



CENTER FOR HEALTH  
& HUMAN RIGHTS

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

# CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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**“The CHHR stands at the forefront of today’s most urgent health and human rights challenges.**

This year our Center continued to strengthen and forge strategic partnerships across academia and the applied world. These collaborations have been instrumental in driving positive change, shaping impactful policies, and bridging the gap between rigorous academic research and real-world solutions, allowing us to amplify our impact where it matters most.”



**SILVIA SERRANO GUZMÁN**

Co-Director, Center for Health and Human Rights



**OSCAR A. CABRERA**

Co-Director, Center for Health and Human Rights

**“We take great pride in our Center’s achievements this year,** especially in deepening our partnerships with high courts across the region and playing a pivotal role in landmark judicial processes that led to historic victories in sexual and reproductive health, end of life care and dignity, prevention of non-communicable diseases, and other pressing health and human rights issues.”

## OUR TEAM

**Oscar A. Cabrera** *Co-Director*

**Silvia Serrano-Guzmán** *Co-Director*

**Isabel Barbosa** *Associate Director*

**María Belén Saavedra** *Senior Associate*

**Ivonne Garza Senior** *Senior Associate*

**Mariel Ortega de los Santos** *Senior Associate*

**Valentina Castagnari** *Senior Associate*

**Gloria Orrego-Hoyos** *Senior Associate*

**Margherita Cinà** *Associate*

**Fernanda Rodríguez-Pliego** *Associate*

**Francesca Nardi** *Associate and Communications Officer*

**Patricio López Turconi** *Associate*

**Guillermina Pappier** *Fellow*

**Bethanie Fletcher-Perez** *Program Associate*

**Nathalie Milfort** *Program Coordinator*

**Ariadna Tovar Ramírez** *Senior Consultant*

**Natalia Acevedo Guerrero** *Senior Consultant*

**Gretzel Brozovich** *Consultant*

**Andrés López Cabello** *Consultant*

**Natasha Lauletta** *Consultant*

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## About the Center for Health and Human Rights

The Center for Health and Human Rights (CHHR) works to improve health through applied academic research that focuses on the nexus of health and international and national human rights frameworks. Our team collaborates closely with local partners to build capacity, provide technical assistance, and pursue the strategic use of the law in health and human rights issues, especially in Latin America. The work of the Center for Health and Human Rights seeks to maximize the real-world impacts of law, policy, and academic scholarship.

The team is grateful to the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University, and the center's many generous funders and partners who make this work possible.



## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

JUDICIAL DIALOGUES ON HEALTH AND THE LAW

# Health Rights and the Courts in Latin America and the Caribbean

CHHR hosted “Judicial Dialogues on Health and the Law in Latin America and the Caribbean,” bringing together high court justices from across the region to reflect on the judiciary’s role in safeguarding and promoting health as a public good. The landmark event featured Justice Natalia Ángel Cabo of the Constitutional Court of Colombia, Justice Amaury A. Reyes Torres of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Dominican Republic, Justice Catalina Lagos Tschorne of the Constitutional Tribunal of Chile, Justice Alfredo Gutiérrez Ortiz Mena of the Supreme Court of Mexico, and Justice Karla Andrade Quevedo of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador.





The event culminated in a public conference on health rights and the courts in Latin America and the Caribbean. Justices reflected on their role in upholding the right to health and related rights, sharing insights on how they have navigated the tension between judicial intervention and other branches of government, as well as the impact of their decisions on the public health landscape.

The Center for Health and Human Rights hopes to continue providing a platform for justices and legal experts to exchange ideas and strengthen the role of the judiciary in advancing health and human rights at judicial dialogues in future years.



# HOW WE WORK

Each of CHHR's research projects relies on a methodology that can be applied to a range of health topics and adapted to fit the needs of diverse local contexts.

Our research projects not only formulate innovative law and policy solutions for a given health problem in a specific context, but also evaluate their relevance for other health topics and applicability in other countries.

We carry out our work in close collaboration with local partners (including academia, government, and civil society), prioritizing engagement of new constituencies and fostering cross-country, cross-disciplinary, and cross-movement dialogues across each of its projects.

The CHHR methodology for transforming rigorous legal research and analysis into real-world law and policy solutions relies on the following core strategies: academic scholarship, capacity building, and strategic use of the law.

## CORE STRATEGIES

### ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

A focus on systematizing, generating, and disseminating innovative legal theories and arguments related to priority health and human rights topics in academic scholarship.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

A focus not only on strengthening the ability of current and future lawyers to engage in law and policymaking on priority health and human rights topics, but also on enhancing the familiarity and expertise of other legal actors related to these topics (judges, government lawyers, etc.).

### STRATEGIC USE OF THE LAW

A focus on conducting or facilitating targeted interventions in law and policy reform efforts related to priority health topics (amicus briefs, expert testimony, etc.) that enhance the impact of those interventions. This work includes the provision of technical assistance, strategic litigation, and standard-setting.

## AREAS OF WORK

The Center for Health and Human Rights works to improve health through applied academic research that focuses on the nexus of health and international and national human rights frameworks. Our team collaborates closely with local partners to build capacity, provide technical assistance, and pursue the strategic use of the law in health and human rights issues.

### CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND THE LAW

GLOBAL CENTER FOR LEGAL INNOVATION ON FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND THE LAW

LITIGATION, POLICYMAKING AND STANDARD-SETTING

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN FAMILIES



# Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Law

This area of work uses technical analyses of international and comparative domestic human rights legal frameworks to inform litigation, law and policy reform, and regulation related to reproductive health, rights, and justice throughout Latin America. This work includes critically assessing the impacts of criminal law in reproductive health including the criminalization of reproductive health services and doctor-patient confidentiality and obstetric violence.

### **Interventions Before Courts in Latin America**

CHHR provided technical assistance to local organizations and submitted amici curiae to support courts in their decision-making on a range of sexual and reproductive rights issues, including access to abortion, issues of forced sterilization, and the sexual and reproductive rights of persons with disabilities. We supported courts in Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia, as well as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

### **Beatriz vs. El Salvador**

In 2024, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights released its decision in the case of Beatriz and others vs. El Salvador. CHHR previously submitted an amicus that focused on human rights standards concerning barriers to access to reproductive health services in cases like Beatriz's.

### **A Regional Look at Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

CHHR contributed a chapter to OPTIO's book, "A Regional Look at Sexual and Reproductive Rights." This book focuses on Central America and seeks to rigorously examine and confront patriarchal norms and practices, with the aim of encouraging key actors to reform their legal, political, and social approaches in favor of the reproductive rights of women and girls. CHHR also participated in the launch event, bringing experts from across Central America together in Honduras.



### **Conscientious Objection in Health in Latin America**

CHHR hosted a book launch for “La objeción de conciencia en el área de la salud en América Latina.” Michele Bratcher Goodwin, Verónica Undurraga, Agustina Ramón Michel, Silvia Serrano-Guzmán, and Oscar A. Cabrera engaged in an insightful conversation on the issue of conscientious objection in health in Latin America.

### **United Nations Periodic Review Process**

CHHR participated in the United Nations Universal Periodic Review pre-sessions for Bolivia. Our team outlined the situation of sexual and reproductive rights in the country and its impacts on women and girls.

### **Constitutional Court of Colombia Surrogacy Decision**

The Constitutional Court of Colombia invited members from CHHR to present a submission in a “tutela” case dealing with surrogacy and its linkages to human rights. In 2024, the Court released its decision, which relied heavily on CHHR’s submission.

### **UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls**

CHHR submitted written input for the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, focusing on the linkages between sex work and violence against women and girls. Our input highlighted some connections between sex work and women’s right to health. It specifically challenges the underlying assumption that the use of criminal law can be a valid public health intervention and an effective means to prevent violence in this context.

# Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments

The Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments serves as a transnational venue for legal research, capacity building, and technical assistance related to the different legal and policy aspects of diet-related noncommunicable disease prevention. In collaboration with global and local partners, the Global Center builds connections between academic and applied initiatives, amplifying the impact of both in the process.



GLOBAL CENTER FOR  
**LEGAL INNOVATION ON**  
**FOOD ENVIRONMENTS**



## Public Health Decision-Making in CARICOM: Strengthening the Front-of-Package Nutrition Labelling Standardisation Programme

The Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments, the Health Research Unit; the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill; and The Healthy Caribbean Coalition hosted a virtual event on their new joint publication, “Public Health Decision-Making in CARICOM: Strengthening the Front-of-Package Nutrition Labelling Standardisation Programme.” In their report, the Global Center and other experts examine the standardization of front-of-package nutrition labeling to enhance public health decision-making in CARICOM.

## Caribbean Law Review Special Issue

In partnership with the University of the West Indies, CHHR published the Caribbean Law Review Special Issue on “Unhealthy Food, Alcohol, Tobacco and the Law,” co-edited by Nicole Foster and Isabel Barbosa. This special issue establishes the status quo of the NCD prevention agenda in the Caribbean and explores the potential for making concrete advances using the law, including lessons learned from regional neighbors in Latin America.

## International Congress on Obesity

The CHHR team participated in the International Congress on Obesity in São Paulo, Brazil. In the session, “Addressing rights, inequality, gender and race in the food system,” Isabel Barbosa presented on rights-based frameworks and subsequently joined a panel discussion to dive deeper into these issues with other experts.

## Vitaltalks Podcast

The Global Center was featured on Vitaltalks’ podcast, showcasing the role of law in global health and noncommunicable disease prevention in the following episodes: “Litigating for Health: Challenging the Tobacco and Food Industries” and “Sugar, Salt, Fat: The Fight for Nutrient Warning Labels in Mexico and Colombia.”

## 2024 Food Governance Conference

In February 2024, the Global Center co-organized the 2024 Food Governance Conference in Sydney, Australia, alongside the George Institute for Global Health and the Charles Perkins Centre at the University of Sydney. The Global Center also organized a side event with an interdisciplinary audience that explored how law, policy, and regulation address food system challenges. The event brought together global perspectives on legal and policy solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The side event’s keynote panel examined how Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng’s report on the right to health, food, and nutrition is applicable to advocacy efforts across the world.



**WHITE PAPER:**

**SCIENTIFIC CAUSATION IN POPULATIONAL HEALTH CASES:**

**An Alternative for Noncommunicable Diseases**

The Global Center published a white paper advocating for a new theory of causation in mass tort law to address health harms, such as noncommunicable diseases caused by the consumption of unhealthy products produced by profit-driven transnational corporations. Traditional tort law struggles with the complex causation issues inherent in NCDs, often resulting from prolonged exposure to harmful products, as it focuses on individual causation, which scientific research does not typically provide. This has shielded industries from liability, as legal practitioners rely on unprincipled standards of proof based on belief rather than scientific evidence. The paper proposes integrating epidemiological methodologies into legal standards of evidence to better establish causation in mass tort cases. By adopting these scientific approaches, the legal system can better fulfill its role in compensating and deterring harms caused by unhealthy products. This could benefit from both substantial and procedural changes in law, including a collective approach to tort claims, to effectively address the growing burden of NCDs. Although epidemiology may not provide indisputable evidence in every case, its methodologies should be fully utilized

**WHITE PAPER:**

**THE CONCEPT OF DAMAGE IN TORT LAW:**

**A Needed Update for Cases Regarding Noncommunicable Diseases and Unhealthy Foods and Beverages**

The Global Center published a white paper on the need to update the concept of damage in tort law to address the growing prevalence of noncommunicable diseases linked to the consumption of unhealthy foods and beverages. NCDs, responsible for 74% of global deaths, are largely driven by transnational corporations that produce and market harmful products. The current understanding of damage in tort law, shaped during the Industrial Revolution, may be insufficient for addressing these products' modern, widespread health impacts. The paper proposes re-evaluating and potentially revising the concept of damage to hold corporations accountable for the foreseeable and intentional harms their products cause, thereby ensuring tort law continues to promote compensation and deterrence effectively.

**The Global Center provides important technical assistance on a range of law and policy processes related to the prevention of diet-related noncommunicable diseases at both the national and international levels.**

In 2024, the Global Center submitted written input to the public consultation on the draft WHO guideline on nutrition labeling policies. The submission stressed the need for mandatory front-of-package labeling informed by the best available scientific evidence, free from conflicts of interest, as well as for coherence across policies. It also called for integrating human rights frameworks more squarely into the guideline, considering that it establishes both a mandate and safeguards for governments to take effective measures to tackle diet-related NCDs. Furthermore, in Mexico, we continued to support the legal defense of the front-of-package labeling regulation, including through submissions of amici curiae briefs to support the courts in their decision-making.

The Global Center also continued to provide technical assistance in Colombia on legislative and judicial proceedings surrounding taxation and marketing of unhealthy products. The Global Center presented written briefs to Congress opposing a bill that would repeal the tax reform, focusing on international human rights law. We also submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Constitutional Court of Colombia to support the constitutionality of the tax on ultra-processed, sugar-sweetened beverages and highlighted the close relationship between tax policy and the effective enjoyment of human rights.

# Student Writing Competition

In line with its capacity-building mandate on issues related to healthy food law and policy, in 2024, the Global Center launched the third edition of its Food Environments and the Law Student Writing Competition for students pursuing their first degree in law at law schools in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, and South Africa.



## COMPETITION WINNER

**Marcus Bustamante** was selected as this year's winner with his paper titled, "Brazilian Regulation on Marketing Food for Children." Bustamante is an undergraduate law student at the University of São Paulo. He is currently engaged in a one-year academic research project about the Brazilian regulatory data protection system and its effects on access to healthcare and medication, under the guidance of Professors Juliana Krueger and Marislei Nishijima.

Bustamante has also been selected as the winner of the first Interfarma Award on Research and Innovation, an academic writing competition that challenged Brazilian undergraduate and postgraduate students to address how innovation can be fostered through the intellectual property system. As the winner of the competition, Bustamante will be joining the O'Neill Institute as an intern in 2025.



## RUNNER-UP

**Giovanna Camargo Messner Neves** was selected as the first runner-up with the paper, "Public Policies and the Role of Public Authorities in Child Nutrition in Brazil: School as a Tool for Building Autonomy." Neves is an undergraduate law student at FGV Rio de Janeiro Law School and formerly interned at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

## Scholars and Fellows

The Global Center facilitates a number of educational and practical opportunities for law students at the Georgetown University Law Center. For students seeking an LL.M. in National and Global Health Law, the Global Center awards scholarships to select exceptional students with a strong substantive interest in healthy food law and policy and with the potential to contribute to the field in their home countries. Upon their graduation, these scholars may be selected for a fellowship program at the O’Neill Institute to collaborate with the Global Center.

In previous years, the Global Center has welcomed fellows — previously LL.M. students awarded Global Center scholarships — from Argentina, Barbados, Jamaica, and South Africa.



### SEKGAME SHADRACK TEBEILE

Sekgame Shadrack Tebeile is the 2024-2025 Global Center Scholar. He is originally from South Africa.

Tebeile is interested in human rights, including access to health care and adequate food.

Before enrolling at Georgetown Law, Tebeile worked as a lawyer in South Africa, specializing in human rights law and constitutional law. He currently practices at the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights in Arusha, Tanzania, and at the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in Banjul, The Gambia, where he primarily offers pro bono legal services.

Tebeile began his career as a law researcher at the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the highest court in the country. He also served as an acting judge at the High Court of South Africa, Limpopo Division, and at the Labour Court of South Africa in Johannesburg. He has taught constitutional law part-time at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and is a member of the editorial board of the African Journal of Education and Transformation.

Tebeile earned his LL.B. from the University of Limpopo and his LL.M. from the University of California, Los Angeles.



# FULL Database

Launched in December 2022, in partnership with the Global Health Advocacy Incubator, FULL is a repository of laws and judicial and administrative decisions across the world with various built-in and customizable features to facilitate food policy-related research. The database offers researchers, policymakers, advocates, and journalists the ability to explore the legal framework related to the prevention of diet-related noncommunicable diseases. Currently, FULL features documents from the following six countries: Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Jamaica, and South Africa, as well as relevant international documents and standards.

**FULL** GLOBAL FOOD LAWS

DOCUMENTS POLICIES ▾ FAQ ABOUT ▾

👤 🌐 🔍

## A discovery tool for global food laws.

MARKETING

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

FISCAL POLICIES

LABELING

### Strong food laws are essential to building a healthy society.

FULL is a discovery tool of food laws and decisions aimed at reducing diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Explore and search for topics like advertising of unhealthy foods and beverages, school meals, and regulations on labeling for prepackaged foods.

- Search and Conduct Analysis**  
Use the advanced search functions to identify and analyze laws & decisions.
- Compare laws**  
Review laws by different countries side-by-side.

**100+**  
Decisions & Laws

#### RECENT DOCUMENTS

**BRAZIL**  
DECISION - JUDICIAL  
**Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC) v. National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) (Case No. 5001408-12.2024.4.03.6100)**  
Labeling

**MEXICO**  
DECISION - JUDICIAL  
**Herdez and others v. Government (Case No. 465/2022)**  
Marketing Labeling Fundamental Rights

**Countries**

- 🇧🇧 Barbados
- 🇧🇷 Brazil
- 🇨🇴 Colombia
- 🇯🇲 Jamaica

# Noncommunicable Diseases and the Law

This area of work develops technical analyses of international and comparative domestic legal frameworks to inform litigation and law and policy reform processes at the national, regional, and global levels. Using the lens of commercial determinants of health, CHHR focuses on modifiable risk factors, including tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy diets, prioritizing accountability and the regulation and accountability of corporate actors. CHHR advances work on noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention, tobacco control, and obesity prevention through research, capacity building, advocacy, and litigation.

### The Inter-regional Forum for Civil Society

CHHR, in partnership with IDLO, WHO, IDRC, and other partners under the Global RECAP program, hosted the Inter-regional Forum for Civil Society in Uganda. The event convened 24 advocates, policymakers, and legal experts from Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America to foster cross-regional collaboration in addressing noncommunicable diseases. In this important space, participants exchanged strategies, explored challenges, and shared experiences and ideas to advance healthy diets and physical activity policies in their regions.

### PAHO Advancing Tobacco Taxes in Latin America

CHHR presented at PAHO's workshop on tobacco taxation, providing insights on bridging law, health, and economics. The workshop provided a platform for sharing experiences and evidence-based research, and promoted in-depth discussions on the economic, social, and health impacts of tobacco taxes, as well as the challenges and opportunities for implementing tax policies in different Latin American contexts.

## TOBACCO

### Uruguay Tobacco Case

In 2022, Uruguay introduced a new executive decree that loosened the country's tobacco plain-packaging norms, undermining the protection of the right to health. Currently, the decree has been suspended, and the administrative court will rule on whether the decree should be permanently repealed. Oscar A. Cabrera served as an expert witness in the case, testifying that the regressive change in tobacco plain packaging norms contradicts international and national standards on tobacco control, health, and human rights more broadly.

### Ecuador Case

CHHR submitted amici curiae briefs in a case in Ecuador, challenging measures by the Ecuadorian Executive that would have reduced taxes on tobacco and other products harmful hampered public health measures by reducing taxes on cigarettes, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other products harmful to health, allegedly to combat inflation.

## Litigation, Policymaking and Standard-Setting

This area of work focuses on engagement in domestic and international litigation and standard-setting processes to advance health in all of its dimensions through the strategic use of human rights legal frameworks. Strategic use of the law includes directly representing individual and collective victims of human rights violations, as well as providing technical assistance to relevant actors involved in legislative drafting, policymaking, and judicial practice. CHHR conducts academic research and analysis to inform the adoption of laws and policies that advance justice and equity in the provision of health care services. CHHR also compiles, analyzes, and disseminates legal standards for health and human rights.

## LITIGATION HIGHLIGHTS

### **The Center for Health and Human Rights Launches Case Tracker**

The Center for Health and Human Rights has launched a **case tracker**, compiling their litigation work representing individual and collective victims of human rights violations at the national and international levels.

### **The Center for Health and Human Rights, Brenda Alvarez of Proyecto Igualdad – Justicia Verde Association of Peru, and Ríos Demand Justice for the Family of Diana Aleman from CEDAW**

Diana Aleman tragically lost her life due to systemic failures in health care and harsh abortion laws. Faced with barriers to care and threats of criminalization, Diana and her story are a stark reminder of the dire need for change. Oscar A. Cabrera, Silvia Serrano-Guzmán, Natalia Acevedo Guerrero, Mariel Ortega; Brenda Alvarez of the Proyecto Igualdad - Justicia Verde Association of Peru; and Ríos filed a petition before the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, urging accountability for Diana's death and calling for vital reforms to protect women's rights in Peru.

### **The Center for Health and Human Rights and Colombara Legal Strategy Law Firm Demand Justice from the Chilean State on Behalf of the Family of Oscar Walter**

Oscar was a young man with Down syndrome who died of COVID-19 at 38 years old at the Félix Bulnes Hospital in Santiago, Chile. Because he was a person with an intellectual disability, Oscar was deprioritized and mistreated by health personnel. He was not provided with the medical attention he needed. He was not assigned a clinical bed, nor did he have the chance to use a mechanical ventilator. The authorities did not even attempt to transfer him to another health care center where he could receive proper care.

His family, with the support of the **Colombara Legal Strategy law firm** and the **Center for Health and Human Rights** demanded a finding of civil responsibility for the discrimination experienced, and seeks both reparations and measures to prevent future discrimination of people with disabilities.

## POLICYMAKING AND STANDARD-SETTING



### **Submission to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on Climate Emergency and Human Rights**

The Center for Health and Human Rights submitted a written opinion to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that analyzes the profound impact of climate change on human health and food security. Isabel Barbosa presented on behalf of the Center for Health and Human Rights at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights Public Hearing of the Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights.

### **Dominican Republic Events**

CHHR has engaged with the Supreme Tribunal of the Dominican Republic and other legal actors to discuss regional standards on a range of human rights issues, including protectin the rights of persons deprived of liberty and using treaty control to protect fundamental rights at the national level.

### **Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families**

Recognizing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the United Nations Committee on Migrant Workers' role in advancing international human rights law, the Center for Health and Human Rights submitted contributions on how xenophobia and racial discrimination can jeopardize the right to health for migrant persons, their families, and other non-citizens.

### **Submission to the Study on Care and Human Rights at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Center for Health and Human Rights submitted comments for the study on care and human rights for Resolution 54/6 to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The submission focused specifically on the different facets of care and their recognition and protection under the right to health, and international human rights law.

## POLICYMAKING AND STANDARD-SETTING

### La Oroya Community v. Perú

In a recent landmark decision, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled in the case of La Oroya Community v. Perú — leveraging expert testimony from Oscar A. Cabrera, on behalf of the Center for Health and Human Rights — to establish the state’s international responsibility for violating rights to health and a healthy environment due to environmental pollution.

### Prevention and Eradication of Statelessness in the Americas

CHHR, the Organization of American States, and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) co-hosted “Prevention and Eradication of Statelessness in the Americas.” The event was attended by ambassadors, government representatives, and international and civil society organizations, and sought to identify challenges, good practices, and lessons learned regarding the eradication of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons in the region.

### Paola Roldán Espinosa Case

CHHR filed an amicus curiae brief at the Constitutional Court of Ecuador in support of Paola Roldán Espinosa, who faced an incurable degenerative disease and sought the recognition of her right to a dignified death through the decriminalization of euthanasia. CHHR’s intervention advocated for the recognition of the right to a dignified death as a human rights issue and as in alignment with Ecuador’s international human rights obligations. In 2024, the Court released its decision and decriminalized euthanasia.



# Promoting Human Rights in Families

In 2020, CHHR and BRIDGES launched the Familias: Ahora project, which seeks to establish community-driven platforms that position human rights, gender justice, and social climate as fundamental to guaranteeing the well-being of families. The project develops and disseminates a narrative around family relationships that appeals to new audiences and fosters the alignment of human rights agendas.

In 2024, Familias: Ahora continued growing, and now comprises over 100 organizations and more than 200,000 people across Latin America. During 2024, they provided grants on innovation and exploration of new narratives related to families and human rights, including mental health, sexual orientation and gender identity, education, child rights, bodily autonomy, and sexual and reproductive rights. A founding organization of Familias: Ahora, CHHR now serves as an advisory member of the board.

## CORE PILLARS OF FAMILIAS: NOW

[familiasahora.org](http://familiasahora.org)



01

**FACILITATING  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
ACADEMIC DIALOGUE**

02

**SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS  
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

03

**ENGAGING IN STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATIONS TO CHANGE  
NARRATIVES**

04

**ADVOCATING FOR NATIONAL,  
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL  
LEVEL POLICY REFORMS**

*In memory of Belén Ríos, the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law has created a full scholarship to support a student in their pursuit of an LL.M. in National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University Law Center.*



## **BELÉN RÍOS SCHOLARSHIP**

In memory of Belén Ríos’ leadership in health and human rights and to honor a legal career dedicated to social justice and civil society, the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law has created a full scholarship to support a student in their pursuit of an LL.M. in National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University Law Center.



## **Daniel Dorado**

### **2024 BELÉN RÍOS SCHOLAR**

Daniel Dorado is the 2024-2025 Belén Ríos Scholar. Originally from Colombia, his interests include the intersection of health, human rights, intellectual property, artificial intelligence, noncommunicable diseases, corporate accountability, and various forms of liability.

He has worked as the director of policy organizing and tobacco campaign at Corporate Accountability, a nongovernmental organization challenging transnational corporations, with the Court of Justice of the Andean Community, the Ecuadorian Constitutional Court, and the Colombian National Superintendence of Health, and as a member of the WHO FCTC expert group.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

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### Health and Human Rights Practicum

With both a seminar and project-based component, the Health and Human Rights Practicum explored the potential of using international and regional human rights frameworks to improve health, well-being, and equity. By covering the fundamentals of the right to health and other related entitlements, the seminar component of the course sought to provide students with the substantive expertise needed for this task. For its project-based component, students were engaged in research projects that responded to current national and global health challenges. For instance, projects addressed the links between human rights and medical confidentiality, end-of-life dignity and care, and the institutionalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities. For their projects, students worked closely with external partners of the Center for Health and Human Rights, including key civil society organizations and public institutions.







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