

PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA

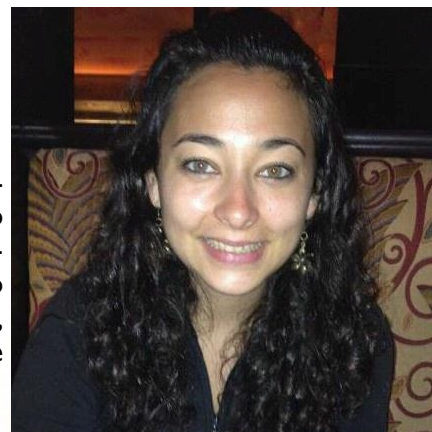
LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT



Social Projects					Legal Team
CeCAM <i>Girls Correctional</i>	Felisa Soaje <i>Girls Home</i>	Paulo Freire Escobar <i>Boys Correctional</i>	Quisquisacate <i>Girls Home</i>	Basta de Trata <i>Human Trafficking & Trade</i>	Legal Clinic
Monitoring Human Rights		Community Advocacy	Educational Activities & Office Research		
Fundación G.A.N.A.S		Blas Pascal neighbourhood	Human Rights Workshop		

Hola!

This is the last newsletter of the year! We are closing the activities and projects for the first year of hard work! We would like to thank everyone who has been part of the Law & Human Rights Office Argentina in 2013 and everyone who made all the progress we have made during the year possible: to the volunteers, our partner organizations and mainly to all the communities, groups of girls and boys, people, to our beneficiaries who trusted us since the beginning and who intelligently helped us build a better world! Gracias!



In this special occasion I would like to share a short part of the video, "RSA Animate - Drive: The surprising truth about what motivates us". I believe it clarifies and identifies why and how the kind of organization we are trying to build, the kind of volunteers we work with, based on their real, honest and transparent interventions on motivation!

At your work, money is a motivator. But in a slightly strange way if you don't pay people enough they won't be motivated. What's curious about, there's another paradox here which is the best use of money as a motivator is to pay people enough to take the issue of money off the table. Pay people enough, so they are not thinking about money and they're thinking about the work. Now once you do that, it turns out there are 3 factors that science shows, that lead to better performance not to mention, personal satisfaction: **autonomy, mastery, and purpose**.

Autonomy is our desire to be self-directed: to direct our own lives. Now in many ways, traditional methods of management run afoul of that. Management is great if you want compliance, but if you want engagement which is what we want in the workforce today as people are doing more complicated, sophisticated things self-direction is better.

Mastery is our desire to get better at things. We like to get better at everything. This is why people play musical instruments on the weekend. You have all these people who're acting in ways that seem irrational economically. They play musical instruments on weekends, why? It's not going get them a mate. It's not going to make them any money. Why are they doing it? Because it's fun. Because you get better at it, and that's satisfying. Wikipedia...What's going on? Why are people doing this? Why are these people, many of whom are technically sophisticated highly skilled people who have jobs, ok? They have jobs! They're working at jobs for pay doing challenging, sophisticated, technological work. And yet, during their limited discretionary time they do equally, if not more, technically sophisticated work not for their employer, but for someone else for free! That's a strange economic behavior. Economists who look into it say "Why are they doing this?" It's overwhelmingly clear: Challenge in mastery along with making a contribution, that's it.

What you see more and more is a rise of what you might call the *purpose motive*. It's that more and more organizations want to have some kind of transcendent purpose partly because it makes coming to work better partly because that's the way to get better talent. And what we're seeing now is, in some ways when the profit motive becomes unmoored from the purpose motive bad things happen. Ethically bad things; like bad products and services, like uninspiring places to work. That is when the profit motive is paramount or when it becomes completely unhitched from the purpose motive people don't do great things. More and more organizations are realizing this and sort of disturbing the categories between what's profit and what's purpose. And I think that actually heralds something interesting. And I think that the companies and organizations that are flourishing whether they're profit, for-profit or somewhere in-between are animated by this purpose. Let me give you a couple of examples. Here's the founder of Skype. He says our goal is to be disruptive but in the cause of making the world a better place - Pretty good purpose. Here's Steve Jobs. "I want to put a ding in the universe." All right? That's the kind of thing that might get you up in the morning, racing to go to work. So I think that we are purpose maximizers, not only profit-maximizers. I think that the science shows that we care about mastery very, very deeply. And the science shows that we want to be self-directed. And I think that the big take-away here is that if we start treating people like people and not assuming that they're simply horses you know, slower,

smaller, better-smelling horses if we get past this kind of ideology of "carrots and sticks" and look at the science I think we can actually build organizations and working lives that make us better off but I also think they have the promise to make our world just a little bit better.

Happy Holidays and see you in 2014!!

Victoria Marton
Law & Human Rights Program Manager

SOCIAL PROJECTS

CECAM

CeCAM, (Centro Correccional para Adolescentes Mujeres) is a correctional facility for young girls aged 14 to 20, who committed or were involved in serious crimes. Usually the institution houses about fifteen girls.

The volunteers were happy to discover that even though the girls at CECAM are not really interested in reading; they are surprisingly fascinated by reading the newspaper! So the volunteers intelligently created this space where every time they go to CECAM they take a newspaper with them and read it with the girls, and comment on the news. This turned out to be a good opportunity to speak about certain topics, especially the ones related to crime and criminal offenses – a topic usually quite difficult to relate with the girls. Great idea volunteers!

In order to help them lead a more healthy life, the volunteers have been thinking about preparing a workshop about the risks of smoking and also about healthy eating. A starting point is the regular participation in the P.E. classes. Every Thursday, the volunteers join them to do different kinds of sports – be that aerobics, gymnastics or volleyball. This is always exhausting, but a lot of fun for everybody! It is a good example for the girls and it helps a lot on building a trust relationship between the girls and the volunteers.

The regular activities were also developed during this month at CECAM, in these activities the volunteers always look for ways to educate and transmit good messages with human rights content to the girls. During this month they include watching the movies “Slumdog Millionaire” and “Million Dollar Baby”.

QUISQUISACATE

Quisquizacate is a residential care facility for girls between 7 and 14 years old. They have been removed from their homes by the order of the courts for different reasons such as abuse, poverty and abandonment. At the age of 14 they are moved to another facility or they may return to their families if the court decides so.

Projects Abroad works at Quisquizacate in order to educate the girls on human rights. Many of the girls have been abandoned or abused by their families, so it is important for the girls to recognise their human rights and also develop the ability to form strong and trusting relationships.

Over the last month, some of the activities included playing charades and Pictionary with the girls. These activities were played using different types of careers and professions. This was a great opportunity for the girls to learn about new jobs, develop life goals and keep them interested in education.

Every week, the girls also attend a breathing class with the Soaje girls. The breathing class teaches the girls different techniques to meditate, relax and focus. These techniques are useful because many of the girls have experienced physical and emotional hardships. These classes are also a great opportunity for the Quisquizacate girls to bond with the Soaje girls.



FELISA SOAJE

Felisa Soaje is a residential care facility for girls aged between 14 and 17. The girls living there have been ordered by the court to reside there as their biological parents have been deemed unfit or incapable of caring for them. The girls are provided with meals and accommodation and attend school 5 days a week. Volunteers meet with the girls on a weekly basis.

November was a month filled with a wide range of activities for the girls at Soaje. Volunteers organized several informational workshops, aiming to educate and empower the girls. The first workshop of the month focused on health. Topics of discussion included the food pyramid, healthy diets, and the importance of exercise, among other things. Another workshop was conducted on human rights. Volunteers created a poster displaying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights translated into Spanish, and read them aloud to the girls. The girls were then asked to list which they thought were the most important rights, and discuss why.

Between educational sessions, volunteers planned some fun activities for the girls. One day, we had an art class during which we used a variety of art supplies to create colorful collages. With the holidays coming up soon, some of the girls used the opportunity to make homemade cards for loved ones. We also generally bring pastries once a week for the girls, and have a nice time chatting about everything from favorite movies to dream vacations. For one volunteer's last day of work here in Argentina, we treated the girls to cake and chocolate, and celebrated her time at Soaje by chatting, taking photos, playing music, and dancing.

This month, the breathing and relaxation course continued for the girls at Soaje and Quisquis, but with one important alteration: it was not mandatory for all the girls, and only those who wanted to participate did. This was a constructive change, and the girls who attended the classes seemed to benefit substantially from them.



PAULO FREIRE ESCOBAR

*Not to be confused with Paulo Freire of Villa Cabrera, this Paulo Freire is an institution whose role is to provide a safe and beneficial environment for youngsters who have had problems with the law. This article was written by **Holl Waugh** from England, who worked with the boys for one month.*

Having spent 4 weeks working with the boys at Freire, I can safely say that they are the most energetic group of boys I have ever met! From the moment I arrived their politeness astounded me; always greeting me with a kiss on the cheek and slowing down their speech whenever the language barrier was an issue.

Each week entailed different activities and despite slow starts to the sessions, the boys were always involved and showing enthusiasm by the end.

The farming project within Projects Abroad is also currently working with the boys at Freire and therefore on two occasions the projects have overlapped. Alongside re-potting plants, we also sewed together two new nets to hang above the garden to protect the plants. Knowing that sewing is probably not an activity in which any teenager wishes to participate, I was very surprised that a few of the boys engaged and had fun with us throughout the session. It was clear that the boys quickly understood the importance of group work and the fact that things get done a lot quicker when people work together - An invaluable lesson to learn by example.

Another activity which took place at Freire was when all of the boys wrote in a thank you card to an organisation which has arranged work experience placements for them. Little prompting was necessary as

the boys quickly began to write how grateful they were for the opportunity they had been given. It was promising to see the enthusiasm of the boys in their written work and creativity in their expression.

The most memorable experience for me was when we all participated in the Marcha de la Gorra (March of the Hat), a protest against the Código de Faltas (the misdemeanour code here in Argentina). The boys are incredibly talented musically and most of them had a drum during the march. With one man who had a whistle, the boys were quick to build a strong rhythm. Everyone involved, including the other volunteers from the Human Rights project, looked to have a good time. There were smiles all around and I felt a great sense of pride to have gotten to know the boys a little over the weeks.

I hope that with the encouragement that the boys always receive from the staff at Freire and the flow of support from the volunteers from Projects Abroad, the boys will strive to live their dreams and keep on the straight and narrow, as they are really great kids who can achieve more than they think.

BASTA DE TRATA

Basta de Trata (BdT) is a Córdoba-based organisation with the aim of informing and raising awareness about the issue of human trafficking in Argentina. They focus not only on raising awareness, but also on breaking taboos, and informing the community. They hold campaigns, workshops, discussion forums and prevention and assistance programs for trafficking victims.

On Sunday, December 1st, we went to a Plaza in the neighborhood of Alta Córdoba to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the existence of the NGO “Basta de Trata” - 1825 days working on prevention, trying to establish a more engaged society and fighting for the freedom, dignity and integrity of everybody; and in order to give closure to this year of work.

Lots of families were strolling around the Plaza with their kids in order to enjoy the sunny afternoon and to participate in the event.

The Projects Abroad Law & Human Rights volunteers started out by helping the staff of BdT fill all the bright yellow colored balloons with helium. Later, they walked around and asked children to write down their wishes for a better world. Some of the answers were for example “no more robbery”, “no more killing”, or also things like “taking better care of the environment”.



After having written down all these dreams, volunteers walked around and handed out pamphlets to the adults, explaining the goals of “Basta de Trata” and the dangers of human trafficking and trade in Argentina.



Half an hour later, everyone gathered around in a circle. Each person was given a balloon with one of the wishes that the children had written down. After reading out loud all the dreams, we let the balloons go all together.

The activity with the balloons drew a lot of attention and everybody wanted to participate – even the adults! Therefore, the whole day was a great success for the organization and helped to raise awareness for the work of the NGO.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

BLAS PASCAL

Blas Pascal is a peripheral community of government and makeshift housing built in 2009. Prior to the existence of the slum, the residents were living in shanties along the river; however in 2003 they successfully petitioned for proper accommodation arrangements. There are approximately 100 families living there. The Law & Human Rights Office has started a community project, with the goals of educating and empowering the neighbours in their goals to help improve their community and improving their quality of life.

In the months of October and November, the community saw escalated crime in the neighborhood, causing concern amongst the neighbors for their safety. At a weekly community meeting in October, one of the topics of discussion was that of the purchase and installation of a community alarm to help advise neighbors of robberies in the neighborhood while at the same time working at preventing crime.

The project of the community alarm was headed by volunteer Vicente Biancardi da Camara (UK). His fluency in Spanish, friendly and easygoing character allowed him to easily communicate with the neighbors about the progress of the plan for the alarm. He, along with other volunteers went door to door explaining the idea of the alarm hoping to get more people on board.



When the idea was initially proposed, community members were not convinced by the idea, finding it to be an expensive investment. However, after more discussions and continued crime, more neighbors became concerned about how to secure their neighborhood. Vicente and the community members studied the maps of the Blas Pascal community to work out the logistics of the area the alarm would cover and how many were needed, depending on the amount of neighbors that wanted the alarm.

Getting the neighbors on board wasn't necessarily an easy task, but by the end of November there were enough neighbors on board to purchase two alarms. Though the volunteers had hoped more neighbors would participate, they are satisfied with this result and are hopeful that perhaps more community members will be interested in purchasing the alarm once they see that their neighbors have it.



The final step in this process is now the installation of the alarms. Rather than to ask the community members to help pay for the costs, the Vicente and the other Human Rights volunteers organized a fundraising activity to collect the money needed to install the alarm. Last week they were busy cooking alfajores in the Projects Abroad office and on Friday December 13th they set out in the community to sell them. Two groups of volunteers canvassed the neighborhood and businesses near the office, while Vicente was thinking creatively, proposed the idea to sell the alfajores in the buses, a high-traffic place where there are always hungry people!

So on Friday Vicente and Annabelle (France) hit the bus stop waiting to get on the bus. The first challenge was to get the bus driver to allow them to get on the

bus and sell the alfajores (you always have to ask permission from the driver). After a few no's, one driver let them on the bus and Vicente gave a short speech to explain to the passengers why they were selling the alfajores. There were many interested passengers and in the first bus they sold about 7 alfajores!

Within about one and a half hours all the alfajores were sold, rising a total of \$800 pesos to cover the cost of the installation of the alarm. Muchas Gracias to all who participated and to Vicente for his excellent work from start to finish in the project of the community alarm in the Blas Pascal community!



LEGAL CLINIC

Every Thursday our Law & Human Rights volunteers hold a free legal clinic in the Blas Pascal neighborhood. The clinic runs for about 2 hours, and members of the community come seeking advice for a variety of issues from domestic violence, visitation rights, advice regarding pensions, and much more. Volunteers listen and take notes on the case, and throughout the week they research the case and prepare a response for the client the following week.

It has been an eventful month in the Legal Clinic. While we're working and researching on an old family case at the office, new cases showed up:

- A client came to the legal clinic with his wife and told us an interesting and complicated case of inheritance. In a nutshell, the mother of 4 children, heiress of her father's goods, died and each of her children obtained a good. There is a problem with the last heir since the good he received is still in the name of his grandfather. We showed them the different options they have to solve this situation: donation, judicial division of property and adverse possession.
- We then helped another woman, letting her know the forms to ask the social security password she needed.
- A client came to us telling us about the trespass committed by two people of her neighbourhood. She told us she and her sister were working when two boys entered in her house, broke the windows of the bathroom, stole some clothes and threatened her cousin who witnessed what had happened not to report them to the police.
- Finally another client who lives in Nuevo Progreso neighbourhood and is retired because of his disease asked us how to get a credit to complete his house. He needs brushes, lime, cement, windows and a door. We told him we would figure out which national or local organizations give micro-credit for construction and we would write a note to the Provincial Ministry of development. At the office we're writing a criminal complaint and we have just finished to draft the application for enforcement and actualization of food shares in another client's case, we'll present to the judicial authority in the first week of December.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

THESIS

The month of December was very important for me and my thesis. I collected and analyzed the results obtained from the survey that I sent to Italy and Europe to test the knowledge about the last Argentine dictatorship.

In addition, with my tutor Victoria, we have focused my thesis specifically on international communication, my career. I concentrated on how the censorship and distortion of communication has dominated the entire period of the last dictatorship and the consequences of censorship during this period and until present day.

This is my last month with Projects Abroad and I do not know if I can finish my thesis here, but my coordinator Victoria will continue to follow me even when I return to Italy.

MARCHA DE LA GORRA



A 'Codigo de Faltas' march was held on the 20th November 2013. This annual march is a protest against the unfairness of the misdemeanours code. The code allows for many people to be subjected to preventative detention or prosecuted without a fair trial.

There were many different groups at the march all representing different political groups, student organisations and interests. The march was a lively but peaceful protest which highlighted how strongly the local community felt against certain aspects of the misdemeanours code. Many of the groups were handing out flyers or booklets containing personal stories about their encounters with the law.

As a Human Rights Organization, Projects Abroad was present at the march!

WORKSHOPS

Terrorism

On Thursday, November 28, human rights volunteers Tamar Honig (United States) and Fiona Ho (Australia) led a workshop on terrorism. They began by exploring the questions of what is and what isn't terrorism, and why a consensus definition of this concept has eluded the international community for so long. As the old adage says, "One person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter." So, we asked the workshop attendees, how do you define a crime that is only a crime when it is against you and not for you?

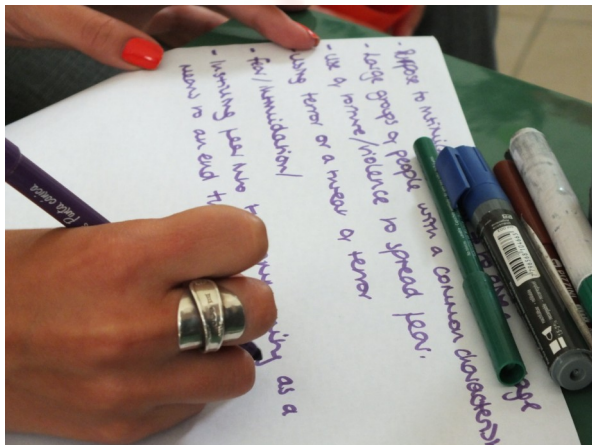
They organized several activities to learn about and investigate questions surrounding the idea of terrorism. First, they split the volunteers into groups and handed each group a stack of slips of paper with different criminal acts on them. They had the volunteers sort the slips of paper into which they thought were terrorist acts covered by international conventions, and which they thought were acts that are not covered and not classified as terrorism according to international conventions. Each group shared their answers, comparing them with the correct answers, and discussed why certain acts are and aren't defined as acts of terrorism.

Next, they led a simulation activity in which the volunteers



divided into two teams: one representing states that have been the target of international terrorism, and the other representing states that are known to have terrorist groups active within their territory. Each team was instructed to discuss and write a general definition of terrorism from the point of view of its assigned country. The volunteers struggled considerably to formulate clear definitions. Their difficulty allowed the workshop leader to demonstrate how and why it has been so challenging for the international community, as well, to perform the same task of defining terrorism.

After sharing the volunteers' definitions, they discussed several draft definitions of terrorism, identifying the problems and loopholes inherent in each definition. Each definition was a modified version of the previous one, but even after amending one issue in a definition, there were still plenty of other pitfalls in each new wording. Pointing out the many loopholes in various definitions of terrorism highlighted the difficulty of settling on one clear, overarching definition.



The workshop concluded by discussing an important recent development that may move the debate over defining terrorism forward. The United Nations Security Council, together with the government of Lebanon, has created the first international court devoted to a terrorist act. This special tribunal has jurisdiction over the 2005 bombing attack that assassinated former prime minister of Lebanon Rafic Hariri, and has provided a definition of terrorism to govern this case. The workshop attendees still found problems with this new proposed definition, leading to more debate and discussion about the nature of terrorism and how it should be defined.