

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Pamir Alpay, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Appointment of Professor James Waller, Ph.D. to the Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute



**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Professor James Waller, Ph.D. to the Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute for the period August 23, 2026, through August 22, 2031.

**RESOLUTION:**

“Be it resolved that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees appoint Professor James Waller, Ph.D. to the Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute for the period August 23, 2026, through August 22, 2031.”

**BACKGROUND:**

The Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights supports distinguished scholarship, teaching, and public engagement in the field of human rights within the University of Connecticut’s Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute. The individual appointed to the Gladstein Distinguished Chair will be a nationally or internationally recognized researcher, scholar, and teacher who has made significant contributions to the study and advancement of human rights. The appointment of Professor James Waller follows the recommendation of the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute and the Vice President for Global Affairs.

Professor Waller was the inaugural Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice and serves as Acting Director of the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut. He holds a joint appointment in the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages and the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute.

Professor Waller is an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of Holocaust and genocide studies, perpetrator behavior, and genocide prevention. His research and teaching focus on

understanding the causes of mass atrocities and advancing strategies for prevention, with a particular emphasis on education, policy engagement, and applied human rights practice.

He has an extensive record of scholarship, including multiple books and numerous peer-reviewed publications, and has lectured widely at academic institutions and professional forums around the world. His work has also informed training and policy development for governmental and international organizations, including the United Nations and agencies of the United States government.

In addition to his academic contributions, Professor Waller has played a leading role in advancing human rights practice through program development and public engagement. As Director of the Dodd Human Rights Impact Programs, he has helped bridge scholarship and real-world application in the areas of atrocity prevention and human rights education.

Professor Waller's distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and leadership in human rights makes him exceptionally well qualified to hold the Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights.