

The staff at IWRAW-AP are passionate about the work they do advocating for women's rights and from day one of my internship they were more than happy to take the time to share their knowledge with me. Though I had some knowledge of women's rights before I left Australia, the depth of knowledge the staff provided me with was second to none. I was lucky enough to be provided with a full history of the struggle for women's rights by Shanti Dairam, a former CEDAW committee member and Executive Director of IWRAW-AP. She explained that even though the struggle for women's rights is at different stages throughout the world, CEDAW can still be used by every woman to demand change. For instance, for some countries at the CEDAW session I attended reproductive rights meant access to legal abortions. For other countries it was as fundamental as having access to a trained midwife for births. That women in both of these situations can advocate for change using article 12 of the convention shows just how powerful this international instrument really is.

My time at the United Nations Office in Geneva was also a real learning experience. Certainly some aspects of the state reviews were frustrating- the slow pace and the flat out lies told by some states are just some examples. However on the whole I found the experience to be a positive way to create change for women around the world. The women's rights activists who attended our training and had the chance to speak directly to the CEDAW committee were very happy with the experience. They believed the system gave them a chance to be heard and have attention drawn to their issues. It also provided these activists with clear direction for the future as states often make promises at the sessions.

On a personal level, getting to hang out at the United Nations for three weeks was just awesome. I was lucky enough to have dinner with CEDAW committee members, chat with the OHCHR staff who wrote the recent report on human rights abuses in North Korea, and meet inspiring people from across the globe. Being able to see international human rights law in action is not an experience many law students have access to. For this reason I am so grateful to IWRAW-AP for allowing interns to be involved in the process, not only as a spectator, but as a member of their team. I'd like to also thank the Castan Centre for organizing the internships, running essential pre-internship training, and also providing funding.



Six questions for:  
Creative Director of "Have You Got That Right?"

## Robert Ford

### *How did you become involved with the Castan Centre?*

My close friend Steven Castan asked me if I would be able to help with a video project the Castan Centre was starting. My previous partner Natalie Bugalski was and is involved in Human Rights and from that, I was introduced to the idea of how important they are in the world. I had a meeting with Marius Smith and Sarah Joseph and thought these were people who I'd really like to work with.

### *What do you do when you are not engrossed in the "Have you got that right" video project?*

Ha, I don't feel engrossed by the project at all. It feels like it's an extension of my film making abilities. I own a business called Kilby Park Tree Farm, it's a quality grower of trees and shrubs for the landscaping industry with a retail outlet called the Tree Shop in Burwood Rd Hawthorn. Kilby has two sites, one is ten acres in Kew the other is 30 acres in Olinda. It is an amazing business, beautiful in every sense.

### *What are you hoping people will take away after watching the videos?*

My aim is simply to entertain and inform. I think human rights are basically the rules we need to apply to society, to be good to one another. No matter who you are, where you live or what you do. I hope people take away information that is factually correct, easy to discuss and easy to understand.

### *What interests you about human rights and which area of human rights are you most passionate about?*

I think all the human rights are interesting, but I have one that is very interesting to me. Anyone who knows me would laugh, #24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The right to play. I'm a big fan of doing things that are fun and having a good time. It's very important to me to be able to have time to play, it's the release from the pressures of life.

### *What are your plans for season two of "Have you got that right?"*

Season two will be very exciting. I'm planning to continue the hybrid of entertainment and information. We are going to present short films that are similar to The Daily Show with John Stewart and Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. Very informed analysis of a particular question relating to human rights with a comic edge thrown in to give it pace.

### *What is your dream project?*

I'm now a certified Unmanned Aerial Vehicle pilot, so being sent to an exotic location and being asked to film amazing shots would be a dream job for me. There is going to be some drone footage coming up in the next season so look out for it.