DONIA HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

Deepening the understanding of human rights issues in the contemporary world—and equipping those who tackle them

The Donia Human Rights Center (DHRC) is the University of Michigan’s hub for intellectual exchange and student experiential learning on issues around human rights. The DHRC works to promote a deeper understanding of human rights issues and to equip students, faculty, and the public with the tools to tackle challenging human rights problems around the world. True to Michigan, it is decidedly interdisciplinary—creating dialogue among participants with diverse backgrounds, expertise, and academic interests—with faculty associates across 45 departments and nine schools. Programming centers on two elements: inviting leading practitioners and scholars to share their insights and expertise, and fostering student learning through fellowships for summer work at human rights institutions and graduate research.

FACULTY PROGRAM SUPPORT

Since the center’s inception in 2015, it has engaged the community in compelling events, which draw participants from across the university and beyond for collaborative dialogue and interdisciplinary discourse. DHRC would like to create a mid-career fellowship program with an endowed gift of $1M, enabling the center to bring a practitioner of international human rights to be resident at Michigan for a semester or year. By establishing a post-doctoral program with an endowed gift of $1.5M, DHRC could deeply engage one or two scholars who are working toward careers in human rights, connecting them to the bigger community of human rights work.
Throughout my six week virtual fellowship with the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, based in Serbia, I met virtually with Anja Stefanović, the Asylum and Migration Programme Coordinator, who was my mentor. I am incredibly thankful for this fantastic opportunity and experience. I was able to listen and learn firsthand from worldwide advocates in the field at roundtable talks, as well as conduct research on relevant and contemporary issues within the refugee and migration field.”

—Glennie Webster, A.B. ’21