

April 1, 2022

Statement by the President of St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, Florida

St. Thomas University is pleased again to express its strong and active support for the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact. These Principles are consistently promoted in the University throughout its curricula, including at the Colleges of Law, Business, Health Science & Technology and Education.

St. Thomas has always had an international impact through its many students from Latin America and the Caribbean. This is particularly true we are reaching out to students from the Caribbean and Latin America in the Global South. St. Thomas University's international reach has expanded with the continued arrival of a large number of students from Asia, two-thirds of whom are doing graduate studies in curricula areas of law, nursing, science and business. Because of the University's long-standing international reach, the University Trustees declared, almost a decade ago, the University as a Global University whose aim is to provide *LIMITLESS* leadership opportunities for historically globally underrepresented groups. St. Thomas University, through its domestic and international student outreach, will continue to promote the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

St. Thomas University COE

St. Thomas University fully supports and inculcates the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact within the curricula for its undergraduate, graduate and law college students, as well as through the participation of faculty and administrators in regional and international business and educational associations. The areas where the university has been particularly active in involving the faculty, students, staff and the wider community is in Human Rights (Principle 1 & 2) and The Environment (Principles 7 – 9). Here are some specific examples of these activities.

Human Rights (Principles 1 & 2)

The main contribution of St. Thomas University to the development and implementation of human rights globally is its Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights. Led by Professor Siegfried Wiessner and Professor Roza Pati, and featuring global experts, it has graduated more than 450 LL.M. students from 90 countries since its inception in 2001. Its distinguished guest lecturers include, among others, Ambassador Ahmed Amin Fathalla, Past Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee, Virginia Bras Gomes, Past Chair of the UN Committee on Social Economic and Cultural Rights, Professor Fausto Pocar, former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and Dr. Toni Pfanner, former Legal Advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Its J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights, added in 2005, has now led to the publication of 23 theses, fostering a global order of human dignity. The graduate program also sponsors the *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*, now in its 17th year of publication, having been ranked No. 6 of 48 human rights law reviews globally. Its annual symposia track the signs of the times, with the most recent one, on March 25, 2022, discussing capital punishment under the title "The Death Penalty: A Violation of Human Dignity?"

Professor Dr. iur. Roza Pati, LL.M. is Executive Director of the Law School's LL.M. and J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights. Prof. Pati was the only U.S. member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace at the Vatican (2012-2017), and in 2021 she was appointed for a second mandate to be Member of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, an entity responsible for the development of Catholic social doctrine,

issues of justice and peace as well as migration, health, charitable works and care of creation. She is also Founder and Director of the John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy, a premier institution of training, education, advocacy, and research on human trafficking, with national and global reach, and with particular focus on survivor empowerment and care for migrants. Her many original publications as well as lectures around the globe have earned Prof. Pati international recognition for her activities and leadership in the field. The Academy focuses on values of human dignity and integral human development (www.humantrafficking.org) showcased through a multitude of activities and resources that feature top experts and authorities in the field of human trafficking law and policy. A \$2.5 million private gift has helped expand the path breaking activities of the Academy in the area of intersection of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor, human trafficking and opioids, human trafficking and healthcare, human trafficking and migration.

Professor Dr. iur. Siegfried Wiessner, LL.M. is the Founder and Director of the Intercultural Human Rights Program. He has published widely in the fields of constitutional law, international law, jurisprudence, human rights, international indigenous law, the law of armed conflict, arbitration, space law, and refugee law. He chaired the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2008-2012). It developed ILA Resolution No. 5/2012 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which found rights to their traditional lands, culture and self-government under customary international law. He also is part of the faculty of the UN Audiovisual Library with his lecture and article on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and he serves as Editor-in-Chief of the book series *Studies in Intercultural Human Rights* published by Martinus Nijhoff in The Hague.

Inter Cultural Human Rights Program LL.M and JSD Degree Program

This academic College of Law graduate level Program awards the LL.M and JSD degrees in Inter Cultural Human Rights to 450 students from 90 countries since its inception in 2001, with the JSD degree added in 2005.

Human Trafficking Academy: Select Activities at a Domestic and Global Level (2018-2022)

Coming up, July 2022: *Migration and Human Trafficking—Tracing Root Causes and Seeking Intentional Solutions.* We live in unparalleled times. A war of aggression is in full display right before our eyes. It is followed by the most devastating humanitarian crisis in the heart of Europe since WWII. Any description of its implications will do no justice to the reality of death, human suffering, family separation, property destruction, and millions of refugees on the ground in Ukraine. This year's Academy examines one such implication – the amassing refugee crisis – and the dark underbelly it brings along: an increase of criminal activity including human trafficking and human smuggling. Organized criminal activity is on the rise and its *modus operandi* is beyond the pale. This is a sign of our time. It follows the previous migrant and refugee crisis from the Middle East, and the ever-going saga of people on the move, fleeing some disaster or dire poverty from every corner of our planet, heading towards any place of hope.

Coming up, September 2022: Vatican's 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The theme this year: "*Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees,*" highlighting the commitment that we are all called to share in building a future that embraces God's plan, leaving no one behind.

Expert Series: *A Fireside Chat with Dr. Roza Pati,* features experts and survivors worldwide.

On January 11, 2022, during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy in Ft. Myers, Florida, hosted an intensive one-day training against human

trafficking: *Integration Challenges: All Hands on Deck to End Human Trafficking in Southwest Florida*. Over 100 enthusiastic participants spanning the public and private sector filled the Riverside Community Center including government officials, law enforcement officials, public and private attorneys, victim advocates, NGOs, faith-based organizations, educators, healthcare professionals, and the community at large.

In October 2021, Human Trafficking Academy hosted the annual certificate training under the topic: *Assessing Human Trafficking through the Lens of Health Care: Examinations in Health and Law. Healing with Integral Development*, aimed to address these issues by offering 15 courses taught by leading experts in the field worldwide. Participants hailed from over 15 states and internationally. Their ranks included healthcare professionals, attorneys, service providers, academics, case managers, investigators, students, nonprofits, faith-based institutions, and government agencies. Together over 1,700 hours of online learning and over 1,000 posts on the discussion boards were completed.

Celebrating Vatican's 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The theme, *Towards an Ever Wider "We"*, called to commit ourselves to restore our human family. The Academy offered an event series in honor of this theme as it relates to people on the move and survivors of human trafficking. On September 24, 2021, a live webinar *An Ever Wider "We"* and a reflection on His Holiness Pope Francis' teaching on "*A Communion in Diversity*," was led by Dr. Roza Pati. M. Kazam Hashimi, *Afghan SIV in the U.S. and Mentee and Interpreter* with Hello Neighbor, and Maryem Reyes, *Venezuelan asylee in the U.S. and LL.M. Candidate* of the Intercultural Human Rights Program at St. Thomas University, provided testimonies on "*Being Part of 'We' in the United States*." A panel on "*Case Study Afghanistan*," contextualized the discussion through the present situation of Afghan migrants and refugees.

July 2020 Summer 2020 Human Trafficking Academy - *The State of Labor Trafficking Domestically and Abroad: A Critical Assessment on the 20th Anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act*. Online platform buildout to create virtual Academy during COVID-19, which offered 15 cutting-edge courses from experts around the world. CLE accredited. Invited personalities like: Pulitzer-Prize Winning AP National Writer Martha Mendoza; Prof. Catharine MacKinnon provides Distinguished Lecture: *The Intersections of Sex and Labor Trafficking*; The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle of the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office offered a special presentation for the participants.

September 21-27, 2020 Organized and hosted four events to commemorate the Vatican's 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees by hosting an event series.

--Webinar titled *Welcoming People on the Move: Our Moral Calling to Serve the Most Vulnerable*.

--Webinar titled *From Crisis to Crossroads: Protections in Law for Migrants and Refugees*.

--Webinar titled *Promoting the Well-Being of Migrants and Survivors of Human Trafficking: The Role of Local, Community, and Faith-Based Organizations*.

--Reflecting and Praying Together: Host Communities, Migrants, Survivors of Human Trafficking - *Mass Honoring the World Day of Migrants & Refugees*.

November 2020: --Meeting with Jones Day law firm on providing pro bono expungements for human trafficking survivors.

--Meeting with British Petroleum Human Rights/Human Trafficking associates, London Office.
-- *Combatting Human Trafficking in Texas: The Role of University Students* presented to Texas Sunshines at the University of Texas, Austin.

November 30-December 4, 2020 *The Catalyst Forum - The Narrative of Gender Violence in the Time of COVID: Agency & Action.*

January 25, 2021 *A Victim-Centered Approach to Health Care for Survivors of Human Trafficking* presented in cooperation with University of Miami Health Systems THRIVE Clinic, Rotarian Public Health Fellowship, and Rotary District 6990. CMEs and CEUs accredited.

February 8, 2021 Event Series for *International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking*. Over 350 professionals from throughout the U.S. and six continents participated.

--*Part I: Prayer Service for Reflection & Action against Human Trafficking*

--*Part II: Survivor Perspectives: Informing our Work against Human Trafficking*

--*Part III: Mass for Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking*

February 8, 2021 Coordinated Student and Presidents Participation in Talitha Kum's International Prayer Service against human trafficking.

February 18, 2021 *Roundtable: The Intersection of Pornography and Sex Trafficking: Evaluations in Public Health, Social Work, and Law* in cooperation with St. Thomas University School of Law's Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights, Barry University School of Social Work, and Palm Beach State College School of Health Sciences.

February – June 2021: *Solidarity with Seafarers Initiative 2021* with Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAHNT).

April 12, 2021 Meeting with representative of ACT Africa on human trafficking matters.

April 22-23, 2021: *Human Trafficking as a Form of Gender-Based Violence Forum: Health & Economics* event series with STU Institute for Ethical Leadership, WEI Forward, and Urban Health 360. Academy presented on two tracks -- *Human Trafficking & Health & Human Trafficking & Economics*

May 2021: Provide FBI with sources for information on human trafficking occurring in Florida.

June 2021: Facilitate sources and associated Academy experts for article in *Psychology Today* with writer Mitzi Perdue.

June 12, 2021: *World Day Against Child Labor 2021* Educational Campaign Online.

January - December 2021: *International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour* educational campaign multiple events online.

Japan (March 2020): At the request of the Ministry of Affairs of Japan, on March 3, The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy and I hosted a distinguished delegation of government officials from Japan to discuss anti-human trafficking measures in a roundtable titled *The Challenges of Combatting Human Trafficking in Japan and in the U.S.: An Exchange of Expertise*.

Albania (Feb. 2020): I hosted a delegation of distinguished government officials and professionals from Albania traveled to the Academy for a roundtable entitled *Public-Private Partnerships in Combatting Human Trafficking: The Role of Academia*.

India (Jan.-Feb. 2020): I traveled to India to educate government officials, law students, and academics of numerous law schools and colleges on human trafficking and human rights with an emphasis on academic leadership towards a culture of lawfulness.

Summer Academy July 2020, offered 15 specialized training courses under the theme “*The State of Labor Trafficking Domestically and Abroad: A Critical Assessment on the 20th Anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act,*” featuring 15 top experts from all over the U.S., academics, government officials and highly acclaimed practitioners to serve as instructors for the Academy. Participants hailed from all the U.S. and abroad have already registered. CLE-s in various areas of law will be offered as well. The annual, weeklong Summer Academy welcomes participants from around the country representing various professional groups including social service providers, child protective investigators, psychologists, government representatives, attorneys, law enforcement, teachers, academics, human rights advocates, entrepreneurs, students, health care professionals, and faith-based organizations.

Labeling for Lent Campaign (March-April 2020): The Academy, member of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, joined the Labeling for Lent campaign for 2020. Labeling for Lent Campaign encouraged the wholesale company Sysco to better inform its customers about efforts they are making to ensure their supply chains are free of forced labor. Sysco is a global leader in selling, marketing, and distributing food products to restaurants, health care, and educational facilities. With over 650,000 customer locations, the company operates more than 320 distribution facilities globally. In the United States, many of the schools and hospitals who purchase from Sysco are Catholic. The campaign was very successful, and the Academy provided excellent online resources, including resources from the Vatican.

Super Bowl Event – One Team Against Human Trafficking (Jan. 2020): As part of the Stop Sex Trafficking Campaign spearheaded by The Miami Super Bowl Host Committee, The Women’s Fund Miami-Dade, and the Office of Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, and sponsored by the Miami Dolphins, I directed the coordination of the event that was hosted by the Academy at St. Thomas University School of Law. The event included a main program, interfaith prayers, community resource fair, convenience store outreach, and human trafficking training. The over 15 speakers included Florida Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez and survivor of human trafficking, Shamere McKenzie.

Community / NGO Forum with Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office (May 2019): at the City of Miami Police Academy this training focused on trauma-informed interviewing and other matters. Speakers included Retired Deputy Chief Michael J. Osgood; Dr. Brook Bello (Survivor); and State Attorney Rundle.

Labeling for Lent Campaign (March-April 2019): The Academy, member of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, joined the Labeling for Lent campaign for 2019. An initiative to persuade Costco executives to provide traceability information at the point of sale for Kirkland Signature seafood products sold in their stores.

Special presentation by Attorney Elsa Meany on the case of *Hacienda Brasil Verde* on human trafficking before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Roza Pati was interviewed by various print and electronic media: The Florida Catholic, the *US Catholic Magazine*, *Reuters Mexico City*, *Living Bread Radio Network*, newspapers, radio and TV in Jamaica etc.

Jamaica (February 2019): At the invitation of the Ministry of Justice of Jamaica as well as the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (NATFATIP), Roza Pati presented a Distinguished Lecture at the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean, met with state officials focusing on human trafficking in the supply chain. While in Kingston, she appeared on national radio and national TV and was featured in various newspapers as well as in social media.

Breaking Chains & Breaking Cycles: The Intersection of Opioids and Human Trafficking (January 2019): On National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy in partnership with A Voice in the Wilderness Empowerment Center (AVITWEC) offered a specialized training entitled *Breaking Chains and Breaking Cycles: The Intersection of Human Trafficking and the Opioid Crisis* in Ft. Myers, Florida. Over 100 participants – consisting of government officials, healthcare providers, law enforcement, attorneys, nongovernment organizations, and the community at large – came together for this full-day training to fight modern day slavery.

Judicial Considerations: Human Trafficking (January 2019): A specialized Judicial Training on January 4, 2019, at the Broward County Courthouse entitled *Judicial Considerations: Human Trafficking*. The training served as part of the official orientation of the newly elected and appointed Judges of the 17th Judicial Circuit who began their service on the bench that week. Also in attendance were more seasoned Judges, and Continuing Judicial Education credits were offered. Judges in attendance are spearheading an inaugural Human Trafficking Court set to open in Broward later this year.

Rotary District 6990 Human Trafficking Workshop (August 2018): A day-long human trafficking workshop for several South Florida Rotary clubs members. The Rotarians who attended the workshop gained a knowledge and a roadmap for future advocacy, both of which is invaluable as the Rotary embarks on the project of joining the fight against human trafficking.

Brazilian Delegation Visit St. Thomas Law (June 2018): The delegation comprised of prosecutors, federal judges, police officers, legislative consultants and counselors from Brazil participated in a round-table of the Human Trafficking Academy at the request of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program to have a better understanding about the Academy's work in combatting human trafficking in South Florida and beyond.

Summer Academy (July 2018): Managing Casework with Human Trafficking Survivors. The Academy trained various professionals including social service providers, child protective investigators, psychologists, government representatives, attorneys, law enforcement, teachers, academics, human rights advocates, entrepreneurs, students,

and faith-based organizations, on the multiple issues of how to collaborate in managing casework with human trafficking victims.

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

In 1992, the St. Thomas University Human Rights Institute (HRI) was created to provide free immigration legal services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. Since that date, HRI an integral component of St. Thomas University College of Law has served over 100,000 individuals with compassion and an unwavering dedication to provide exceptional direct legal services to the indigent. Today's HRI has satellite offices in South Florida. HRI also serves as a "hands on" educational tool for the St. Thomas University College of Law, providing a venue for our students to volunteer, complete required for graduation *pro bono* hours, and/or participate in internships. HRI is another embodiment of St. Thomas University's commitment to social justice, assistance to the poor and indigent populations in conformity with Catholic Social Teaching.

Environment and Climate (Principles 7, 8 & 9)

St. Thomas University ("STU") houses the last remaining highland slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) forest ecosystem left in Miami-Dade County. It comprises about 10% of the campus acreage. This unique and pristine forest, as a whole, dates back to the recession of the last ice age: 10,000 – 12,000 years ago. South Florida is the only place on the entire east coast of the United States where one finds pines (northern climate) and palms (tropical climate) growing together. There is now only about 1% of that conifer forest left in S. Florida -largely due to widespread agriculture and urbanization. Currently, there is a concerted effort by faculty in the College of Health Sciences and Technology -and others- to manage and preserve this forest. Sadly, at the present time, our forest is highly disturbed with invasive plant species from South America, Africa, Asia, Australia and India. However, happily, the University has undertaken an important and critical restoration project. The bulk of the restoration must be done by hand; thus, this is a labor-intensive long-term project that College of Health Sciences and Technology is dedicated to completing. Over the past few years, great strides have been made in restoring various forest sectors to its pristine, original ecosystem. Overall, both faculty and students have dedicated their efforts and have been actively involved in this restoration project, amounting to thousands of hours of work.

One unique aspect of this ecosystem is that it is an urban forest, embedded within a totally urbanized community and framed by a major expressway -with heavy commercial traffic- and an executive airport only a couple of blocks away. Thus, this forest is a vital lung in the local area of Miami Gardens and the more general area of Miami-Dade County. This forest provides vital CO₂ carbon sinking, O₂ generation, complex habitat for wildlife, and simultaneously limitless possibilities for learning, exercise and relaxation to our STU community and the communities beyond.

From 2019 to the present, Dr. Perez and Dr. Maul from the College of Health Sciences and Technology have been working with other faculty and students in several projects consisting on the calculation of the Biomass and Carbon sequestration of trees from the urban forest at STU, using allometric equations. The purpose of these projects are to collect evidence of the contribution of green areas to climate change mitigation, as well as to select the hardwood species that disproportionately contribute to carbon capture for future plantings. These projects have been extended to the nearby Amelia Earheart Park in order to underscore the importance of increasing the number of parks and hardwood trees in urban environments that operate as "carbon sinks," as well as identifying tree species that capture the highest amounts of CO₂ within the urban area of our study local.

A sequence of research posters have been developed from these studies and presented at various local symposia: "Biomass Comparison of *Pinus elliotti*, *Quercus virginiana*, and *Casuarina equisetifolia*" in 2019; "Aboveground

Biomass and Carbon Stock in an Urban Forest in the Saint Thomas University Campus, Miami Gardens” in 2020; “Determining the Total Biomass and Carbon Stock of Different Tree Species Using Different Allometric Equations” in 2020; and “Carbon Capture in Trees of Amelia Earhart Park, Miami Dade County” in 2022 (a forthcoming symposia presentation).

At the April 2-5, 2019. 2nd International Conference on Climate, Nature and Society. Community leaders, innovators, leading experts and academics gathered at St. Thomas University for this two-day conference, convened by the St. Thomas University Institute for Bioethics, to tackle the complex issue of climate change and some of the main impactful consequences on the human population (The 1st International Conference on Climate, Nature and Society was done February 18-19, 2016, within months after the historical publication of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* . The first encyclical in the 2000-year history of the Catholic Church devoted entirely to the environment, and to the poor. Two dozen presenters representing Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Islamic traditions talked about what these religious communities are doing about climate change and stewardship for the sacred environment of our global garden planet. About one hundred people participated in this 1st International Conference on Climate, Nature and Society.

United Nations Clinical Externship Program & U. N. Seminar: Global Governance and Global Ethics (Principles 1-10).

The St. Thomas University College of Law United Nations Externship Program at the United Nations Headquarters in New York began in 2004. Professor Dr. Mark J. Wolff founded and directs the United Nations Externship Program. Professor Wolff also serves as an Advisor/Counselor to the Permanent Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and is a member of its delegation. In addition to sending law school interns to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Professor Wolff has placed law student interns to Vienna, Geneva, Paris (UNESCO) and Nairobi. The St. Thomas University College of Law has the only fulltime year-round United Nations internship program to the global United Nations in American legal education.

Through this program, law students become fully accredited to the United Nations in New York, and at other U.N., locations worldwide representing Permanent Missions, IGO’s and NGO’s for an entire academic semester. In addition, some student placements are directly with the United Nations Secretariat. This United Nations Externship Program operates full time and year-round. Saint Thomas University School of Law is the only American School of Law with a full time program at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

As fully accredited members of the delegation of a Permanent Mission, IGO, NGO or with the Secretariat, students are exposed to the organization and functioning of the United Nations system, including the Principal Organs, their voting procedures, subsidiary bodies, related and specialized agencies and commissions and U.N Committees. Law students that have participated in the internship program over the past eighteen (18) years were provided a transformational experiential learning environment resulting in their becoming global citizens with the ability to see issues through the differing perspectives of the other. Law Student interns are exposed and educated with respect to all Ten Global Compact Principals.