



VIUFA Human Rights and International Solidarity Committee (HRISC) 2020-21 Report

A common refrain of 2020-21 is that it has been a year like no other: teaching asynchronously, for the majority of us, while learning and adapting to the online world. It has been more than a pivot and has challenged everyone. We are all feeling weary. As well, the rise of racism became more apparent with unwarranted deaths (murders) of IBPOC in Canada and the United States.

In relation to the latter, on June 4, 2020, I circulated a statement on BLM with a number of resources. Since then, you have received a weekly potpourri of resources (sometimes as many as three posts) with a two-week hiatus during the winter/Christmas break. These resources include webinars, opinion pieces and more on a range of social justice topics from climate change to misogyny to anti-racism.

During the fall semester, HRISC was able to host one speaker, Catherine Clement, on November 4, 2020. This virtual event was co-sponsored with the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC in support of anti-racism education. It was recorded and is available online, [Hidden Stories: The Photos of Yucho Chow](#). This event was part of WorldVIU Days.

Prior to the winter holidays, the purchase of ten sleeping bags was made possible by sharing the cost between VIUFA Exec, Status of Women, and HRISC. The sleeping bags were for those displaced from a homeless camp on Wesley Street removed by the City of Nanaimo.

HRISC has collaborated with and supported VIUFA Status of Women on a couple of events. For International Women's Day, HRISC donated \$150 for an honorarium. As well, HRISC suggested a topic (Dr. Sara Ahmed's lecture "Complaint, Diversity, and Other Hostile Environments") for SWC's Monthly Mingle. Your HRISC Chair, Dr. Imogene Lim, was also an interviewee for SWC's [Zoom In: Women Making Impacts](#) (December).

HRISC planned an implicit bias workshop, February 10, as part of VIU's Global Citizens Week (Jean-Guy Robichaud, Imogene Lim). As well, we supported in part (rental fee) the screening of a film for the Eco Club, *The Condor and the Eagle* (2019), for that week.

Regarding the international solidarity aspect of this committee, HRISC donated \$300 to a fundraiser coordinated by CoDevelopment Canada to "Spotlight [on] Maquila Women Workers." This donation gave access to up to ten VIUFA members to attend this virtual event.

HRISC ended the spring semester celebrating student creativity and scholarship, in collaboration with CREATE, in an anti-racism arts festival. Besides HRISC members serving as adjudicators (Eliza Gardiner, Jean-Guy Robichaud, Imogene Lim), AVP Student Services, Irlanda Price, Dean, Social Sciences, Elizabeth Brimacombe, EDI Post-Doctoral Fellow, Tehmina Khwaja, and community member, General Manager, Nanaimo Museum, Sophia Maher joined us. HRISC awarded three \$100 prizes in each of two categories: Visual Arts, and Performance. As well, HRISC provided four raffle prizes of a Mambo's Pizza gift

certificate. The event was a good promo for CREATE and VIUFA HRISC as it was reported in the [Nanaimo News Bulletin, April 12, 2021](#).

To be better able to support my colleagues, I participated in an all-day workshop on Bullying and Harassment, January 27, 2021, sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress.

As Chair of HRISC, I represent VIUFA at FPSE meetings (Federation of Post-Secondary Educators), held virtually this year: November 7, 2020, and January 29, 2021. I worked with two colleagues from KFA (Kwautlen) and ECADFA (Emily Carr) in crafting a proposal for the FPSE AGM on the development of a *Handbook on Controversial Public Place Names and Monuments*. This will be voted on during the May FPSE AGM. As a member of FPSE, HRISC chairs were asked to assist CPA (Capilano) in adjudicating social justice essays (undergraduate theses) for its Student Research Symposium. I volunteered my services for this endeavour.

In addition, I sit on the quarterly meetings of VIU's President's Committee of Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights. This year because of the EDI Survey (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion), I sat on more than one consultation meeting. I also work and collaborate with the wider community. For example, I spoke on an anti-racism panel sponsored by CVI Multicultural Society, March 20, 2021.

Much gratitude to this year's HRIS Committee members: Eliza Gardiner, Jean-Guy Robichaud, and Laura Shanner.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on VIUFA's HRISC.

Respectfully submitted,

Imogene Lim, Chair, HRISC

Anti-Racism Arts Festival
 In partnership with VIUFA's Human Rights and International Solidarity Committee

Be the Change by Kashmir Lesnick-Petrovic

Award	Amount	Recipient	Mentor(s)	Faculty
Top Three – Visual Arts	\$100.00	Enigye (Happy) Amarkah	Chai Duncan	Arts & Humanities
Top Three – Visual Arts	\$100.00	Rise Cole	NA	Education (KIN)
Top Three – Visual Arts	\$100.00	Kashmir Lesnick-Petrovic	Imogene Lim	Arts & Humanities
Top Three – Performance Arts	\$100.00	Camp Denis	Robin Davies	Arts & Humanities
Top Three – Performance Arts	\$100.00	Ta Udomchaisakul & Louis Gagne	Chai Duncan	Arts & Humanities
Top Three – Performance Arts	\$100.00	Rue Burgoyne-King	Sonnet L'Abbe	Arts & Humanities
Pizza Draw	Gift Certificate	Luan Arbuckle	Rachel Moll	Education (MED)
Pizza Draw	Gift Certificate	Brennan O'Loole	Sonnet L'Abbe	Arts & Humanities
Pizza Draw	Gift Certificate	Ta Udomchaisakul & Louis Gagne	Chai Duncan	Education (MED)
Pizza Draw	Gift Certificate	Claire Manning	Sonnet L'Abbe	Arts & Humanities