

GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2006

OUR MISSION

Global Lawyers and Physicians is a non-profit non-governmental organization that focuses on health and human rights issues.

Global Lawyers and Physicians was founded in 1996 at an international symposium held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Doctors Trial. As one of the earliest and most important human rights and health documents, the Nuremberg Code was developed by lawyers and physicians working together. GLP was formed to reinvigorate the collaboration of the legal and medical/public health professions to protect the human rights and dignity of

all persons. By virtue of their privileged positions, lawyers and physicians, have special obligations to demonstrate their commitment to life, health, social justice, and equality, have special obligations to all people. GLP was founded on the premise that these professions, working together transnationally, can be a much more effective force for human rights than either profession can working separately.

Our mission is to work at the local, national, and international levels through collaboration and partnerships with individuals, NGOs, IGOs, and governments to encourage the global implementation of the health-related provi-

sions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, with a focus on health and human rights.

Our Goals are to:

>Provide information and resources about human rights.

>Serve as a network and referral source for professionals working on health-related human rights issues.

>Provide support and assistance in developing, implementing, and advocating public policies and legal remedies which protect and enhance human rights in health.

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BOSTON CENTER FOR REFUGEE HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS

The Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights (BCRHHR) at Boston Medical Center, formed at the initiative of GLP, endeavors to fill a serious gap in the health care safety net in New England by reaching out to survivors of torture, those seeking asylum, and traumatized refugees. The BCRHHR was also formed to serve as a focus for GLP advocacy on issues of refugee torture and humanitarian law. These high-risk populations often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or depression and typically need, but rarely receive, a complex set of medical and psychosocial services in order to successfully integrate into society. The BCRHHR currently provides a broad range of medical, legal, psychological and social services to survivors of torture and related trauma arriving in Boston and throughout the region. The BCRHHR brings together the expertise of several clinical departments at Boston Medical Center including Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, and Primary Care. The BCRHHR also represents a collaboration of the Boston University Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Law, and Dentistry. In 2005, the Center served more than 200 patients from 50 different countries this year including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tibet and Uganda, 70% of who were seeking political asylum.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF PATIENT RIGHTS

In 2002, an international committee was established to develop a "Universal Declaration of Patient Rights." This committee continued its work in 2005 and is examining how to encourage recognition of the rights of patients as a necessary component of basic human rights both in law and in practice. The committee is using established models which support patient rights (i.e. The Universal

Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights) to develop a broader statement for use by other countries including the development of more detailed guidelines for regions, countries or organizations that wish to implement particular patient rights. Wendy Mariner is chairing this committee. Members of the Committee include: George J. Annas,

USA; Lars Fallberg, Sweden; Eleanor D. Kinney, USA; Johan Legemaate, The Netherlands; Stephen Mackenney, England; Paul McNeill, Australia; Naruo Uehara, Japan; Zhao Ning, Peoples Republic of China.



Wendy K. Mariner

CONFERENCES

1st BIENNIAL SEMINAR IN HEALTH LAW AND BIOETHICS- LISBON, PORTUGAL

This international conference was held in Lisbon, Portugal in June 2005. The First Bi-Annual Program in Health Law and Bioethics was a joint initiative with the Luso-American Development Foundation (Lisbon), and the National School of Public Health (Lisbon), and was facilitated by one of our former Visiting Scholars, Paula Faria of the National School of Public Health.

2006 Conferences:

TERRI SCHIAVO: ONE YEAR LATER

Medical experts, lawyers, and health law scholars gather for the second annual Health Law Program conference examining the state of the law governing medical decision-making one year after the case of Terri Schiavo.

The conference examines whether the case of Terri Schiavo, viewed from the perspective of one year later, offers any lessons for the conduct of politics, the practice

of medicine, the use of medical evidence in the courtroom, reporting in the media, and the principles and practice of law.

Friday, March 31, 2006
George Sherman Auditorium
Boston University

For more information, go to <http://www.bu.edu/law/news/schiavo/>



Participants in the Lisbon Conference, June 2005—Portugal

GLP is an ongoing participant of the national **Health and Human Rights Curriculum Project**. Initial workshops were held at the Harvard School of Public Health and they brought together thirty specialists in public health practice and health professions educators

with the explicit goal of providing advice on development of human rights education for students and practitioners of public health, medicine and nursing. The conference was co-sponsored by the American Public Health Association's International Human Rights Committee and FXB.

Caring for Refugees and Survivors of Torture is a UN funded web-based course that was created, and has been used by professionals around the world for training and teaching purposes. The course can be found at www.bcrhhr.org.

Learning Objectives

- >To understand the scope and magnitude of human right violations
- >To recognize signs and symptoms
- >To learn how to approach these patients
- >To be aware of resources available

COURSES

In June 2005, GLP cosponsored a three and 1/2 day intensive continuing education course on **Health & Human Rights** with FXB. People from over 22 countries have attended this course and many of them were provided with scholarships. George Annas, Michael Grodin, Stephen Marks, Sofia Gruskin and Jennifer Leaning taught this course. It will be offered for the sixth time as a four and 1/2 day course in June 2006. For more information, please visit:

www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/ICHH.shtml

For the past eight years George Annas and Michael Grodin have offered a **Human Rights and Health** course at the Boston University School of Public Health. Every other year they also offer the course at BU Law School. GLP continues to encourage others to incorporate health and human rights into their curricula. The Boston University Health and Human Rights syllabus is

available on our website at www.glphr.org.

GLP and the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights organized several trainings for physicians, psychologists and social workers on health and human rights for survivors of torture and refugee trauma.



**Health &
Human Rights
Class of 2005**

ADVOCACY

GLP also sponsored a unique hi-level workshop on military medical ethics at Georgetown University in June to attempt to bring active and retired military and human rights groups into a dialogue on the topic. We have reviewed the medical records and consulted with the attorneys for the detainees at Camp Delta at Guantanamo, and continue to believe that Guantanamo should be closed and abandoned.

In early December 2005, the BCRHHR and GLP hosted a

gathering in honor of Human Rights Day which was adopted and proclaimed on December 10, 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The program included a History of the U.N. Declaration by Dr. Michael Grodin, a Reading of the U.N. Declaration by BCRHHR Clients, and Survivors' Voices.

GLP and the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights developed the Asylum Preparation Project, which is used to prepare both

the asylum applicant and the expert witness for an initial asylum officer interview and the EOIR merits hearing. With the completion of this Project, GLP cosponsored its first of many workshops, entitled Training Session for Asylum Evaluations and Documentation of Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma. In keeping with the GLP goal of doctors and lawyers working together, these workshops bring together professionals from various disciplines to facilitate expert testimony.



Camp Guantanamo

PUBLIC HEALTH FORUM

GLP and the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights also sponsored a Public Health Forum featuring Leonard Rubenstein, Executive director of Physicians for Human Rights who spoke on "Dissolving the Torture/"

Terrorism Marriage of Convenience: The Way Forward from Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay".

Upcoming February 2006 Public Health Forum features Professor Wendy Parmet

from Northeastern University Law School discussing "Terri Schiavo and Hurricane Katrina: The Role of Law in Protecting Individual and Statistical Lives"



**Len Rubenstein
Executive Director, PHR**

HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS STUDENT CAUCUS

GLP sponsors the **Health & Human Rights Student Caucus** at the Boston University School of Public Health, which as a student composed and led organization, dedicates their efforts to exploring and supporting health and human rights concerns through education, collaboration and action in the local, national and global milieu. In 2005, the HHR Caucus focus was to plan and successfully execute an event every month to raise awareness and educate the surrounding community about human rights issues.

The Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights at Boston Medical Center, and the Boston University Student Caucus for Health & Human Rights presented A Night of Remembrance and Rejoicing. This event showcased and celebrated the Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights with clients and friends and benefactors. This was our time to honor the resilience of survivors of torture and to rededicate ourselves to the prevention of torture worldwide. Also honored was Congressman Capuano and Kate Auspitz for their support.

The HHRC successfully sponsored the fifth annual clothing drive for the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights. The caucus outreached to the BU School of Public Health and Medical School students, faculty and staff as well as the staff at

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING.....

The State of Health in the World by Solomon Benatar, M.D., Board of Advisors, GLP

“To empathize with others requires critical examination of our individual lives and of our nations’ actions, the capacity to see ourselves as bound to all other human beings and the sensitivity to imagine what it might be like to be a person living a very deprived and threatened life. The quest for improved lives will be elusive in the absence of a ground-swell of moral imagination by the privileged empathizing with others. We cannot continue to neglect the upstream forces that cause, sustain and aggravate the poverty and misery that characterize the lives of almost half the world’s population. The importance of achieving solidarity and cooperation in an interdependent world calls for a major multidisciplinary research program”

Book Reviews on ***Perspectives on Health and Human Rights***, edited by Gruskin, S., Grodin, M., Annas, G.J., Marks, S., New York, NY. 2005

JAMA, January 11, 2006—Vol 295, No. 2

by Leslie London, MBChB, MD, University of Cape Town, South Africa

“For Health Professionals engaged in the ongoing dialogue between human rights and health, the second compilation edited by the members of Boston’s health and human rights community is a welcome development...The willingness to engage in such trans-disciplinary and cross –perspective enquiry is a remarkable strength of the volume and can only help foster the international health and human rights movement”

The Lancet Vol 336 October 1, 2005

by Helen Epstein

“Recently, the contested relation between health and human rights has drawn increasing attention. Human Rights experts are taking on such issues as HIV/AIDS, abortion, family planning, and sexual violence. ***Perspectives on Health and Human Rights*** contains 30 essays that attempt to create a framework for thinking about this complex field. It is a valuable book, for the guidance it provides and the questions it raises.”

New England Journal of Medicine 353;26 December 29, 2005

by Jonathan H. Marks, M.A., B.C.L.

“...***Perspectives on Health and Human Rights*** is a handy compendium of some of the recent literature. It will also be a valuable teaching aid for anyone seeking to bring health and human rights into the curriculum of a school of public health, law, medicine, or nursing.”

GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS

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SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Your support in **GLP** will help our efforts to provide information and resources about human rights and health; to serve as a network and referral source for professionals working on health-related human rights issues; and to assist in developing, implementing and advocating public policies to protect and enhance human rights and health. GLP supporters receive communications about our current projects and global concerns. Additionally, as a supporter of GLP, there are numerous opportunities to contribute your time and talents to **GLP** projects. Indeed, **GLP's** past accomplishments are almost exclusively the product of our volunteers. Please visit our website at www.glphr.org/support.htm or email us at glp@bu.edu for further information.

NEW PUBLICATIONS (2005)

AMICUS BRIEFS SUPPORTED BY GLP

Brief of the Public Justice Center, National Advocates for Pregnant Women, Global Lawyers and Physicians, et al as Amici Curiae in Support of Petitioner-Appellee in State of Maryland v. Kelly Lynn Cruz. December 2005

Brief in support of the appeal of Tayshea Aiwohi in the Supreme Court of Hawai'i in State of Hawai'i v. Tayshea Aiwohi, 2005

Brief of Human Rights First, Physicians for Human Rights, Global Lawyers and Physicians et al in Support of Petitioner-Appellee in the US Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C. in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, December 2004

BIOETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Annas, George J. **American Bioethics: Crossing Human Rights and Health Law Boundaries**, Oxford University Press, New York, 2005

Gruskin, S., Grodin, M., Annas, GJ., Marks, S. **Perspectives on Health and Human Rights**. Routledge 2005.

Grodin M, Annas GJ. Book Review, **Military Medical Ethics**. Beam T and Sparacino L, eds. . New England Journal of Medicine. 352:(3): 312-314, 2005.

GENETIC RESEARCH AND CLONING

Annas, GJ, [Governing Biotechnology](#). Global Agenda, January 2006

Annas, GJ. **The ABCs of Global Governance of Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Arbitrage, Bioethics and Clon-**

PATIENT RIGHTS

Annas, GJ. "**Culture of Life**" **Politics at the Bedside - The Case of Terri Schiavo**. New England Journal of Medicine. 352:(April 21): 1710-1715, 2005.

Annas, GJ. Family **Privacy and Death - Antigone, War, and Medical Research**. New England Journal of Medicine. 352:(February 3): 501-505, 2005.

PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

TORTURE AND THE TREATMENT OF SURVIVORS

Annas, GJ. **Unspeakable Cruel - Torture, Medical Ethics, and the Law.** *New England Journal of Medicine.* 352; 2127-2132, 2005.

Norredam M, Crosby S, Piwowarczyk L, Grodin M. **Urological Complications to Sexual Trauma Among Male Survivors of Torture: A Case Series.** *Urology.* 65:(1): 28-32, 2005.

Singh H, Henshaw M, Piwowarczyk L, Crosby S, Grodin M. **Dental Health Status of Asylum Seekers.** . 2005.

Rourke E, Crosby S, Grodin M. **Substance Abuse in Survivors of Torture.** 2005.

Rourke E, Crosby S, Grodin M. **Refugee Women's Health.** *Our Bodies, Ourselves.* 738-739, 2005.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Annas, GJ. **NOTES AND COMMENTS The Statue of Security: Human Rights and Post 9/11 Epidemics.** *Journal of Health Law.* Spring 2005 Volume 38 No. 2

NAMES AND FACES OF GLP -2005

George Annas, Erica Zaken (MPH, 05) and Michael Grodin at Night of Remembrance Event



Palden Gyatso, a Tibetan monk who served 33 years in prison for his beliefs, with Michael Grodin at a demonstration at the Statehouse in Boston.

Soenam Jamyangling (center) Founder of Tibetan School Project at speech on integrating public health clinics into rural Ti-



Participants at Lisbon Conference, June 2005



Dr. Michael Grodin leading his Tai Chi class to members of the BUSPH community



Dr. Michael Grodin with Dr. Nelson Mubosa, Executive Director for Action Group Health, Human Rights and HIV/Aids—Uganda