are many times where we worked for months, and then we finally got a breakthrough. You have to be incessant about it. It doesn't matter if you feel like you're being annoying. Good! That's exactly what you should be. You've got to make sure that when they dream, they think about your emails in their head. You need to be a constant presence in the back of their mind. Question everything and challenge everything.

Lukas: Rely on each other in your research team. And trust

yourself. Rely on the skills that you have. I love public records requests, I love digging through them and making connections. And there have been parts of this project that I haven't felt as strong in, but my other researchers are great at. Use that!

Alex: Agreed, everything we do here builds on each other's efforts. It's a collective process. Without one of our contributions, this wouldn't have been the same.

Read the full report that Alex, Trevor, and Lukas worked on:
[TINYURL.COM/ABUSESINTHEAIR](https://tinyurl.com/abusesintheair) ■



UWCHR infographic showing the connection between sports teams and the deportation of Haitian asylum-seekers.

2022 RECIPIENTS OF ENDOWED AWARDS



HANNAH GARLAND

Hannah received the **Peter Mack and Jamie Mayerfeld Award**. She is a Law School student who has been working as legal fellow on the Death Penalty Abolition team at Reprive USA, which seeks abolition of capital punishments in the US.



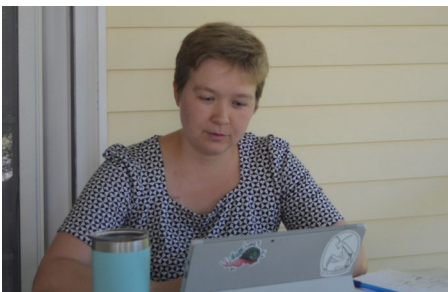
KATIE GONSLER

Katie recieved the **Lisa Sable Brown Award**. She is a Ph.D. student in international studies who has been working on dissertation research that examines the ability of humanitarian organizations to impact human rights situations in North Korea.



NIYURA YAZMIN JASSO ROMO

Niyura received the **Abe Osheroff and Gunnel Clark Award**. Niyura is a Law School student who works with Global Rights Advocacy and La Resistencia to bring voices from the Northwest Detention Center to the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.



NANCYROSE HOUSTON

Nancyrose received the **Benjamin Linder Justice Award**. Nancyrose is an MA student in international studies and she also studies at the Evans School. She has been working with the UW Center for Human Rights on the Immigrant Rights Observatory project.



TRUNG-ANH NGUYEN

Trung-Anh received the **Jennifer Caldwell Award**. Trung-Anh is a PhD student in international studies who has been working with the UW Center for Human Rights to conduct quantitative research on immigration detention in the US.

MANY THANKS!

The UW Center for Human Rights would like to thank the individuals and organizations that made contributions to our Center. Your monetary donations and your gifts of time help make our work possible. Thank you! Please refer to the facing page for a brief report of our revenues and expenditures. To make a contribution today, please see below for more information.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

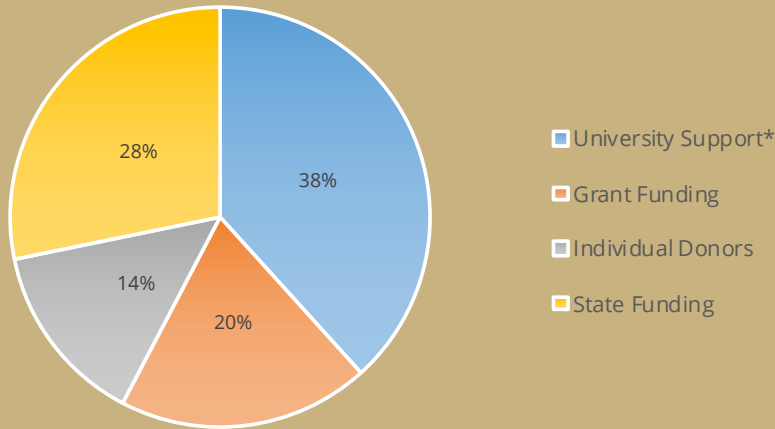
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- **Online:** Using your credit or debit card, you can make a gift at giving.uw.edu/chr.
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Thank you!

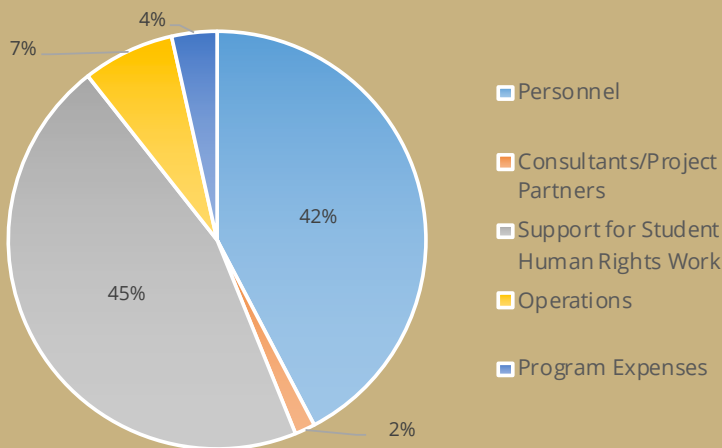
FINANCIAL REPORT

UWCHR 2021-2022 REVENUE



**The UW additionally provides UWCHR with operational support including office space, IT, and utilities.*

UWCHR 2021-2022 EXPENDITURES



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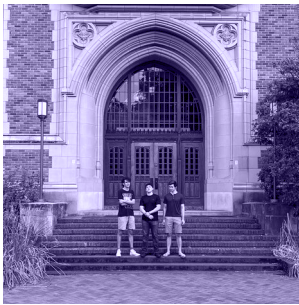
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Area: D3	Date Submitted: 03/21/2016 11:20
Type: Unfounded	Date Received: 03/22/2016 1:00
Urgent: No	Status: CLOSED
	Type: Informal

I Request...

I may concern, like to inform you that detainee [redacted] in room 203 in D3 unit, has made inappropriate comments shortly after my arrival to detention center. I was holding back because I am fearful about the past and it is in my nature to hide and close in without reporting. In er detainees came out and said she been harassing them as well in sexual manner, it se feel extremely uncomfortable [redacted] shows such behavior. I hope it will be resolved s

c by DOJ on 03/22/2016 at 1:49 PM
GOC are aware of this and it is currently under investigation.



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W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

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