

Maia Rotman
Final IHRP Intern Report
Summer 2015

From 21 June –5 July, 2015, supervising lawyer Kristin Marshall and I travelled to Mexico to conduct field research on possible human rights violations against HIV positive individuals and those who have experienced discrimination as a result of their sexual orientation or sexual minority status, work in the sex trade, or other vulnerabilities that combine with HIV status.

Over the course of the two weeks in Mexico, we conducted 25 interviews in Mexico City, 2 interviews in Cuernavaca, Morelos and 7 interviews in Tapachula, Chiapas. In total, we conducted 34 interviews with 50 individuals and organizations. Our interviews provided a wide spectrum of perspectives and we spoke to a range of individuals spanning from UNHCR protection officers to public health researchers to the director of a home for retired sex workers.

With this field research and back up desk research, I wrote a first draft of the Mexico case study section of what will be the IHRP/Elton John AIDS Foundation report on recent changes to Canada's refugee policies. It is currently under review.

I also began working on the Canadian federal health cuts section of the report. To this end, I attended the North American Refugee Health conference in Toronto and I have begun reaching out to and interviewing experts working on Canadian refugee health issues. I will begin drafting this section of the report in September 2015.

This work will continue through the fall and we hope to publish our final report on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2015.