



# The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

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## Statistics

As of May 29, **103 of our clients have been granted asylum or another form of protection.**

We have conducted **378** evaluations for **323** clients from **63** countries.

## Upcoming Events

### WCCHR Meet & Greet

Thursday, August 31,  
7-8:30PM  
Lasdon Terrace

### Fall Asylum Evaluation Training

Saturday, September 16,  
9AM-3:30PM  
Weill Auditorium

## Welcome Back! An Exciting Year Ahead for the WCCHR

Welcome back — we at the WCCHR hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer! Members of our Executive and Student Boards have been hard at work over the summer preparing for a great year, and we can't wait to hit the ground running.

We are excited to welcome Weill Cornell Medicine's Class of 2021 to campus with our annual Meet & Greet on August 31. This event allows first-year students to learn more about the WCCHR and to speak with upperclassmen who have been involved with the organization.

We are also looking forward to our Fall Asylum Evaluation Training on September 16. This training is open to medical, PA, and social work students as well as to physicians, psychologists, PAs, NPs, and LCSWs who are interested in providing forensic evaluations to asylum seekers. As always, both Weill Cornell affiliates and individuals from other institutions are welcome to attend.

We look forward to working with you this year! Please feel to contact us at any point; we can be reached at [wcchr@med.cornell.edu](mailto:wcchr@med.cornell.edu).

Join us for the...

Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights  
Fall Asylum Evaluation Training

September 16th, 2017  
9:00AM-3:30PM



Weill Cornell Medical College  
1300 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065

Registration is now open at:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/mzIBmCofvo9Xt0Uo1>

[www.WCCHR.com](http://www.WCCHR.com)  Weill Cornell Medicine

## Article Featured in *Dermatology World*

We are excited to share that an article penned by Khatiya Celidze, one of the WCCHR's Student Evaluators and Senior Student Advisers, was recently featured in the American Academy of Dermatology's publication *Dermatology World*. The piece describes her experiences evaluating a client and discusses the ways dermatologists can leverage their expertise to evaluate survivors of torture. We are delighted to see asylum work bringing together medical practitioners across a wide spectrum of specialties, and we are excited to work with these experts in the future.

Congratulations on this publication Khatiya! Khatiya's full article can be found on the WCCHR's Facebook page or on Dermatology World's website.

## In the News

### Avoiding the Trap of Immigration Porn

—Héctor Tobar, *NYTimes*, August 7, 2017

This article is an important reminder for us all to not let our passion for justice supersede our recognition that immigrants and asylum seekers are so much more than their geographic journeys.

*"My objection is not to the coverage of deportations and the drama of desert border crossings. Parents are separated from their children, people are tortured by smugglers, and many die. We cannot, should not, look away."*

*But the humiliated and hunted people you see in the coverage of the deported are not the whole person. Tenacity and stubbornness are the defining qualities of undocumented America. This is precisely what is absent in the media's depiction of the more than 11 million people who live there."*

**Link to article:** [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/07/opinion/immigration-porn-photography-deportation.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/07/opinion/immigration-porn-photography-deportation.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=0)

## Director of Clinical Operations Participates in 2017 Left Forum

Tasher Losenegger, our Director of Clinical Operations, represented the WCCHR on a panel at the 2017 Left Forum. The panel focused on the immigration detention system and included members from NYC Health and Hospitals, Montefiore Medical Center Residency Program in Social Medicine, and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. The panelists and audience members discussed issues facing the immigration detention system and ways to advocate for the rights of detainees on a personal, legal, medical, and policy level.



Photo credit: Todd Heisler, *The New York Times*

## Spotlight on...

### Kevin Ackerman, M2

**Kevin Ackerman** is an MD candidate at Weill Cornell Medicine. He graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) with a degree in biomedical engineering and with minors in chemistry, music, and biochemistry. He conducted tissue-engineering research at WPI, taught tennis to children on the autism spectrum to help them develop physical and social skills, and developed a passion for teaching through academic tutoring. Kevin is honored to have the opportunity to assist in the clinical operations of the Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights, and he will begin his term as the WCCHR's next Director of Clinical Operations in 2018.



### Dr. Liz Westhead, PsyD.

As a graduate of Rutgers University Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, a program founded to serve diverse and underserved communities, **Dr. Liz Westhead** has served in hospital, clinical, and school settings, often working with children with specific developmental needs and their families. She has extensive experience in conducting psychological evaluations and interviews for individuals of all ages. Her background involves an emphasis on using assessments for the purposes of obtaining services and for the enhanced effectiveness of therapy. She comes from a large, multi-generational family that has provided many role models of creative and generous volunteer work. Liz has enjoyed many collaborative team roles as a psychologist. Her previous volunteer work includes working with the Net Result and Clean Ocean Action.

