

The Human Trafficking Institute

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CONTACT: Kelli Ross, Project Manager and Executive Assistant
(731) 225-5799
Kelli.Ross@TraffickingInstitute.org
www.traffickinginstitute.org

Meaghan Newkirk '18 Selected for Inaugural Class of Douglass Fellows by Human Trafficking Institute

MCLEAN, VA – Meaghan Newkirk '18 has been selected for the 2017-2018 Douglass Fellowship class. This is the inaugural year for the program, which was created by the [Human Trafficking Institute](http://www.traffickinginstitute.org) in McLean, Virginia. The program's name is inspired by Frederick Douglass's commitment to freedom, education, law enforcement and advocacy.

Fellows were selected through a competitive process based on demonstrated academic ability, leadership potential, and commitment to human rights. During their fellowship year, Fellows will support the Institute's efforts to provide clear, data-driven materials to scholars and criminal justice practitioners who are fighting human trafficking. Douglass Fellows will serve September through April.

As part of her fellowship, Newkirk will coordinate an Institute event at [Duke University School of Law](http://www.duke.edu). She is also paired with a mentor who works on anti-trafficking initiatives. Newkirk's mentor is Eric Ha, Chief Risk Officer and Senior Counsel at [International Justice Mission](http://www.internationaljustice.org).

Newkirk graduated from [Cornell University](http://www.cornell.edu) in Ithaca, New York, in 2012. She has worked for law firms Grais & Ellsworth LLP, and Williams & Connolly LLP. Newkirk also completed a clerkship with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. She currently serves as an Executive Editor for the *Duke Law Journal*.

Newkirk first became interested in human rights and anti-trafficking work through a seminar on human rights advocacy last fall. This newfound interest led Newkirk to join Duke University School of Law's International Human Rights Clinic, where she worked to finalize and launch a report detailing the impacts of counterterrorism financing rules on women's rights organizations across the globe.

Newkirk considers the Douglass Fellowship an “an unparalleled educational and professional opportunity... The mentorship aspect of the program, in particular, [is] invaluable and [provides] a tangible bridge to the day-to-day reality of working in the anti-trafficking movement.”

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The Human Trafficking Institute exists to decimate modern slavery at its source by empowering police and prosecutors to stop traffickers. Working inside criminal justice systems, the Institute provides the embedded experts, world-class training, investigative resources, and evidence-based research necessary to free victims. For more information, visit www.TraffickingInstitute.org.

Read more about the Douglass Fellowship at www.DouglassFellowship.com.