

**Keynote Speaker 9:30-10:30 AM      Sycamore Banquet Center**

**Marcus Steiner, Co-founder and CEO of the Crane Center for Mass Atrocity Prevention.  
Uyghur Genocide in Xinjiang Province**

The ongoing Uyghur Genocide in Xinjiang Province stems from a combination of historical tensions, ethnic discrimination, and political agendas. Rooted in China's desire for cultural assimilation and control, the persecution of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities involves forced labor, mass detentions, and systematic abuse of human rights. China's policies, driven by state surveillance and repression, aim to suppress Uyghur identity and dissent. Despite mounting evidence and international condemnation, including calls for accountability and sanctions, China's political influence and economic power have limited effective responses. Some nations have imposed sanctions and diplomatic pressure, while businesses face ethical dilemmas regarding supply chain transparency and complicity. The ongoing genocide underscores the urgent need for coordinated global action to address human rights violations and hold perpetrators accountable, balancing economic interests with moral imperatives.

**Session I      10:35-11:20 AM**

**The Fast Fashion Industry as a Threat to Human Rights**

**Sara Baldwin      Dede I**

Global overconsumption of clothing and fashion accessories is a major contributor to the waste that accrues in landfills and causes negative environmental impacts during production. The industry depends on the exploitation of workers within poor economies and impoverished countries. For many, wages are barely enough to cover the cost of a single meal and working conditions are unsafe and inhumane. We will explore factual evidence and discuss ways to call for change and make an impact.

Sara Baldwin is the owner of Lux & Ivy, a sustainable apparel and accessory brand that has focused on secondhand fashion and locally made goods in Indianapolis. Lux & Ivy is located in South Broad Ripple, Indianapolis.

**Education: A Torch Extinguished in Afghanistan**

**Khalid Siddiq      Dede II**

The session will integrate practical examples of the siege on education for people and its significance in changing the fate of a society. It will also present lessons learned and the way forward for the youth. The Taliban's takeover in 2021 has resulted in severe restrictions on education jeopardizing the future of youth and the country's development.

Khalid Siddiq is currently a doctoral student in Higher Education Administration at ISU. Formerly, he was an assistant professor of linguistics at Herat University, Afghanistan. He has taught English language, trained teachers, and mentored educational trainings for over 16 years.

## **Who Made Your Breakfast? A Close Look into the Global Food Industry and Your Human Right to Food**

**Dr. Anne D'Orazio**

**Dede III**

What we eat has been determined, directed, designed, and distributed by increasingly global food corporations. A complex network of businesses decides what will be produced to line the shelves of grocery stores and what will appear on menus of restaurants and fast-food establishments. Where are we in the diagram from farm to table? How long is the supply chain? What right do we have to determine the food we eat? What if we had a right to food?

Anne D'Orazio has been researching the food industry for 25 years. She has attended conferences in the Rome-based food agencies of the United Nations and taught International Law in the State University of New York system. She is working on a book on the Food and Agriculture Organization.

### **Session II 12:00-12:50 PM**

#### **Trash Talk**

**Dr. Shikha Bhattacharyya**

**Sycamore Banquet Center**

This presentation will delve into the staggering impact of excessive waste on health, emphasizing its disproportionate effects on vulnerable communities. It will explore strategies for waste reduction, highlighting the urgency of addressing this issue as a social justice imperative.

Dr. Shikha Bhattacharyya is an expert pharmacist and has a fervent commitment to environmental advocacy. Her life's purpose is enlightening local businesses and communities on the profound implications of waste on human health and empowering them to take action.

#### **Water Crisis in the Fertile Crescent**

**Dr. Bassam Yousif**

**Dede I**

The Fertile Crescent was once rich with water resources that supported some of the earliest agricultural civilizations. Now, the diminishing quantity and quality of water today threatens the livelihoods of agricultural communities, other economic activities such as oil production and not to mention lives of ordinary people. How did this come about, and what can be done about it?

Professor Bassam Yousif has been teaching economics at Indiana State University since 2004. His research concentrates on the political economy of the Middle east, including issues of water rights and use.

## **Environmental Justice in Terre Haute**

**Daniel Garcia and Spencer Limcaco**

**Dede II**

Learn about environmental justice in our town! From lead pollution to air quality, we'll be discussing how our community deals with the historic and contemporary pollution that plagues Terre Haute's underprivileged populations.

Daniel is in his last semester at ISU, graduating in May with degrees in English, geography, and sustainability. Spencer is also getting ready to graduate in May with a degree in biology.

## **Allyship: How to Support LGBTQ+ Loved Ones**

**Yvonne "Evee" Luna**

**Dede III**

This talk will briefly review the LGBTQ+ history, primarily focusing on how the audience can be an ally to family, friends, parents, and neighbors.

Evee Luna is a board member at the Pride Center of Terre Haute. She works as a Community Support Specialist at Indiana State University. She is earning her master's degree in Communication at Indiana State University, and she is the chairperson of the LGBTQIAP+ Faculty and Staff Caucus at ISU.

## **Session III 1:00-1:50 PM**

### **International Human Rights Law**

**Marcus Steiner**

**Sycamore Banquet Center**

International law plays a critical role in safeguarding human rights globally by providing a framework for accountability and justice. It establishes standards for states to adhere to in an attempt to ensure fundamental freedoms and protections for all. Despite its importance, international law faces challenges in enforcement and compliance. The role of international bodies and organizations, therefore, is to supplement and inform about international legal issues to fill the gaps.

### **ACLU of Indiana's Fight to Protect Civil Liberties**

**Caitlin Teague**

**Dede I**

Learn about who the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana is, the work they do across the state to protect civil liberties, and how their work relates to human rights.

Caitlin graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs in 2022. Now as the Reproductive Freedom Advocate, she works closely with members of the advocacy team to develop and implement our reproductive rights priorities by working with local and statewide partners.

## **Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence: Anticipating the Unpredictable**

**Eric Anderson**

**Dede II**

Artificial Intelligence has become much more conspicuous in the public arena in the past couple of years. The rapid dissemination of this technology will continue to accelerate in the foreseeable future. Like any developing technology with widespread utility, people will find ways to use it constructively and use it for more nefarious purposes. This presentation will attempt to anticipate and discuss ways to avoid those violations.

## **Racial Wealth and Income Gap Experience**

**Emily TeKolste**

**Dede III**

Through an interactive experience, this workshop will teach participants 12 key federal policies and practices implemented throughout US history.

Beginning in the late 1800s, these policies led to the intentional divestment of the Black community and provided the institutional structure for what many see today as white privilege. The workshop invites dialogue and discussion.

Emily is a Sister of Providence and an organizer with NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, working with people across the country to influence federal policy to create a society and politics that works for everyone, no exceptions.

## **Session IV 2:00-2:50 PM**

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