

What People Are Saying About ISHRI



"I fully support the International Solidarity & Human Rights Institute. I know personally and deeply respect all of the directors of the Institute. I expect the Institute to make a major contribution in supporting the teachings of the Holy See."

Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR
Chancellor, Franciscan University of Steubenville



"We teamed up—the State Department and the group of students [Franciscan University of Steubenville] Professor Brian Scarnecchia brought to the UN—to pass a resolution on trafficking that everyone had said was doomed to fail."

Dr. Laura Lederer
Senior Advisor on Human Trafficking to the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs



"I am excited about the potential for continued success for the International Solidarity & Human Rights Institute and your other plans and commitment for the protection of life. Your work is so important. You should be very proud at the way in which each of your students conducted themselves at the UN. Their sincerity and dedication are obvious... I am proud to be on the same team."

Fr. Robert Meyer
Legal Attache, Holy See Mission to the United Nations



"I am very grateful to God for ISHRI's involvement with the United Nations and their policy making on human rights. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done at the UN and ISHRI has been successful in bringing a powerful humane and Christian voice to the discussions there. ISHRI also provides an excellent training opportunity for a new generation of Catholic leaders in public affairs. If you are interested in advancing the impact of the gospel on public life, there are very few ways better than supporting ISHRI financially and prayerfully."

Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR
Author and EWTN Host

ISHRI ALUMNI TESTIMONIES

“As a representative of ISHRI, I participated in the 2004 Disabilities Convention of the United Nations. This was my first introduction to the workings of international dialogue and opened up the world of diplomacy, negotiations, and international relationships. It was from here that I realized the importance of such a forum of ideas as the UN, where the nations of the world come together in peaceful dialogue to work towards the common good. My work at the UN also provided me an introduction to the organization I now work for.”

Anne Marie Morris, Director, Marketing and Public Relations, World Youth Alliance

"My experiences have opened my eyes to the role and changing importance of international relations through my ISHRI internship at the United Nations. In solidarity with the delegation of the Holy See, I was able to effectively engage delegates on key issues. Whether advising on the implications of key life issues, or assisting in the drafting of proposals for small delegations, I have been able to apply my Franciscan education at the highest level. With these experiences, I am confident in a future career in international relations."

Patrick Reis, Senior and Student Body President, Franciscan University of Steubenville

“One of the most valuable experiences of my collegiate life has been my involvement with ISHRI, which has allowed me to understand the necessity of such an institute in the promotion of human rights. Through attending multiple conferences at the UN with ISHRI, conducting research, and interacting with delegates, my eyes have been opened to the immense need for a knowledgeable Catholic presence within the sphere of international and domestic politics. I firmly believe my positive experience with ISHRI has been one of the most influential factors in my decision to pursue a legal career and continue to study human rights.”

Erin Doyle, Senior, Franciscan University of Steubenville; Intern, Holy See Mission to the United Nations

“Through ISHRI, I had the opportunity to participate in various forums at the United Nations which included attending conferences, approaching and speaking with delegates, as well as working with ISHRI in its own lobbying efforts. I found my experience and involvement with the program to be both intellectually rewarding and socially beneficial. Furthermore, I have been able to utilize some of the interpersonal communication skills I acquired in the program at law school, and in various other extracurricular activities. As a whole, my involvement with ISHRI was a thoroughly positive experience.

Miriam Farrington, 1st Year Law Student, Ave Maria School of Law

"My experience with ISHRI is something I will take with me far into the future, professionally and personally. Lobbying at the UN, on the front lines of the culture wars, is something that sticks with you. Not only did we positively affect policy in tangible ways, we met policymakers from all over the world and were able to speak with them on a very personal level. I had the chance to interview a Somali MP over coffee, and after we discussed our common belief in the culture of life, I found I had made a friend as well."

Joshua M. Montagnini, Senior, Political Science, Franciscan University of Steubenville

"ISHRI provided an opportunity for many students and me to gain hands on experience in facing some of today's most difficult social issues at the UN. It helped me see that I could be of influence simply by speaking to people about having a message and vision of hope and perseverance in helping the human person and society."

Sarah Stevens, Graduate Theology, Franciscan University of Steubenville

“It has been a great privilege to work with the International Solidarity and Human Rights Institute to begin new ways of shedding light on important stories affecting human rights, through the lens of Catholic Church teaching. In my three conferences at the United Nations, as well as through additional assignments as a reporter for NGO Voice, I have gained tremendous experience that will assist me in fulfilling the Church's call to utilize the media for good in our society.”

Emily Bissonnette, Senior and Students for Life President, Franciscan University of Steubenville