

**AAA Committee for Human Rights (CfHR)
Five-year Report of Activities
Prepared by Robert Albro, CfHR Co-Chair**

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I. Charge of the AAA Committee for Human Rights:

Established in 1995, the AAA's permanent Committee for Human Rights (CfHR) is composed of 10 members, 8 of which are elected by the AAA membership and serve three-year terms, with 2 ex-officio members (AAA President and President-elect). The CfHR also benefits from the regular support of an assigned liaison to the AAA. This report briefly describes actions and activities of the CfHR during the period between 2001 and 2005.

The Committee's internal mission is to stimulate informed involvement in human rights among professional anthropologists through publications, panels, and other outreach. The Committee's external mission is to gather information on selected, anthropologically relevant, cases of human rights abuse and to propose appropriate related action. CfHR efforts to achieve these objectives take place at the annual meetings of the CfHR, at the annual conference of the AAA, and throughout the year, through the work of specific task groups formed by CfHR members, and through case-specific requests for urgent action advanced to the committee for consideration.

At its April 1, 2000 meeting the CfHR further developed its initial mission statement, noting that it is the mission of the CfHR to promote and to protect human rights through efforts that:

1. expand the definition of human rights within an anthropological perspective;
2. work internally with the membership of the AAA, to educate anthropologists, and to mobilize their support for human rights;
3. work externally with foreign colleagues, the people and groups with whom anthropologists work, and other human rights organizations to develop an anthropological perspective on human rights and to consult with them on human rights violations and the appropriate actions to be taken;
4. influence and educate the media, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, and decision makers in the private sector;
5. encourage research on all aspects of human rights from conceptual to applied.

II. Committee Role and Responsibilities in Implementing the Mission of the AAA:

The CfHR is directly concerned with the promotion of the AAA's mission and goals. Over the course of CfHR's lifespan as a committee, it has contributed to the ongoing professionalization of anthropology as an increasingly recognized participant in human rights problem-solving. CfHR has been successful in bringing together anthropologists in more systematic ways around human rights concerns, in disseminating anthropological knowledge both within and beyond the profession in the service of solving human rights problems, and in representation of an anthropological approach to human rights, both within the discipline and with professional colleagues, activists, and claimants beyond the discipline.

As the discipline's primary professional organization concerned with human rights, CfHR regularly advances anthropology in multiple ways, including:

1. programmatic efforts to establish a specifically anthropological approach regarding human rights concerns, most evident in the work of topically-focused task groups;
2. outreach efforts dedicated to developing constructive enduring relationships beyond the discipline with the members and institutions of the human rights community;
3. through helping to establish AAA policy and positions as well as by providing official representation on the part of the AAA in human rights forums;
4. a sustained concern with making anthropology's signature ethnographic methods and research results available to human rights practice, advocacy, and policy making through a variety of actions;

6. and by promoting and disseminating a concern for human rights problems within the discipline of anthropology by means of the regular coordination of forums at professional disciplinary meetings that engage human rights questions.

The CfHR operating guidelines are available on their website and periodically reprinted in the *Anthropology News*. These guidelines include procedures for submitting human rights cases to the CfHR, and operating procedures for responding to membership issues and complaints.

III. Place of the Committee in the AAA Long-Range Plan:

As one of the AAA's sixteen standing committees, CfHR is particularly important in the association's ongoing effort to "develop the values associated with the acquisition of anthropological knowledge." This goal has been formalized with adoption by the AAA membership of the "Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights" (DAHR) in 1999. CfHR's work in the human rights context is aligned with the AAA's stated "ethical commitment to the equal opportunity of all cultures." Committee members are concerned with how best to bring to bear "anthropology's cumulative knowledge of human cultures" (Preamble, DAHR) to work on human rights problems, including collective rights, the rights of individuals, and including cultural, social, economic, as well as environmental rights, among others. CfHR priorities and activities are developed from a recognition of the discipline's basic concern with "the bases and the forms of human diversity and unity," in response to cases where "human differences" have been made the basis for the denial of human rights (see body of DAHR).

CfHR's work includes important efforts of "research, publication, and dissemination" of anthropological knowledge as applied to human rights problems. Members of the CfHR, individually and as CfHR representatives, regularly publish on wide-ranging topics that bring together the concerns of anthropology and human rights, in the form of single authored books, edited volumes, special issues of peer-reviewed journals, as well as other venues. With the close collaboration of managing editor Stacy Lathrop, CfHR maintains a significant profile in the *Anthropology News* through columns that continue to explore the role and responsibilities of anthropology in human rights. For a representative sample of a yearlong "In Focus" series on "Anthropology and Human Rights" see the May 2006 issue of AN. CfHR also organizes and sponsors panels and roundtables as part of its participation in the annual meeting of the association.

But in the work of CfHR, research and dissemination are connected in other and more specific ways as well, where the need to "make such research available" (Long-Range Plan, Objective XII) is connected to the specific objectives of human rights advocacy, connecting the discipline to extra-disciplinary collaborations and outreach. The CfHR has an established track record issuing urgent actions, written reports, and letters in response to potential human rights violations that are relevant to the discipline's own commitment to protect diversity (<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/cfhr/Documents.html>). It has also been an important actor and instrument in the AAA's own efforts to "clarify our values"

(see Long-Range Plan), particularly when confronting ethical challenges to and within the profession itself. The important work of the “El Dorado Task Force” (established in February 2001 with the final report submitted in May of 2002) is one such example of CfHR’s valuable role in the work of the association. Given the lead role CfHR takes assisting the association in publicizing human rights concerns within and beyond the discipline, the committee serves as an important source of dissemination of information and communication, as well as informal networking and interaction, for non-anthropological colleagues and a wider public.

IV. Committee Responsibilities and Assigned Tasks:

Since its inception as a formal committee of the AAA, CfHR has worked to develop its capacities in a number of directions, in ways designed to meet both internal and external dimensions of its mission. This has involved undertaking a series of activities which are designed at once to sharpen the focus of the committee’s work, to maximize use of the resources available to the committee, and to improve the work the committee continues to pursue on behalf of the AAA, the AAA membership, and anthropology’s broader work engaging with human rights questions and the human rights community. Responsibilities of the CfHR have been discussed in detail above (see discussions for sections I and II). In this section, particular attention will be given to activities undertaken with the expressed purpose of improving upon or contributing to the institutional life of the committee, with the goal of better organizing CfHR’s ongoing work. Innovations over the previous five years have built directly upon the proactive foundational organizational work of CfHR members over the first five years of the committee’s life (1995-2000), as recorded in the committee’s first five-year report prepared by Barbara Rose Johnston and available on the CfHR website (see: <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/cfhr/ar95-00.htm>). The work of committee members over the next five years has been devoted to consolidating and to routinizing the committee’s work in order to insure its productive role within the work of the association for the foreseeable future.

What follows are the descriptions of major “internal activities” that amount to important contributions to the improvement the institutional life of the committee over the previous five years:

1. Initially established in April 2000, the CfHR list serve provides the membership with news and updates on CfHR activities as well as posting on cases of human rights abuse, calls for action on various cases, and conference plans. The list is self-moderated; members join the list by sending the message SUBSCRIBE to humanrights-request@lists.aaanet.org.
2. The CfHR website has been continuously developed, with significant changes and improvements adopted in 2001 and again in 2005:

- a. In 2001 CfHR approved changes to its webpage, which most significantly included the creation of “information updates” that provide news, analysis, and related information on cases in which CfHR is involved.
 - b. A major 2005 accomplishment was the redesign of the CfHR webpage, a process primarily carried out by David Valentine and with the assistance of AAA Information Systems Director, Samuel Himes, reconceptualizing the site with the goals of better organization, retrievability of information, and so that it conforms to that of other section web pages. It is now much easier to navigate and to facilitate direct access to CfHR materials. See: <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/cfhr/index.htm>.
3. The Human Rights Fellow Program: In 2002 the Committee for Human Rights initiated a Fellows Program in the Anthropology of Human Rights. Positions carry no stipends but provide recipients with strong experience in human rights work, possibilities for publication, as well as the opportunity to work closely with the Committee, government agencies, and human rights-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In the first year of its implementation the Committee named and defined two positions. The first, the Committee Liaison Fellow, was responsible for establishing and maintaining links between the CfHR and other entities in the human rights community. The second position, known as the CfHR Research Fellow, entailed researching, documenting, and writing a human rights report on a matter of concern to both the Committee and the recipient (for more details consult Appendix A). As of the present moment CfHR has hosted a total of eight fellows, including current fellow, Paula Goldman. Since the inception of the fellows program, and in conversation with fellows themselves, the program has undergone a process of reevaluation regarding how best to integrate fellows’ contributions into the ongoing work of the committee. As of 2005, this has meant a movement away from maintaining two distinct kinds of fellows, a focus on the promotion of a clearer “fit” of fellows’ interests and expertise with the specific work of the committee at any given time, and better guidance, coordination and oversight of fellows’ work, with the assistance of AAA’s liaison to the committee.
4. Under the coordination of Sam Martinez, in 2002 CfHR undertook a new web-based outreach initiative: the provision of model syllabi and topical bibliographic references, designed to provide pedagogical tools for the teaching of courses in the anthropology of human rights. These materials have been supplied by AAA members, internally distributed through the committee, edited, dated, and posted. Currently boasting 26 original syllabi created by CfHR members and colleagues, and 16 bibliographic compilations dedicated to key topics in the anthropology of human rights, these resources are available for download on the CfHR website at: <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/cfhr/newresource.htm#2>.
5. At the November 2003 annual meeting CfHR formally approved the formation of a new Human Rights Advisory Council, with a solely consultative purpose, which is comprised of former CfHR members and additional experts. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide continuity over time and reduce a loss of expertise

- and investment, as the constituency of the committee changes. The Council's role will remain flexible and supportive, but without a determinative role in directing the committee to initiate actions or in setting priorities for future CfHR work. The most recent meeting of the Advisory Council took place at the annual meeting of the association in 2005.
6. The CfHR Analytic History Project: As the tenth anniversary of CfHR came to pass, in 2004 systematic attention was given to improving the transmission of knowledge between past and present members of the committee, including an commitment to collect and to catalogue existing CfHR documents, and to gather a record of the committee's members' experiences. Three major initiatives were undertaken to this end in 2004. The first of these was the Analytic History Project, undertaken by former CfHR Thomas Greaves, which solicited recollections and advice of individuals who had served on the committee and its predecessor, the Commission for Human Rights. Greaves prepared and distributed a Topics List, including questions about committee aims, achievements, constraints, as well as future opportunities. Respondent's commentary was assembled into a 107-page draft report, submitted to CfHR, in turn, distilled into a 29-page final report with the title *The Committee for Human Rights: A Retrospective Analysis* (June, 2005), authored by Thomas Greaves and Brian D. Conboy. This report will be made available as part of CfHR's online "archive" of documents that compose the institutional memory of the committee's ongoing work.
 7. The CfHR Document Inventory: With funding from the University of Connecticut Human Rights Institute, and with the assistance of Human Rights Fellow Maria Weir, outgoing CfHR chair, Sam Martinez, compiled a preliminary inventory of extant CfHR records in 2004. Though the final, annotated, list of CfHR papers held at the AAA's headquarters is approximately 95 pages long, it was found that the CfHR holdings at AAA and the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) are at best incomplete and so no optimally useful either for the work of the committee or for future students of anthropology and human rights, and need to be supplemented by records held individually by former chairs (a process the committee began to address with the reformulation of its website in 2005).
 8. The Organic Work of the Committee: In 2005 members of the committee began to readdress roles and responsibilities of work on the committee, recognizing the need to assign specific task responsibilities beyond those of Chair, and in addition to the topically focused work of the committee Task Groups. To this end, it was agreed to designate the position of "First Responder" as a full-time role assigned a committee member, with the purpose of providing support for the Chair, who in the past has assumed primary responsibility for responding to the large volume of unsolicited requests for action – a task now given to the First Responder. As with the First Responder, it was also agreed that a committee member be assigned the task of full-time "Communications Coordinator," who assumes responsibility for the management of the CfHR website, web reports, electronic bulletins, the AN columns, and similar forms of outreach. With these needs addressed, the Chair is

in a stronger position to more pro-actively pursue and coordinate CfHR's primary agendas, as defined by the committee itself. With assistance from past chairs then outgoing chair Laura Graham authored a "guideline" for chair's duties in 2005, which will provide useful continuity from one chair to the next.

Over the previous five years CfHR has sought a variety of ways to increase institutional effectiveness, a process illustrated by the variety of initiatives and innovations introduced into the organic life of the committee. The work of the committee as a whole, however, is significantly driven by the work of its particular Task Groups (formerly Task Forces). It is at the level of the smaller task groups that much of the actual work of the committee is accomplished. Over the past five years, the committee has formed a total of thirteen Task Groups, with each composed of several active committee members, often with additional participation from emeriti and/or other anthropological or non-anthropological experts, in response to the needs of the Task Group. Each Task Group has a trajectory of its own, in turn coordinated with the work of the committee as a whole. Life cycles of Task Groups depend on the participation of their members, on the culmination of a main project, but can also continue beyond their founding members, as need be and as deemed appropriate. Task Groups are typically expected to produce a final report of the group's work, which is typically defined by a particular human rights topic, problem, or crisis. Task Groups have thus evolved into an important, permanent, institutional face of CfHR, as the prime movers in organizing many of CfHR's accomplishments, through AAA panels, reports submitted to the association, and the development of characteristically anthropological approaches to diverse human rights problems, among other activities. For a list of CfHR Task Groups to date see Appendix B. For the accomplishments of specific Task Groups please consult the CfHR year-end reports for the years 2001-2005.

V. Committee Accomplishments:

The work of the committee addresses several internal and external mandates. Its many accomplishments reflect these multiple commitments, and so have taken a wide variety of written and non-written forms, including specific actions in response to particular human rights problems, more comprehensive reports to the association and for the public on one or another ongoing human rights situation, as well as a series of roundtables, workshops, and panels, as part of CfHR's participation in the AAA's annual meeting. For the present report, these accomplishments have been divided up into a variety of human rights-type actions on the part of the committee (including the written work of various Task Groups), which is summarized in this section, and "service to the association," to be summarized in the subsequent section, and which highlight CfHR's efforts at the association's annual meeting. CfHR actions include at least 23 substantive reports, briefings, and updates of important past committee initiatives, and at least 16 letters written to direct attention to human rights violations (see <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/cfhr/Documents.html>). What follows is a representative list of specific human rights actions and Task Group outcomes for the years 2001-2005:

Revision of the AAA's Resolution on the Middle East in 2001

Resolution to endorse the principles of the Earth Charter in 2001

Recommendation to the AAA Executive Board for U. N. consultative status in 2001

Statement of the AAA Committee for Human Rights concerning the tragedy and aftermath of September 11, 2001

Report on “The Yanomami of Brazil: Health” in 2001

Report on “The Pehuenche: Human Rights, the Environment, and Hydrodevelopment in Bio Bio River, Chile” (communicated with a letter to the World Bank) in 2001

CfHR support and contributions of the El Dorado Task Force between 2001 and 2002

Final Report of the El Dorado Task Force in 2002

Letter addressing CfHR concerns over death threats to Xavante spokespersons and to anthropologists working among them in central Brazil in 2002

Letter to BBC of London expressing disappointment about language used in interview to refer to the Yanomami in 2002

Statement on “CEDAW: A Treaty for the Rights of Women” in 2002

Report regarding the trial in Guatemala regarding the murder of anthropologist Myrna Mack in 2002

Comment on US State Department “Report on Issues Related to the Aerial Eradication of Illicit Coca in Colombia” in 2002

Report on the “Crisis in Colombia: Consequences for Indigenous Peoples” in 2003

Report on the status of the San of South Africa in 2003

Letter sent to leaders of the Uruguayan government regarding threats to traditional land rights of the Kuetuvy Ache group in 2003

Letter sent to Brazil’s President Lula da Silva expressing concern regarding threats to the territorial integrity of the indigenous reserve Raposa Serra do Sol in 2004

Report on forensic anthropology, “Cause of Death: The Role of Anthropology in the Enforcement of Human Rights” in 2004

Report on “Labor and Human Rights: ‘The Real Thing’ in Colombia” in 2004

Letter expressing concern for human rights regarding the dire humanitarian situation in Falluja, Iraq following the US-led invasion in 2004

Statement on the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan in 2004

Letter to Columbian President Uribe the assassination of concerning Alfredo Correa de Andreis in 2005

Letter to Peruvian Dr. Alfonso Ricardo Cornejo Alpaca concerning death threats against forensic anthropologists Curimania, Canilla, and Roca in 2005

Letter to Armenian President Kocharian regarding the detention of anthropology graduate student Yektan Turkyilmaz in 2005

Letter to Brazilian President da Silva concerning threats against Carvalho and de Cunha for their support of the Raposa Serra do Sol indigenous reserve in 2005

Letter to Brazilian President da Silva concerning death threats against archaeologist Niede Guidon, and threats to the Parque Nacional Serra de Capivara in 2005

Letter to Guatamalan President Perdomo concerning the detention of Carlos Chen Osorio in 2005

Update on the Colombian Crisis in 2005

VI. Service to Association Members:

In addition to its advocacy work, during the past five years, CfHR has been a proactive contributor to the academic and the applied environment of the association. CfHR has made significant contributions to the internal dialogue of the association by addressing how the committee's concerns with an anthropological approach to questions of cultural diversity and human difference can also enrich human rights practice. CfHR has been particularly engaged in helping to set AAA's priorities in these areas, demonstrating the value of its work through public forums, columns in the AN, peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, but most regularly through the organization of invited panels, forums, and workshops at the AAA's annual meeting. What follows is a representative sample of these activities for the years 2001-2005:

In 2001 CfHR helped to organize and/or sponsored the following events at the annual meeting of the AAA in Washington, D.C:

Invited Session: "The Endangered Peoples Project Struggles to Survive and Thrive in a Globalized World" (Organizer and Chair, Barbara R. Johnston)

Invited Session: “The Production of Victimization: Narcotrafficking, Human Rights, Plan Colombia” (Organizer and Chair, Janet Chernela)

“Global Processes/Local Choices: Identity, Ideology, Rights and the Loss/Revitalization of Languages” (Organizers, John Haviland, Sarah McLendon, William C. Surtevant)

In 2002 CfHR helped to organize and/or sponsored the following events at the annual meeting of the AAA in New Orleans:

Public Policy Forum: “Violences Legitimate and Illegitimate: Terrorism, the Word” (Organizer and Chair, Janet Chernela)

Invited Session: “The Yanomami People: Advocacy Research on their Present Status, Concerns and Future” (Organizer and Chair, Leslie Sponsel)

Presidential Session: “The Future of Scientific Research on the Amazon: Perspectives Post-Yanomami Controversy” (Organizers, Janet Chernela and Leda Martins)

“Anthropology and Women’s Human Rights: Cross-Cutting Interests and Complementary Agendas – Stimulating the Dialogue” (Organizer, Leni Silverstein; Chair, Sheila Dauer)

In 2003 CfHR helped to organize and/or sponsored the following events at the annual meeting of the AAA in Chicago:

Public Policy Forum: “Locating the Human in Human Rights in the US: The Constitution, the Death Penalty and Legal Regimes” (Organizers, Kathleen Williamson and Brackette Williams)

Presidential Session: “Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights: A Global Perspective on the Development and Future Challenges to the Indigenous Peoples’ Movement” (Organizer and Chair, Soren Hvalkof)

Two Open Forums on Indigenous Rights

In 2005 CfHR helped to organize and/or sponsored the following events at the annual meeting of the AAA in Washington, D.C:

Policy Forum: “Language and Social Justice” (Organizer and Chair, Laura Graham)

Presidential Session: “Anthropology and Human Rights: Challenges and Prospects (Organizer, Sam Martinez)

Invited Session: “Transnationalism and the Anthropology of Rights” (Organizers, Mark Goodale and Sally Merry)

Invited Session: “Anthropology, Human Rights and International Agencies: Perspectives from Inside and Outside the Beltway” (Organizers, Janet Chernela and Laura Graham)

With the direct support and assistance of Anthropology News editor, Stacy Lathrop, the following items appeared during the years of 2004 and 2005:

A report by the Chief Forensic Anthropologist for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in its mission to Kosovo by CfHR Fellow Erin Kimmerle (February 2004)

A summary of the Public Policy Forum on human rights and the death penalty in the U.S. by Kathleen Williamson (April 2004)

An annotated list of study resources on national security and international migration by CfHR Fellow Lorraine Chaudhry-Campbell and Samuel Martinez (May 2004)

Commentary entitled “An Increasingly Divided Iraq” analyzing the circumstances of humanitarian aid providers in post-war Iraq by Daniel Rothenberg (December 2004)

Commentary entitled “A Moral Imperative in Darfur” which describes the complexities of the situation for Western-led humanitarian intervention by Eric Reeves (December 2004)

A report entitled “Sudanese Women Peace-Builders Discuss How to Salvage Darfur” by Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf (February 2005)

Commentary entitled “Anthropologists Expertise Can Aid Asylum Seekers” by CfHR Fellow JC Saylor (February 2005)

A report entitled “Interethnic Alliances among Indigenous and Brazilian ‘Peoples of the Xingu’” by Terry Turner and Vanessa Fajans-Turner (March 2005)

A report entitled “Violence in South Thailand: Polarized Cultural Stereotypes Contribute to New Violence” by Raymond Scupin (March 2005)

A report titled “Current Violence in Thailand is Highly Contextual and Local” by Saroja Dorairajoo (March 2005)

Commentary entitled “Anthropology in a Time of Crisis: A Note from Nepal” by Sara Shneiderman (May 2005)

Special AN series “Mapping the UN and AAA in Engaging Indigenous Issues” by Janet Chernela, Laura Graham, Tony Oliver-Smith, and Paul Nuti (September 2005)

Interview with Barbara Rose Johnston on “Anthropology and the Chixoy Dam Legacy Study” (October 2005)

A report titled “Symbol of Brazilian Indigenism Assassinated” by Maurio Leonel and Betty Mindlin and translated by Laura Graham (October 2005)

Commentary entitled “Cultural Relativism and Universal Rights in Islamic Law” by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (December 2005)

Special AN Views on Policy Series on the “UNESCO Cultural Diversity Convention” by Robert Albro, Richard Kurin, Alex Bauer, and Paul Nuti (December 2005)

VII. Anticipated Agenda, Schedule and Plans for Future Committee Work:

Having recently redesigned its website and updated document postings, CfHR is now in the process of additional review of the site, including syllabi, and bibliographies. CfHR anticipates the site will soon feature the Human Rights concentration within Harvard’s anthropology major, a focus of committee member’s Kimberly Theidon’s work for the upcoming year. CfHR also plans to add a new section on the website to post “unsolicited reports.” Owing to a lack of resources, CfHR members are often not able to respond to all information brought to their attention. This new section will enable CfHR to make such information available – particularly as circulated by AAA members – but which CfHR has not thoroughly researched and vetted.

Another significant new area of interest for CfHR has been consideration of strategies to develop a new anthropology and human rights database project, with the goal of making anthropologists’ contributions to human rights more accessible to a broader community of practitioners and a wider public. Discussion of this priority was begun in 2003, and the committee’s Language and Social Justice Task Group will develop an online database of relevant anthropological publications and scholarship, as well as information concerning the relevance of anthropological expertise. Current CfHR members Laura Graham and Rob Albro, along with AAA liaison Paul Nuti, are involved in collaborations to produce viable online databases with human rights and policy relevance, working with Cultural Survival (Ellen Lutz, Director) and George Washington University’s Program on Culture in Global Affairs (Barbara Miller, Director), respectively.

As part of its mandate, CfHR plans to continue to promote the institutional face of the committee within the association and beyond. For the immediate future, this goal will consist of continuing to work closely with the AAA to develop two specific proposals: for a Human Rights Award and for a CfHR Endowment. The Award has as its primary goal the advancement of the public profile of the committee through drawing attention to anthropological voices that have substantial audiences outside of anthropology, pointing to cross-overs between the work of human rights and anthropology, identifying persons who can serve as role models for anthropologists, advocates, scholars, spokespersons, in the area of human rights, creating forums within the annual meeting of the association to provide information about human rights-related concerns. The Endowment amounts to a CfHR initiative to address the continued challenge of resource scarcity (see VIII below). For further information on these proposals see Appendix C.

In addition to CfHR initiatives to create an Award and Endowment, the committee has identified four research and advocacy foci for the year 2006 (and for the next several years), which are being developed in the terms of newly functioning CfHR Task Groups. These are: Language and Social Justice, Health and Human Rights, Reparations and Restitution, as well as Human Rights Policy. For further description of the goals and aims of new CfHR Task Groups consult Appendix D.

Another central ongoing goal for CfHR is to develop strong inter-institutional relations with key actors and organizations in the human rights context. To this end, a specific and important goal has been CfHR's work as liaison between the association (including its professional constituency) and contexts of international human rights claims and standard setting, particularly the U.N. system. This has been a consistent committee priority over the past five years, beginning with CfHR's 2001 recommendation to the AAA Executive Board to pursue efforts to gain U.N. consultative status, in order to facilitate participation of committee members (and the community of anthropologists) in the active work of the U.N., as it continues to shape international human rights, environmental policy, and with particular attention to indigenous rights. A 2003 invited session at the annual meeting of the association on "Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights," organized by CfHR, was one important step in this direction. A valuable resource, "The Rights of Indigenous Peoples: International Instruments," authored by then CfHR member Janet Chernela in 2003 was another (see: <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/cfhr/chronology.htm>). With the AAA's recently acquired consultative status at the U.N., the 2004 CfHR year-end report further emphasized indigenous rights as a new avenue of work for the committee, particularly with the expiration in 2005 of the period of office of the Commission of the Status of Indigenous Peoples of South America (CSIPSA), an important background for CfHR's work. With the extension of the U.N.'s International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples for another ten years, CfHR will continue to be active in its work in the U.N. context, prioritizing a relationship with the U.N.'s new Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (see the "In Focus" section of the *Anthropology News* for September 2005 for a discussion to this end). Priorities of current Task Groups on the committee include efforts to elicit useful information from our human rights counterparts (including indigenous rights) regarding how best to carry this work forward from an anthropological point of departure.

Anthropology News editor Stacy Lathrop attended the 2005 CfHR business meeting in Washington D.C., to provide information and discuss future ideas for CfHR contributions to AN. The committee assigned responsibility to produce 2006 AN commentaries on a variety of human rights-related themes. This has culminated in a year-long series, both through the ongoing AN "Human Rights Forum" and through an "In Focus" series on "Anthropology and Human Rights" (see the January through the May issues of AN for further details and columns): <http://members.aaanet.org/an/an.cfm>. In collaboration both with Stacy Lathrop and Paul Nuti, CfHR has developed a set of additional contributions to AN for the months of September through December of 2006, and plans to continue to be active in the promotion of discussion around human rights issues in this, the most widely distributed anthropological publication in the world.

In 2006 CfHR has organized and/or sponsored the following events at the annual meeting of the AAA to take place in San José:

Presidential Session: “Debating Anthropological Practice and National Security: Past, Present, and Across Borders” (Organizers, Laura Graham and Kathy Libal)

Invited Session: “Waging War and Making Peace: Reparations and Human Rights” (Organizes, Barbara R. Johnston and Susan Slyomovics)

Invited Session: “Should Anthropologists Intervene in the New War on the Poor? Health, Neoliberalism, and Human Rights” (Organizer, Charles Briggs)

Invited Session: “Kids at the Crossroads: Global Childhood and the Role of the State” (Organizers, Julia Hess and Dianna J. Shandy)

Workshop: “Human Rights Reporting for Anthropologists” (Organizers, Laura Graham and Ellen Lutz)

VIII. Resources Needed to Accomplish Future Work:

CfHR has established itself as an important and proactive AAA committee. Primarily through the dynamic engagement of its members, CfHR has been able to accomplish a great deal, both internally and externally, over the previous five years. These years are marked by efforts to put the committee on a sounder institutional footing, including an effort to more clearly define the organizational dimensions of committee work. Perhaps unique among AAA committees, CfHR’s mandate requires that it engage with the AAA, as anthropology’s professional governing institution, that it interact with a constituency of practicing anthropologists both in academic and in non-academic settings, and that it address an overlapping but yet distinct community of human rights practitioners, most of whom are not anthropologists. CfHR’s work over this period, therefore, reflects such a set of commitments, which include human rights advocacy, promoting conversations on our own discipline’s values while working toward establishing anthropology’s approach to human rights questions, creating forums for “dialogue” across disciplinary boundaries with our counterparts in human rights fields with whom we collaborate, and producing more conventionally “academic” work in the form of peer-reviewed research.

As evidenced by the increasing attention given by anthropologists to human rights issues, the responsibilities and possibilities for CfHR have been growing. This is reflected in the more programmatic work within the committee to more sharply define its role in recent years, as the committee grows beyond its initial period and seeks to routinize its ongoing work. At present, CfHR draws upon the resources of the AAA through an annual budget of just under \$9,000, most of which is used to cover the dedicated time of AAA’s liaison to the committee, the costs of the committee’s business meeting at the association’s own annual meeting, and to cover occasional costs of CfHR members’ travel to and from the

annual meeting. At the same time, a recurrent theme of the year-end reports of successive CfHR chairs concerns the need to find additional financial resources to support the work of the committee. Over the period of the past five years, CfHR members had to devote a significant amount of their committee time to the search for additional funds in support of committee work, particularly for members' on-site investigations of cases of potential human rights violations. These funds have come from a variety of sources, including both the Wenner-Gren and Ford Foundations, the IWGIA (an international indigenous rights organization located in Copenhagen), and the University of Connecticut Human Rights Institute. CfHR dependency on external funding to carry out many of its necessary tasks continues to place important limits on what the committee can hope to accomplish in the future. Improving this state of affairs remains a basic committee goal, and received extensive attention at the most recent business meeting in December of 2005.

To this end, CfHR currently seeks to engage the AAA in a conversation with the goal of effectively strategizing how best to put the committee on a sounder financial footing. One part of this conversation is a proposal for a CfHR endowment, which the committee is at present working to advance through the AAA's own internal process. CfHR is currently invested not only in more sharply defining its own institutional character, but also hopes to be able expand its resource base in response to growing interest and demand for among anthropologists, the human rights and policy communities, and a broader public, for the availability of anthropology's expertise in this area. As CfHR undertakes to carry out its several new initiatives for an endowment, a human rights prize, a CfHR policy database, to develop anthropological contributions to new CfHR priority topics in language, health, reparations, and policy, and to effectively liaise with counterparts within the human rights community through the U. N. system and elsewhere, it will need to rely upon available resources to do so effectively and productively.

Appendix A:

Human Rights Fellow of the AAA: Position 1

The Committee for Human rights of the American Anthropological Association invites applications for the position of Human Rights Research Fellow for the year 2002-2003. The applicant should have a strong commitment to human rights and a record of excellence in research. The Fellow may be located anywhere in North America. Tasks involved include searching and researching international electronic resources and contributing to Committee deliberations when appropriate. The expectations will be appropriately flexible depending upon the student's commitments to graduate studies. The position offers a wide range of experiences in international and rights-related activities and a close working relationship with a AAA Committee.

Human Rights Fellow of the AAA: Position 2

The Committee for Human rights of the American Anthropological Association invites applications for the position of Human Rights Liason Fellow for the year 2002-2003. The Committee seeks a graduate student located in or near Washington DC to serve as a

liaison between the Committee and DC-based federal and non-governmental agencies (NGOs). The candidate should have a demonstrated commitment to human rights, strong communication skills, and some experience in policy processes. The Fellow may participate in Committee deliberations when appropriate. The position offers a wide range of experience in international and national human rights arenas. Among other things, the person should work with the Human Rights advocacy organizations in writing up lists of principles and then operational steps so that the expertise of both the HR community and the AAA can be used in a synergetic manner – improving the work of both organizations.

Appendix B:

Task Force on Women’s Rights (convened in 2000, Ellen Gruenbaum and Sheila Dauer, co-chairs)

Task Force on Plan Colombia (convened in 2000, Jean Jackson and Janet Chernela, co-chairs)

Task Force on Ethnic Cleansing (convened in 2000, James Peacock, chair)

Task Force on Human Rights and Violent Conflict (convened in 2001, Paul Magnarella, chair)

Task Force on Resettlement of Quilombos in NE Brazil (convened in 2001, Linda Rabben, chair)

Task Force on South American Indigenous Peoples (convened in 2001 by AAA president Louise Lamphere) [became the “El Dorado” Task Force]

Task Force on Human Rights Concerns in Guatemala (convened in 2002, Linda Green and June Nash, co-chairs)

Task Force on the Andean Countries (formerly Task Force on Plan Colombia, convened in 2003, David Nugent, chair)

Task Force on Migrants Rights (convened in 2003, Samuel Martinez, chair)

Task Force on Sexual and Gender Minorities (convened in 2003, David Valentine, chair)

Task Group on Language and Social Justice (convened in 2004, Laura Graham, chair)

Task Group on Health and Human Rights (convened in 2005, Charles Briggs, chair)

Task Group on Reparations and Human Rights (convened in 2006, Susan Slyomovics, chair)

Task Group on Human Rights Policy (convened in 2006, Meg Davis and Rob Albro, co-chairs)

Appendix C:

November 30, 2005

TO: Executive Board, AAA

FR: Human Rights Fund Subcommittee, CfHR

Barbara Johnstone, Samuel Martinez, Laura Graham

RE: Establishment of a Human Rights Fund

We write to propose that the AAA establish and administer a Human Rights Fund, with the general purpose of enabling the Committee for Human Rights (CfHR) to carry out its mandate more effectively. We foresee that this fund would initially defray the work-related expenses of the CfHR's Fellows and provide support for CfHR Invited Sessions and other events at the AAA Annual Meetings. It is hoped that the fund would ultimately grow large enough to underwrite special projects that could not otherwise be undertaken.

As the AAA's main body for the study and advocacy of human rights, the CfHR represents a highly policy-relevant face of the anthropological profession. Perceiving the need to introduce distinctively anthropological approaches to the field of human rights studies and advocacy, we envision for the Human Rights Fund serving to foster the further development of anthropology's engagement with human rights and to expand exchanges between anthropologists, scholars in other disciplines and human rights defenders. Anthropology's profile in the international human rights community needs to be further enhanced. The kinds of exchanges we foresee being subsidized by the Human Rights Fund would contribute to this aim.

In the immediate term, small grants would be made for the following sorts of purposes:

- to reimburse the Fellows for their expenses incidental to their work for the CfHR (e.g., telephone, travel, photocopying)
- to subsidize travel, lodging and registration expenses incurred by non-anthropologists who lack institutional support to participate in CfHR Invited Sessions and Public Policy Forums at AAA Annual Meetings
- to subsidize travel by the Fellows to attend the CfHR business meeting at AAA Annual Meetings

Once the Human Rights Fund grows large enough, large grants would be made for the following sorts of purposes:

- to support travel by CfHR members and other designated anthropologists to investigate cases before the Committee;
- to support travel by representatives of groups that wish to present their cases directly to the CfHR or to international bodies (UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Organization of American States, etc.);
- to provide legal assistance to anthropologists whose research, livelihood or lives may be at risk as a result of negative reaction to their legitimate professional activities.

This list is not all-inclusive. These examples correspond to needs that have arisen in the yearly conduct of CfHR business and to situations where the CfHR has not been able to help or act because of lack of funds.

The AAA would create an income-generating trust account. Income from this account would be used to meet these or other needs as they arise. We would seek a one-time grant from a private donor or donors to provide the fund's endowment. Tax-deductible donations from AAA members would help sustain the fund. A modest campaign for bequests and donations could be carried out via the *Anthropology Newsletter* and appeals to the various sections of the Association.

The Association would administer the fund, hiring a part-time manager to oversee its operations. An advisory committee consisting of CfHR members, the AAA President and an AAA staff representative would review applications and authorize disbursements. The manager would report regularly to the CfHR and annually to the AAA's membership on the fund's fiscal status and activities.

Proposal for a Human Rights Advocacy Award
 AAA Committee for Human Rights
 November 2005

The AAA Committee for Human Rights (CfHR) proposes the establishment of an annual *Human Rights Advocacy Award*, to be presented to an individual who has dedicated her/himself to human rights advocacy and to advancing anthropological understanding of human rights. The award process would consist of the following:

- Nominations would be submitted by any AAA member or unit
- An annual Human Rights Award Selection Committee, consisting of three CfHR members, would review nominations and select one award recipient; next year's winner should be chosen by the close of business at the previous AAA meeting in order to permit individuals who are booked far in advance to incorporate the Annual Meeting into their schedules
- The AAA (possibly through a Human Rights Fund) would fund travel costs for the award recipient to attend the AAA Annual Meeting and a plaque to be awarded each year (no cash prize is proposed)

- The Human Rights Advocacy Award would be presented during the AAA awards ceremony
- The recipient would present a public lecture at the AAA, open to AAA's general membership and the press corps attending the meeting
- The recipient would participate, if appropriate, in a forum, workshop, or session that focuses on themes that s/he has addressed in published work and/or activism and policy engagement

Rationale

This award would not only foster the goals of the CfHR but of the AAA as a whole, advancing the public profile, ability to respond to pressing social and political issues, and role in public policy and public advocacy contexts of both the larger organization and the Committee. In particular, the award would:

- Increase awareness on the part of AAA members, the press, human rights organizations, and diverse publics of the role of anthropologists as human rights scholars and advocates
- Draw attention to anthropological voices that have substantial audiences outside of anthropology and academia, and to publicly prominent non-anthropologists who are in dialogue with anthropologists and anthropological approaches
- Point to the cross-over between work on human rights based in anthropology with that based in other disciplines and non-academic institutions
- Identify individuals who can provide role models for anthropologists as advocates, scholars, and spokespersons in the area of human rights
- Provide formal recognition for work that lies beyond the types of activities that are generally rewarded by academic institutions
- Create forums within the Annual Meeting for widely-attended events that provide information on human rights approaches and issues

Criteria for Selection

The Human Rights Advocacy Award would be granted each year to an individual who best meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Has an internationally visible public profile as a human rights advocate, gained through sustained involvement on rights issues
- Uses anthropological perspectives and methodologies and/or draws attention to issues addressed by anthropologists in human rights work
- Has published influential work, whether in scholarly, media, and/or popular venues, on human rights

Without prejudging the work of the first Human Rights Award Selection Committee (to be convened in November or December of 2005), we would like to give an example of

the sort of individual we have in mind as we craft this award. Dr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen is Professor of Anthropology at the Colegio de México, one of the most prestigious academic institutions in the country. Dr. Stavenhagen served as the first U.N. Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Rapporteur, thereby helping to lay the groundwork for important work at the United Nations in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations that worked on a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He has been one of the most visible anthropologists working in the area of human rights, he has held what is perhaps the preeminent human rights position in the world, and he has published scholarly works in anthropology (especially on indigenous peoples) as well as popular writings. He is a compelling speaker, and his lecture would certainly be first-rate and well attended. Furthermore, now that Dr. Stavenhagen has stepped down as U.N. Rapporteur, he would be more likely to be able to come to the AAA Annual Meeting.

Appendix D:

Reparations Task Group: Susan Slyomovics (chair), Barbara Rose Johnston

“Reparation” is a general term of use for a variety of remedies that include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. This task group will consider the anthropological relationship and contribution to the concept and implementation of reparation; the range of strategies, approaches, and efforts to facilitate the identification and implementation of meaningful remedy; and our profession's critical involvement to secure redress (for example, anthropologists as expert witnesses). Additional participation has been solicited in the April AN newsletter column.

While the nature and meaning of anthropological work on reparations vary according to the cases and places, a number of problematic issues are commonly encountered: How to identify the injured parties: who are the “affected” people? How to determine whether allegations are in fact legitimate? How to demonstrate the evidentiary basis that supports findings of abuse? How to go about developing culturally appropriate and locally defined plans for remedy? How to develop the political will and necessary mechanisms to safely air complaints and investigate abuses in a rights-protective setting? How to determine consequential damages and meaningful remedy? How to encourage and shape policy and actions that insure “never again”? And how to engage in this work in ways that protect the life and health of scientists, victims, and advocates? These are central questions for this task group.

In addressing these questions anthropologists also serve as expert witnesses in political processes that seek accountability and reparations (to repair, make amends, or to make peace). If the recent programs of our annual meeting are any indication, anthropologists are engaged in reparations work, and reporting their work in every section and interest group of the association. Recognizing this cross-disciplinary involvement in social justice struggles, CfHR’s new “Reparations Task Force” will pursue an agenda of encouraging

discipline-wide discussion of the conceptual, methodological, ethical, and political praxis issues associated with the “anthropology of making peace.”

Human Rights Policy Task Group Statement

Task Group Members: Meg Davis, Rob Albro, Paul Nuti (AAA liaison), Paula Goldman (2006 fellow)

The policy task group seeks to consider how CfHR might best contribute to human rights work, through more effective application of anthropological expertise in the human rights arena. This task has at least two parts: 1. promotion of a disciplinary dialogue on the relationship of anthropology to human rights advocacy, 2. systematic engagement with the community of human rights practitioners to help determine a constructive basis for anthropological collaborations with them.

Colleagues report that the AAA’s 1947 statement on cultural relativism continues to be used by human rights advocates in parts of the world as a current statement of anthropological concerns. This suggests that prevailing perceptions of anthropology’s role are increasingly out of touch with its current goals and practice.

The first project of this task group, therefore, will be to research how human rights practitioners understand anthropology’s possible contributions to their work. We plan to meet with colleagues in the policy, government, as well as advocacy communities to gather feedback from them about what opportunities there are for the AAA to constructively contribute to human rights work in the policy and legal world.

We plan to meet with representatives from at least two different programs within each of the following types of organizations, and at least initially focusing primarily on New York and Washington DC:

- four or five human rights and humanitarian NGOs that deal with human rights issues;
- at least two UN agencies;
- the US, European Union, UK and one other national government;
- and one of the development banks (such as the World Bank).

In our meetings, we will introduce both AAA and CfHR to people who might not be familiar with either. But we also hope to learn from them which, if any, of the documents CfHR has produced in the past have been useful in their work, and further, what sort of role, if any, they would most welcome from anthropology. We will also learn what sorts of anthropological interventions are not viewed as particularly helpful.

Our discussions will help us to pin down current understanding of anthropology in the policy world. We will also learn how we might best communicate with the world of

policymakers in the future, both about urgent cases, and about larger issues on which anthropologists have specific expertise. We will explore how we might begin to usefully mobilize our sizeable membership.

Based on these interviews, the task group will create a short written summary our findings, including recommendations for the future direction of our work.

Our "fieldwork" will help us to establish some possible future niches for anthropology in the human rights movement, and also open up some avenues for consideration about how such broader issues -- cultural relativism vs. positivism, economic and social rights vs. civil and political rights, etc – are understood in the policy context.