

## News

### Full steam ahead for the human rights in 3 minutes project

Research shows that most Australians support human rights, but don't quite understand what they are. The Castan Centre has embarked on a two year project to create short, engaging videos focusing on current and controversial human rights questions. These videos are designed so that they can be easily shared online and over social media, allowing a broad audience to be engaged.

The first 10 topics have been chosen by our members and production on those is underway with the involvement of not only the Castan Centre but also students from journalism, film production, animation and law disciplines. The law and journalism students have taken to the project with enthusiasm and are working in teams to pitch ideas for each topic and then work on a final script, while RMIT animation

students will create the visual elements. Film and TV veteran Rob Hall is donating his (considerable) time as Creative Director and has assembled a talented cast of actors to work pro bono on the project.

Our academics have taken to the task with gusto, but also some trepidation about their acting debuts, as they play their part as the human rights experts. Filming and editing of the first six videos has commenced with the involvement of Andre Dao, formerly Project Officer with the Centre, who has returned to be part of the



Filming gets underway

production team alongside Elle Marsh.

The project is funded by the US-based Newman's Own Foundation, the Victoria Law Foundation and the Monash University Vice-Chancellor. The first videos will be released in September this year.

### Social Media: What are we up to?

It's no secret that the world has dramatically changed the way it communicates. The rise of social media and the ever increasing prevalence of smart phones and tablets gives us the opportunity to seek out information and communicate like never before. In the past few years, the Centre has focused on expanding our online and social media presence, allowing us to comment on human rights issues, facilitate the public's interest in human rights and help create a stronger culture of human rights.

#### What have we been doing online over the last 12 months?

We have featured 55 posts on our main Castan Centre blog, and by the time you read this, we will have ticked over 100,000 views. The blog is a major avenue to share in-depth

commentary and analysis by both centre academics and guest writers, who have included Tim Soutphommasane, Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner, and Kate Galloway who wrote our most read article for the year 'The unravelling of civil liberties in Queensland' regarding the new bikie laws. Our Global interns also have a blog to call their own, where they reflect on their experiences around the world.

Facebook and Twitter are both opportunities for us to connect with the public on a daily basis. Our Facebook following has increased 57 per cent in the last 12 months and is an important channel to share information about Centre activities as well as major Human Rights issues. Our twitter account is in overdrive (25,000 tweets and counting)

sharing global human rights news through the week. We also have a dedicated twitter account for live tweeting our events.

Our YouTube channel is also an important resource for our events. We have hosted 15 events in the last 12 months, as well as our annual conference, and video of almost all events is available on YouTube along with short 5 minute Q+A's with our speakers. With more than 6,500 views over 12 months we know that many of you who can't attend in person still want to be able to hear from our wide range of expert speakers.

#### How can you get involved?

**Join us! re-tweet, comment, share, watch, RSVP for an event, or just follow us and come along for the ride.**

**Our main blog:** <http://castancentre.com>

**The global interns blog:** <http://castanglobalinterns.wordpress.com>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TheCastanCentre](http://www.facebook.com/TheCastanCentre)

**Castan Centre Twitter:** @CastanCentre

**Castan Events Twitter:** @CastanEvents

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/user/CastanCentre](http://www.youtube.com/user/CastanCentre)

**And don't forget to go to our website [www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre](http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre) and click on the link to become a member (it's free)**

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