

CGRS 2015: Highlights from a Year at the Front Lines of Advancing Refugee Rights

Training and Mentoring Attorneys

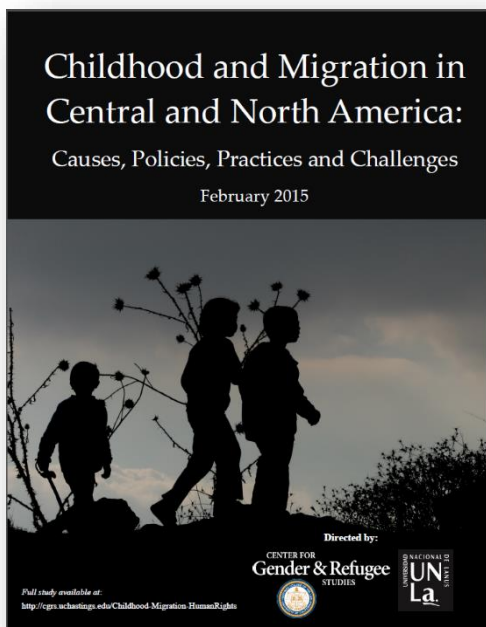
- We **provided tailored, one-on-one assistance to attorneys in more than 1,700 cases** for asylum and other forms of protection—double the assistance we provided in the previous year. Nearly one-third of the claims were on behalf of unaccompanied refugee children.
- We **led over 40 trainings, events, or workshops, reaching over 2,500 individuals locally, nationally, and internationally.** Topics included issues in asylum law specific to children’s or women’s claims, better equipping advocates to successfully secure grants of protection.
- In **Afghanistan and Tajikistan, we trained attorneys and advocates on protections for women.** We traveled to Tajikistan for in-person trainings and conducted our training in Afghanistan via teleconference amidst attacks on the offices of our in-country partner organization.



CGRS Senior Staff Attorney Christine Lin works with Tajik legal services attorneys representing survivors of domestic violence

Advocating for Regional Solutions

- We coordinated with partners in five countries to publish and disseminate a comprehensive and groundbreaking **MacArthur Foundation-funded report on childhood migration** examining conditions for children in both sending and receiving countries, including the challenges children encounter in the U.S. immigration system, the perils children endure along the Central America-Mexico migration corridor, and the root causes for their flight.
- We **briefed congressional and high-level Administration officials** on the findings from our regional investigation of the mistreatment of refugee children and families, **advocating for the end of the illegal and deplorable practice of family detention.**
- In Mexico City, we met with **Central American and Mexican civil society organizations, governmental officials, and U.N. representatives** to stress the need for a **regional approach to improve conditions faced by migrant children** in their countries of origin, transit, and destination.



Available online at cgrs.uchastings.edu

Human Rights Fact-Finding

- A delegation of CGRS attorneys and UC Hastings Refugee and Human Rights Clinic students traveled to Guatemala to meet with **government and civil society organizations and identify experts to author affidavits on the trafficking of girls and other human rights violations of women and children in Guatemalan society** for use as crucial evidence in asylum cases in the U.S.
- We **investigated** legal mechanisms for the protection of women from **gender-based violence in Afghanistan and Tajikistan** and drafted a comprehensive report for use as an advocacy tool for local partners advocating for reforms.



Mural in Guatemala City

Advancing Gender Equality Globally

- The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada sought out our expertise on human rights conditions facing women in Haiti and El Salvador, requesting from us **expert reports on violence against women**. The IRB's resources are often cited to, and relied upon, by adjudicators of asylum claims around the world.
- CGRS founder and director Karen Musalo provided **expert testimony regarding violence against women in Guatemala at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights** in the femicide case of Claudina Velázquez Paiz. The Court also asked that she provide recommendations for how the State of Guatemala can meet its obligations to prevent, protect, punish and redress the violence going forward.

Creating Transparency and Raising Public Awareness

- We **reached the milestone of 10,000 gender asylum cases in our one-of-a-kind database**, which tracks outcomes in asylum cases at all levels of the immigration adjudication system. This information is not available anywhere else and sheds a light on a system that is otherwise not held to account.



"Inside the 'Pure Hell' of Honduras's Rising Tide of Domestic Violence" aired October 24 & 25, 2015

- Through dozens of interviews, commentaries, and national broadcasts we used our voice to raise public awareness of the violence women and children are fleeing and the protections available to them, including serving as **an on-camera source for the PBS Newshour Weekend** in a segment investigating the deportation of a Honduran survivor of domestic violence.