



Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) mobilizes health professionals to advance health, dignity, and justice and promotes the right to health for all. Harnessing the specialized skills, rigor, and passion of doctors, nurses, public health specialists, and scientists, PHR investigates human rights abuses and works to stop them. Our research takes us to conflict zones, to AIDS-ravaged Africa, to US prisons and juvenile detention centers—and our advocacy brings us to the offices of national and international policymakers. The courts, decision makers and the media have come to rely on PHR’s credibility and expertise. Motivated by moral urgency, based on science, and anchored in international human rights standards, PHR’s advocacy advances global health and protects human rights.

Since 1986, PHR members have worked to stop torture and political killings; investigated deaths and trauma inflicted on civilians during conflicts; documented inequities in health and health care due to racial, ethnic and gender discrimination; exposed exploitation of children in labor practices; documented evidence of genocide, exposed human rights abuses within prisons; and helped build local capacity to combat global AIDS.

As one of the original steering committee members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, PHR shared the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

PHR'S WORK

"The work we do with health professional students is of an enormous importance. We must assure ourselves that the next generation will bring their skills, passion and devotion, not only to individual patients but to the social determinants of health."

- Dr. H. Jack Geiger, Co-Founder, PHR



Health Action AIDS Campaign

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is arguably the greatest health crisis of our time. The Health Action AIDS Campaign at Physicians for Human Rights mobilizes health professionals to support a comprehensive AIDS strategy, works to build local capacity in AIDS-stricken countries, and advocates for adequate resources and science-based policies to combat the pandemic. *Check the Student Webpage for Student Health Action AIDS Campaign information and resources in late August.*



Darfur Survival Campaign

PHR's Darfur Survival Campaign mobilizes health professionals, students, and members of the public to press for urgently needed security in Darfur, Sudan, including augmented African Union troops and a UN peacekeeping force of 20,000, as authorized by UN Security Council Resolution 1706. In addition, the Campaign insists on compensation and restitution for survivors. *Check the Student Webpage for Student Darfur Survival Campaign information and resources in late August.*



Campaign Against Torture

In response to the systematic infliction of psychological and physical torture by US forces, PHR's Campaign Against Torture seeks to restore the US commitment against torture, to ensure humane treatment of detainees, and to protect US health personnel from complicity in mistreatment and harm.

The Asylum Network

Each year, tens of thousands of people from around the world seek asylum in the United States. Many have been physically or psychologically tortured in their countries of origin and may face further persecution, even death, if forced to return. The more than 500 members of PHR's Asylum Network assist asylum seekers by conducting mental and physical evaluations to document forensic evidence of abuse. Our clinicians also use their expertise to educate their colleagues and to inform public policy affecting refugees and asylum seekers.

Research & Investigations

PHR investigations are based on rigorous medical, scientific, and public health methods. The collection of physical evidence, analysis of medical records, and direct clinical observation give great weight to PHR's research and investigation products. Using epidemiological and population-based survey methodologies, PHR teams have quantified the health consequences of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

International Forensic Program

Physicians for Human Rights' International Forensic Program mobilizes the skills of medical and scientific professionals to investigate human rights violations, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The IFP provides evidence to a wide range of legal institutions and is often able to help survivors searching for missing relatives find closure.

Campaign to Ban Landmines

Formally launched in October of 1992 by a small group of organizations, including Physicians for Human Rights, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines became a powerful grassroots movement that built enough political pressure in five years to bring the international community together to negotiate the first treaty in history to ban a conventional weapon. The Campaign was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work toward achieving the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty which bans the use, trade, production, and stockpiling of antipersonnel mines.



THE POWER OF FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

"PHR recognizes the importance of organizing students to fight for health and rights. If we fail to fight for the basic social and economic rights of the poor and the marginalized, we will have failed in our mission."

- Dr. Paul Farmer, Director, Partners in Health

The advancement of health depends, in critical ways, on the protection of human rights. As future health professionals, you can play a vital role in PHR's work to advance health and human rights. Your commitment to health and medical ethics lends credibility and power to your advocacy.

Because of your training, you will soon be uniquely qualified to play an important role in human rights investigation, fact-finding and documentation. But you need not wait for your degree to have an impact. Your voice is needed now in PHR's advocacy campaigns to show policy makers that the health and human rights movement is indefatigable and that governments and governing bodies will be accountable for their support or neglect of the right to health for generations to come.

In addition to contributing to PHR's campaigns, your voices are needed locally at your academic institutions and communities to demonstrate the fundamental connection between health and human rights. You are in a position to advance a rights-based approach to health, and by being an active PHR chapter member, you will have the information and skills to do so.

Opportunities to engage in human rights are limitless, both as extracurricular activity and as integral to your own careers. You will find that participating in human rights advocacy gives great meaning to the practice of medicine.



The Student Program

The goal of PHR's Student Program is to advance health professional students' understanding and commitment to the right to health and to cultivate skills as advocates for health and human rights locally, nationally and globally.

To achieve this goal, the Student Program's objectives are to:

- Advance a global understanding of the intrinsic link between health and human rights among health professional students and health-related institutions
- Provide educational opportunities on a range of PHR's issues
- Organize and link campus chapters to local, national and international policy debates and campaigns
- Promote skill development and activism on key health and human rights issues
- Support and strengthen PHR student chapters' capacity to become effective health and human rights activists

PHR Chapters

The best way for students to participate in PHR's work is through your school's PHR chapter. Chapter leaders work directly with the Student Program coordinators based at PHR's national office in Cambridge, MA. With the Program as a resource for information, organization, and materials, PHR chapters organize educational and advocacy events, join health professional voices in PHR Campaigns, and promote health and human rights awareness and activism on campus and in communities.



Student Advisory Board

The Student Advisory Board helps the Student Program team plan upcoming events, helps us integrate the student perspective into PHR advocacy plans, and supports chapter development efforts. In addition to working with PHR chapter leaders, the PHR Student Program in our National office works in concert with the Student Advisory Board. The Board is composed of seven student leaders, each chosen for his or her leadership and commitment to the health and human rights movement. See *Additional Materials for current Advisory Board members' bios*.

STUDENT PROGRAM AT WORK

"PHR restores my faith in the medical profession and reminds me that medicine is about more than showing up at the hospital every morning and leaving when the day is over – it is about changing the world."

- John Chiosi, Student Chapter Leader

Examples of PHR student chapters' work to advance human rights:

Health Action AIDS Campaign:

- PHR students at the *University of Miami* organized an educational "fashion show" in which 15 countries were represented with fashion and focused information about the AIDS epidemic in each country. The chapter also organized a community service trip to Homestead, FL to speak about basic HIV/AIDS and STD education at Farmshare, a farm collective for low-income families in the area. These students joined thousands of others around the country in an AIDS Week of Action to mobilize their communities through education and action on pressing issues like the health worker shortage in Africa and HIV prevention and treatment for injection drug users.

Darfur Survival Campaign:

- The *Boston University* chapter organized an action table to promote their petition to urge President George W. Bush to enforce the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act (DPAA); the table generated 150 signatures and \$250 within one hour. The money raised will benefit health professionals at the Sudan-based Amel Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture (ACTRVT). BU students coordinated their actions along with many other schools and organizations during the Global Days for Darfur, culminating in a "die-in" rally at Boston Common that made national headlines.

Campaign Against Torture:

- Students at *Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine* organized a ground-breaking debate on the role of military doctors and interrogations at US detention facilities. The panel included PHR Executive Director Len Rubenstein and US Army Surgeon General Kevin Kiley and was moderated by *Chicago Public Radio* host Jerome McDonnell.

Asylum Program:

- Students at *Emory University* helped develop a local Asylum Network, serving the needs of asylum seekers in the Southeast. The Atlanta Asylum Network has led to collaboration of students, faculty, physicians, and a number of community organizations.