



## **Baroness Ruth Lister CBE**

### **Affirming Human Dignity:**

### **Poverty and Human Rights**

The seminar will concern ways in which some poverty activists are deploying a discourse of human rights in order to stake their claim to power and to recognition as well as redistribution. It will argue that, for all the difficulties associated with it in a UK context, a human rights discourse helps to combat the negative identity associated with poverty. It concludes that as a discourse, human rights performs an important symbolic and mobilising function but that its effectiveness as a political tool in combating poverty is yet to be proven.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – 4.30pm**

**B63 – Law and Social Sciences Building**

Ruth Lister CBE became a Labour peer with the title Baroness Lister of Burtsett in February 2011. She is also Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at Loughborough University. Ruth is a former Director of the Child Poverty Action Group and is now its Honorary President. She is a member of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, current chair of the management committee of the pressure group Compass, a vice-chair of the Fair Pay Network and on the board of the Smith Institute. In the past she has served on the Commission on Social Justice, the Opsahl Commission into the Future of Northern Ireland, the Commission on Poverty, Participation and Power, the Fabian Commission on Life Chances and Child Poverty and the National Equality Panel.

Ruth is a founding Academician of the Academy for Learned Societies for the Social Sciences and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2009. She received a lifetime achievement award from the Social Policy Association in 2010 and has published widely around poverty, welfare state reform, gender and citizenship.

**ALL WELCOME**

**Refreshments and a light bite will be served**

**Free unrestricted parking on the University Campus after 4pm**

Please e-mail [michelle.fusco@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.fusco@nottingham.ac.uk) to confirm attendance