WHY HISTORY MATTERS:
Women’s Rights as Human Rights

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

MODERATOR

Ellen Dubois has been a professor of History and Gender Studies at UCLA for twenty-five years. She was trained as an American women’s historian and has written extensively on the history of women’s rights in the U.S., as well as co-authored two important U.S. women’s history texts. Over the last decade she has been moving her interests in women’s rights into the international arena, and is currently writing a history of international feminism, especially in Latin America and the Near, Mid and Far Easts, in the years between the two world wars. She is an active member of Human Rights Watch and a leader of the Southern California Women’s Rights division of HRW.

PANELISTS

Asli Ü. Bâli is Assistant Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law where she teaches Public International Law, Laws of War, and International Human Rights. Her current research focuses on comparative law of the Middle East as well as questions at the intersection of international law and international relations. Recent publications include Negotiating Non-Proliferation: International Law and Delegation in the Iranian Nuclear Crisis (forthcoming 2014); Courts and Constitutional Transition: Lessons from the Turkish Case (2013); and Pax Arabica? Provisional Sovereignty and Intervention in the Arab Uprisings (2012). Prior to joining UCLA Law, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Yale Law School. Before joining academia, Professor Bali practiced international law in a variety of contexts, including the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and in the Middle East and North Africa division of the World Bank. She holds a B.A. from Williams College, an M.Phil from Cambridge University, a J.D. from the Yale Law School and a Ph.D. from the Department of Politics at Princeton University.

Charlotte Bunch, Founding Director and Senior Scholar at the Center for Women’s Global Leadership, Rutgers University, has been an activist, writer and organizer in the feminist, LGBT, and human rights movements for over four decades. A Distinguished Professor in Women’s and Gender Studies, Bunch was previously a Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in DC and a founder of Washington DC Women’s Liberation, The Furies and of Quest: A Feminist Quarterly. Bunch has served on the Board of Directors of many organizations, including the National Gay
and Lesbian Task Force, the MS Foundation for Women and the Women’s Human Rights
Defenders International Coalition. She is currently on the Board of the Global Fund for Women,
AWID (Association for Women’s Rights in Development) and the Advisory Committee for the
Women’s Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. She has worked to bring women and
particularly issues of gender based violence and sexual rights onto national and international
feminist and human rights agendas. Bunch’s contributions to conceptualizing and organizing for
women’s human rights have been recognized by many including the National Women’s Hall of
Fame, the White House Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, being one of the “1000
Women Peace Makers” nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws
Degree from the University of Connecticut.

Liesl Gerntholtz is the Executive Director of the Women’s Rights Division of Human Rights
Watch. She is an expert on women’s rights in Africa and has worked and written extensively on
violence against women and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. Her work at Human Rights Watch
has included documenting access to safe and legal abortion in Ireland and sexual and gender-
based violence in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. Before joining Human Rights Watch,
Gerntholtz worked for some of the key constitutional institutions promoting human rights and
democracy in a post-apartheid South Africa, including the South African Human Rights
Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality. A lawyer by training, she was involved in
high-profile, strategic human rights litigation to promote women and children’s rights, including
a case that changed the definition of rape in South Africa.