

Project: Reports and Studies on Legal Issues, Promotion and Protection of Fundamental Rights in the EU (FRALEX)

Dates: 2008-2011

Location: Nottingham

Unit: European Human Rights Law

Core Staff: Prof. David Harris, Caroline Przybylla (until 2009), Agnes Flues (2010-2011)

Funder/s: European Union Fundamental Rights Agency

Project Summary

Between 2008-2012, HRLC has been part of the network of *Legal Experts of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRALEX)*. Through the FRALEX [network](#), HRLC regularly produces legal studies and reports on specific fundamental rights issues in the UK. These publications include updates on developments in the thematic areas of which the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) is responsible for, analyses of UK laws and practices according to fundamental rights and principles of EU law, while publications also serve to alert the Agency to key national developments.

Participants

Under the European Human Rights Law Unit, the 'FRALEX' reports are produced by a team of UK legal experts, led by Senior Expert Professor David Harris.

Activities/Content

Under the auspices of the EHRL Unit, the following reports were produced annually within the 'FRALEX' project:

Thematic Studies

Each year, the Unit prepared UK specific thematic legal studies, of 20 - 30 pages in length, on a specific fundamental rights issue. Topics have included:

- Homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation,
- Child Trafficking,
- National Human Rights Institutions and Human Rights Organisations,
- Impact of the Race Equality Directive,
- Mental Health and Fundamental Rights
- Fundamental Rights Issues in MAF Areas
- Access to Justice in Civil Cases in European Union
- Rights of Irregular Immigrants in Voluntary and Involuntary Return Procedures
- Data Protection Measures and Relevant Institutions

These thematic studies contributed to a deeper understanding of the issues involved, analysed the fundamental rights conformity of relevant national legislation and legal practice when implementing EU law and presented relevant statistical data and good practice. They were used as a basis for comparative analyses amongst the 27 EU Member States and for EU policy development and legislation in the subject area.

The thematic studies are published on the [HRLC website](#).

Flash Reports

Flash reports are 5 - 10 page documents exploring key legal issues of fundamental rights. Such reports were designed to enable the FRA to contribute to ongoing policy discussions or requests for opinions or information on specific issues at short notice. They also served to alert Community policy makers to key legal developments at national level and in particular enable them to be aware of potential conflicts with EU and fundamental rights law.

Bulletins

The news bulletins were drawn up three times per year and included updates on developments in the thematic areas of activity of the FRA:

- *Discrimination*
- *Compensation of victims*
- *The rights of the child*
- *Asylum, immigration and integration of migrants*
- *Information society and respect for private life and protection of personal data*
- *Visa and border control*
- *Participation of the citizens of the Union in the Union's democratic functioning*
- *Access to efficient and independent justice*

Outcomes/Outputs

'Flash Report: Update to the Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation – United Kingdom', prepared by David Harris, Therese Murphy, Jeffrey Kenner, Toni Johnson, Nottingham, February 2010.

'Thematic Study on specific fundamental rights issues in the MAF areas: national level United Kingdom', prepared by David Harris, Jeffrey Kenner, Gina Clayton, Jodie Blackstock and Maria Mullan, Nottingham, October 2010.

'Thematic Legal Study on Mental Health and Fundamental Rights United Kingdom', prepared by Ralph Sandland, Nottingham, November 2009.

'Thematic Legal Study on assessment of Access to Justice in Civil Cases in European Union - The United Kingdom', prepared by Tim Barrow and Bernard Ryan, Nottingham, October 2009

'Flash Report for the United Kingdom', prepared by David Harris, Nottingham, October 2009.

'Thematic National Legal Study on rights of irregular immigrants in voluntary and involuntary return procedures United Kingdom', prepared by Alice Edwards, with assistance of Gina Clayton and Laura Graham, Nottingham, June 2009.

'Thematic Legal Study on impact of the Race Equality Directive, United Kingdom', prepared by Mary Coussey, with the assistance of Laura Graham, Nottingham, April 2009.

'Thematic Legal Study on assessment of data protection measures and relevant

Institutions, United Kingdom' prepared by Douwe Korff, with the assistance of Laura Graham, Nottingham, February 2009.

'Flash Report for the United Kingdom', prepared by David Harris, Caroline Przybylla, Nottingham, October 2008.

'Thematic Legal Study on National Human Rights Institutions and Human Rights Organisations, United Kingdom', prepared by David Harris, Colm O'Cinneide with the assistance of Amrei Mueller, Nottingham, September 2008.

'Thematic Study on Child Trafficking, report on the United Kingdom', prepared by David Harris, Ralph Sandland, Margaret Akullo with the assistance of Caroline Przybylla, Nottingham, September 2008.

'Thematic Legal Study on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation, report on the United Kingdom', prepared by David Harris, Therese Murphy, Jeffrey Kenner, Toni Johnson with the assistance of Caroline Przybylla, Nottingham, February 2008.

Related Activities

FRALEX Meeting

The Unit participated in the FRALEX meetings, which were hosted annually by the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna. The meetings, which brought together the experts of all 27 national teams and were an opportunity to discuss previous reports and their impact on the national and EU level, as well as to make suggestions about current critical fundamental rights issues to be taken up into the work programme of the FRA for future thematic reports.