

Name: Dr Kathleen Cavanaugh BA PHD LLM

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Biography:

Kathleen Cavanaugh is currently a Lecturer of International Law in the Faculty of Law, Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR), National University of Ireland, Galway. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut, USA, LL.M (Distinction) from the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland (1998), and PhD in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics & Political Science (1997). She has held several Visiting Lectureships including: Visiting Research Fellow, Minerva Centre for Human Rights, Hebrew University, Israel (2001), and Visiting Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Boston University, Massachusetts, USA (Summer 1998) and, most recently, was awarded a Fellowship at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford (2006-7). From 2004-2006, she served as Graduate Studies Director, and, since 2002, has been the director of the internship programme.

What aspects of Development Education (DE) are included in your work?

Kathleen notes that whilst her field of work impacts upon development issues that it is not directly concerned with development. The legal aspects of promoting and developing sustainable state and civil society institutions certainly effect the ability for countries to develop economically. In an international law context, humanitarian assistance and the legal frameworks which govern its application are elements of her work. The topics that Kathleen teaches in the Irish Centre for Human Rights concern violence and post conflict situations but she does make the distinction that whilst peace may be necessary for development in living standards, the tools and training which are devised to lead to peace or conflict resolution are not specifically development related.

Are you are involved in teaching courses with DE components?

As per the explanation above the Human Rights courses Kathleen teaches do not have development components other than where it features incidentally in the post conflict modules.

Do you have interests or involvement in particular countries or regions?

As a consultant, she has undertaken numerous missions on behalf of Amnesty International including to Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine and more recently, to Iraq (where she focused on the conduct of the occupying powers with relation to detention and security). She has conducted trainings for governmental as well as non-governmental organisations throughout the Middle East (Yemen, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, and Sudan), India (Gujarat Province) and the Republic of Ireland

What other activities are you involved in that concern DE?

In the course of her work in the regions listed above Kathleen's work has included projects with a strong civil society component.

This has often taken the form of providing assistance to local based NGOs in their preparation of amicus curiae in cases where individuals have tried to hold the institutions of the state accountable for transgressions of international rights law –many of these cases were in the Middle East.

Recent events /Publications:

In her professional capacity on the invitation of, variously, the United Nations, NGOs, or State Governments, Kathleen has provided training for judiciaries, academics and other legal practitioners. This normally has taken place in countries where the fundamentals of a functioning legal system either do not exist, have been eroded by conflict or the legal system that does exist is that of an occupying force. In a 'train the trainer' format these trainings concern obligations states incur as a result of their status as signatories to particular conventions and the steps states need to take to comply with these conventions, issues of transitional justice, and the laws of occupation.

In addition to this Kathleen delivers human rights training for Amnesty International to civil society individuals and groups in Ireland. This course is called the Human Rights Based Approach and it aims at mainstreaming a human rights approach in state and non state organisations.

Kathleen is also currently the Chair of the executive committee of Amnesty International and a member of its International Policy Committee.