



**CLAIHR**

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**Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights  
Juristes canadiens pour les droits internationaux de la personne**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2025**

## About CLAIHR

CLAIHR is a non-governmental organization of lawyers, law students, legal academics, and other jurists, founded in 1992 to promote international human rights from a Canadian perspective through education, research, and advocacy. We are committed to advocating for and defending fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and domestic human rights instruments.

## CLAIHR's Board of Directors

James Yap (President)	Jeremy Greenberg
Florence Au (Treasurer)	Henry Off
Lindsay Bailey	Vibhu Sharma
Andrew Cleland	Andrea Sobko
Isabel Dávila Pereira	Dule Vicovac

## Acknowledgements

CLAIHR thanks counsel [Jeremy Greenberg](#), [Barbara Jackman](#), [Rebecca Jones](#), [Nabila Khan](#), [Mae Nam](#), [Henry Off](#), [Vibhu Sharma](#), [M. Philip Tunley](#), and [James Yap](#).

CLAIHR thanks advocacy partners [Al-Haq](#) and [Amnesty International Canada](#), [Hind Rajab Foundation](#), [International Human Rights Clinic - Boston University School of Law](#), [International Human Rights Clinic - Harvard Law School](#), [International Human Rights Program - University of Toronto Faculty of Law](#), [Just Peace Advocates](#), and [Legal Centre for Palestine](#)

CLAIHR thanks volunteers [Mariam Ali](#), [Trevin David](#), [Cassandra Griffin](#), [Dionne Liu](#), [Sevda Mansour](#), [Sadie Mees](#), [Stavroula Papadopoulou](#), [Sukanya Pillay](#), [Cadence Planthara](#), [Susanna Quail](#), [Karen Segal](#), [Mariam Saleh](#), [Avi Shah](#), [Sabrina Teklab](#), and [Geneviève Zingg](#) for their invaluable contributions this year.

Finally, CLAIHR thanks all our members and donors for their generous support!

## Message from the President

*We knew the story of the international rules-based order was partially false. That the strongest would exempt themselves when convenient. That trade rules were enforced asymmetrically. And that international law applied with varying rigour depending on the identity of the accused or the victim.*

*This fiction was useful, and American hegemony, in particular, helped provide public goods: open sea lanes, a stable financial system, collective security, and support for frameworks for resolving disputes.*

*So, we placed the sign in the window. We participated in the rituals. And largely avoided calling out the gaps between rhetoric and reality. This bargain no longer works.*



So Mark Carney eulogized the American-led hegemony cosplaying as vaguely rules-inspired order that has prevailed for at least the past 30 years, in his January speech in Davos. As Carney noted, in the end the system collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions, with the US' brazen abduction of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro driving the latest nail in the coffin.

Carney himself was concerned primarily with international trade rules, and had topics such as the weaponization of tariffs and the global payments system foremost on his mind. But the observations apply every bit as well to what we have seen happen to the international human rights system.

Of course, none of what the Prime Minister said is anything new. A chorus of voices, including international human rights advocates, has been saying the same things for many years. But Carney's speech was not remarkable for what he said, but for who said it. Coming from one of the US' most historically loyal vassal states - a close partner in G7, NATO, Five Eyes, NORAD, and more - made the denunciation that much more powerful.

As Carney noted elsewhere in his speech, we shouldn't mourn this system. It often entrenched inequities far more effectively than it overcame them. But neither should we celebrate its demise. In the vacuum it leaves, there's as much a risk things will get worse as an opportunity to build something better.

That's why now is a pivotal moment to keep taking action for international justice and human rights. From the sharp spike in support we have received - from messages of support to social media engagement to donations - we see that many Canadians agree. It has been truly heartening that there are so many people of conscience in our community who are ready to take a stand for

global justice and human rights. At the same time, human rights violations occur because they serve the interests of powerful people. As is always the consequence of effective human rights work, the surrogates of these powerful interests have [stepped up their campaigns of intimidation and harassment](#) against us, to try and deter us from our work exposing them.

This is no surprise, of course - it rings true globally that strong advocacy for human rights and social justice is an effective way to make dangerous enemies. Canada, though perhaps comparatively freer, is no exception to this rule. This is why we are grateful for your continued support at a time when CLAIHR's work is more critically important than ever. Buoyed by this support, we remain undeterred in our mission to promote international human rights and global justice in Canada and beyond. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together over the next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Yap', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Yap  
President

# Committee Reports

## Advocacy Committee

Chair: Vibhu Sharma

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Advancing international human rights law through strategic litigation and policy reform is one of CLAIHR's highest priorities as an organization. CLAIHR's Advocacy Committee coordinates our legal and policy advocacy projects. This work includes making intervener submissions in court cases, issuing public statements, and filing submissions with government agencies conducting policy consultations.

### Submissions to governmental and international agencies

#### RCMP/CBSA communication concerning suspected war criminals on Canadian territory

In December 2025, CLAIHR, together with the Hind Rajab Foundation and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, filed a communication to the RCMP and the Department of Justice detailing the involvement of two former Israeli officials in war crimes and crimes against humanity during the 2008-2009 Gaza War. The communication requested the RCMP to investigate and arrest former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and former Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni, who were visiting Canada to speak at an event in Toronto at the time that the communication was sent.

In January 2026, CLAIHR filed another complaint to the CBSA about former IDF combat soldier turned social media propagandist Guy Hochman's planned appearance in Toronto, along with the Hind Rajab Foundation (HRF) and Legal Centre for Palestine (LCP).

Hochman - whose "comedy" act incites violence and atrocities against Palestinians, including by promoting and participating in actions to block humanitarian aid to Gaza - was detained and interrogated for 6 hours at Toronto's Pearson airport before he was ultimately allowed to enter and do his performance.

Later, however, he reported to the Jerusalem Post that he had been effectively barred from future entry into Canada, saying "I got a letter from Canada that my visa is over and revoked."

### Advocacy in court

**Canada's accountability of arms sale to Israel: *Farah et al. v the Attorney General of Canada***

Counsel: Barbara Jackman, M. Philip Tunley, and James Yap

CLAIHR is currently involved, as a party, in judicial review proceedings before the Federal Court in *Farah et al. v the Attorney General of Canada* (T-473-24). This matter concerns alleged violations of the Canadian *Charter*, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law in relation to the approval of the transfer of military items for use by Israel in its ongoing war in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

**Charter Challenge of Spending Limits on Political Advertising by Third Parties: *Attorney General of Ontario v. Working Families Coalition (Canada) Inc., et al.***

Counsel: Mae Nam, Rebecca Jones, Nabila Khan, and Vibhu Sharma

CLAIHR intervened to argue that the egalitarian model, accepted as a central pillar for well-functioning electoral systems in international law, should inform the Court's interpretation of whether amendments to the *Election Finances Act* violate section 3 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in imposing spending limits and other administrative reporting requirements on political advertising by third parties.

**Canadian complicity in torture abroad: *Abdelrazik v. Canada et al***

Counsel: Vibhu Sharma and Henry Off

CLAIHR intervened to address two issues: what may constitute extraterritorial "complicity" in international law by His Majesty the King where a Canadian citizen alleges they have been subjected to torture, mistreatment, unlawful or arbitrary detention by a foreign state; and how, in light of the evidence, international law as it relates to "complicity" might inform the Court's interpretation of sections 7 and 12 of the *Charter*.

**Transnational liability of Canadian mining companies: *Matiko John et al v. Barrick Gold Corporation***

Counsel: Jeremy Greenberg and Nabila Khan

Late in the year, CLAIHR sought leave to intervene in the Ontario Court of Appeal matter of *Matiko John et al*, involving substantial allegations of human rights abuses - including extrajudicial killings - at a mining operation owned by Toronto-based Barrick Gold. This, preliminary, stage of the case involved a reconsideration of Barrick's motion to dismiss on the basis of "jurisdiction" and "*forum non conveniens*".

## **The Human Right to Climate Change Mitigation: *Mathur v. Ontario***

Counsel: Vibhu Sharma

CLAIHR was granted leave to intervene at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice where the proceeding was remitted back from the Ontario Court of Appeal (where CLAIHR had also intervened) to determine appropriate remedy and whether the GHG reduction target and plan are *Charter* compliant. CLAIHR submitted the following: First, as repeatedly confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada, international law (including international environmental law) should inform the interpretation of the content of *Charter* rights – including s. 7, principles of fundamental justice and GHG target setting. Second, in assessing whether a s. 7 deprivation from setting an inadequate GHG reduction target is so grossly disproportionate as to violate the principles of fundamental justice, the court must consider the impacts of that deprivation youth and future generations rights, consistent with the international law principle of intergenerational equity. This hearing has been adjourned *sine die* due to recent legislative developments and next steps at the Ontario Court of Appeal are being reviewed.

### **Education Committee**

**Chair: Isabel Dávila Pereira**

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CLAIHR's Education Committee is responsible for organizing and promoting educational events and discussions, as well as building CLAIHR's relationships with stakeholders to advance public education on international human rights.

### **Building Student Relationships**

In 2023, CLAIHR's Education Committee identified a lack of established relationships with student chapters due to the variability in recruitment and stability of such chapters, as well as a break in communication and collaboration with student chapters as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2024, the Education Committee worked to address these gaps by ensuring and developing an established relationship with Osgoode Hall Law School's CLAIHR chapter, including engaging with the student chapter to plan educational programming. The Committee also entered into discussions with law school-attached programs to re-establish CLAIHR's programs in law schools,

### **Osgoode Hall Law School CLAIHR Chapter events**

In November 2025, the Osgoode Hall Law School CLAIHR Chapter successfully hosted a panel on Canada's sanctions regime. The event, titled "SEMA, Magnitsky, and Canada's Role in the

Global Sanctions Regime," brought together speakers including Chrystia Freeland (Canada Special Envoy for Ukraine), Fen Osler Hampson (President of the World Refugee and Migration Council and Chancellor's Professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs), Jeff Stoub (Director of Public Affairs at the World Refugee & Migration Council), Michael Cholod (Executive Director of the Peace Coalition), and Kimberly Lenz (Program and Policy Officer at the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights).

### **Re-establishment of PBSC Osgoode Partnership**

CLAIHR successfully re-established its former partnership with PBSC Osgoode for the development of student blog posts on issues of importance under CLAIHR's mandate. This program replicates a former program between CLAIHR and Osgoode Hall Law School's PBSC Chapter, through which students were able to publish supervised and edited pieces on budding issues of international human rights law in CLAIHR's blog. This collaboration enables law students to gain practical experience in legal writing and analysis on international human rights topics while contributing to public education through CLAIHR's platform.

### **Website Redesign**

The Education Committee sought to determine pathways to enhance its presence in public education and conversations on international human rights law in Canada. In order to ensure CLAIHR serves as a primary platform for public education on international human rights law, the Education Committee identified an opportunity to revamp CLAIHR's website. The revamping is meant to take place throughout 2026 and will be a comprehensive redesign of the organization's digital presence. This initiative aims to modernize the website's architecture and user experience to better serve CLAIHR's diverse audience. The redesign will improve navigation and accessibility to CLAIHR's extensive resources, including blog posts, intervener factums and international and domestic policy submissions.

# Financial Statements

## Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights

### Unaudited Balance Sheet

(as of March 31 2025, in Canadian Dollars)

Assets	March 31 2025	March 31 2024	March 31 2023
Cash	11,813	5,720	3,849
Holdbacks Recoverable			
Other Receivables	269		
Prepaid amounts			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>12,082</b>	<b>5,720</b>	<b>3,849</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	0	0	0
Unearned Revenue			
GST Recoverable			
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>12,082</b>	<b>6,720</b>	<b>3,849</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Retained Earnings</b>	<b>12,082</b>	<b>6,720</b>	<b>3,849</b>

## Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights

### Unaudited Income Statement

(for period ended March 31, 2025)

Revenue	March 31 2025	March 31 2024	March 31 2023
Membership donations	1,225	3,525	850
Other donations	6,452	900	963
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>4,426</b>	<b>1,813</b>
Gross Fundraising		-	-
Less: Expenses			
<b>Net Fundraising Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Interest Income			
General Income			
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>4,426</b>	<b>1,813</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Insurance	1,248	1,248	1,410
Email/Web	-	1,184	586
General Expenses	12	12	12
Transaction Fees	55	109	42
Promotion Expenses			
Bank Fees			
Postage			
Program Expenses	-	-	-
Consulting			
Telephone			
Audit and Accounting			
Printing			
Unclassified			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>2,554</b>	<b>2,060</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>6,362</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>(247)</b>