Interdisciplinary and Human Rights Approaches to the Gun Violence Crisis in the United States

November 2-3, 2018
CONFERENCE PROGRAM (open to the public)

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Conference Registration and Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Welcome Remarks

Dean Nancy Staudt, Washington University School of Law
Leila Nadya Sadat, Director, Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute
William G. Powderly, Director, Institute for Public Health at Washington University

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Opening Keynote Address

Mike McLively, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney and Urban Gun Violence Initiative Director, Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Coffee Break

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Panel 1: Gun Violence and Human Rights

This panel seeks to re-direct the conversation on U.S. gun violence away from the gun rights of the shooters and towards the human rights of the victims, particularly in cases involving mass shooting. It will focus on U.S. obligations under international human rights treaties including the ICCPR, OAS Charter, American Declaration, Torture Convention, and CERD.

Moderator: Leila Nadya Sadat, Director, Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute

James Cavallaro, Stanford Law School
Christina Cerna, Georgetown University Law Center
Victoria Coy, Amnesty International USA
Barbara Frey, Director, Human Rights Program, University of Minnesota

11:30 – 12 p.m. Break

12 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Address

Lee Epstein, Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor, Washington University School of Law

1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Break
Panel 2: Gun Violence and the Right to Health; Psychological Harm as Ill-Treatment?
This panel will explore how the impact of gun violence on public health affects the right to health found in numerous international human rights instruments and the work of the WHO. It will further explore how the physical, mental, and psychological harm caused by gun violence and mass shootings—school shootings in particular—might be considered ill-treatment under the Torture Convention.

Moderator: Aaron Fellmeth, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Sean Joe, Brown School at Washington University
Jonathan Hafetz, Seton Hall University School of Law
Kimberly Mitchell, Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire
Paola Margarita Rijos-Saitta, Co-Manager, Center for Community Health Partnership and Research, Institute for Public Health at Washington University
Jaclyn Schildkraut, State University of New York at Oswego

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. Coffee Break

Panel 3: Special Roundtable: Gun Violence and Communities of Color, Immigration, Trafficking of Firearms, and U.S. Law
Given that the problem of gun violence is so multi-faceted, this roundtable will consider other important issues not explicitly included in the first two panels. Topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to, disproportionate ways in which communities of color are affected by this crisis and how U.S. obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination are relevant to this conversation, the issue of firearm trafficking, and the export of gun violence to other American States.

Moderator: Vetta Sanders Thompson, Co-Director, Center for Community Health Partnership and Research; Brown School at Washington University

Lisa A. Crooms-Robinson, Howard University School of Law
Geoff Dancy, Tulane University
Jennie Green, University of Minnesota Law School
David T. Konig, Washington University School of Law
Eugenio Weigend Vargas, Gun Violence Prevention, Center for American Progress

6:00 p.m. Dinner Keynote Address (by invitation only)
Philip Alpers, Sydney School of Public Health

Saturday – November 3, 2018 | Anheuser-Busch Hall

EXPERTS’ MEETING (by invitation only)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Experts’ Meeting will consider a draft White Paper that will propose not only an analysis of human rights concerns raised by the gun violence crisis, but specific actions to be taken in response.