

MORNING PANEL CHOICES

Raising our Global Voices: how social media is being used to fight oppression

Recent events have shown the extent of the internet's power in preventing the censorship of those in our global community. In particular, social media movements have acted as the driving force behind the unprecedented social uprising seen in Egypt. This panel will examine how modern technology is being used to mobilize social change and how this compares to the tactics employed during revolutionary episodes of our global history. It will also discuss the importance of voicing one's opinions in the face of oppression and communicating the issues that are affecting our global society.

When Intervention becomes Interference in Humanitarian Aid Relief

At a very fundamental level, providing help where help is needed is a responsibility that we share in our global community. However, it is also our responsibility to *understand* the needs of those we seek to help and consider if the aid we are able to provide could damage the structure of the existing community. This panel will take a look at the ethical considerations surrounding humanitarian aid in developing countries. Collectively, we aim to define the manner in which aid should be provided, incidences in which our help may do more harm than good, and where we draw the line between aiding and intervening.

The Voluntourism Industry

For those who want to experience the world while helping their fellow man, the trips offered by organizations in the increasing popular voluntourist industry are certainly an attractive option. However, the voluntourism industry as a whole is far from homogeneous. With the wide variance in the types of trips being offered, it has become abundantly clear that the goals of a trip can greatly alter the contribution left by a volunteer group.

This panel will bring together representatives from various international volunteer organizations to discuss how their approaches vary, the long-term sustainability of their operations, and the ethical considerations that arise from inserting oneself into an existing community. Together they will critically examine how the voluntourism industry has affected development in developing countries and the arising ethical issues that are changing how international volunteer work is conducted.