Legal Empowerment Leadership Course

30 November–3 December 2015 | Budapest, Hungary
The movement for legal empowerment has gained momentum in recent years. Most notably, in debates around the post-2015 UN Development Agenda, policymakers are increasingly agreeing that justice is crucial to ensuring equitable and inclusive development. Without the protection of the law, an estimated 4 billion people will continue to be unfairly driven from their land, denied essential services, excluded from society, and intimidated by violence.

Legal empowerment is about turning that tide. It’s about giving all people the power to understand and use the law. In the 1950s, community paralegals in South Africa began helping people to navigate and resist apartheid. Today, grassroots legal advocates in the Philippines are helping farmers to take part in nationwide agrarian reforms. In Argentina, shantytown residents are pursuing legal remedies to bring clean water and other essential services to their communities. As the movement for legal empowerment thrives, so too is our collective understanding of the field’s history, methods, and evidence.
Against this background, the CEU’s School of Public Policy (SPP), the South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (SAILS) and BRAC University, in collaboration with the Open Society Justice Initiative and Namati, are organizing an executive course on the practice and theory of legal empowerment. Through the course, leading thinkers from the development community, representing a range of perspectives, will come together to learn from each other and identify strategies to strengthen justice and development programming.

This ground-breaking three-day course will focus on law and development and the extent to which international rule of law assistance accounts for legal empowerment and its impacts on poverty, governance, and development. Its intention is to contribute to solving the analytical and empirical challenge that international actors face when they address multifaceted, multisectoral justice issues.

Overall, the course will encourage, support and cultivate a global cadre of leaders who have a common understanding of legal empowerment, particularly of the poor, and who commit to advancing the field through programming at the global and national levels, research and advocacy.
The course is intended for a diverse range of stakeholders whose work and interests are directly related to legal empowerment.

This includes

- leaders of civil society organizations who are running, or wish to run, legal empowerment programs;
- government officials (ministries of justice or development, centralized planning units, NHRIs) and parliamentary leaders with the power to support or regulate legal empowerment efforts;
- development agency representatives working on legal empowerment across sectors at a headquarters or country level;
- Academics and researchers from countries interested in working with legal empowerment programs.

The leadership course is aimed at a global audience and will therefore be geographically diverse. Furthermore, for half of the slots, we are committed to attracting participants from the four stakeholder groups and select country cadres from three countries, with representatives of civil society, relevant government officials, representatives of donor agencies active in the country, and academic or research partners.
Course structure
Case studies – common themes

The course will feature a comparative exploration of common themes across three case studies. Interactive discussion of case studies will take about 3–4 hours a day (with appropriate breaks). Each case study will examine the challenges and successes in addressing the following issues:

- **METHODS:** How do legal empowerment programs approach and resolve multi-faceted problems? How do they make use of existing laws or push for reform where existing laws are inadequate?

- **TRAINING, SUPPORT, AND SUPERVISION OF FRONTLINE STAFF:** How do these programs ensure consistent effectiveness?

- **MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING:** How do these programs conceptualize, collect, analyze, and apply such data vis-à-vis the following:
  - for the purpose of improving methodology and program quality;
  - for the purpose of measuring impact;
  - for the purpose of generating policy recommendations.

- **SUSTAINABILITY:** Exploration of various models for funding (e.g. building a business case, generating revenue) and capacity building from start-up to scale-up.

- **RECOGNITION, ACCREDITATION, AND REGULATION:** How do different actors/players/stakeholders treat these programs? How can one generate interest among policy-makers and senior managers? Among academia?
Each day will include stand-alone content, an in-depth exploration of a case study and small group work. Case studies will explore recurring themes in a comparative manner. Stand-alone sessions will feature expert presentations from leading practitioners and academics working in the field of law and development. Time will also be allotted daily for independent reflection and consultation around participants’ problem statements or proposals.

- **TRANSLATING GRASSROOTS EXPERIENCE INTO STRUCTURAL CHANGE:** How do legal empowerment efforts influence not just specific cases but institutions and policies, e.g. ministries of land, health, and justice?
- **GENDER:** How do these efforts empower women? How do they address gender inequality?
- **SCALE:** How do legal empowerment efforts grow to a scale that addresses the challenges our societies face?

### Case study topics

- **LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE RIGHTS:** Recognizing and protecting community rights to land and environment;
- **ENSURING EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES:** Integrating grassroots health advocates into national health systems to enhance the accountability and responsiveness of health services;
- **COMMUNITY-BASED DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** The case of South Africa’s Community Advice Offices: How South Africa’s CAOs and their community-based paralegals have adapted and innovated over the decades;
- **OTHER OPTIONS (subject to feedback from participants):** Legal identity, labor rights, women’s empowerment, urban issues.
Stand-alone sessions

Stand-alone sessions on additional topics will complement the daily discussion of case studies and taught in a hybrid lecture and panel structure. The theme leader will lecture on content and then preselected participants or other course faculty will offer their impressions and experiences on designated topics. Stand-alone sessions will be sequenced as follows:

• **1 DECEMBER 2015**
  
  **The impact of the field of legal empowerment:** This section will include a history of the legal empowerment movement, an overview of the range of methods employed by legal empowerment programs and a review of the impacts as well as the methods used to assess impact, including overarching considerations and guidelines for M&E.

• **2 DECEMBER 2015**
  
  **The political economy of legal empowerment:** This section will focus efforts to institutionalize and sustain legal empowerment programs. Participants will explore the relationship between legal empowerment and underlying political and economic dynamics and craft strategies for institutionalization.

• **3 DECEMBER 2015**
  
  **Legal Empowerment in the post-2015 agenda:** Opportunities to leverage the post-2015 development framework to advance legal empowerment, in particular around the development of national development frameworks and indicators.

Independent reflection

At the end of each day, participants will have approximately 45 minutes to an hour to apply the day’s lessons to their problem statement inquiries or to their proposals. Experts and instructors will be available during this time for consultation.
Course information
ARRIVAL AND DINNER RECEPTION: Monday, 30 November 2015

The course will be held at the School of Public Policy, on the campus of the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

The full cost of participation in the course is EUR 1,500.– (incl. VAT). This does not include travel and accommodation (lunch and coffee breaks during the course will be provided).

A limited number of scholarships covering travel, accommodation and the full cost of tuition will be available on a competitive basis. In addition, a number of tuition waivers will be available for participants who cover their own travel and hotel accommodation. Note that scholarships or tuition waivers will not be available for applicants from international agencies.

Interested individuals should complete the application form at http://spp.ceu.edu/events/2015-11-30/legal-empowerment-leadership-course by 14 July 2015.

There, you will be asked to submit

- a short problem statement, describing a challenge area or inquiry facing you in your work, or
- a short proposal for research or action that you wish to workshop throughout the course; and
- your CV.

The course will finish on 3 December (late afternoon).
Faculty
COURSE DIRECTOR

Vivek MARU

Vivek Maru is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Namati, a global organization that focuses on innovations in legal empowerment. Formerly, Vivek served as senior counsel in the Justice Reform Group of the World Bank. His work focused on justice reform and governance, primarily in West Africa and South Asia. Vivek also co-founded and co-directed for four years Timap for Justice, a grassroots justice program in Sierra Leone. Vivek has previously worked at Human Rights Watch and clerked for Hon. Marsha Berzon on the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. His recent publications include “Between Law and Society: Paralegals and the Provision of Justice Services in Sierra Leone and Worldwide” in the Yale Journal of International Law and “Allies Unknown: Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability” in the Harvard Journal of Health and Human Rights. Vivek graduated from Harvard College, magna cum laude, and Yale Law School.

DINNER RECEPTION (TBC)

George SOROS

George Soros has been a prominent international supporter of democratic ideals and causes for more than 30 years. His philanthropic organization, the Open Society Foundations, supports democracy and human rights in more than 100 countries. Born in Budapest in 1930, George Soros is Chairman of Soros Fund Management LLC. As one of history’s most successful financiers, his views on investing and economic issues are widely followed. He is Honorary Chairman of the Board of the Central European University.

Sir Fazle Hasan ABED

Sir Fazle is the founder and chairperson of BRAC, the largest development organisation in the world in terms of the scale and diversity of its interventions. He has been honoured with numerous national and international awards for his achievements in leading BRAC, including the Trust Women Hero Award (2014), Spanish Order of Civil Merit (2014), Leo Tolstoy International Gold Medal (2014), CEU Open Society Prize (2013), and many more. He is also recognised by Ashoka as one of the ‘global greats’ and is a
foundating member of its prestigious Global Academy for Social Entrepreneurship. He was a member of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed by the UN Secretary-General in 2010 to advise on support for the Least Developed Countries. In 2014, he was named in Fortune Magazine’s List of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders. Sir Fazle has received many honorary degrees, including from Yale University (2007), Columbia University (2008), the University of Oxford (2009) and Princeton University (2014).

FACULTY

Cristina CORDUNEANU-HUCI

Cristina Corduneanu-Huci holds a PhD in political science from Duke University and an MA from the University of South Carolina. For her dissertation—*Ambidextrous Regimes: Leadership Survival and Fiscal Transparency*—she conducted extensive fieldwork in Morocco, Turkey, and Romania. Additionally, she has written on social movements, clientelism, bureaucratic reform, and the politics of healthcare. Her work has appeared in *Comparative Sociology*, the *World Bank Policy Research Working Papers* series, and several edited volumes. She co-authored a book entitled “Understanding Policy Change: How to Apply Political Economy Concepts in Practice,” exploring the complex relationship between collective action and economic development. Cristina also benefitted from a symbiotic relationship between her academic and policy experience. Since 2010, she has worked for the World Bank in Washington, DC, conducting political economy research and training activities for evidence-based policymaking. In this capacity, she was involved in studies of the distributive implications of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo, healthcare policies in Uruguay, as well as in projects on the rule of law and public financial management in the Middle East and North Africa region. Her research has been accompanied by various training programs prepared or delivered in Ethiopia, Singapore, Sudan, and Ghana. At SPP, Cristina teaches courses on governance and the political economy of development.

Walter FLORES

Dr Walter Flores is a social scientist with over 20 years of professional experience. He holds a PhD and a Masters of Community Health from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK. Dr Flores’ professional work has been carried-out in more than 25 countries from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. His areas of expertise are: health policy analysis, health systems, right to health, democratic governance of public policies and community participation.
He heads the Director of Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en Sistemas de Salud (Center for the Study of Equity and Governance in Health Systems), a civil society organization in Guatemala specializing in research, capacity building and advocacy around issues affecting indigenous and other marginalized populations (www.cegss.org.gt).

He is also the global coordinator of the Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health-COPASAH (http://www.copasah.net), which is a network of civil society organizations from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, working towards improving healthcare services for marginalized populations through human rights, accountability and social mobilization.

Varun GAURI (TBC)

Varun Gauri is a Senior Economist with the Development Research Group of the World Bank and Co-Director of the World Development Report 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior. His current research examines why public agencies comply with human rights court rulings and why individuals support public goods. His publications include the books “Courting Social Justice: The Judicial Enforcement of Social and Economic Rights in the Developing World” and “School Choice in Chile”. His research has appeared in top journals in the fields of political science, development, and economics. His work has been covered in The New York Times, The Economist, The Washington Post, and The Indian Express. He has BA from the University of Chicago and a PhD from Princeton University, and has held positions as Visiting Lecturer in Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and Visiting Professor in the Department of Economics at ILADES in Santiago, Chile.

Faustina PEREIRA

Dr Faustina Pereira is a lawyer, human rights activist and author. She obtained her Ph.D. in International Human Rights Law in 1998 from the University of Notre Dame. In 2002 she completed a post-doctorate at the Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway, as a Bank of Ireland Fellow. While in Ireland, she also taught the LL.M course on Gender, Feminist Legal Theory and Human Rights. She has worked closely with international and regional organisations specialising in advocacy on access to justice. Her areas of strength are in public interest law and litigation, legislative advocacy and policy reform, constitutionalism, and critical feminist and human rights jurisprudence. Since 1997 she has been the Director of the Human Rights
and Legal Aid Services Programme of BRAC. Her book, “The Fractured Scales: The Search for a Uniform Personal Code” (2002) was awarded a Gold Medal by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for its ground-breaking significance to the issue of gender and social justice in Bangladesh. She is also the author or co-author of several national and international papers on gender, human rights and state obligations. In 2006 she was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

Yasmin Louise SOOKA

Yasmin Sooka was appointed as the inaugural SPP George Soros Visiting Chair for the fall 2015 term. She is a leading human rights lawyer and the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa. The Foundation is the country’s primary indigenous grant maker, established by President Mandela’s government in 1996 and the European Union to fund the human rights sector in South Africa. Yasmin chaired the government’s Steering Committee of the National Forum Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances, which is responsible for developing a National Action Plan to combat racism in the country. A leading international expert in the field of Transitional Justice, Yasmin served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 1996–2001 and chaired the committee responsible for the final report from 2001–03. She was appointed by the United Nations to serve on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Sierra Leone from 2002–04. She is also a member of the Advisory Body on the Review of Resolution 1325. In July 2010, Yasmin was appointed to the three-member Panel of Experts advising the Secretary General on accountability for war crimes committed during the final stages of the war in Sri Lanka. The report was published in May 2011. She is the co-author of “The Unfinished War: Torture and Sexual Violence in Sri Lanka: 2009–2014” with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and the International Truth and Justice Project, Sri Lanka. In March 2014, Yasmin co-authored the African Union’s Policy on Transitional Justice. She has been part of many advisory missions on Transitional Justice for the United Nations including Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Nepal, and Uganda. In addition she consults regularly for the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Switzerland, and has participated in several missions including to Burundi, Libya, and Tunisia.
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