



Human Rights Symposium

APRIL APRIL
18 – 22



[@hrtsymposium](https://www.instagram.com/hrtsymposium)



hrtsymposium.rso.uconn.edu



ABOUT US

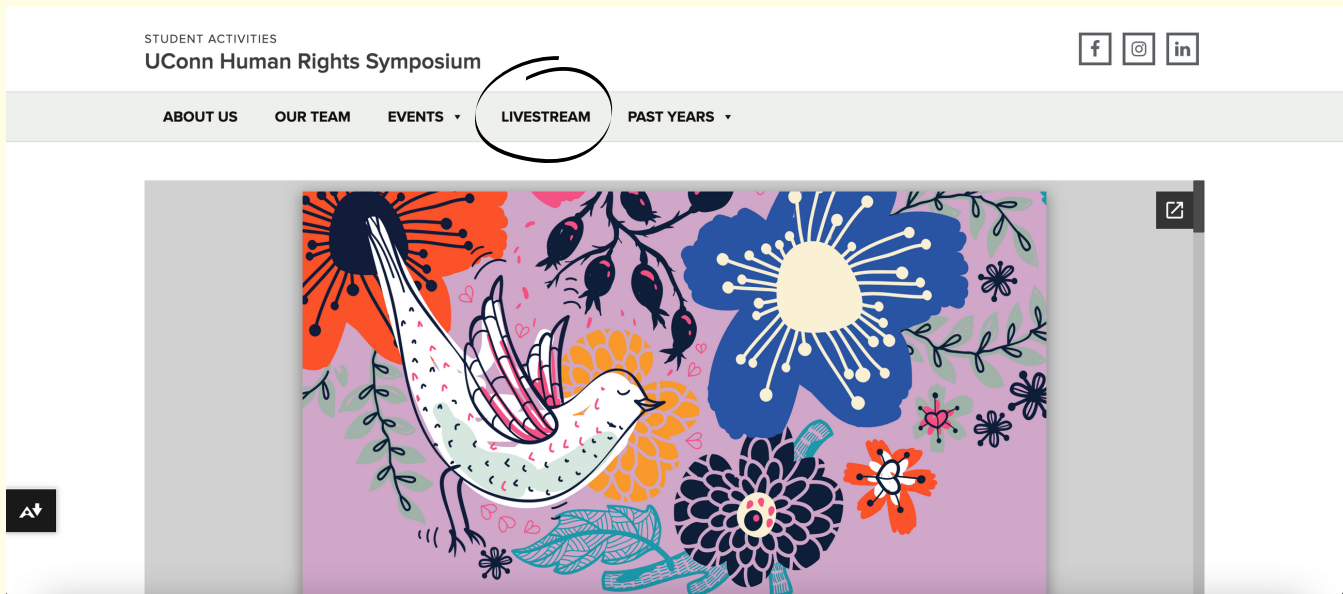
THE SECOND ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM WILL TAKE PLACE FROM MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022 TO FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022. AS WE FACE GLARING INEQUITIES, WE, AS A UCONN COMMUNITY, MUST CHALLENGE OURSELVES TO EXPLORE THE STRUCTURES OF OPPRESSION AROUND US AND THE MECHANISMS TO COMBAT THEM. OVER THESE FIVE DAYS, THE HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM INVITES BOTH THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC TO JOIN US AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S STORRS CAMPUS FOR DIALOGUE, EDUCATION, AND AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE LOCAL TO GLOBAL SPHERE.

THE ORGANIZERS OF THE 2022 HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM ENVISION A UCONN COMMUNITY THAT CENTERS AND CELEBRATES THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOTH THOUGHT AND ACTION, ONE THAT EMBRACES DIFFERENCES. WE HOPE TO IMPART AN EDUCATION THAT MOVES BEYOND JUSTIFICATIONS OF MARGINALIZED EXISTENCE AND ONWARD TOWARD ENCOURAGING ACTIONABLE STEPS FOR CHANGE. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AS WE CONCEIVE OF AND CONSTRUCT A MORE EGALITARIAN FUTURE.



HOW TO ACCESS THE SYMPOSIUM VIRTUALLY

1. Access hrtsymposium.rso.uconn.edu



2. Click on the Livestream tab

If you have any access issues, DM @hrtsymposium on Instagram.





MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022

Opening Remarks

Virtual, 5:45–6:00pm

By Irene Soteriou, Aarushi Nohria, and Neha Sistu.

Keynote: Nontombi Naomi Tutu

Virtual, 6:00–6:30pm

The challenges of growing Black and female in apartheid South Africa have been the foundation of Naomi's life as an activist for human rights. Tutu is the third child Archbishop Desmond and Nomalizo Leah Tutu. Even as she carried her passion for justice into other fields, the call to preach and serve as an ordained clergy-person continued to tug at her, so in her 50's she responded to the call and went to seminary. Her professional experience ranges from being a development consultant in West Africa, to being program coordinator for programs on Race and Gender and Gender-based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. In addition, Rev. Tutu has taught at the University of Hartford, University of Connecticut and Brevard College in North Carolina. She served as Program Coordinator for the historic Race Relations Institute at Fisk University, and was a part of the Institute's delegation to the World Conference Against Racism in Durban.

Town Hall: On Food Insecurity

Virtual, 7:00–8:00pm

Food insecurity affects thousands of students at the University of Connecticut and beyond. The UConn Human Rights Symposium launches on Monday, April 18th with a town hall exploring the work of student activists battling food insecurity across the many UConn campuses. The town hall brings together undergraduate students, graduate students, student activists, student workers, and university administrators to discuss developing initiatives on campus and the future of food insecurity services at the University of Connecticut. Panelists will draw from their experiences to start off the conversation, followed by a lengthy Q&A session. To submit your questions for the panelists, click [here](#).

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022

Afghanistan 8 Months After the US Exodus: Human Rights Challenges and the Refugee Crisis

Virtual, 5:00–6:30pm

Eight months after the Taliban's takeover, Afghanistan is in crisis. Millions of people are at the brink of starvation, rights of women and children are rapidly deteriorating, the health-care system is collapsing, and wages are plummeting. Join Afghani scholar Dr. Wais Wardak and Executive Director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services Chris George for a discussion about the state of Afghanistan's present humanitarian situation and ways in which we as a community can support Afghan refugees in Connecticut. To submit your questions for the event's presenters, click [here](#).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

Cross-Institutional Histories: UConn and the Mansfield Training School

Student Union 312, 3:00–4:00pm

Join the UConn Human Rights Symposium as we delve into the shrouded history of UConn and the Mansfield Training School (formerly The Connecticut School for Imbeciles at Lakeville from 1860–1914 and later The Connecticut Training School for the Feeble-minded at Lakeville from 1915–1917).

Researchers Jessica Gallagher and Brenda Brueggemann will examine how UConn's roots, grounded in eugenic ideology, have long contributed to its ableist attitudes and policies that continue to impact students, staff, and faculty with disabilities. To submit your questions for the event's presenters, click [here](#).

Visibility Through Inclusive History: A Discussion on Ethnic Studies

Student Union, AsACC Main Room on Fourth Floor, 4:30–6:00pm

Join us for a discussion with Dr. Quan Tran and Kate Lee, co-founders of Make Us Visible Connecticut, a group of educators, students, and parents advocating for inclusive history legislation. In June 2021, their work led to the

passage of HB 6619 which will require CT public schools to begin offering a model curriculum inclusive of Asian Pacific American studies in 2023. This question-and-answer based event will explore MUV CT's mission to implement Asian American history courses in public schools, the significance of building a School of Ethnic Studies at UConn, and power dynamics within academia.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

At the Intersection of Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights

SU 321, 5:00–6:00pm

This event will broadly discuss gender and sexuality as they pertain to the protection of human rights for all. With the help of Human Development and Family Studies Professor Dr. Kari Adamsons, we will consider Florida's recent “Don’t Say Gay” bill, the accessibility of transitioning, and more.

'Purple Jellydisc:' Culture and Identity through Ecological Intimacy

Virtual, 6:00–6:30pm

This performance by Digital Media and Design Professor Sue Huang and Jonah King entitled “Purple Jellydisc” will project examines how ecological intimacies give rise to culture and identity. Following this will be a Q&A, during which we will also look at artistic expression as a form of protest and free speech.

Breaking Down the War in Ukraine: Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

McHugh 205, 6:30–8:00pm

Delve into the ongoing developments in Ukraine two months into the current war. We are joined by Dr. Olena Lennon, Adjunct Professor of political science, international affairs, and national security at the University of New Haven, who will help us break down the conflict and the resulting humanitarian crisis. We are also joined by Dr. Lisa Dicker, Clinical Instructor in the Negotiation & Mediation Clinical Program at Harvard Law School, who will help us understand the negotiation process central to future conflict resolution in this crisis. To submit your questions for the event's speakers, click [here](#).

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022

Earth Day Climate Strike

Hartford, CT, 2:00pm

Join Sunrise CT, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and other UConn-based environmental organizations for a climate strike in Hartford, CT. We demand that Governor Lamont direct the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to immediately stop permitting new fossil fuel infrastructure.

You can sign up for student transportation to the capitol [here](#). The buses will leave from the UConn Storrs Campus at 2:00pm on Friday, April 22nd, and arrive in Hartford around 2:40pm that day. Buses will then leave from the capitol and return to UConn at 6:00pm.

Symposium Planning Committee

EXECUTIVE BOARD



IRENE SOTERIOU
DIRECTOR



AARUSHI NOHRIA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



NEHA SISTU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



ERIK CHOI
TREASURER

Symposium Planning Committee



KAREN LAU

PROGRAM MANAGER / SECRETARY



NINA WRIGHT

PROGRAM MANAGER



JAMES SHIANG

MARKETING CHAIR