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

Date: 2008-2011

Location: Nottingham

Unit: European Human Rights Law

Core Staff: David Harris, Caroline Przybylla, Carla Buckley

Student Research Assistant: Laura Graham

Funder: European Union Fundamental Rights Agency

Project Summary

Since 2008, 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

Under the auspices of the EHRL Unit, the following reports are produced annually within the ‘FRALEX’ project:

Thematic Studies

Each year, the Unit prepares 4 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

These thematic studies contribute to a deeper understanding of the issues involved, analyse the fundamental rights conformity of relevant national legislation and legal practice when implementing EU law and present relevant statistical data and good practice. They are 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 within the Publications Unit.
Flash Reports

Flash reports are 5 - 10 page documents exploring key legal issues of fundamental rights. Such reports are 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 serve 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 are drawn up three times per year and include 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

‘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, April 2008

The Unit participates in the FRALEX meeting, which is hosted annually by the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna. The meeting, which brings together the experts of all 27 national teams, is 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.