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Friday Lectures & Partners



Friedrich Naumann STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**

2018

HUMANITY IN ACTION

PAT COX FELLOWSHIP





Judith Goldstein Founder and Executive Director of HIA

Humanity in Action works at the international intersection of education and diversity to promote a new generation of global leaders. Through its highly regarded fellowship programs, conferences and expansive global network, HIA encourages university students and young professionals to confront the complex challenges of diversity within the broad context of human rights and promotes the values of civic engagement, individual responsibility and collaborative action.

HIA organizes programs in many countries that have tragic histories grounded in racial, religious and ethnic conflicts that have too frequently resulted in mass violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide. The holocaust is the primary historic reference for the five programs in Europe as they connect past to present, with the conviction that knowledge leads to action.

This educational focus is critically important today in democratic and pluralistic societies that have to face challenges and seize opportunities of large-scale migrations.

Over 18 years, and now with over 1600 fellows, HIA has inspired action and built a unique and vibrant global network of students, young professionals and experts in diverse fields, committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship—in their own communities and around the world.



The Initiative we are discussing today, named 'We are a welcoming Europe, let us help!', greatly inspired us as it demonstrates the strengths of the European Union project. It requests the Commission to assist citizens helping refugees resettle and to ensure their safety. Its main demands include allowing resettlement funding to reach private sponsors, stopping the criminalization of aid to refugees and migrants, as well as ensuring migrants feel safe reaching out to authorities regarding exploitation and mistreatment. The European Commission officially registered the Initiative on 15 February 2018, which started a year-long process of signature collection.

Special thanks to Jules Bejot and Hind Sharif from Migration Policy Group for making it a reality and allowing us to contribute to its success.



Sonia Lépine-Persaud is a former HIA-Pat Cox Fellow, where she worked in the office of MEP Nirj Deva (ECR). Following the Committee on Development, her work focused on international politics and development issues. The fellowship provided a perfect starting point in Brussels, as she was able to gain insight into the interaction between EU institutions and other actors.

This year, Sonia has taken over the responsibilities of the Pat Cox Fellowship director while Martine Alonso Marquis was on maternity leave. The entire cohort of Fellows thank her tremendously for stepping into this role and ensuring the success of our fellowship experience. Without her none of this would be possible.



**Sami Sarper
Yazıcılaroğlu**

**Kati Piri
MEP Netherlands**

Working for both MEP Kati Piri (S&D), Turkey Rapporteur of the European Parliament, and Laura Batalla-Adam, Secretary General of the European Parliament Turkey Forum, was an incredible experience. As EP Turkey Forum is a cross-party, non-partisan platform composed of sixty MEPs, I had the opportunity to interact with numerous MEPs as well as other officials, political decision-makers, experts, civil society and business actors both from Turkey and the EU through high-level political discussions we participated, facilitated, and hosted. Having previously worked for a US congressman, Pat Cox Fellowship also allowed me to gain a unique comparative perspective. As Kati and Laura are extremely intelligent, hard working, and committed individuals, working for them was better than I could have dreamed.



Martine Alonso Marquis

Martine Alonso Marquis is the Director of the Pat Cox - Humanity in Action Fellowship, an international relations lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, a career adviser and trainer at Key2Advance. Her engagement with Humanity in Action goes back to 2003, when she participated in the summer program in Berlin. She was also a Pat Cox fellow herself in 2010, after which she was recruited as foreign policy adviser and chief of staff to a member of the European Parliament. Martine has gained extensive work experience in the field of human rights with Oxfam, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the International Law Center in Belgrade and Pristina. She also has organised many educational workshops with the South-Eastern initiative of the French-German Youth Office, mostly focused on cross-culturality, human rights and post-conflict reconciliation. Martine studied social sciences in Berlin, conflict studies and international relations in Paris, where she also obtained her PhD in political science.



Pat Cox was the President of the European Parliament from 2002 to 2004. He has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1989, representing the constituency of Munster in the Republic of Ireland. Before entering politics, he worked both as an economics lecturer and as a journalist and TV presenter. In 1998, he was first elected President of the European Liberal Democrat Group. He was unanimously re-elected in June 1999. In 2005, Pat Cox was elected as the new president of the European Movement International.



Inès Seddiki

**Renate Weber
MEP Romania**

Fellowship

Each year, Humanity in Action brings together a small group of outstanding international students and young professionals for three-month professional fellowships in Brussels, Belgium. Participants in this program spend four days a week in the office of a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), a Brussels-based NGO or a political foundation. One day a week they attend a selection of seminars, lectures and site visits to introduce them to a variety of topics concerning contemporary politics in Europe. The program was founded in 2005 and has helped nearly 100 young people gain insights into the workings of the European Union, understand the intricacies of Brussels' decision-making processes and acquire invaluable work experience.

During my Pat Cox Fellowship I worked in the office of MEP Renate Weber (ALDE). I worked on various files in the Employment and Social Affairs and Human Rights committees. I was particularly involved in the work around an "Own Initiative Report" on Employee Financial Participation designed as a way to tackle unemployment and foster sustainable governance. This was my first experience in international relations and public affairs. As I could follow the whole process from the draft of the resolution to the vote, I could experience the hearings, consultations and the lobbying process. Coming from the private sector, I find this experience unique and very enriching.



Darija Sesar

**Eduard Kukan
MEP Slovakia**

During my Pat Cox Fellowship, I worked in the office of MEP Eduard Kukan (EPP) where I mostly focused on issues related to the Foreign Affairs Committee. This opportunity allowed me to explore what the European Union really means and to work on the Western Balkans EU integration process, which is personally very important to me. This Fellowship is a perfect chance for young professionals to gain insights into EU politics and the interaction between EU institutions and other actors, but also an incredible chance and invaluable experience to make choices for future career path. The Pat Cox program truly promotes HiA model with an idea to educate fellows, to connect a network and inspire action.



Roberto Flores

**Norica Nicolai
MEP Romania**

As a Pat Cox Fellow, I worked in the office of Romanian MEP Norica Nicolai (ALDE) and focused on foreign affairs issues. Mrs. Nicolai worked in the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, which I followed closely and contributed amendments to resolution on topics like indigenous rights and EU-Azerbaijan relations. Additionally, I helped organize an event on the union of Romania, drafted letters, wrote briefs and written explanations of votes on issues from EU budget to foreign human rights violations. Overall, attending committee meetings, hearings, and events gave me a perspective into the political climate in Europe and expanded my understanding of politics beyond the partisan and heavily right-leaning politics of the United States. As an American, the national politics of the EU were equally revealing of the strengths and struggles of a transnational democracy, which might one day exist elsewhere in the world.



Joanna Kopacka



Daniela Oberstein
Program Manager

During my time as a Pat Cox Fellow, I worked at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. My tasks included carrying out research, managing events and providing social media content, as well as assisting international delegations in Brussels, and arranging meetings with EU officials and experts. Thanks to this experience, I have gained invaluable insight into the inner workings of the EU and learned how to navigate the network of European institutions and civil society actors in Brussels. Attending numerous conferences, meetings and workshops, I had the chance to participate in the ongoing European debate and grow both professionally and personally.



Kathryn McDonald



Brigitte Dufour
Director

For my Pat Cox Fellowship I worked at International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR), where I expanded my international legal experience by engaging with policy makers and activists to advance human rights in the Former Soviet Union. I had the opportunity to represent IPHR at conferences and policy dialogues on Russian aggression in Ukraine, EU enlargement, and the shrinking space for civil society in Azerbaijan and Russian Federation. Having previously worked in government and the private sector, this Fellowship challenged me to expand my skill set in several ways unique to an NGO, including through preparing detailed grant proposals and advocating for the provision of emergency funds to a human rights defender jailed in Chechnya. This Fellowship is an invaluable opportunity for HIA Senior Fellows to gain experience and elevate their work to the next level both inside and outside the "Brussels Bubble."