PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE FOUNDATION OF LAW. The HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM at the University of Virginia allows students to explore the range of opportunities available in the human rights field, at home and abroad, through hands-on experiences.

The program is the hub for human rights activities at the Law School, and cooperates with student groups, faculty members, the Public Service Center and Career Services, and human rights organizations to coordinate speakers, events, summer and postgraduate employment, and pro bono opportunities.

THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC IS THE CORE OF THE PROGRAM. The clinic offers students practical experience in human rights advocacy in collaboration with human rights lawyers and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and abroad.

CLINIC STUDENTS HAVE WORKED ON PROJECTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- National security in the war on terror
- Freedom of information and expression
- Gender-based violence, women's and LGBTI rights
- Rights of indigenous people
- Legal literacy and empowerment
- Right to education
- Right to an effective remedy
- Rights respecting legislative reform
- Right to life and prohibition against torture
- Human rights in the Middle East
- International criminal justice and universal jurisdiction
- Corporate liability for human rights violations
- Land law and housing rights
- Transitional justice/
- Responsibility to protect and to fulfill human rights
- Rights related to health and medical treatment
- Rights of refugees

WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- U.N. SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
- WOMEN’S JUSTICE INITIATIVE GUATEMALA
- CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS NEW YORK
- CENTER FOR JUSTICE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW WASHINGTON, D.C.
- CENTRO PARA LA ACCION LEGAL EN DERECHOS HUMANOS GUATEMALA
- THE COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL EQUALITY
COURSES AND SEMINARS
The Law School curriculum has included a number of courses focused on human rights in recent years, including International Human Rights Law, Current Issues in Human Rights, Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Islam, and Human Rights, Public International Law and the Scholarly Process. Other courses touch on human rights topics, including Gender Justice and State Responsibility, Movement Lawyering for Global Justice, International Civil Litigation and Comparative Constitutional Design.

JOBS AND FELLOWSHIPS
UVA Law faculty mentor students on fellowship and career opportunities. The faculty, many of whom have worked abroad, also offer a significant networking resource for those interested in human rights work. Students who intend to work in the United States and abroad have access to summer grants of $3,750 (first year) and $6,500 (second year) from the student-run Public Interest Law Association.

ALUMNI NETWORKS
The program maintains a network of recent graduates involved in the human rights law field. Current and recent alumni employers include the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Canadian Centre for International Justice, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Center for National Security Studies, law firm Burke O’Neil, EarthRights International, Freedom House, the Council for Global Equality, the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, the Harvard Law School Human Rights Clinic, Section 27, the U.S. Senate Judiciary and Armed Services committees, and the U.N. Office of Legal Affairs.

EVENTS
Since its inception in 2003, the Human Rights Program has brought leading figures in the field to the Law School.

- USING COURTS TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA, with Professor Daniel Abebe, University of Chicago Law School
- LAW AND WAR: AN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW WORKSHOP, co-sponsored with the American Red Cross and open to law students nationwide
- ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH STORYTELLING, with best-selling author Corban Addison ‘04
- CAN THERE BE A GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS COURT?, with Professor David S. Law, Washington University in St. Louis
- RECOGNIZING THE RIGHTS OF LGBT COMMUNITIES THROUGH U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY, with Mark Bromley ‘95, council chair for the Council for Global Equality
- TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN SIERRA LEONE, with Chris Mahony of the Centre for International Law Research
- THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: BATTLEFIELD TARGETING, sponsored by the J.B. Moore Society of International Law

In recently co-authored research, PROFESSION MILA VERSTEEG found that, though torture prohibitions have increasingly made their way into the constitutions of nations, the prohibitions often go unheeded, failing to reduce torture in statistically significant and meaningful ways.