

AN INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION: LATCRIT NGO

LatCrit NGO

The LatCrit NGO (NGO) project was inaugurated several years ago as part of LatCrit participation in the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR).



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Inaugurated as part of the World Conference Against Racism, the LatCrit NGO seeks to incorporate multidimensional interdisciplinary analyses of identity and subordination into state, regional, and international instruments and organizations, as is warranted by the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights law.

We seek the articulation, codification and implementation of human rights law in egalitarian, historically particular, and culturally sensitive ways.

In July 2006, the UN Economic, Cultural and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted our application for consultative status.

The LatCrit NGO's work will draw from existing scholarship by community members, as well as from new analyses and arguments solicited for particular interventions.

We are currently establishing a process for transforming LatCrit scholarship into UN interventions. If you are interested in recommending topics, texts, or tactics for such interventions, please let us know.

We are also looking for New York City and Geneva area law schools that are willing to assist the LatCrit NGO by creating a Research Fellowship to support a law or graduate student in administrating, developing, and presenting LatCrit's interventions at the UN. For more information on the LatCrit NGO, please contact Tucker Culbertson, tuckerculbertson@yahoo.com or Beth Lyon, lyon@law.villanova.edu.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Present LatCrit NGO projects include:

1. Commenting to the ECOSOC on:

- a. Global migration;
- b. Reparations for European colonialism;
- c. Institutionalizing social, cultural and economic rights;
- d. Antidiscrimination law and policy;
- e. the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- f. the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- g. Counterterrorism;
- h. Toxic munitions and new military technologies;
- i. Universal jurisdiction; and,
- j. Jurisprudential methods and models reflecting the indivisibility and interdependence of human rights law.

Such commentary comes chiefly in two forms:

- a. Brief documents based on existing scholarship that introduce central LatCrit tenets and apply them to narrow

and timely topics of concern to the ECOSOC; and,

- b. Brief documents based on new empirical and theoretical work undertaken specifically for the LatCrit NGO.

2. Facilitating strategic dialogues among, as well as testimony and advocacy by, individuals, communities, and organizations working in geographically diverse areas on related injustices and illegalities of colonialist, imperialist, racist, nationalist, and other regimes, involving:

- a. Areas occupied, leased, or otherwise used by military institutions and industries;
- b. Migrant farm work;
- c. Toxic munitions;
- d. War crimes;
- e. Movements, parties, and governments surveilled, suppressed, or destabilized by U.S. aid, trade, arms, and covert operations.

3. Writing as friends of the court in national, regional, and international legal proceedings involving any of the foregoing topics of concern;

4. Delivering demands for justice and calls for help to the international community regarding ongoing illegal and unjust acts by U.S. governments and corporations – including especially those occurring within the U.S.’ territories – involving:

- a. Election fraud and voter disenfranchisement;
- b. Police brutality;
- c. Racial and national profiling;
- d. Detention, transport, and disappearance in military, intelligence, and immigration systems;
- e. Mass incarceration;
- f. Border policing;
- g. Surveillance of dissent; and,
- h. Arms production.

5. Establishing the LatCrit NGO Fellowship

We seek to establish an ongoing relationship with New York City and Geneva law schools in order to establish a LatCrit NGO Research Fellowship. The Fellow would work in conjunction with the NGO project coordinators to manage calendars, compile and abridge scholarship, solicit contributions, produce events, and stage interventions at the UN. The Fellow would be responsible for organizing and distributing materials submitted by LatCrit, and would also make presentations at the UN and otherwise represent LatCrit therein.

The Fellow position might ultimately grow into a full-time year-long fellowship, for which additional resources and administrative structures of course would be required. A year-long fellowship would allow the Fellow also to contribute substantially to the sponsoring law school by presenting the LatCrit NGO’s work, organizing talks, and involving students in our engagements with the UN.

For now we are seeking to engage relevant deans in conversation regarding financial and technical support for a very much part-time fellowship, requiring approximately 10 hours per week, likely at the level of research assistance, with access to office space and administrative technologies.