Trafficking in Persons

TPP’s Seventh Annual Symposium on Trafficking in Persons

On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, The Protection Project hosted the Seventh Annual Symposium on “The Procedural and Substantive Elements of Prosecuting Cases of Trafficking in Persons: Comparative Models and International Standards” at The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, in Washington, D.C.

The Symposium was introduced by Dr. Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Aiban, a SAIS graduate and the President of the Human Rights Commission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Law professors, prosecutors, practicing lawyers, legal clinics providing aid to victims, and NGOs representing victims of trafficking participated in the event and presented different aspects of prosecuting trafficking cases.

JHU-Bloomberg Child Sex Trafficking Symposium

On May 1, 2013 The Protection Project took part in the symposium “Meeting the Needs of Child Trafficking Survivors”, which sought to analyze the issue of domestic child sex trafficking from a public health perspective. The event was hosted by The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in partnership with the Advisory Council on Child Trafficking and the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women initiative.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mohamed Y. Mattar, Executive Director of The Protection Project, emphasized the critical nature of the event, stating, “This symposium address[es] the most difficult challenge of our time: how do we protect our children from exploitation and abuse?” Dr. Mattar, as a member of an international working group which featured a number of distinguished scholars, experts, and policymakers, identified some of the best practices, initiatives, and mechanisms in the safeguarding of children from becoming victims of trafficking.
**Legal Reform**

**Harmonization of the Law**

On September 9-10, 2012, TPP held a conference in Beirut, Lebanon titled: “The Harmonization of the Law: the Hague Conference, UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL” in cooperation with Beirut Arab University. Experts from the Middle East and the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) addressed issues such as the place of Islamic law in the legal family, Islamic law as a source of international principles of the law, reservations made by Muslim countries to international conventions, the merging of common law and civil law principles in the areas of contract law, human rights and contract law, and model laws as effective means of harmonization of the law. Following the conference, TPP agreed to continue its cooperation with the three sister organizations and implement a series of specialized training workshops on the harmonization of the law in the countries of the Middle East.

**Freedom of Association and the Establishment and Operations of NGOs**

In December 2012, The Protection Project held two workshops on legislative drafting on “Best Practices and Comparative Standards: Drafting Elements of an Arab Model Law on Freedom of Association and NGO Establishment and Operations.” The first workshop was organized in Amman, Jordan on December 11-12, 2012 in cooperation with Dr. Tariq Hammouri, the Dean of the University of Jordan Faculty of Law. The second workshop was held in Kuwait City, Kuwait in collaboration with Dr. Eisa H. Al-Enezy, Head of the International Law Department, Kuwait University College of Law. Both workshops were attended by law professors, lawyers, and NGO representatives to discuss best practices in international law and national legislation on civil society and to define the elements of a model law on freedom of association and NGO establishment for the Arab world.

**Reforming Legal Education in the Arab World**

Following an agreement signed in Spring 2012 between TPP and the Association of Arab Universities (AArU), on November 18-19, TPP and AArU held a regional conference in Amman, Jordan titled: “Reforming Legal Education in the Arab World”. Deans and law professors from 44 law schools across the Arab world and international experts in law and pedagogy discussed ways to improve the quality of legal education through curriculum reform, incorporation of practical-legal skills courses, long-distance online education, clinical legal programs, fellowships and exchange programs for legal scholars and law students.

**TPP and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child**

On January 28, 2013, The Protection Project and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) presented a Model Law on Child Protection to members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child during its 62nd session in Geneva, Switzerland. The Model Law is based on research of over 400 laws from more than 150 countries and highlights international standards and best practices aimed at the protection of children from neglect, abuse, maltreatment, and exploitation. The Model Law is a result of a joint effort, between The Protection Project and ICMEC, which started in 2009. The drafting process was accompanied by expert group meetings held in Singapore, Egypt, Spain, Costa Rica, Turkey, and the United States.
The Economy in the Islamic and Western Legal Traditions

On February 4-5, 2013, TPP held an international workshop on “Crossroads East and West: Visions of the Economy in the Islamic and Western Legal Traditions” in Turin, Italy at the International University College. Experts from the Middle East, Europe, and the United States discussed the emerging trends and dynamics in the economies, economic relations, and legal interplay between the Islamic and western legal traditions with a focus on a comparative analysis between the two. Divergences and convergences were examined, permitting a better assessment of current developments and of the possible outlines of future legal features of economies and economic relationships in an increasingly multi-polar world. The macro-theme of the event was the economy in its largest sense, with a view to developing legal comparative analyses of economic phenomena rooted in Islamic legal thought, both Sunni and Shi'a, and the relevant perspectives from common and civil law.

Constitutional Reform in the Arab World

On February 7-8, 2013 The Protection Project, in cooperation with the Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development (CCSDD) and the Bologna Center of The Johns Hopkins University SAIS, held an international conference on “Constitutional Transformations in the Arab World Following the Arab Spring: Comparative Models.” The event was held at the Bologna Center (use new name SAIS Europe?) located in Bologna, Italy.

Bringing together scholars from across Europe and the Middle East, the conference provided an opportunity to examine the recently passed constitutional amendments in Morocco and Jordan, as well as to study the provisions of the draft constitution of Tunisia and explore both the historical and social context of the provisions of the 2012 Egyptian Constitution.

Equity in Mixed Jurisdictions

On May 27-28, 2013, TPP held a conference in Catania, Italy, entitled: “Filling the Gaps: The Study of Judicial Creativity and Equity in Mixed Jurisdictions and Beyond,” in cooperation with, in cooperation with Tulane University Law School Eason Weinmann Center for Comparative Law and the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Catania, in Catania, Italy. The conference brought together scholars from a variety of countries, including those combining Islamic law with either common and civil law systems, to discuss the sources, methods and approaches used by judges when they face a lacuna in the law—when they arrive at a case without a legal rule. Questions tackled included the differences in technique between codified systems and uncodified systems of law; hierarchies of sources to be consulted and judicial creativity; drawing upon constitutional provisions to fill gaps in the law, judicial activism, and to what extent this form of judicial activity may be synonymous with the production of seminal and leading cases. Participants included scholars from countries in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Africa.

Corporate Social Responsibility

First Regional Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Middle East

On June 19-20, 2013, The Protection Project held its first regional conference on “Corporate Social Responsibility in the Middle East” in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference facilitated discussion between various stakeholders, and resulted in new initiatives aimed at expanding CSR work in the MENA region including: an agreement among the conference partners to cooperate in the preparation and publication of Bulletin on CSR in the Middle East, the establishment of an Expert Working Group on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with representatives from each MENA country and the launching of a program aimed at drafting a model law on CSR for the MENA Region.

For more information regarding our Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, please visit our website at: http://www.protectionproject.org/areas-of-work/csr/
New Publications


Mohamed Mattar, Transnational Legal Responses to Illegal Trade in Human Beings, 33 SAIS Review of International Affairs, 137 (2013)


Mohamed Mattar, From Villages to Cities: the Geography of Human Trafficking, 39 SAISPHERE (2012-2013)

The Protection Project Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society, Issue 5 (Fall 2012)

All publications can be found on the TPP website at: http://www.protectionproject.org/publications/

Get Involved

The Protection Project offers students, scholars and anyone with a sincere interest in human rights a chance to get involved in our work. In particular, The Protection Project offers the following opportunities: Calls for Papers, Dissertation Program, Internship Programs, The Protection Project Human Rights Conference Prize, Fellowship Program, Applied Research Program, The Protection Project Digital Photography Project, and The Association of Scholars of Trafficking in Persons. For more information regarding these programs, please visit our website at: http://www.protectionproject.org/get-involved/

Clinical Legal Education

Second Middle East Regional Symposium on Clinical Legal Education

On March 16-17, 2013, The Protection Project, in cooperation with Qatar University and the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking (QFCHT), hosted the Second Middle East Regional Symposium on Clinical Legal Education. The Symposium focused on developing clinical programs and expanding access to justice across the Middle East. With partners Dr. Hassan Okour, Dean of the Qatar University College of Law and Ms. Maryam Al Maliki, the General Manager of the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, The Protection Project organized a series of panels, each critically assessing a key area of clinical legal education. The Symposium began by highlighting the foundational elements of successful clinics, with particular emphasis on legal ethics, clinical methodologies, curricula, and emerging models. The participants discussed the work of legal clinics operating in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, and Qatar, including the profile of clients, the nature of assistance, community outreach strategies, and case selection schemes. The Symposium concluded with law clinics sharing best practices and considering initiating other clinical programs, including business clinics, health law clinics, and clinics devoted to issues of Islamic law.

International Human Rights Clinic

In March 2013 eight SAIS students participating in the International Human Rights Clinic, a course taught jointly by SAIS International Law & Organizations Program and The Protection Project, took part in a field study exploring the protection of migrant domestic workers in Kuwait, and the Philippines. Accompanied by TPP, four students spent a week in Kuwait interviewing government officials, NGO representatives, members of international organizations, and embassy staff to investigate the problems of a destination country for domestic workers. The students focused on the legal framework available to protect migrant domestic workers. Another group of three SAIS students accompanied by SAIS International Law Program faculty, visited Manila and conducted interviews with government officials and NGO representatives to analyze the situation in a country of origin of migrant domestic workers, focusing on the efforts to prevent their exploitation. The findings of the field study will be presented and published by The Protection Project in the Fall 2013.

Workshop for Egyptian Legal Clinics

On May 18, 2013, The Protection Project hosted a two day workshop focusing on legal aid for victims of human trafficking in Alexandria, Egypt. The workshop was tailored toward Egyptian legal clinics and featured professors and legal clinic staff from nine faculties of law as they explored legal aid in the Egyptian legal system and in international law. Key issues in combating human trafficking in Egypt were also discussed along with the roles law clinics play in providing legal aid to trafficking victims. Participating legal clinics agreed to engage in a project focusing on combating human trafficking by cooperating with NGOs and conducting further research on child labor, child begging, early marriage, temporary marriages, domestic workers, and Egyptian citizens working abroad in the 2013/2014 Academic Year.

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Ms. Dina Habib, Middle East Specialist at TPP and Ms. Jennifer Litvak, Human Rights Education Specialist at TPP, together with the Fall 2012 International Human Rights Internship Program Research Associates: (from left to right) Ms. Camilla Gandini, Mr. Tom Hall, Ms. Samantha Lane, Ms. Hanna Bourgeois, and Ms. Sarah Solomon