PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE FOUNDATION OF LAW.
The HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM at the University of Virginia allows students to explore the range of opportunities available in the human rights field, at home and abroad, through hands-on experiences.

The program is the hub for human rights activities at the Law School, and cooperates with student groups, faculty members, the Public Service Center and Career Services, and human rights organizations to coordinate speakers, events, summer and postgraduate employment, and pro bono opportunities.

THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC IS THE CORE OF THE PROGRAM.
The clinic offers students practical experience in human rights advocacy in collaboration with human rights lawyers and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and abroad.

AND PARTNERED WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- U.N. Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women
- Human Rights Watch
- Women’s Justice Initiative Guatemala
- Center for Constitutional Rights New York
- Center for Justice in International Law Washington, D.C.
- Centro Para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos Guatemala
- The Council for Global Equality

ABOVE: HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY PROJECT members — called COWAN FELLOWS — traveled abroad to study the peace process in Zambia during winter break in 2017. Past teams have conducted field missions to Egypt, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Syria and Lebanon, China, India, Uganda, Cambodia, Malawi, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Myanmar and Colombia.
The Law School curriculum has included a number of courses focused on human rights in recent years, including International Human Rights Law, U.S. Refugee and Asylum Law, and LGBTQ Rights. Before and After Obergefell. Other courses touch on human rights topics, such as Racial Justice and the Law, Comparative Constitutional Design and Law of Armed Conflict.

**ALUMNI NETWORKS**

The program maintains a network of recent graduates involved in the human rights law field. Current and recent alumni employers include the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Canadian Centre for International Justice, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Center for National Security Studies, and the U.N. Office of Legal Affairs.

**JOBS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

UVA Law faculty mentor students on fellowship and career opportunities. The faculty, many of whom have worked abroad, also offer a significant networking resource for those interested in human rights work. Students who intend to work in the United States and abroad have access to summer grants of $3,750 (first year) and $6,500 (second year) from the student-run Public Interest Law Association.

**EVENTS:**

Since its inception in 2003, the HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM has brought leading figures in the field to the Law School.

**ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN 2018,** with Alex Joel, chief of the Office of Civil Liberties, Privacy and Transparency at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and Greg Nojeim ’85, senior counsel and director of the Freedom, Security and Technology project at the Center for Democracy and Technology.

**DO NO HARM? THE CHALLENGES AND ETHICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERING,** with Maria Burnett of Human Rights Watch.

**AN INSIDER’S LOOK AT THE PARIS AGREEMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE,** with Susan Biniaz, a lead negotiator for the U.S. Department during the Paris climate talks.

**THE ODDS OF JUSTICE,** with Mary Gray, professor of mathematics and statistics at American University.

**NATIONAL SECURITY LAWYERING: PERSPECTIVES FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT,** with Arnold & Porter Kay Scholer partner Amy Jeffress, former counselor to the U.S. attorney general.

**ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH STORYTELLING,** with best-selling author Corban Addison ’04.