Open Society Justice Initiative Partnership

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It has long been recognized that an essential element in protecting human rights was a widespread knowledge among the population of what their rights are and how they can be defended.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Sixth UN Secretary-General, 1992-1996

Background

The Centre for Law, Governance and Public Policy has created clinical opportunities through a recently launched collaboration with Open Society Justice Initiative, which looks to use law to protect and empower people around the world. As part of this project Bond law students help provide necessary legal and research skills to support ongoing litigation, advocacy and technical assistance, to help build legal capacity for open societies.

Criminal Justice Reform Program (Case Example)

Focus on arrest rights and pre-trial justice in Central Asia. 

Aim: properly safeguard against torture at a local level, within police detention facilities.

Students are encouraged to:

- Take into account the law and practical realities on the ground
- Help develop and implement two specific safeguards in preventing torture:
  1. Ensure every prisoner has their detention quickly registered by an independent officer
  2. That prisoners can have basic access to a doctor to independently examine them in the event of complaint

Student Engagement

Bond law students exercise legal and research skills

- Support ongoing litigation, advocacy and technical assistance
- Input into international litigation and aid dialogue on rights implementation
- Meet deadlines and confront prominent contemporary challenges

Student Development and Outcomes

Clinical, practical, and partnered

Reform driven

Confront Australia's future strategies and regional issues

Practical projects for effective lawyering and human rights advocacy

Classroom experiences counterbalanced with NGO communication

Investigators: Dr Darren O’Donovan (Law), Professor Patrick Keyzer (Law) and the Open Society Justice Initiative, New York.