



**GLOBAL
POLICY
ACADEMY**

CEU SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC
POLICY

Robert L. Bernstein
Institute for
Human Rights
at NYU School of Law



**OPEN SOCIETY
JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

NAMATI
INNOVATIONS IN LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

Legal Empowerment Leadership Course



4–8 December 2017 | Budapest, Hungary

Background



A 2016 COURSE PARTICIPANT:

“The course has broadened my knowledge to understand the law, how to use it, and how to shape it. Eventually, this course helped to develop my skills and capacity to do the advocacy in my country for ensuring the rights of poor and disadvantaged groups.”

Around the world, more than four billion people are living outside the protection of the law. They are unfairly driven from their land, denied essential services, excluded from society, and intimidated by violence.

Legal empowerment is about turning that tide. It’s about enabling people to understand, use, and shape the law. From at least the 1950s, when community paralegals in South Africa began helping people to navigate and resist apartheid, legal empowerment has grown into a global movement. Today, grassroots legal advocates in the Philippines are helping farmers to take part in nationwide agrarian reforms. In Argentina, shantytown residents are pursuing legal remedies to bring clean water and other essential services to their communities.

World leaders increasingly agree that access to justice and legal empowerment are crucial to ensuring equitable and inclusive development, a sentiment that led to the integration of justice in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Every year the legal empowerment field becomes more robust, with greater evidence of what works. At this particular moment in history, with the rise of authoritarianism and income inequality, there is an urgent need to strengthen and expand legal empowerment programs.

The Legal Empowerment Leadership Course in Budapest is a unique opportunity to take stock of our collective knowledge and build upon it. Its aim is to cultivate a global cadre of leaders who are committed to legal empowerment, and who share a common understanding of the field, including history, methodology, and evidence. A faculty of respected practitioners and academics will lead course participants in an in-depth exploration of key themes, including the history of the global movement for legal empowerment, the intersection of legal empowerment and community organizing, and the role of grassroots legal advocates in realizing systemic change or ensuring effective service delivery. The participatory course design will also emphasize peer-to-peer learning through small group work.

This year’s course, the third annual, has a theme of “Law and Organizing.” The course is a collaboration between the CEU’s School of Public Policy (SPP), the Open Society Justice Initiative, Namati, and the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights at New York University School of Law.

Participants



A 2016 COURSE PARTICIPANT:

“The presentation methodology, workshop organization, diversity of people, and content of the presentations related a lot to my work. I believe I will improve and make LE more effective and bring results.”

The course is intended for people whose work and interests are directly related to legal empowerment.

This includes:

- exceptional paralegals and leaders of civil society organizations who are running, or wish to run, legal empowerment programs;
- parliamentary leaders and government officials (ministries of justice or development, centralized planning units, NHRIs) with the power to support or regulate legal empowerment efforts;
- development agency representatives working on legal empowerment at an international or country level;
- academics and researchers interested in working with legal empowerment programs.



Course structure



A 2016 COURSE PARTICIPANT:

“The plethora of information coming in from different experts in the fields makes you look differently at the world. So much to learn from other experiences. Going to take back new methods to incorporate into our programming.”

The theme for the 2017 course will be “Law and Organizing.” Participants identify a concrete challenge or growth opportunity or research question before the course, and then develop an action plan during the course with the help of co-participants and faculty. The course will be organized as follows:

1. PREPARATORY WORK

Participants will review selected readings in advance of the course. They will also prepare and submit one of the following:

- a) a problem statement, describing a challenge area or inquiry facing them in their work, or
- b) a proposal for research or action that they wish to workshop throughout the course.

2. IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION

The course will require in-person attendance at Central European University over five days, from 4 to 8 December 2017.

3. PARTICIPATORY CURRICULUM

Each day will include three types of sessions: case studies, cross-cutting sessions, and small working group discussions.

► Case studies

The course will feature a comparative exploration of common themes across three case studies, in addition to the overall course theme of law and organizing. Themes include legal empowerment methods; training, support, and supervision of frontline staff; learning and evaluation; financial sustainability; gender; and pathways to scale. Case study topics include:

- **Ensuring effective delivery of essential services.** How a women-led movement of grassroots advocates, lawyers, and activists is enhancing accountability and advancing the rights of health, food, and housing to marginalized communities in India.



- **Institutionalization of paralegal services.** This session focuses on how the paralegal profession can be recognized, institutionalized, and publicly financed by governments through a case study from South Africa.
- **The paralegal movement in the Philippines.** How the movement of community-based paralegals have adapted and innovated over the decades, to bring about large-scale change in the Philippines.

► Cross-cutting sessions

Cross-cutting sessions will address special challenges faced by the movement for legal empowerment.

- **Session I: Introduction to legal empowerment – history, concepts, quandaries.** This introductory session will explore what we mean by legal empowerment. It will address basic concepts, history, and philosophy. The session will offer a vocabulary and a set of questions that we will return to throughout the course.



- **Session II: The intersection of law and organizing.** This session will explore how legal empowerment groups have combined strategic litigation and legal services with community organizing.
- **Session III: Learning from program data.** This session will look into monitoring and evaluation techniques and innovative ways of applying evaluation data to improve programming and research efforts.
- **Session IV: Translating grassroots experience into systemic change and back again.** This session will investigate the use of grassroots experience from legal empowerment work towards advocacy and long term systemic change.

► Small working group discussions

Each afternoon, participants will come together in small groups to apply the day's lessons to their individual challenge or research question. Experts and instructors will be available during this time for consultation and support in developing their action plan.



4. POST-COURSE

After the course, each participant will either submit their final reflections on their problem statement, or a revised version of their research proposal. In either case, candidates should detail a course of action for acting on, or exploring further, what has been learned over the last few days. All participants will also become members of the Global Legal Empowerment Network in advance of the course and we will remain in contact through our online community discussion forum. There, you can pose questions and seek to support others with their action plans so our cohort of learners stay engaged in the future.

A 2016 COURSE PARTICIPANT:

“Even though I have been a member of the network for a little while, I had never been fully aware of the potential for networking and cross-sharing. Seeing other members and listening to their stories I see the potential for the network to constantly enhance my work.”



Course information



A 2016 COURSE PARTICIPANT:

"The course has been rewarding. It has added value to my knowledge and skills. It has in fact enhanced my level of confidence."

ARRIVAL AND DINNER RECEPTION: **Monday, 4 December 2017**

The course will be held at the **School of Public Policy**, on the campus of the **Central European University** in Budapest, Hungary.

The full cost of participation in the course is **EUR 2,000.– (incl. VAT)**. This does not include travel and accommodation (lunch and coffee breaks during the course will be provided).

A limited number of scholarships covering travel, accommodation and the full cost of tuition will be available on a competitive basis. Note that scholarships will not be available for applicants from donor institutions.

Interested individuals should complete the application form at <https://spp.ceu.edu/legalempowerment2017> by **28 August 2017**.

There, you will be asked to submit

- a short problem statement, describing a challenge area or inquiry facing you in your work, or
- a short proposal for research or action that you wish to workshop throughout the course; and
- your CV.

The course will finish on **8 December** (late afternoon).



A 2016 COURSE PARTICIPANT:

“Before participating at this course, I had fragmented pieces of knowledge related to legal empowerment. But today, I feel like this knowledge filled all the gaps of the puzzle and I understand much better how I should work from this day on. Being able to learn from my colleagues from different countries, to talk with them about their challenges and opportunities made me feel more empowered.”

COURSE DIRECTOR



Vivek MARU

Vivek founded Namati in 2011 to grow the movement for legal empowerment around the world. Namati and its partners have built cadres of community legal workers – sometimes known as “barefoot lawyers” – in ten countries. The advocates have worked with over 65,000 people to protect community lands, enforce environmental law, and secure basic rights to healthcare and citizenship. Namati convenes the Global Legal Empowerment Network, more than 1,000 groups from 150 countries who are learning from one another and collaborating on common challenges. This community successfully advocated for the inclusion of access to justice in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

From 2003 to 2007, Vivek co-founded and co-directed the Sierra Leonean organization Timap for Justice, which has been recognized by the International Crisis Group, Transparency International, and President Jimmy Carter as a pioneering model for delivering justice services in the context of a weak state and a plural legal system. From 2008 to 2011, he served as senior counsel in the Justice Reform Group of the World Bank. His work focused on rule of law reform and governance, primarily in West Africa and South Asia. In 1997–1998 he lived in a hut of dung and sticks in a village in Kutch, his native place, working on watershed management and girls’ education with two grassroots development organizations – Sahjeevan and Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghathan. Vivek graduated from Harvard College, magna cum laude, and Yale Law School. He writes regularly in academic journals and in the press. He also directs the Legal Empowerment Leadership Course at Central European University and New York University School of Law.

Vivek serves on the board of trustees of the global advocacy organization Avaaz, the international advisory council of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, the advisory board of the evaluation firm ID Insight, and the boards of the Constitutional Accountability Center and the International Senior Lawyers Project. He was an affiliate expert with the UN Commission on Legal Empowerment and is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Vivek received the Pioneer Award from the North American South Asian Bar Association in 2008. He was named an Ashoka Fellow in 2014 and a “legal rebel” by the American Bar Association in 2015. He, Namati, and the Global Legal Empowerment Network received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship in 2016. In 2017, the Schwab Foundation named Vivek and Sonkita Conteh, director of Namati–Sierra Leone, two of its Social Entrepreneurs of the Year. Vivek studies capoeira angola with Dale Marcelin at Universal Capoeira Angola Center.

FACULTY



Sukti DHITAL

Sukti Dhital is the Deputy Director of the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights at New York University School of Law and a human rights lawyer with extensive international law experience in the fields of economic and social rights. Previously, Sukti was the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Nazdeek, an award-winning legal empowerment organization committed to bringing access to justice closer to marginalized communities in India. Prior to Nazdeek, she was the Director of the Reproductive Rights Unit at

the Human Rights Law Network, India where she assisted in securing landmark social and economic rights judgments including *Laxmi Mandal v. Deen Dayal Harinagar Hospital & ORS*, W.P.(C) 8853/2008, the first decision by a national court to recognize maternal mortality as a human rights violation. Sukti has also worked at the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project and the firm of Bingham McCutchen LLP.



Marlon J. MANUEL

Marlon J. Manuel is the National Coordinator of the Alternative Law Groups (ALG), a coalition of more than 20 Philippine NGOs that adhere to the principles and values of alternative or social development-oriented law practice. These organizations have distinct programs for legal assistance that is primarily concerned with the pursuit of public interest, respect for human rights, and promotion of social justice. From 1996, he has gained two decades of experience in social justice and human rights lawyering.

He has combined his involvement in strategic litigation on human rights and public interest issues with his education activities. He has deep involvement in justice and human rights education, not only as a law school professor, but also, and more extensively, as a grassroots community educator, continuously practicing and advocating the principles of education for people empowerment as he work with farmers, workers, and other vulnerable groups. He is also actively involved in policy reform work on social justice and human rights legislation, and in justice system reform work on improving access to justice by the poor.



Zaza NAMORADZE

As the director of the Open Society Justice Initiative's Budapest office, Zaza oversees activities on legal aid and defendants' rights and legal empowerment and capacity. He previously served as staff attorney and, later, deputy director of the Open Society Institute's Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, where he designed and oversaw projects in constitutional and judicial reforms and student law clinics and human rights litigation capacity building in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Zaza has

worked for the Center for the Study of Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia, and was a member of the State Constitutional Commission of Georgia. He graduated from the Law Faculty of Tbilisi State University, studied in the Comparative Constitutionalism Program of the Central European University, and earned an LLM from the University of Chicago Law School.



Margaret L. SATTERTHWAITE

Margaret Satterthwaite is a Professor of Clinical Law, Faculty Director of the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights, and Co-Chair of the Center for Human Rights and the Global Justice at New York University School of Law. Her research interests include economic and social rights, human rights and counterterrorism, methodological innovation in human rights, and vicarious trauma among human rights workers. Before joining the academy, she worked for a number of human rights organizations, including Amnesty

International, Human Rights First, and the Commission Nationale de Verité et de Justice in Haiti. As Director of the Global Justice Clinic, she partners with grassroots organizations and movements to prevent, challenge, and redress rights violations in situations of global inequality. Margaret has worked as a consultant to numerous UN agencies and special rapporteurs and has served on the boards of several human rights organizations.



Purvi SHAH

Purvi Shah is the founder of the Movement Law Lab, a strategy, action and innovation hub that brings lawyers together with other change-makers to implement novel, bold solutions for some of America's toughest racial justice problems. A place for strategic collaboration, interventions, disruptions, and experiments, the Movement Law Lab invests in legal innovators who are committed to accelerating justice. Purvi is also a current Open Society

Foundation Equality Fellow. Previously, she co-founded Law4BlackLives, a national network of 3000 lawyers dedicated to supporting the Movement For Black Lives, which was founded in the aftermath of the Ferguson and Baltimore uprisings. Before that, Purvi worked at the Center for Constitutional Rights where she directed the Bertha Justice Institute, the United States' first training institute dedicated to advancing movement lawyering. She has also worked as a litigator and community organizer, and co-founded the Community Justice Project at Florida Legal Services where she litigated for six years on behalf of taxi drivers, tenants, public housing residents, and immigrants. She also was a law professor, serving as the Co-Director of the Community Lawyering Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law. Purvi is a graduate of Northwestern University and the Berkeley School of Law at the University of California.



Yasmin SOOKA

Yasmin Louise Sooka is a leading human rights lawyer and the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa. The Foundation is the country's primary indigenous grant maker, established by President Mandela's government in 1996 and the European Union to fund the human rights sector in South Africa. Yasmin chaired the government's Steering Committee of the National Forum Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances, which is responsible

for developing a National Action Plan to combat racism in the country. A leading international expert in the field of Transitional Justice, Yasmin served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 1996–2001 and chaired the committee responsible for the final report from 2001–03. She was appointed by the United Nations to serve on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Sierra Leone from 2002–04. She is also a member of the Advisory Body on the Review of Resolution 1325. In July 2010, Yasmin was appointed to the three-member Panel of Experts advising the Secretary General on accountability for war crimes committed during the final stages of the war in Sri Lanka. The report was published in May 2011. She is the co-author of *The Unfinished War: Torture and Sexual Violence in Sri Lanka: 2009–2014* with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and the International Truth and Justice Project, Sri Lanka. In March 2014, Yasmin co-authored the African Union's Policy on Transitional Justice. She has been part of many advisory missions on Transitional Justice for the United Nations including Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Nepal, and Uganda. In addition she consults regularly for the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Switzerland, and has participated in several missions including to Burundi, Libya, and Tunisia. Yasmin was appointed as the inaugural CEU-SPP George Soros Visiting Chair for the fall 2015 term.

FROM THE 2016 LEGAL EMPOWERMENT LEADERSHIP COURSE



A 2016 COURSE PARTICIPANT:

"I work in government and this course gives me lots of insights that I will use to develop programs and promote some policies on the implementation of legal aid, paralegalism and legal empowerment."





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