

2011 Global Interns are up and away

The 2011 Global Internship Program has expanded to ten placements, with exciting new opportunities offered this year in Ghana, Egypt, Israel and India. The outstanding cohort of Global Interns were preparing to head off on their assignments as we went to press, having undertaken our annual cross-cultural training course.

The placement with the Human Rights Advocacy Centre in Ghana was awarded to Hester Kelly, who has spent time working on conservation projects in Costa Rica and currently volunteers for Social Rights Victoria. Hester's work at HRAC will include areas such as habeas corpus applications for remand prisoners.

Melody Stanford, whose interest in human rights began when she campaigned for the rights of asylum seekers while at school, will take up the position at The Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance in Cairo, Egypt. Since starting university, Melody has volunteered with Amnesty, the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program (SAIL) and the Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council's Homework Support Program. In Cairo, she will assist those seeking asylum in Egypt.

Our other two Africa placements are at the dynamic South African organisation, Lawyers for Human Rights, where the interns will assist desperate refugees with asylum applications and other legal issues. Because of the huge number of Zimbabwean asylum seekers in South Africa, LHR provides a very valuable, and very much needed, service. The internship is supported as part of the Monash-Oxfam agreement. Cara Bredebusch and Vanessa Lamborn will intern at LHR. Cara has volunteered at Monash Oakleigh Legal Service, and at a nursing home. She currently donates her spare time to Embrace Education and Bentleigh Community Legal Centre. Vanessa has been involved with the United Nations Youth Association, taught English in Laos and participated in the Prison Legal Education and Assistance program at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre in Melbourne.

Cara and Vanessa were able to pick the brains of their fellow Global Intern, Alyse Richmond, who will be interning at the United Nations Global Compact. At the beginning of this year, Alyse travelled to South Africa on her own initiative, where she volunteered at LHR in their refugee rights program. She has also volunteered as



a tutor for Sudanese refugees at the SAIL program, as a legal volunteer at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and as a paralegal at the Family Violence Legal Program of the Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre. The Global Compact focuses on business and human rights.

Alyse will be joined in New York City by Sayomi Ariyawansa, who has volunteered with Embrace Education, tutoring a newly arrived refugee, and researched the issue of Koorie children in the child protection system for the Department of Justice. Sayomi currently volunteers for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and will intern at Human Rights First.

Our first Global Intern to head to Israel is Yardena Lankri, who will volunteer with the Israel Democracy Institute in Jerusalem. Yardena is involved in managing the Derech Eretz program, where university students run day camps for school-aged children at the Indigenous communities of Toomelah and Boggabilla on the border of NSW and Queensland. Yardena has also volunteered with the Victorian Parliament's Law Reform Committee and the Springvale Monash Legal Service. In Jerusalem, she will work on IDI's National Security and Democracy Project.

Alexandra Lachal will head to the heaving city of Mumbai to take up her assignment with The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. The current rapporteur is the widely respected Anand Grover, who was appointed in 2008. Alexandra has volunteered with the SAIL for the past two years, which involves tutoring Sudanese students in English. Her interest in human rights has been nurtured by her studies, where she has researched women and genocide and participated in a study tour to South Africa and Rwanda.

Anne Poulos will intern with the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, and fellow intern Sarah-Mae Thomas will catch up with her there in January. Sarah-Mae, who will intern with the International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific (IWRAW) in Kuala Lumpur, will join IWRAW's delegation to the Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women's session in Geneva.

Sarah-Mae has volunteered as an ambassador for the End Child Slavery Campaign and worked with a human rights organisation in Ghana. She currently volunteers at the Family Law Assistance Program at Monash Oakleigh Legal Service (MOLS). Anne has also volunteered at MOLS and recently completed a Victorian Parliamentary Internship, where she researched support services for those suffering from drug addiction.

You can follow the interns on their journeys overseas and their work with these unique organisations on the 2011 Global Intern blog at <http://castanglobalinterns.wordpress.com>. Interns will be updating the blog periodically with stories, photos and video.

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