



Fourth Annual Course on Truth Commissions

Barcelona, Spain
September 24-28, 2012

INTRODUCTION The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), in partnership with the Barcelona International Peace Resource Center (BIPRC), is pleased to announce the **Fourth Intensive Course on Truth Commissions**, focused on the challenge of recognizing the experiences of marginalized groups in the work of truth commissions. The course will examine under what conditions truth commissions can make a positive contribution to gender justice; how can they ensure friendly processes for children; whether they can contribute to the rights of indigenous peoples; and the practical and conceptual considerations facing mediators, donors, international and national actors as they work with truth commissions. It is intended to provide busy practitioners with an opportunity to reflect on these and related questions under the guidance of leading experts in the field of transitional justice.

OBJECTIVE The course will prepare practitioners directly involved in human rights, rule of law, and transitional justice with the necessary tools to assess the propriety of creating a truth commission in the wake of protracted conflict or dictatorship, and how to ensure the design and implementation of measures are sensitive to contextual realities. The course provides participants with the knowledge required to conceive, implement, and engage with truth commissions, in accordance with the best international practices and principles.

TOPICS The course will discuss truth-seeking as part of a comprehensive approach to address massive human rights violations, strengthen the rule of law; and contributing to sustainable peace and reconciliation in divided societies. Course participants will learn how to critically appraise truth commissions as instruments to implement the rights of victims, how and why truth commissions have emerged as accountability mechanisms, and what their potentials and limitations are. The course curriculum balances academic reflection with considerations relevant to practitioners. Participants will explore the political and practical challenges around the design, implementation, and considerations that follow the conclusion of a truth commission. The course format includes a combination of lectures, small group discussion, simulations, and an exchange of practical experiences from the participants.

DATES & LOCATION This course will be held on September 24-28, 2012 in Barcelona, Spain.

PROFILE OF CANDIDATES The program is targeted at mid-career and senior staff at multilateral agencies, governments, NGOs, foundations, and universities who wish to undertake an intensive course on contemporary developments in the expanding field of transitional justice. Practitioners directly involved in countries considering the establishment of truth commissions, or similar efforts, are especially encouraged to apply.

LANGUAGE & COST This course will be taught in English and a high proficiency level is required to fully benefit from attendance. The course fee is 1300 Euros, payable within 15 business days following acceptance to the course (a letter of acceptance will be posted in the end of July). This fee includes accommodation at a hotel in individual living quarters; all meals, including daily refreshments; transportation to and from the hotel; and all course materials. It does not include the cost of traveling to Barcelona. Payment arrangement information will be included in acceptance letters. Unfortunately, scholarship funds are not available this year.

INSTRUCTORS The academic coordinator of this course is Eduardo González, Director of the Truth and Memory Program at ICTJ and former staff member at the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Other instructors include former members of truth commissions and transitional justice experts.

MATERIALS Participants will be sent selected reading materials in advance, and receive a comprehensive resource packet for future reference upon completion of the course.

TRAVEL ICTJ and BIPRC do not cover participants' travel, visa, or insurance costs. We can provide logistical assistance and letters in support of participants' visa applications upon request.

APPLICATION PROCESS Applications will be accepted until **July 16th, 2012** (extended date). Successful applicants will be notified in the end of July. To apply for the course, please submit a one-page cover letter, current Curriculum Vitae, one letter of reference, and a completed application form (available at <http://ictj.org/event/fourth-intensive-course-truth-commissions>) to Ms. Kelen Meregali, course coordinator, at tmcourses@ictj.org. Please see the attached application form for further details. If you have any questions about the application process please contact Kelen Meregali directly at kmeregali@ictj.org.

ABOUT US The *International Center for Transitional Justice* (ICTJ) works to help societies in transition address legacies of massive human rights violations and build civic trust in state institutions as protectors of human rights. In the aftermath of mass atrocity and repression, we assist institutions and civil society groups—the people who are driving and shaping change in their societies—in considering measures to provide truth, accountability, and redress for past abuses. We do this by providing technical expertise and knowledge of relevant comparative experiences in transitional justice from across the globe. More information at <http://ictj.org>. The *Barcelona International Peace Resource Center* (BIPRC) is the outcome of an initiative launched by Barcelona City Council to promote the culture of peace through dialogue, awareness-raising, and training in crisis management and conflict resolution. The center is housed in the outstanding facilities of Montjuïc Castle, overlooking Barcelona city and harbor. More information at <http://www.bcnpeacecenter.cat>

Photo: A woman shows the photo ID of a relative who disappeared in Ayacucho, Peru (1984). Photo credit: Vera Lentz.



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