



**ECCHR**

**CLT**

Critical  
Legal  
Training

“The *CLT* at ECCHR was a formative experience in the course of my legal education. In particular, the critical and multi-disciplinary approaches towards the law, which is rarely trained in law school, has greatly enriched my perspective.”

LILIAN SCARLET LÖWENBRÜCK  
LEGAL TRAINEE  
2022

“The ECCHR’s *CLT* has undeniably proven to be a pivotal experience in my legal journey. With its well-structured curriculum and exceptional supervision, my traineeship at the *Business & Human Rights Program* was truly enriching.”

GANGOTRI HAZARIKA NATH  
LEGAL TRAINEE  
2023

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

To ensure the sustainability of ECCHR's endeavors in the struggle for global justice, it is essential that we effectively transmit our political vision and practical legal approaches to our partners of tomorrow. These are the core aims of ECCHR's Critical Legal Training (CLT): to train and cultivate a network for the next generation of progressive human rights lawyers and legal activists, so they may continue to work toward a world free of systemic injustice.

Through its unique critically-oriented internship curriculum and Global Exchange program, the CLT has created an active global network of more than 600 alumni\* from nearly 70 countries.

Since 2012, highly skilled, critical and forward-thinking lawyers and human rights defenders have entered the human rights sector and related fields, where they continue to impact legal and political affairs in various parts of the world. ECCHR's Critical Legal Training fosters and maintains this community of engaged individuals, as they work to realize a shared vision of a more just world—free from torture, exploitation and fortified borders.

“The *CLT* employs a straightforward approach: it encourages participants to continuously question and deeply scrutinize all aspects, including seemingly silent human rights transgressors like corporations and specific supply chains.”

MICHAEL BUTERA  
LEGAL TRAINEE  
2021

## OUR GOALS

- Exchange and pass on extensive knowledge of the theory and practice of human rights strategic litigation and legal interventions to younger generations from across the globe.
- Create a supportive space to discuss critical insights on law, human rights and power, and how they connect to legal practice.
- Widen the network of future colleagues and allies who share our political vision of human rights work.
- Share ECCHR’s networks and collaborative strategies with early-career practitioners through capacity-building and solidarity with our partners.

# THIS IS HOW WE GET THERE

CLT participants focus on these core elements:

Challenging existing power structures through legal interventions.

Innovating transdisciplinary approaches in order to contextualize and eventually tackle complex political and socioeconomic issues that the law alone cannot resolve.

Practicing transnational collaborative lawyering.

Shaping legal discourse towards a progressive and, where necessary, subversive interpretation of the law.

Participants pursue these aims through traineeship placements within the four ECCHR program teams, supplemented with weekly curriculum activities coordinated by the CLT team. These include “Critical Reading Debriefs”, lunch talks with human rights defenders and other experts in the field, trainee presentations, human rights film screenings or skill-training workshops. Altogether, since the start of the CLT, we have hosted more than 500 events and training sessions!

We strive to ensure equal access to our CLT, in order to host a diverse group of participants and enable a greater exchange of perspectives, knowledge and experiences, which is why it is indispensable that we secure scholarships for some of our trainees.

“The *CLT* offered me  
a distinctive chance to  
connect with diverse  
human rights advocates  
from across the globe.

MICHAEL BUTERA  
LEGAL TRAINEE  
2021

# THE ALUMN\* NETWORK

Today, more than 10 years after its founding, ECCHR's Critical Legal Training has fostered the creation of an active and ever-growing community of alumni\* with more than 600 participants from nearly 70 countries.

We host an annual Alumni\* Reunion in Berlin that is regularly attended by 80–100 alumni\* from around the world, in some cases with the support of travel grants.

Through our exclusive online platform ECCHR CONNECT, we continue to nurture and maintain this community that is based on mutual connection, inspiration and support.

We establish and sustain long-lasting ties between ECCHR and former trainees that form the basis for future collaborative work.

## SUMMER SCHOOLS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH UNIVERSITIES

University collaborations provide us with crucial insights, which help us to strengthen and share our work. They offer critical feedback, innovative argumentation and perspectives on emerging issues, as well as an important point of entry for reaching out to students.

We run summer schools in tandem with universities and professors, such as Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and Tilburg University. In addition to collaborating with law clinics across the world, each year we also host postgraduate fellows from various institutions, including the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law.

# THE GLOBAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Thanks to generous support from the Bertha Foundation since 2013, ECCHR has consistently invited colleagues from international partner organizations to come to our Berlin office for 1 to 3 months. These in-person exchanges enable the sharing of skills and experiences and facilitate the development of joint transnational projects. In certain cases, we work in solidarity with human rights defenders that are at risk by giving them the space, respite and networking resources that they need. Global Exchange fellows do not only enrich the CLT—the CLT has truly become an active hub for transnational collaborative lawyering.

## WHAT'S AHEAD?

In the years to come and with the support of a network of funders, we wish to continue the successful operation of the CLT, as well as to secure the program's sustainability, by:

- Offering scholarships to individuals from underprivileged backgrounds to join the CLT or its summer schools to ensure accessibility and diversity.
- Extending our solidarity to human rights defenders, especially those at risk, and providing the means to host them in Berlin as part of our CLT.
- Providing travel grants to alumni\* from all over the world to join our annual Alumni\* Reunion in Berlin.

“This opportunity unveiled the potential of transnational litigation as a catalyst for effective change.”

GANGOTRI HAZARIKA NATH  
LEGAL TRAINEE  
2023

“I feel lucky to be part of a diverse network of dedicated and inspiring lawyers now, and I look forward to all the friendships, creative projects and collaborations that will continue to emerge from it.”

LILIAN SCARLET LÖWENBRÜCK  
LEGAL TRAINEE  
2022

## **CRITICAL LEGAL TRAINING**

We need your support. As a nonprofit organization, ECCHR's work relies exclusively on grants and donations. Your contribution can help shape the future of human rights work.

## **GET MORE INFORMATION**

[ecchr.eu/en/case/critical-legal-training](https://ecchr.eu/en/case/critical-legal-training)

## **GET IN TOUCH**

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## **DONATE**

[ecchr.eu/donate](https://ecchr.eu/donate)

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