

Dr. Eric Esrailian is the Chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA where he is a Health Sciences Clinical Professor of Medicine. He is an Emmy-nominated film producer, investor, and entrepreneur. His films, accompanying social impact campaigns, drew unprecedented attention to the Armenian Genocide and contributed to U.S. government recognition of the historical facts which led to the creation of The Promise Institute for Human Rights and The Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA.



Kate Mackintosh has worked in the fields of human rights, international criminal justice, and the protection of civilians for over two decades. She was involved in the development of international criminal law in its fledgling years and contributed to defining many elements of this new area of law, such as the elements of rape as an international crime, the definition of protected persons, and the scope of complicity for international crimes. For eight years, Mackintosh worked with Doctors without Borders. She is the inaugural Executive Director of the Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA School of Law.

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."