

2013 PHRGE Human Rights Institute

Human Rights and Violence Against Women: Applying the Due Diligence Framework

**7-8 November 2013
Boston, USA**

Background

Annually NUSL's Programme on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) hosts a Fall Institute which gathers academics, advocates and practitioners from across various disciplines to discuss a critical social issue from a human rights perspective.

The topic of this year's Institute is: ***Human Rights and Violence Against Women: Applying the Due Diligence Framework***. The Institute is jointly convened by the Due Diligence Project (DDP), the Domestic Violence Institute (DVI) and the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE).

The Due Diligence Principle is an international legal principle calling upon States to end violations of human rights, whether committed by State or non-State actors. This principle is being increasingly applied and developed in the realm of violence against women, where the majority of cases are violence perpetrated by a close relative or intimate partner. By extending state accountability for acts of violence perpetrated by non-state actors to the State, public international law recognizes that violence against women, whether committed by State or non-State actors constitutes a grave human rights violations.

About this year's Institute

The focus of this year's Institute is State action to end violence against women. The Due Diligence Project will present the findings of its multi-year, multi-country research and advocacy study on the same as well as its Framework for Accountability, a tool for assessing the effectiveness of State action. The Institute will also focus on application of this Framework to the specific context of the northeastern U.S., with a focus on Greater Boston , taking on issues of particular importance and urgency to the region.

As in past years, the Institute will be divided into two parts: (1) a larger public session where the findings of the multi-year, multi-country Due Diligence Project will be shared, including findings of their US study and presentation of the Due Diligence Framework; and

(2) a series of smaller, private, roundtable discussions where participants will take a closer look at issues of particular importance and relevance to the region.

Professor Charlotte Bunch, Advisor to the Due Diligence Project and Founding Director and Senior Scholar at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, will deliver the keynote at 12noon on 7 November 2013. Professor Bunch's keynote will speak on the evolution of the women's movement and its growing engagement with the human rights discourse.

By drawing lessons from around the country and the world and applying them to the contextual realities of the northeastern region of the U.S., it is hoped that the meeting will result in a clearer understanding not only of what government and other key stakeholders are doing to end the culture of violence against women, but also what more can and should be done. It is further hoped that the process of discussing a human rights approach to eradicating violence will strengthen the local network of service providers, advocates and public officials committed to ending violence against women and encourage them to view their work in a new light.

Co-Conveners

The Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) at the Northeastern University School of Law (NUSL) was founded in 2005 to engage in the study, promotion, implementation and constructive critique of rights-based approaches to economic development and social transformation with particular attention to economic, social and cultural rights. PHRGE is at the center of the School of Law's human rights efforts and works closely with scholars, institutions and advocates nationally and internationally.

The Due Diligence Project (DDP) is a global advocacy and research project which has since 2009 worked on identifying the exact nature of State responsibility to end violence against women. When has the due diligence principle been satisfied? Who are the key actors and what are the key elements needed for effective implementation? The DDP through extensive research and collaboration, collected good practices from across the US and around the world on State action to end violence against women and created a framework for compliance with this obligation in five areas of State responsibility, namely prevention, protection, prosecution, punishment and provision of redress and reparation.

The Domestic Violence Institute is an education, service and research organization dedicated to combating intimate partner abuse. The DVI leverages law student resources to provide advocacy services to survivors of abuse and has engaged in research dedicated to understanding the dynamics of intimate partner abuse and the effectiveness of legal and other interventions.