ERIC ESRAILIAN & KATE MACKINTOSH

PROMISE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Eric: "As an Armenian whose family was affected by the Armenian Genocide, I wanted to have an institute on campus that focused on human rights scholarship and advocacy. We were fortunate to be able to use the proceeds from our film "The Promise," which tells the story of the Armenian Genocide, to launch The Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA. Since then, the Promise Institute has become known worldwide and helps to foster the many law students interested in advancing human rights at UCLA."

Kate: "Before joining the Promise Institute, I worked in practice as a human rights lawyer. I worked in post-conflict situations as an international law adviser, at international criminal tribunals, and spent 8 years with Doctors without Borders. Since 2018, I have led the institute as its executive director, and we work to advance human rights relating to indigeneity, race, the environment, migration, and technology. The Promise Institute addresses human rights violations relating to health in a number of ways. For example, one project works to legally advocate for better COVID-19 policy for the incarcerated and the unhoused while another supports doctors assessing medical claims for asylum."

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH

Eric: "As a physician, I have seen the impact of human rights violations on the health of individuals and whole populations. Healthcare professionals see firsthand the health outcomes that arise from human rights violations. For example, ER physicians see evidence of domestic violence in their practice and are responsible for documenting this evidence. These healthcare professionals have the ability to play a large role in treatment as well as prevention. Preserving human rights as a society is something that will lead to less health inequities and something we should all work towards."

Kate: "Healthcare is about human rights. For example, in Doctors without Borders I helped medics, who see the physical traces of human rights violations, think about prevention and addressing the social causes of health issues, so that we don't see patients in the same situation. The Promise Institute is also involved in looking at the impact of environmental destruction on human life, health and well-being. I am involved in a campaign to introduces a fifth international crime of ecocide, alongside genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression. It is necessary to understand the term ecocide and its grave dangers against humanity."