

WHERE IS SHE NOW? ORTNER CENTER Q&A WITH ERIN HARTMAN

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The Ortner Center recently caught up with Penn alumna Erin Hartman (Nursing, '18) who, while a Penn undergraduate, was a Student Fellow with the Center and involved in the "From Cell to Home" project and other Center-sponsored events.

Now, she's using her passion for supporting survivors of sexual violence to create better outcomes for women in war-torn countries and refugee settlements.



Erin Hartman, Nursing '18

To pursue this work, Hartman was awarded the prestigious [Marshall Scholarship](#). She currently is seeking a Master of Law, concentrating in international human rights law and practice at the University of York. Hartman hopes to use her training to support women in refugee settlements and conflict areas who are survivors of sexual violence, an unfortunate and all too common consequence of war.

Her interest in human rights law and sexual violence began at Penn. As a nursing student, Hartman always felt a desire to help and care for people in times of need. While serving as a women's health policy intern in 2016, the now-infamous Brock Turner (Stanford swimmer) case was covered widely by the media, sparking her passion for preventing domestic and sexual violence. Emboldened, in the summer of 2017, she interned for the World Health Organization, where she worked with Dr. Claudio Garcia-Moreno on initiatives addressing violence against women. During her time at WHO, Hartman helped develop trainings for healthcare providers on how to respond to violence against women in humanitarian and conflict/emergency settings.

While a student, Hartman also volunteered as a sexual violence counselor and was a Student Fellow with the Ortner Center. With Ortner, Hartman was part of a larger team dedicated to seeking the release of a select few women inmates serving life sentences in Pennsylvania in order to afford them opportunity to reunite with their adult children through the From Cell to Home initiative. Many women serving life sentences were victims before they were offenders.

Hartman notes, "I'm so privileged coming from Penn, I'm well educated, white, English speaking — how do I do this [international conflict] work in an ethical way? My experience at WHO helped me grapple with using my privilege, and knowing where I needed to step back. The Ortner Center helped me translate my learnings from the WHO."

After graduation, Hartman went on to be an oncology nurse at New York Presbyterian Hospital, where she also was a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) in the emergency department. Building on her experience in the ER, she began to explore how to expand her work globally and in areas of conflict, ultimately leading to her Marshall Scholarship work at the University of York.

She says of her Ortner Center experience, "Susan [Sorenson] has been a really great mentor to me...connecting me to different individuals, challenging me to do what's hard. If you're interested in this work, you should find yourself a home at Penn; the Ortner Center is where you should do this work."

