

Human Rights Leadership to Influence Policy - Indonesia

A Capacity Building Program - August 2021-February 2022

Summary Report¹

Organised and Delivered by Diplomacy Training Program (DTP), UNSW Australian Human Rights Institute (AHRI) and UNSW Institute for Global Development (IGD) with Australian Awards in Indonesia



¹ All quotes contained in the report are taken from participant feedback provided over the course of the program

1. Overview

The *'Human Rights Leadership to Influence Policy'* was an online course held with 25 Indonesian human rights defenders and practitioners, 17 women and 8 men. The course participants were selected by the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, through the Australia Awards in Indonesia program. DTP and its partners won a competitive tender to deliver this course, which was originally intended as an intensive residential course in Australia. COVID required the course be delivered online.

The course was delivered across two sessions per week for seven weeks, from Monday, 29 September 2021 to Wednesday, 3 November 2021. This was complimented by an additional 3-day pre-course workshop, a 3-day post-course workshop, and check-ins with participants.

The course sought to build the capacity of human rights leaders and their organisations. It was developed based on the recognition that over time, more effective human rights advocacy can directly shape policy and facilitate coordination to ensure better outcomes for vulnerable communities. It was also based on the recognition that human rights organisations and advocates benefit from strengthening their capacity to work politically and strategically to influence policy-makers and politicians, using policy analysis and communication tools and skills.

The original intent of the course in developing links and sharing experiences between human rights advocates and organisations in Australia and Indonesia was maintained through the design and delivery of the course.

This course included new approaches for DTP of offering advice and support in the development of specific human rights projects (Award Project) as they developed over the period of the course, facilitating mentoring sessions and using an online learning management system (LMS). DTP also successfully applied its participatory teaching methods in this online course.

Over 20 leading human rights experts from Australia, Indonesia and the region led [sessions on the course](#) and acted as mentors. The course was launched with a keynote address from DTP Advisory Council Member, the [Hon Michael Kirby who reflected on a lifetime's engagement with advancing human rights and dignity](#).

This summary report provides information on course objectives, content and outcomes and the work of the participants and draws on participant feedback.

2. Course Objectives

The learning objectives for the course included:

- Develop an understanding of how emerging and contemporary human rights issues are being advanced in Indonesia and Australia, regionally and globally.
- Compare Indonesian and Australian approaches to influencing policies and engaging stakeholders on human rights advocacy, comparing and drawing lessons from human rights activism in Australia.
- Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new connections to facilitate coordination between human rights organisations and activists in Indonesia and Australia.
- Develop strategies and practical approaches to influence policies and liaise with decision-makers.
- Build skills of advocates to be able to influence change, leverage resources, networks and to delegate and develop the capacity of their staff and organisations.

- Develop strategies to support human rights organisations and activists build campaigns and strengthen their digital security.

3. Course Participants – Working For Human Rights

25 participants were selected by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) including staff at National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) working in roles such as Commissioners, Monitors, Investigators, Executive Coordinators, Division Heads and Division Coordinators, Program Managers, Program Officers, Policy Analysts, Team Leaders, Researchers, Public Interest lawyers and advocates, Head of Media and Information, and Academics.

The participants' specific advocacy focus areas were similarly varied. Their foci included: Gender and Gender Identity (its interaction with religion, sexual violence), Children's rights (including sexual exploitation, trafficking, parenting and safeguarding issues), Advocacy for persons with disabilities (within the judicial process, job recruitment, education), Refugee rights and representation, Freedom of Religious Belief, Rights and safety of Environmental Human Rights Defenders, Social exclusion and violence towards the elderly, Indigenous peoples' rights, The autonomy law and rights of Papuan peoples, Digital rights (particularly legislative curtailments to the freedom of expression), Migrant workers, the rights of workers and the Omnibus Bill, and Education and vocational training for juvenile prisoners.

The range of knowledge, experience and issues represented by the participants was a real strength of the course and added to its richness. All of the selected participants were able to participate and contribute.

4. Course Content and Design

The main course was delivered across two x 3 hours sessions per week for seven weeks, from Monday, 29 September 2021 to Wednesday, 3 November 2021. This was complimented by an additional 3-day pre-course workshop, a 3-day post-course workshop, and check-ins with participants.

Course content included using international human rights standards and mechanisms, as well as a focus on specific issues. Readings and resources were provided through an online learning platform – and each session was recorded and available to participants to view again. The facilitation team provided written summaries of the key points and learnings from each session. Time was made for participants to present on their work and projects and to receive feedback on these from mentors and experts. Some side sessions were also organised with specific groups to enable exchange and relationship building with Australian advocates and organisations.

"The most interesting part of this session was the issue of LGBTI rights and the sharing of experiences in Australia by Guest Speakers"

5. Course Highlights

Based on participant feedback, course highlights included:

- **The trainers and presenters.** These included: *Michael Kirby; Rosemary Kayess;*

Andrew Byrnes; Justine Nolan; Chris Sidoti; Vitit Munthabhorn; Marzuki Darusman; Philip Chung, Noam Peleg, Patrick Walsh, Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Daniel Awigra and many other experienced advocates working with Australian NGOs.

- **Effective participant engagement and adult learning strategies:** The involvement of participants as facilitators of sessions, and as presenters as individuals and groups was effective in making the course dynamic and engaging.
- **Commitment of participants and delivery team:** There was a high level of participant attendance in sessions, while meeting the demands of other work. Mentors and guest experts gave generously of their and feedback.
- **Cross learning, linkages, and networking:** Participants were connected with people and organisations that would be useful to their Award Projects and their work more generally. Content shared on the WhatsApp group showed participants were actively sharing resources, information and networking opportunities with each other, suggesting an engaged and valuable peer network had been established.

“Mr. Vitit and Mr. Sidoti enriched my insight into the sexual orientation and gender identity movement. [We] learned from the good practice human rights are for everyone regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

6. Participant Projects and Work

As part of their participation in the program, participants agreed to develop and implement specific “Award” projects that would contribute to their work for human rights. The projects could be developed individually or with others.

Group Projects were:

- Strengthening access to Justice for People with Disability in a Judicial process;
- Child Safeguarding Guidelines for Indonesian Institutions;
- Indigenous People's Access to Justice;
- CEDAW and Sexual Violence in Educational Institutions;
- Development of Advocacy Guidelines for Refugee Communities;
- Human Rights and Peace Building on Freedom of Religion and Belief.

Individual Projects:

- A model for strengthening Policy Advocacy;
- Advocacy for Revocation of Permenkominfo No.5/2020 to protect freedom of expression in Indonesia;
- Preventing and Stopping Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (SLAPP);

- Promotion of Protection of Migrant Workers;
- The rights of Transgender people in Indonesia;
- Human Rights Inquiries – Mapping Past Violations, Finding Justice for Victims/Healing the Past.

“I learnt how human rights activists fight for Indigenous peoples and the right approach to take so that stakeholders can take sides and give rights to Indigenous peoples. This can be used as an example for Indonesia.”

7. Participant Feedback and Reflections

Participant feedback, captured in online chats and in monitoring and evaluation surveys, was very positive. Feedback via the online learning platform rated the 'Overall Experience' (53% @ 4/4 and 44.1% @ 5/5) and the 'Usefulness' (40.1% @ 5/5 and 56.6% @ 4/5) for every session. Comments submitted reflected the participants' appreciation of the guest speakers and the value of what they learnt.

Participants were engaged and supportive of one another. The Award Projects provided a useful practical focus, and DTP's participatory adult education approaches (e.g. co-facilitation, presentations) worked well online. New relationships were clearly formed between the participants, and also between the participants and peers and experts in Australia.

Many participants also expressed the value of particular sessions to their own work:

“This session is interesting because we learn about Indigenous people and their rights that often violated by government, from the experiences of Australia we could learn how to make solutions for the right of Indigenous people.”

“I enjoyed the speaker's session, it helped me gain new perspective on CEDAW.”

“The UN Special Procedures as an HR mechanism opened my understanding of domestic advocacy strategies to explore this mechanism to gain international concern.”

Similarly, participants indicated a greater understanding of the intersection of Human Rights and Business and the relevance of this to their own work:

"As a deaf [person] now I understand the perspective of human right and business that I didn't understand before since that topic isn't familiar for us to discuss and talk about, due to the lack of information access for deaf people. I hope at the next meeting we will discuss and learn more about those topics after that i could disseminate it into deaf [communities] to raise awareness and understand about human rights and business and relate it to a deaf perspective. Also the group discussion is clear and the mentor is really an expert on disability rights, the input from Mr. Lee for our project is really useful and make us develop the project."

"The interesting thing in this session was the issue of Business and Human Rights because there are many cases involving companies in Indonesia that violate human rights."

8. Thanks and Acknowledgements

DTP thanks the program team: Professor Justine Nolan, (Director, AHRI), Kirsten Ridley (IGD), Patrick Earle (DTP), Dr Anna Nettheim (DTP), Clare Sidoti (DTP), Madison Williams (AHRI) and the team at Australian Awards in Indonesia, Tetra Tech and DFAT

DTP would also like to thank the Australian Legal Information Institute, Kaldor Centre on Refugee Law and Policy, Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, Australian Human Rights Commission, Indigenous Law Centre and National Native Title Council for their involvement and support of the program.



Human Rights Leadership to Influence Policy

2021-2022

Week	Dates	Theme	M	Session 1	W	Session 2
Week 1	September 20-23 9.00-12.00 WIB 12-3pm AEST	Official Welcome, Keynote Welcome, Human Rights Laws and Values and Why They Matter	o n d a y	Monday 20 September: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 12-3pm AEST Keynote address by the Hon Michael Kirby Key Human Rights Issues: Building Research Skills, and using AsianLii and the Internet Philip Chung	e d n e s d a y	Wednesday 22 September: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 12-3pm AEST Human Rights Issues in Indonesia, Participant Group Presentations with Guest Speakers providing feedback Intro to Strategic Approaches to Influencing Change Chris Sidoti , Patrick Walsh, Lucy Geddes
Week 2	September 27-29 9.00- 12.00 WIB 12-3pm AEST	Introduction to Human Rights & Frameworks		Monday 27 September: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 12-3pm AEST Intro to Human Rights Definitions & Frameworks – Theory Implementation of Human Rights (challenges and case studies) Professor Justine Nolan and Ben Lee		Wednesday 29 September: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 12-3pm AEST Human Rights Issues in Australia: Professor Justine Nolan In Focus: Refugee Rights in Australia - Graham Thom The Role of the Australian Human Rights Commission - Natasha de Silva
Week 3	October 4-6, 2021 9.00-12.00 WIB 1-4pm AEDT	Key Human Rights Issues & Advocacy in Australia: LGBTI / Indigenous Peoples' Rights		Monday 4 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Check in, Aust Award Project Development of links and relationships, participant presentations & mentoring Patrick Earle, Nicholas Stewart		Wednesday 6 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Indigenous Peoples' Rights – Uluru Statement from the Heart and Constitutional Recognition Dani Larkin, Teina Te Hemara Award Project Report Back
Week 4	October 11-13, 9.00-12.00 WIB 1-4pm AEDT	Key Human Rights Issues: Business and Human Rights		Monday 11 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Overview of some key business and human rights (BHR) issues Internationally and case studies Professor Justine Nolan Award Project Check In		Wednesday 13 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Influencing Business on Human Rights – Strategies for Engagement and Accountability, Panel Discussion Professor Justine Nolan, Guest Speakers: Ponchoy Labog, Andy Symington, Heather Moore
Week 5	October 18-20, 9.00 – 12.00 WIB 1-4pm AEDT	International Human Rights Standards Gender and Intersectionality and Advocacy in Australia		Monday 18 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Child Rights Guest Speaker/s: Dr Noam Peleg, UNSW Law and Justice Participant Group Presentation on Child Rights and Safeguarding Project in Indonesia		Thursday 21 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Gender and Women's Rights - Using CEDAW and different strategies on violence against women and discrimination Guest Speaker/s: Andrew Byrnes Award Project Groups on Gender and Sexual Harrassment
Week 6	October 25-27 9.00 – 12.00 WIB 1-4pm AEDT	Disability and Intersectionality – and using Human Rights Standards and Mechanisms		Monday 25 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT The Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disability and Using the Treaty Reporting Process in Advocacy Guest Speakers – Rosemary Kayess and Therese Sands Participant Group Presentation on Disability		Wednesday 27 October: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Building Coalitions to Promote and Protect the Rights of Minorities Guest Speaker/s – Professor Vitit Munthabhorn and Chris Sidoti – The Yogyakarta Principles – What, Why, How and How to Use and Lessons Learned Participants Present on Freedom of Religions and Belief
Week 7	November 1-3 9.00 – 12.00 WIB 1-4pm AEDT	Using UN Special Procedures in Promoting Change		Monday 1 November: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT How can the UN and international standards help build Human Rights, Peace, Justice – especially where there is religious division – Lessons from The UN Fact Finding Mission Myanmar Plus Guest Speaker/s – Marzuki Darusman and Chris Sidoti (Group Presenting on Refugees and Asylum Seekers)		Wednesday 3 November: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Human Rights Quiz Building Collaboration for Human Rights in Indonesia and Australia – Next Steps and Follow-Up Justine Nolan, Patrick Earle Award Project - Lessons Learned and Action Points
Post Course	December 6	Award Projects				Monday 6 December: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Follow up support on development of Award Projects
Post Course	January 19 2022	Award Projects		Tuesday January 19 2022: 9.00-12.00 WIB, 1-4pm AEDT Follow up support on development of Award Projects		