

Project Title: Strategic Dissemination of the Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers

Date: March 2009- July 2009

Location: Nottingham

Unit: Post Conflict and Capacity-Building

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Funder: University of Nottingham Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy Group

Project Summary

The *Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers* were developed in the framework of the *Consolidating the Profession: The Human Rights Field Officer* project led by HRLC between 2004 – 2008. This follow-up project in 2009 was designed to develop readily accessible informative and interpretative tools and ensure their widespread dissemination alongside the Guiding Principles to practitioners, academics and policy-makers. The project was funded through an award of the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy Group of the University of Nottingham.

Objectives

The purpose of the project was to facilitate the impact of the *Guiding Principles* upon the work of Human Rights Field Officers worldwide. It was envisaged that widespread knowledge and understanding of the Guiding Principles would contribute to the development of a human rights fieldwork doctrine, which would guide policy-makers and inform training efforts for Human Rights Field Officers working in conflict and post-conflict environments.

Activities

Research

Completion of annotations and explanatory texts to the Guiding Principles and Statement of Ethical Commitments, with reference to: national and international law and jurisprudence; reports, studies and documents of national/international inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, academic literature and other relevant sources.

Outreach

Targeted distribution of over 600 copies of the Guiding Principles and informational brochure to: Universities and research institutes worldwide, all UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, relevant UN agencies and departments, as well as interlocutors in the British and Irish Government.

Launch Event

As part of the project, the Guiding Principles were presented in New York during a launch event hosted by Ambassador Kavanagh at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the

United Nations. The event was attended by over 50 senior officials of relevant UN departments, agencies (DPKO, DPA, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR, UNHCR etc) and offices of Special Representatives/Advisors, diplomatic missions, New York based international NGOs and research institutes.

The panel presenting the Guiding Principles included Prof. Michael O'Flaherty (Director of the project), Mr. William G. O'Neill (Independent human rights consultant), Dr. George Ulrich (Former EIUC Secretary General), Ms. Jessica Neuwirth (Director of the New York Office of OHCHR).

Outputs

- Printing of 800 copies of the Guiding Principles and an equal number of multi-lingual informational brochures.
- Realisation of a website specifically dedicated to the Guiding Principles (www.hrfoguidingprinciples.org). The website was designed and conceptualised with the user in mind, paying particular attention to user friendliness and light contents so as to be readily accessible also in countries with slow internet connections.

Related Activities

The Guiding Principles will be reproduced and discussed in an upcoming academic volume, edited by Prof. O'Flaherty and Dr. George Ulrich, published by Ashgate: *The Professional Identity of the Human Rights Field Officer* (expected January 2010).