

HRLC holds Summer School on the Rights of the Child

Between 27 June and 1 July 2016, HRLC held the third annual Summer School on the Rights of the Child. Professor Aoife Nolan, Professor of International Human Rights Law and Head of HRLC's Economic and Social Rights Unit, acted as academic lead for the programme. Participants were drawn from a variety of civil society organisations, national human rights institutions and government from over ten countries resulting in varied, rich and informed discussions.

Throughout the week, children's rights scholars and practitioners gave interactive sessions on specific topics:



Participants presenting their findings

- Mr Patrick Geary, Children's Rights & Business Specialist at UNICEF, explained how companies should be incorporating children's rights into their operational practice.
- Professor Kirsten Sandberg, Rapporteur of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, presented the role of the Committee.
- Professor Helen Stalford, University of Liverpool, discussed Children's rights in the EU.
- Professor Matthew Happold, University of Luxembourg, looked at how international humanitarian law can be used to protect children in conflict.
- Dr Jason Pobjoy, Barrister at Blackstone Chambers and Research Associate at the Refugee Law Centre, University of Oxford, examined children's rights and refugee law.
- Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, outlined the conceptual and normative frameworks relating to sexual exploitation and abuse of children.



Participants of the summer school with Prof. Nolan and Prof. Sandland

- Ms Lisa Myers, Consultant and former Director of Child Rights Connect, examined how children's rights can be advanced through the UN system.
- Professor Ralph Sandland, University of Nottingham, provided a thought provoking session on gender and children's rights.
- Professor Laura Lundy, Director of the Children's Rights Centre at Queen's University Belfast, worked with participants on rights based participatory methodologies in advocacy and research.
- Veronica Yates, Director of the Child Rights International Network (CRIN), spent the final session discussing with participants ways in which to use legal advocacy for advancing children's rights

"This experience will remain unforgettable. It was well organised, had excellent speakers and the group was really nice."

"The sessions were very interesting and indeed covered many areas that are of particular interest to me. Given the restricted time the course covered a wide range of areas. The theory and practical application were very useful."

"The experts were very engaging and their subjects were presented in an interesting and varied way. I think that the group presentations were an excellent way of giving us the opportunity to put theory into practice."

"The speakers are very impressive, in relation to their work, research and overall biography. Their lectures were engaging and some were clearly very passionate. The course also allowed critical thinking about the CRC."

Making Judgments on Human Rights Issues

On 8 March 2016 HRLC was pleased to welcome the Honourable Mr Justice Singh, High Court judge and one of the founding members of Matrix Chambers, to Nottingham to deliver its Annual Lecture. Mr Singh has been a High Court judge since 2011 and is currently the Lead Presiding Judge of the South Eastern Circuit. In the 1980s he was a lecturer in law and is now an Honorary Professor at the University of Nottingham.

Mr Singh's address entitled *Making Judgments on Human Rights Issues* focused on the

development of the doctrine of proportionality in the English legal system. He noted the importance the adoption of the Human Rights Act in 1998 had on the development of the use of the doctrine by English courts and the subsequent requirements of proportionality which have been established in the case law of the Supreme Court (and its predecessor, the House of Lords). He noted furthermore the importance of reference to the doctrine of proportionality when assessing whether alleged discriminatory measures are objectively justifiable under Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Finally he stated that the application of the doctrine requires a fact-sensitive judgment which may vary depending on context.

Mr Singh's full address is available to read and watch at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/events/annuallecture.aspx.



The Rt. Hon. Justice Singh

Fundamental Rights in the EU – What is new in the world of FRA?



From left: HRLC Co-director, Prof. David Harris; FRA Director, Prof. Michael O'Flaherty; and HRLC Co-ordinator, Ms Agnes Flues

In June 2016, HRLC's Co-Director Professor David Harris and Coordinator Ms Agnes Flues attended the FRA's Fundamental Rights Forum 2016 in Vienna. At the Forum, the *Handbook on Access to Justice in Europe*, produced jointly by the FRA, the Council of Europe and the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, was launched. In 2014 HRLC was awarded the contract to prepare the handbook and Dr Debbie Sayers acted as the principal researcher for the project and author of the handbook. The launch included talks from Professor Harris, Dr Sayers, Mr Robert Spano,

Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, and Ms Maria Berger, Judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union. The handbook seeks to raise awareness and improve knowledge of relevant legal standards in the area of access to justice set by the EU and the Council of Europe, particularly through the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights. It has been designed as a practical guide for judges, prosecutors and legal practitioners involved in litigation in EU and Council of Europe Member States.

In June, the FRA published its *Fundamental Rights Report 2016*. The report identifies major developments, promising practices, and challenges in key areas of fundamental rights across the 28 EU Member States. Information regarding the UK was supplied by HRLC. Other reports published by the FRA include, in March, *Professionally speaking: challenges to achieving equality for LGBT people*, and, in April, *Ensuring justice for hate crime victims: professional perspectives*, for which the Centre provided the information concerning the UK.

HRLC is currently collecting the UK data for the FRA's Fundamental Rights Report 2016-2017, and has completed four FRA service requests since January, namely:

- *National intelligence authorities and surveillance in the EU: Fundamental rights safeguards and remedies – Legal update;*
- *Migration detention of children;*
- *Mapping minimum age requirements in respect to the rights of the child in the EU;* and
- *Rights of crime victims to have access to justice – a comparative analysis.*

HRLC is the UK Contractor for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and provides research and data collection services on the implementation of fundamental rights in the UK, which feed into the comparative reports published by FRA.



Handbook

HRLC celebrates International Women's Day 2016

On 8 March 2016, HRLC celebrated International Women's Day on social media by profiling the women professors at the School of Law, presenting their achievements. This was done to support and celebrate all women in academia and, in addition, to highlight the gender imbalance in the School of Law – currently only 7 out of 28 professors are women.

The School of Law is applying for an Athena Swan Award and revising its equality policies and work environment as part of a process to improve gender equality on all levels. To this effect, the School has nominated an Equality Officer and created an Equality Committee. More information on Athena Swan can be found at www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/athena-swan.



HRLC supports International Women's Day #IWD2016

HRLC staff on International Women's Day

Professor Nolan aids drafting of new CRC General Comment

In July 2016, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) issued *General Comment No. 19 on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights (art. 4)*. Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that, inter alia, States parties shall undertake all appropriate measures to the maximum extent of their available resources in relation to economic, social and cultural rights. This General Comment lays out how States parties can effectively implement Article 4 CRC in relation to public budgeting.



Prof. Aoife Nolan

Professor Aoife Nolan, Head of HRLC's Economic and Social Rights Unit, served as an expert advisor on the General Comment and contributed to its drafting. Professor Nolan has been working on the issue of budgets and children's rights for a number of years and in 2013 published a ground-breaking and highly influential article on the topic in the *International Journal of Children's Rights* entitled *Economic and Social Rights, Budgets and the Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Speaking of the new General Comment, Professor Nolan said: "The realisation of all children's rights – whether civil, cultural, political, social or economic – is dependent on resources to some degree. The General Comment will be an invaluable tool for the growing number of policymakers, advocates and academics working on strengthening the link between children's rights and budgetary decision-making".

UN Human Rights Council: Ten Years On – 17th Annual Student Human Rights Conference

On 5 March 2016, HRLC held its 17th Annual Student Human Rights Conference on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). Despite a number of notable successes, the Council has not been without



HRLC Co-Director Prof. David Harris closing the conference.

criticism during its ten year existence. The conference examined the achievements and failures of the HRC within the context of the UN human rights system as a whole.

We were pleased to be joined by the following keynote speakers:

- **Mr Karim Ghezaoui**, Chief Officer a.i., Special Procedures Branch, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Dr Rosa Freedman**, Senior Lecturer at Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham
- **Ms Aoife Hegarty**, Programme Manager at Universal Periodic Review Info, Geneva
- **Ms Lucy Richardson**, PhD Candidate at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, and former member of the New Zealand Permanent Mission to the UN

In the morning, Dr Freedman and Mr Ghezaoui provided a general overview of the Council. Dr Freedman offered an academic perspective of the Council's achievements, shortcomings and challenges ahead, while Mr Ghezaoui's address focused on the work of the special procedures from a practitioner's perspective.

Dr Freedman identified three main failures of the HRC, namely (i) politicisation of country-specific mandates, (ii) the lack of attention paid to certain vulnerable groups, and (iii) lack of professionalism and credibility. She also pointed out successes of the Council, namely two new mechanisms created by it: the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and special sessions to respond to a specific crisis. Dr Freedman concluded her presentation by suggesting that there should be more ways for individuals to be able to petition the HRC directly – even if the result is not binding.



Student Panel 4 chaired by Student Committee Member, Ms Yunan Shen

Mr Ghezaoui stated that, from the 1980s to the present day, the number of mandates under the special procedures mechanism had rapidly increased. He explained that mandates are usually rather vaguely worded and therefore give a lot of autonomy to the mandate holder. Mr Ghezaoui noted that one of the benefits of special procedures is that they address individual evidence in a flexible way – very few mechanisms allow individual complaints without ratification of optional protocols. Even though several challenges persist, Mr Ghezaoui emphasised that this does not render special procedures ineffective.

In the afternoon, Ms Richardson and Ms Hegarty focused on an important tool of the Council, namely the UPR, which reviews the human rights records of all UN Member States, analysing it from a government and an NGO perspective respectively.

Ms Richardson explained that the nature of the UPR has made it increasingly difficult for states to circumvent scrutiny of their human rights record as a wide range of issues can now be raised without having to find a specific treaty body that deals with them.

Ms Richardson noted that the UPR is important and has developed into a distinct mechanism that has moved away from the traditional state centric order of the older UN system. She concluded that it has created the opportunity for a new level of pressure on states as well as effective use by civil society, thus acting as a significant complement to existing UN mechanisms.

Ms Hegarty considered that NGO concerns tend to be successfully reflected in UPR recommendations. However, the role of NGOs does not stop there, the real work starts as soon as the recommendations are issued. This is because, in some cases, governments will not take the necessary steps to ensure implementation of the recommendations. Ms Hegarty furthermore looked at the challenges facing NGOs and the flaws of the UPR mechanism more generally, such as the ever-present threat of intimidation against NGOs and lack of financial support. She concluded by stating that the UPR must be kept relevant, inclusive, accessible and impactful to ensure that human rights remain a truly universal imperative.



Conference participants during lunch

Conference participants were also given the opportunity to attend two of the following student panels, chaired by HRLC Student Assistants:

- Panel 1: *Law v. Politics: The added value of the Human Rights Council?*
- Panel 2: *Case Studies: UN human rights principles in action*
- Panel 3: *The Universal Periodic Review: A useful tool for protecting rights?*
- Panel 4: *Human rights and vulnerable groups: challenges for the UN*

In the panels, students from many universities presented papers on their research.

Further information, including full addresses of all keynote speakers and reports of student panels, can be found on our website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/events/annualstudentconference.



Keynote speakers, HRLC staff and the Student Conference Committee

Fringe event: Model UN Human Rights Council

In the run up to the conference the HRLC Student Conference Committee collaborated with the University of Nottingham Model UN Society to create a Model Human Rights Council.

The model HRC was based on a fictional complaints procedure undertaken by a large NGO, following the systematic human rights violations in Saudi Arabia. The event allowed participants to immerse themselves in the functioning of the UN and the workings of the HRC, as well as gaining first-hand experience with the Model UN Society to develop diplomacy skills.

An interview with Professor Jeff Kenner



On 23 June 2016 the UK's electorate voted in favour of leaving the European Union, marking what will likely be the most significant constitutional change in recent legal British history. In the wake of the referendum we spoke to Professor Jeff Kenner, Professor of European Law and HRLC Project Lead for the FRAME Project, to discuss the possible impacts and future prospects of fundamental rights protection in the UK.

Following the referendum outcome, what options do we have ahead of us and what in your view would be the best solution?

The immediate challenge is how and when the UK should instigate the formal process to leave the EU, which is laid down in Article 50 of the EU Treaty. Once Article 50 is triggered, the UK and EU could be at the point of no return with a relatively short two-year period to negotiate an agreement setting out a new relationship between the UK and the EU post-Brexit. I would expect the Article 50 notice to be issued in the spring of 2017 with the aim of completing the negotiations before the next elections to the European Parliament in June 2019. It will be a huge task for the UK to establish a team with the expertise and skill to navigate through the uncharted waters of these negotiations. But what has to be understood is that the remaining 27 EU Member States and the European Parliament will each have their own demands and will have to sign up to the agreement. The logistical and political difficulties of achieving agreement are so huge that I would expect that, either the negotiations are extended, which is possible under Article 50, or transitional agreements are reached for certain sectors, such as financial services, agriculture etc., with negotiations continuing in other areas. It is not inconceivable that the process could take a decade.

The best option, in my view, is an agreement that is as close as possible to the present membership arrangements but is still formally a Brexit. Such a so-called "soft Brexit" modelled on the relationship between Switzerland and the EU, with some variations, would return sovereignty to the UK but require it to observe EU laws governing the single market, with some variations, and would also, to a large extent, preserve the UK within the European framework of social protection and human rights. This would be difficult – there are no easy options – and much would depend on whether a compromise can be reached on free movement of people.

The alternative of a so-called "hard Brexit", possibly without an agreement with the EU if the Article 50 procedure fails, would cut the UK adrift from the EU Single Market creating not only economic uncertainty for the whole of the EU, and increasing costs for consumers, but also a real threat to human rights protection should the UK government be minded to roll-back on social and environmental protection and/or European human rights obligations.

How will the future of fundamental rights protection in the UK be altered by Brexit?

If there is a "soft Brexit" negotiated between the UK and EU and ratified, it will be incumbent on the UK to, at the very least, maintain its obligations as a party to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and, in my opinion, also the European Social Charter. The UK will also need to protect the acquired residency rights of EU citizens living in the UK and, conversely, UK citizens living in the EU. These obligations will include being bound by the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights. Although the UK would no longer be bound by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Charter may still have influence indirectly in those areas, such as employment law, where the UK may have to commit to continue to be bound by EU legislation. All of these points may, in practice, make a "soft Brexit" hard to achieve.

In the event of a "hard Brexit", the UK-EU relationship would be set out in a trade agreement. This would be an international treaty with its own mechanisms for interpretation and dispute resolution. As a condition for free trade, and agreement on matters such as services and intellectual property, the EU would require the UK to agree to a human rights clause in order to be consistent with the policies it has towards all external countries. For example, if the UK were to exit from the ECHR, or even announce such an intention, it would, in my opinion, be impossible to achieve consensus at EU-level on a trade agreement.



Prof. Jeff Kenner

What does the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights offer above and beyond the protection under the European Convention on Human Rights?

The added value of the Charter lies with its recognition of economic and social rights in addition to civil and political rights. Although certain economic and social rights are heavily qualified, it is still possible to rely on them in the courts if the issue in dispute is within the scope of the EU treaties including EU laws, for example concerning protection against age, sex or race discrimination.

Fundamental Rights Protection

What do you think could be a positive outcome of the UK leaving the EU?

For the reasons I have indicated, I would prefer a “soft Brexit” – or ideally no Brexit! – but, whatever happens, the Brexit vote means that more priority will have to be given to forging new global relationships. The University and certainly HRLC are already extensively involved in projects outside of Europe as part of our global vision. It is important to remember that on some issues, such as the human rights of refugees, the EU has not had a good track record in recent years. Potentially, we would have more freedom to act bilaterally and multilaterally on human rights issues without the constraints of being part of the EU. We might be able to switch more resources to building links with developing countries and other regional organisations in Asia and Africa.

FRAME project nears conclusion

HRLC’s work on the four-year EU funded FRAME project, an international collaboration of 19 universities researching the impact of the EU’s human rights policies, is nearing completion. The Centre has taken a leadership role with responsibility for overseeing the completion of reports by a group of university partners. Professor Jeff Kenner has led HRLC’s research team and served on the FRAME Steering Committee. The overall project has required a huge collaborative research effort among the FRAME team at HRLC. In addition to Professor Kenner and the HRLC FRAME Research Fellow, Dr Stuart Wallace, important contributions have been made by Professor Mary Footer, Dr Nara Ghazaryan, Professor Aoife Nolan, Ms Katrina Sissins, Ms Agnes Flues, Ms Kobie Neita, Mr Petr Pribyla, Dr Mary Dowell-Jones and many others.

HRLC produced a series of reports and recommendations to the European Commission on how the European Union engages with businesses, international financial institutions, civil society organisations and human rights defenders. The outcomes of the research will be published online over the coming weeks at www.fp7-frame.eu/reports. Another

key outcome of the project, an article on remedies in the business and human rights context, will be published this autumn in the Boston University International Law Journal entitled *Private Security Companies and Human Rights: Are Non-Judicial Remedies Effective?*.

Over the course of the project there have been a number of highlights including:

- policy briefs offering guidance to EU policy-makers on how to resolve problems hindering the protection and promotion of human rights;
- an international workshop bringing together delegates from international organisations, civil society organisations and academia;
- the EU Multistakeholder Forum on corporate social responsibility;
- consultations on the World Bank’s human rights safeguards in Brussels;
- FRAME research presented at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva;
- research workshops held by our research partners throughout the European Union.

The project also developed strong ties between HRLC researchers and researchers across the EU and the rest of



Ms Katrina Sissins, HRLC Student Assistant, presenting at the EU and International Affairs Conference in Brussels

the world as they worked together on an array of different reports. Although their main focus concerned non-state actors,

researchers from HRLC contributed to other reports on trade and human rights, EU-US bi-lateral relations, policy coherence in the EU, EU relations with other regional organisations (including the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and EU regional partnerships. These reports resulted from a major collaborative effort with other universities in Ireland, Poland, Belgium, Finland, Austria, Hungary, USA, Morocco, South Africa, China, Peru and India.

Commenting on the success of the project, Professor Kenner said: “European Union funding has enabled us to put together an outstanding team of researchers on this important project which will influence policy makers in the 2020s and beyond. We have benefited hugely from the international collaboration involved which has enhanced the quality of our research findings. It is vital that the Centre continues to be a leader in this type of international research collaboration”.



Recognising the Difference between Hague and Geneva

On 25 February 2016 HRLC was pleased to welcome Emerita Professor Françoise Hampson, University of Essex, for the fourth Annual Lecture of HRLC's International Humanitarian Law Unit. Professor Hampson looked at the history of international humanitarian law to understand the



Prof. Françoise Hampson

differences between the Law of the Hague, being the rules on the conduct of hostilities, and the Law of Geneva, being the rules on the protection of victims. She pointed out that there are significant differences in the 'legal culture' of the two sets of

rules. Professor Hampson concluded that the distinction between Hague and Geneva law (still) matters and that the implications of this distinction are so widespread and significant that it should be revisited in more depth. The lecture was introduced by Professor Dino Kritsiotis, Head of the IHL Unit.

You can listen to Professor Hampson's full address at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/abouthrlc/operationalunits/international-humanitarian-law-unit.aspx.

Dialogue or Deference? Sir Nicolas Bratza returns to the School of Law



Sir Nicolas Bratza (centre) with HRLC Co-Directors Prof. Dominic McGoldrick (left) and Prof. David Harris (right)

On 7 March 2016, Sir Nicolas Bratza, former President of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and Honorary Professor in the School of Law, delivered a seminar entitled *Dialogue or Deference? The Relationship between the UK and Strasbourg Courts*. This was the last of a series of three seminars that Sir Nicolas delivered during his tenure as Honorary Professor. Sir Nicolas considered whether, and then how, the ECtHR and UK domestic courts have influenced each other. He concluded that strengthening the dialogue between UK courts and the ECtHR will continue to strengthen human rights protection in the UK.

A full report of the seminar is available on our website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/events/specialevents/lectures.aspx.

Updates from the Business & Human Rights Unit

In February 2016, Professor Mary Footer, Head of HRLC's Business, Trade & Human Rights Unit, gave a presentation on the effects of international human rights law on international trade at a workshop on the relationship between international law and international human rights law, organised by the University of Essex Human Rights Centre and Koç University Center for Global Public Law. Later in February, Professor Footer presented *Business, Trade and Human Rights in Mega-Regional Arrangements: A Relationship to Discover* at the Global Law at Reading (GLAR) Research Seminar Series 2015-2016.



Prof. Mary Footer

In May 2016, Professor Footer chaired a panel on international investment law and the role for public participation at a workshop entitled *Rethinking International Investment Law: Civic Advocacy, Representation and Participation in the International Investment Regime*, organised by the Universities of Warwick and Keele. Furthermore, she discussed *Researching the role of private and state security actors in securing transnational flows of natural resources and the human rights of civilians and workers: the case of Indonesia* at a research workshop on business and human rights organised by the Copenhagen Business School.

Updates from the International Criminal Justice Unit

In February 2016, Professor Olympia Bekou, head of HRLC's International Criminal Justice (ICJ) Unit and Ms Katerina Katsimardou-Miariti, HRLC Research Assistant, travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to present a report they co-drafted entitled *Prioritising International Sex Crimes Cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Supporting the national justice system in the investigation and prosecution of core international crimes with a sexual element*. The report was developed as part of the Case Matrix Network - ICJ Toolkits Project, of which HRLC is a partner. The team held meetings with members of the government and other national criminal justice actors, putting forward a proposal for a comprehensive strategy for the prioritisation of such cases.

In June 2016, Professor Bekou participated at CMN's Conference *Strengthening National Justice for Core International Crimes: Laws, Procedures and Practices in an Age of Legal Pluralism* in the Hague. Professor Bekou chaired a session on case mapping, selection and prioritisation, and gave a presentation on navigating the challenges of ratification and implementation of the ICC Statute.

The ICJ Unit also welcomed the publication of the edited collection *Cooperation and the International Criminal Court-Perspectives from Theory and Practice*. The book provides a detailed analysis of the ICC cooperation regime by scholars and practitioners in international criminal law. It is the outcome of an Expert Workshop HRLC convened in September 2013 and provides a unique insight into the current status of cooperation, as well as future challenges for the ICC. The volume was edited by Professor Bekou and former HRLC Research Assistant Daley Birkett. It is published in HRLC's *Nottingham Studies on Human Rights* series.

Following interviews in June 2016, Mr William Berrington joined the ICJ Unit as a summer intern. Finally, the ICJ Unit participated and won in the #JusticeMatters social media campaign and photo contest of the International Criminal Court. The campaign invited participants to add a "little justice to their world view" and the participating photos collected over 5600 likes and more than 950 shares in total.



The ICJ Unit's winning picture for #JusticeMatters

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HRLC and the School of Law

Rights and Justice Research Priority Area holds public lecture

On 21 April 2016 the Research Priority Area in Rights and Justice held a public lecture delivered by Professor Todd Landman, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Social Sciences, on *Norms, Values and Morality: The Comparative Politics of Human Rights*. During his address Professor Landman discussed the evolution of the international human rights regime, different kinds of human rights measures, and systematic ways in which to map, explain, and understand the variation in human rights abuse around the world.



Inaugural UK Mental Disability Law Conference held in Nottingham

The Inaugural UK Mental Disability Law Conference was held in Nottingham on 30 June and 1 July 2016. The conference was a joint venture of the School of Law and the Institute of Mental Health at the University of Nottingham, and Making Waves, a Nottinghamshire organisation of people with lived experience of mental distress. HRLC was a supporter of the conference.

Along with roughly fifty papers in parallel sessions, there were four plenary sessions with speakers from both within government and NGOs:

- *What it means to be a service user and the political status it should secure;*
- *The future of inspection and regulation;*
- *Compulsion in psychiatry and the role of law in a non-discriminatory world;* and
- *Looking Beyond the Human Rights Act: The future of human rights and mental disability.*

The conference was designed not merely to consider the theoretical elements of mental disability law, but also the effect of such law on the actual lives of people with mental disabilities. People with lived experience of mental disabilities were very much involved in the planning of the conference and, thanks to the support of the Wellcome Trust, constituted one fifth of the roughly 100 delegates in attendance. Roughly half the plenary speakers were also people with lived experiences.

The word 'inaugural' in the conference's title was intentional: the hope is that this will be the first of a series of events drawing together academics, NGOs and people with lived experience across the UK and Ireland. Speaking about the conference, Professor Peter Bartlett said: "At a time when human rights are under threat both nationally and internationally, when we are all trying to make sense of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and at a time when the austerity agenda in the UK is biting so hard on the lives of people with disabilities, these discussions could not be more timely".



The Brazilian Judges' Association visits Nottingham

In May 2016, 180 Brazilian judges visited the School of Law as part of their 2016 Congress. Over the two days a number of sessions were convened to facilitate a knowledge exchange between Nottingham academics and the visiting judges.

Professor Diane Birch, JC Smith Professor of Law, gave a lecture on *The Criminal Law and Procedure in England*, whilst Professor Jeff Kenner, Professor of European Law, presented on *The Labour Law and Procedure in England*. Furthermore, Judge John Matthews, District Judge of the South Eastern Circuit, spoke about *The County and Family Court: Procedure and Practice*. Justice Cristina Tereza Gaulia, Rio de Janeiro State Court of Appeal, talked about *Human rights and the rule of law in Brazil: present challenges and prospects for the future* to University of Nottingham staff and students.

The visit was rounded off with a splash of competition in the form of an England v Brazil football match. Professors and students from the University of Nottingham took on the Brazilian judges resulting in a four all draw.



Participants of the Brazilian Judges' Association's visit

HRLC Joined by UoN Student Interns

This summer HRLC was delighted to welcome three University of Nottingham student interns to the team.

Mr Nick Kimber holds a LLB from the University of Exeter and is currently completing his LLM at the University of Nottingham. As part of his Human Rights Law Research Internship, Mr Kimber assisted HRLC Co-Director Professor David Harris with research leading to the updating of materials for HRLC's distance learning course and in developing other courses and publications.



Mr Will Berrington recently graduated with an LLB from the University of Nottingham and will be starting his LLM in International Criminal Justice and Armed Conflict this September. During his International Criminal Justice Unit internship, Mr Berrington helped to provide legal research and organisational support to enhance the capacity of the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD) and testing of the newly built Cooperation and Judicial Assistance Database (CJAD).

Ms Manpreet Ark holds an LLB degree from the University of Leicester and is currently completing her LLM at the University of Nottingham. During her FRAME Internship, Ms Ark assisted Professor Jeff Kenner and Dr Stuart Wallace with the research and drafting of reports on the engagement between the EU and non-state actors (international financial institutions, businesses, civil society organisations and human rights defenders) on the subject of human rights.

From left: Mr Will Berrington, Ms Manpreet Ark and Mr Nick Kimber

Forthcoming Events

HRLC Short Course in International Human Rights Law



HRLC's International Human Rights Law Short Course is a three month residential course designed to give an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards through seminars, guest lectures, workshops, visits, tutorials and conferences. It provides valuable insight and contextual knowledge of the practical operation of human rights law for those interested in human rights protection, from civil society organisations, government, judiciary, police, charity or legal professions, academia, media and business.

Course content:

- United Nations and regional human rights standards;

- The United Nations human rights system: the Human Rights Council, Treaty monitoring bodies and Special Procedures;
- Regional human rights systems;
- Implementation of human rights standards in national systems, human rights commissions and other bodies.

Participants may also take modules from the LLM programme of the University of Nottingham School of Law. The course can be extended to six months with an internship (subject to eligibility) at a non-governmental organisation or a research option within the Centre.

The next course will start in January 2017 and further information is available on our website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse.

HRLC Distance Learning Course in International Human Rights Law

This course is designed to give an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards and of the UN and regional systems that implement them. The course is taught by leading human rights academics and practitioners in the international human rights systems.

The course is aimed at individuals who require a deeper knowledge of the increasingly important subject of international human rights law in their professional life, or who wish to embark upon a career in human rights. It is particularly suited to those who cannot take on the commitment of a full-time course.

Course content:

- UN Human Rights System;
- Regional Human Rights Systems (African, European



- and Inter-American);
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- International Refugee Law;
- International Criminal Justice;
- Current Human Rights Issues;
- International Humanitarian Law;
- Women's Rights;
- The Rights of the Child.

Course fees, dates and contact details for further information are available at : www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/distancelearning.

HRLC Staff Updates

Farewell to Dr Stuart Wallace



Dr Stuart Wallace

In September 2016 HRLC bid farewell to Dr Stuart Wallace, HRLC Research Fellow. Whilst at the Centre, Dr Wallace worked alongside Professor Jeff Kenner on the large-scale, multi-disciplinary FRAME Project exploring the EU's human rights engagement with non-state actors. Dr Wallace also acted as Book Review Editor for the Human Rights Law Review, and taught EU law on the undergraduate law degree. HRLC wishes Dr Wallace all the best for his new appointment as Lecturer at Homerton College, University of Cambridge.

HRLC joined by Visiting Scholar

From June until August 2016, HRLC was joined by Ms Adekunbi Adeleye. Ms Adeleye holds an LLM in Public Law, University of Cape Town, and is a Lecturer and Coordinator at KWASU Human Rights Club, Kwara State University, Nigeria. The purpose of Ms Adeleye's visit to the Centre was to undertake comparative research in the area of social and economic rights, and to explore possibilities of future partnerships between HRLC and KWASU Human Rights Club.

Changes to the HRLC support team

Over the past 18 months, the University of Nottingham has implemented a complete restructure of its administrative, professional and managerial staff. Project Transform and Project Organisational Design S2020 have

changed the landscape of all University schools and departments, including HRLC.

Ms Tina Finch, Ms Rosemary McCabe and Ms Kobie Neita have been invaluable members of the HRLC team for over ten years and without their professionalism, dedication and expertise, it would not have been possible to successfully deliver so many training

courses, summer schools, research projects, conferences, events and other activities. At the time of writing, we do not know yet what their new roles within the Faculty of Social Sciences will be, but we hope that we will be able to work together in the future. In any case, we wish them all the best in their new positions.

HRLC Updates

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Contact Details

Human Rights Law Centre, School of Law
University of Nottingham, University Park
Nottingham, NG7 2RD, United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0) 115 84 66309
Fax: +44 (0) 115 84 66579
Website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc

Human Rights Law Centre Co-Directors:

Professor David J Harris,
LLM PhD CMG
Professor Dominic McGoldrick,
LLB PhD Barrister