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I chose to work with the Women's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch for my internship as a Liman Summer Fellow. Given my interest in tracking histories of the civil liberties movements in south and southeast Asia, the internship was a natural fit. HRW has a celebrated record of engaging productively with government, local civil society organizations and individuals to build human rights cultures in countries all over the world. I especially admired the nature of their human rights reporting and documentation, and the approach towards lawyering that they embody.

I worked with Aruna Kashyap, the Asia researcher in the Women's Rights Division. Having worked with Aruna previously on a couple of occasions, it was rewarding to be immersed right away into her existing projects.

I worked for a couple of weeks (June 1 - June 15, 2013) in India. During this time, HRW was engaged in preparing a briefing paper on Afghanistan's law on the Elimination of Violence against Women, that addressed child marriage and forced marriage. I researched UN statistics and secondary writing on minimum age of marriage in Islamic states. The campaign was received very well. See: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/04/afghanistan-child-marriage-domestic-violence-harm-progress>. For the second phase of my research (August 1 - September 30), I worked out of New York / Princeton. The bulk of my research in this phase involved looking at victim compensation models (both under labor law and otherwise) for women workers in the aftermath of the garment factory collapses in Bangladesh. The research goes towards framing a new HRW project in Bangladesh and Burma. Apart from these two major research tasks, I also briefly spent time researching Burmese customary law of marriage (in the aftermath of the Rohingya attacks) and the validity of Malaysia's ban on women in sports.

As always, I learnt a great deal working with Aruna. I was able to get a broader sense of what human rights lawyering is challenged with, in different parts of South and Southeast Asia. I also learnt about the meticulous vetting process that is involved in the production of human rights reports (not unlike the work that historians do!) and the ways in which HRW as an international human rights organization must work to support local groups and not act to disrupt their efforts. It got me thinking about my own dissertation work and the significant policy implications that it could have -- for lawyers, activists and civil society organizations.

I thank Aruna and Human Rights Watch for a wonderfully enriching experience. I also thank the Arthur Liman Public Interest Program for the opportunity to work in social justice law once again. I also want to especially thank Profs. Kim Scheppele and Leslie Gerwin at Princeton Judith Resnik and and Hope Metcalf at Yale Law School for their support.

This report was certified by Aruna Kashyap (kashyaa@hrw.org) on October 11, 2013