



“Respect for human rights is a shared dream that is made real by efforts of individuals working together in their own communities and across borders.”

- José Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, DTP's Founder & Patron

Stories of Change – From DTP's Alumni¹



Elysa left her Indonesian village as a girl to become a domestic worker in Hong Kong. Because of her own experiences, she became an advocate for other domestic workers.

“DTP's training taught me how to advocate for migrant workers' rights. The migrant workers and I monitored the recruitment agencies that were charging illegal fees. Together we studied the law and regulations in the destination country and home country. As a result, we won 2 court cases in Hong Kong and 3 court cases in Indonesia.”

Sr Nicola Emmanuel, a nun in Sri Lanka, provides legal support, relief, rehabilitation, education and livelihood support to the families of the displaced, “disappeared” and imprisoned in Sri Lanka. One year after the DTP program, Sr Nicola put her training into practice, and took these issues to Geneva for the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Council and met the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

“We had a role play on Geneva Human Right Council Session at the DTP training program. It never occurred to me that I will get a real-life experience at Geneva to present my case. DTP's training helped me to take the voices of the victims to Geneva, so that the world could hear them and act.”



Hubertson Tom Wilson is a passionate Indian lawyer, now based in the Middle East – working to help stranded, defrauded, detained and abused migrant workers.

“I assist migrants in filing complaints against those exploiting them and find remedies to protect their rights. DTP taught me the necessary skills required to submit an individual complaint to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.”

¹ **DTP has trained over 2800 human rights defenders from over 50 countries since 1990.**

Mark Munnich, a descendent of the Yawuru and Gunwggandji peoples is studying law and working as a community legal educator with the Northern Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA). Mark was subsequently selected to participate in the prestigious UN Indigenous Fellowship Program in Geneva.

“DTP program empowered me to share the knowledge I learnt on the program with others and also helped me to secure an Indigenous Fellowship at the United Nations in Geneva.”



Nayela Akter, a Bangladeshi advocate for migrant workers, applied DTP’s training by working with others to prepare a report for the UN and then appearing before the UN Committee on the Rights of All Migrant Workers in Geneva in April 2017. The UN Committee accepted 26 of their 30 recommendations.

“DTP/MFA have supported CSOs to organise themselves, to identify and prioritise their issues of concern, and to identify solutions. As an outcome of this training, CSOs in Bangladesh submitted their first shadow/parallel report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers.”

Patrick Lombaia, an advocate working to protect the rights of communities affected by extractive industries operating in Papua New Guinea that have destroyed the environment and traditional livelihoods.

“We don’t have training institutions like the DTP, who could provide us with this much-needed training in the area of human rights violations throughout Asia Pacific. DTP gave me the confidence to address Indigenous rights violations in Papua New Guinea through enabling me to understand better on how to use procedures and mechanisms within the UN.”

