



When the most vulnerable populations from around the world seek refuge at our nation's door, we are here to meet them with compassionate care and respect.

Health and Human
Rights Initiative

UCSF

We are on a mission... to help survivors pursue the promise of a better life.

The UCSF Health and Human Rights Initiative and its medical student-facilitated Human Rights Clinic provides “passports to health and safety” through pro-bono forensic medical and psychological evaluations (FMEs) of human rights violations to asylum-seekers in the Bay Area and beyond.

What we do



Education and Training

We are building a pipeline of experts through advanced clinical training of human rights violations locally, nationally, and internationally.



Forensic Medical Evaluations (FMEs)

We provide pro-bono medico-legal affidavits for use in asylum applications of individuals fleeing violence, persecution, or torture.



Research and standardized data

Developing a leading-edge e-survey tool, we can collect data in a consistent and efficient manner that benefits research using a de-identified database with standardized variables.



Advocacy on Policy

Combining data and science with the voices of clinician experts, we can effectively champion for humane immigration policies, and objectively hold accountable human rights abusers, here and abroad.

“

For the first time I have hope.
I was born today.
Something broke inside
my chest, all the pain
and worry broke open.
Now I am content.”

-HHRI Client



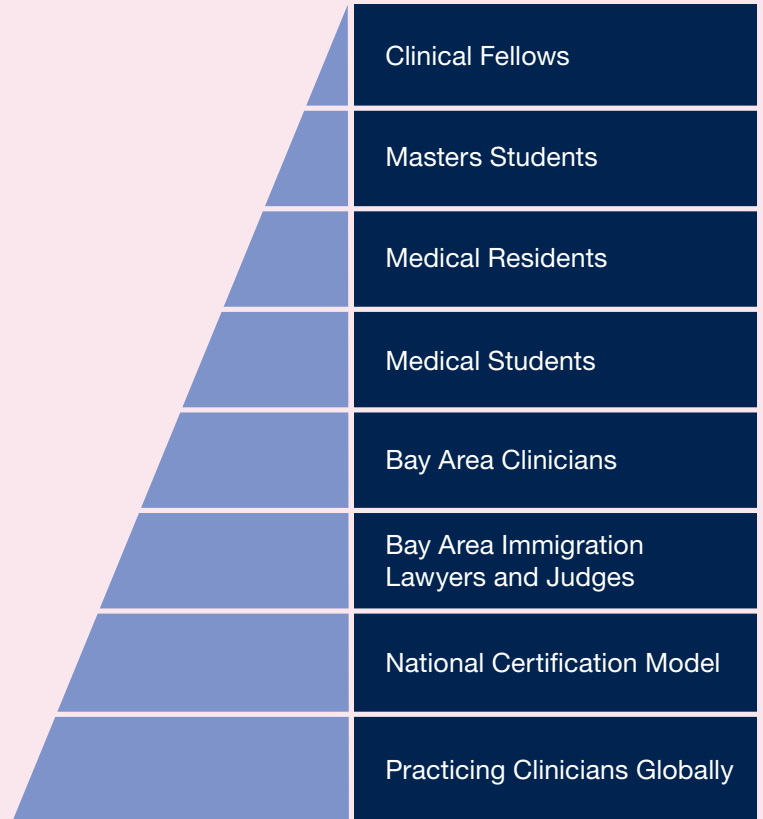
We are driven to... continuously develop experts trained in forensic medical examinations.

HHRI's training model allows us to provide advanced training beyond the Bay Area for clinicians nationally and globally.

The number of asylum-seekers is at an all-time high as a result of regional violence, climate change, food insecurity, the repercussions of COVID, and evolving immigration policies.

Given the current state of the world, the need for FMEs will only intensify over time locally, nationally, and abroad.

In short, the demand for clinicians trained in FMEs outweighs the supply of clinical experts. We can change that through education and training.



National Asylum Grant Rate

15%



National cases, **without a lawyer**

45%



National cases, **with a lawyer**

85%



National cases, with a **lawyer and a forensic medical affidavit**

HHRI Asylum Grant Rate

100%



Asylum seekers at HHRI whose cases have been adjudicated

We are empowering researchers, clinicians, and advocates...with scalable, leading-edge technology that can be used worldwide.

To date, the US records very little data that describes root causes on immigration trends. Why? Rudimentary data is collected on gender and country of origin, and most FMEs have been documented in non-standardized ways.

We are transforming FME data collection with a groundbreaking e-survey tool HHRI developed using the REDCap platform, that:

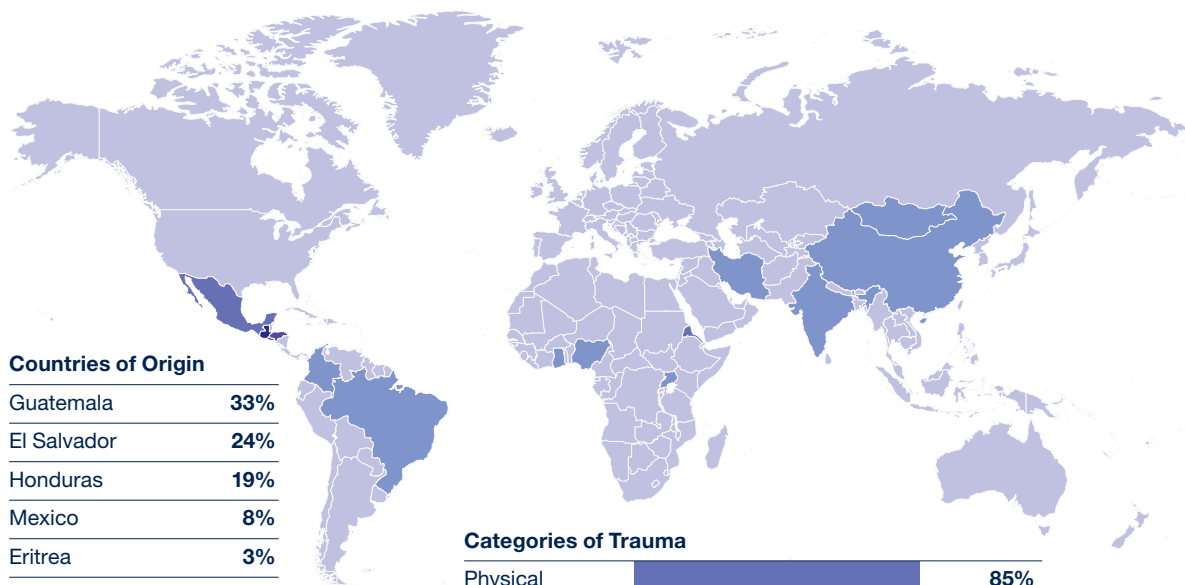
- significantly reduces the time to conduct and document an FME;
- supports a national consensus on required data elements;
- serves as a template for training clinicians;
- uploads to a secure, de-identified database;
- supports creation of medico-legal affidavits accepted by attorneys and immigration courts;
- provides a dashboard for research, advocacy, and policy.

The HHRI tool is revolutionary: It can be used by clinicians serving in conflict areas to document evidence of human rights abuses, anywhere in the world.

The intersection of forensic medical evaluations, technology, and the voices of clinician experts transforms the narrative that can reduce impunity and improve accountability.

HHRI urges a national consensus to capture the data that can change policy and perception of migration as isolated events. Your partnership matters to our collective future.

Client Demographics



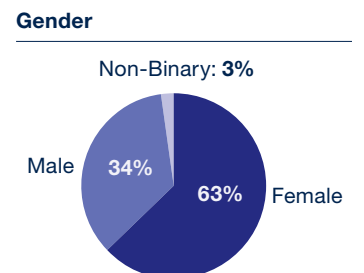
Countries of Origin	
Guatemala	33%
El Salvador	24%
Honduras	19%
Mexico	8%
Eritrea	3%
Other countries*	13%

*Afghanistan, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Iran, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Uganda.

Categories of Trauma	
Physical	85%
Psychological	100%
Sexual	62%

Age	
<18 years	10%
18-29 years	43%
>29 years	47%

Education	
<8th grade	37.5%
8-12th grade	37.5%
>12th grade	13%



We are driven to bring compassionate care and justice to those seeking a safer life.

Our multi-disciplinary team is doing groundbreaking work in bringing hope to asylum seekers, standardizing clinical training in human rights and asylum medicine, and arming researchers and advocates with the tools and evidence they need to create a better, more compassionate world.

Awards and Recognition

The 2022 Vera Haile Justice Immigrant Leadership Award

Presented by the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission

Certificate of Honor

Presented by Mayor London Breed on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco
June 13, 2022

Certificate of Congressional Recognition

Presented by Congresswoman and Speaker Nancy Pelosi on behalf of the United States Congress
June 13, 2022

National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs

HHRI unanimously voted into the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs (NCTTP)
July 2022

Our Team

Coleen Kivlahan, MD, MSPH

Chair
Family and Community Medicine

Raul Gutierrez, MD, MPH

Pediatrics Co-Director
Pediatrics

Suzanne Barakat, MD

Executive Director
Family and Community Medicine

William Martinez, PhD

Pediatric Mental Health Director
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Cristina Biasetto, LCSW

Mental Health Director
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Zarin Noor, MD, MPH

Pediatrics Co-Director
Pediatrics

Triveni DeFries, MD, MPH

Education & Training Director
Internal Medicine

Stephanie Romero, MPA

Program Manager

Ryan Walters

Research Data Analyst



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- **Margaret Mead**
Anthropologist and Activist

The world's most vulnerable people need our help now.

HHRI needs your help to sustain our services and continue to provide training, research, and advocacy.

With your investment, we can create a more just world for those fleeing persecution. We can grow the pipeline of clinicians trained in human rights and asylum medicine on a global scale. We can ensure that human rights trends become instrumental in bringing justice and accountability to individual and governmental perpetrators of abuse.

Support our work.

HHRI aims to become the global hub for training of human rights violations.

Your help will enable migrants and asylum seekers worldwide to get a second chance to live freely, safely, and with dignity.

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“

I am
finally safe.”

-HHRI Client

