

The Convention, the Common Law and the Strasbourg Court: Apocalypse Now?

On 12 March 2014, HRLC was honoured to welcome Sir Nicolas Bratza, former President of the European Court of Human Rights and Honorary Professor of our School of Law, for a staff seminar on the role of the European Court of Human Rights. This event followed a number of public lectures by senior British Judges criticising the Strasbourg Court and attacking the relationship between the UK and the European Convention. Sir Nicolas noted the significance of the lectures, which attracted widespread media coverage at a sensitive time for the Convention and the cause of human rights in the UK.

In his address Sir Nicolas provided an overview of the lectures and the main areas of contention, reflecting upon the impact that this discourse could have on the UK's relationship with the Strasbourg Court, as well as the impact on the Convention system as a whole. He expressed the view that repealing the Human Rights Act or withdrawing from the Convention would diminish the enjoyment and protection of human rights in the UK.

Ultimately, Sir Nicolas' thought provoking address posed a number of questions: Has human rights law grown too big and placed a straitjacket on the development of the common law? Has the "living instrument" doctrine been used by the Strasbourg Court to extend its jurisdiction beyond what the Convention was designed to protect and beyond what the language of the



Sir Nicolas Bratza with faculty of the School of Law.

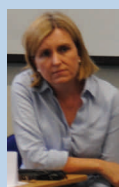
instrument can support? Are the other charges against the Strasbourg Court posed by the British Judges in their lectures justified? Has the Human Rights Act achieved its purpose of securing the effective protection of human rights in this country? Would the replacement of the Human Rights Act by a home-grown Bill of Rights be desirable and, if so, should it be decoupled from the Convention? Would the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Convention system be disadvantageous to this country, if not to the Convention system as a whole?

Sir Nicholas' full address can be read on the HRLC website at <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/documents/specialevents/bratza-seminar-overview.pdf>



Summer School participants and Professor Aoife Nolan.

Second Annual Summer School on the Rights of the Child: A Great Success



Professor Laura Lundy delivering a Summer School session.

Between 23 and 27 June HRLC ran a successful second annual Summer School on the Rights of the Child. Professor Aoife Nolan, Economic and Social Rights Joint Unit Head, led the dynamic programme examining international and regional child rights law, and considered issues that are a matter of current legal, political and societal attention, both internationally and comparatively.

The Summer School benefitted from a diverse range of participants from a variety of disciplines from over 10 countries. The programme adopted an interactive structure with all

participants engaging in Q&A sessions and group work exercises led by the very experienced international experts on child rights that made up this year's faculty. Sessions were led by experts with backgrounds in advocacy, research and practice.

Topics covered include: the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Children in Africa; Children's Economic and Social Rights; Children in Conflict; Refugee Children; Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children; Advancing Children's Rights through the UN; Gender and Children's Rights and Children and Access to Justice. Students were also able to attend the University of Nottingham Children and Childhood Network (CCN)'s Annual Lecture event on *Children in Austerity*.

We spoke with participant Saoirse Brady of Children's Rights Alliance to hear about her experience of attending this year's Summer School.

What was your experience of the Summer School?
I found it to be informative, interesting and engaging. The calibre of guest lecturers reflects the excellent reputation of the HRLC and professionalism of the staff who were always on hand to assist. The varied but interrelated presentations were interesting and interactive. There was no sitting back; everyone was encouraged to participate.

What did you take away from the Summer School?
It was a great opportunity to meet colleagues working on similar issues in similar and very different

contexts. The materials provided were excellent, and the lecturers were really open and generous with their time, expertise and knowledge.

Would you advise others to attend a future HRLC Summer School?

I would encourage anyone who wants to immerse themselves in children's rights and gain a lot of knowledge in a short space of time to take part. It was a great experience and we got to meet such interesting people who are experts in their field.



Former Head of School, Professor Stephen Bailey presents Saoirse with her certificate of attendance.

Members of the Summer School faculty for 2014 included:

- Professor Michael Freeman, Emeritus Professor of Law, University College London and Editor of International Journal of Children's Rights;
- Professor Matthew Happold, Professor in International Public Law, University of Luxembourg;
- Professor Ursula Kil Kelly, Head of the Department of Law and Director of the Child Law Clinic, University College Cork;
- Professor Laura Lundy, Director of the Children's Rights Centre, Queen's University, Belfast;
- Dr Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the African Union, and member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Ms Lisa Myers, Director of Child Rights Connect (formerly the NGO Group for the CRC) Geneva;
- Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- Dr Liam Thornton, Lecturer in Law, University College Dublin;
- Dr Simon Flacks, Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)/School of Law, Reading University;
- Professor Ralph Sandland, Professor of Law, University of Nottingham.

HRLC hosts 25th Annual Advanced Course on the Laws of War

From 2 to 13 June 2014, HRLC hosted the *25th Annual Advanced Course on the Laws of War* for legal advisers to the armed services. The participants, drawn from the UK, Ireland and Canada, came with a wide range of practical experience in international humanitarian law. Among the specialist areas covered by the course were: combatants and prisoner of war status; occupation law and practice; human rights and armed conflict; the legal limits of interrogation; non-international armed conflicts (NIAC) – direct participation in hostilities and detention and internment in NIAC; sexual violence in armed conflict; unmanned and autonomous military technologies and cyberwar; and targeted killings.

The Advanced Course was led by Professor Dominic McGoldrick, HRLC Co-Director, and was taught by a host of international experts including Professor Olympia Bekou (University of Nottingham), Professor Sandesh Sivakumaran, (University of Nottingham), Associate Professor Marko Milanovic (University of Nottingham) along with Professor Robert Cryer (University of Birmingham), Mr David Turns (Cranfield University) and Dr Christine Byron (Cardiff University).



LOAC attendees with Professor Dominic McGoldrick (front, centre) and Professor Olympia Bekou (to his left).

Dignity and Opportunity for All: Securing the Rights of Disabled People in the Austerity Era

Professor Aoife Nolan, Economic and Social Rights Joint Unit Head, contributed to a report, *Dignity and Opportunity for All: Securing the rights of Disabled People in the Austerity Era*, that was published by the UK-based NGO, Just Fair (of which Professor Nolan was a trustee) in July 2014.

The Report analyses the impact of public austerity and the reform of social security on disabled people. In doing so it also assesses the extent to which the UK Government is meeting its obligations in fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities under international human rights law. The Report finds, through legal analysis and testimony based evidence, that the UK Government's treatment of disabled people breaches their international obligations and shows that essential support for persons with disabilities is under threat.

As well as providing input to the overall Report, Professor Nolan authored a chapter outlining the UK Government's obligations in relation to disabled people's right to independent living under Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Professor Nolan says: "*Following several years of progress in realising disabled people's rights, through equality legislation and the welfare system, Government policies are now compromising disabled people's enjoyment of their human rights, reducing their autonomy and independence. Not only do these policies cause significant hardship and anxiety, but they also amount to impermissible backward steps in relation to disabled people's human rights, contrary to the United Nations human rights framework.*"

Mainstreaming Support for the International Criminal Court

In March 2014, Professor Olympia Bekou, International Criminal Justice Unit Head, presented the findings of her expert study, requested by the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights, to the European Parliament in Brussels. The report provided recommendations for mainstreaming support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the policies of the European Union (EU).

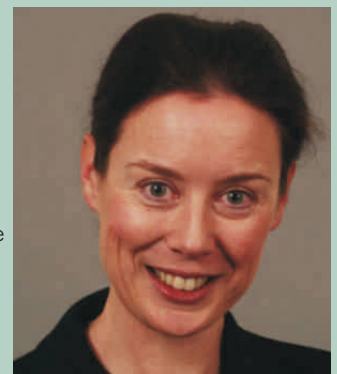
Whilst conducting the study, Professor Bekou examined how the EU can help the ICC overcome a number of current challenges and build upon its successes to date. In creating the report, Professor Bekou critically assessed a wide range of EU policies in order to identify any existing gaps or overlaps and assess how the EU can reach its full potential in providing support for the ICC.

One of Professor Bekou's recommendations was that the Commission should provide assistance to EU Member States in adopting ICC implementing legislation. It should also encourage ratification of amendments to the Rome Statute and make ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute a condition for candidate countries for EU accession and for qualification for the Generalised Scheme of Preferences status. Professor Bekou also recommended that the EU continue to support NGOs which engage in ratification and implementation work and that Member States should promptly execute arrest warrants when requested by the ICC.



Evaluating Policy Making on New Health Technologies

Professor Thérèse Murphy, Economic and Social Rights Joint Unit Head, has been awarded two grants to support a new research project on health technologies. The project will explore practices of policy-making and comprises a team of colleagues from other UK universities who bring with them expertise in ethics, sociology and healthcare law.



Professor Thérèse Murphy.

The project began in July with a panel discussion with experts from leading regulatory and advisory bodies at the Royal College of General Practitioners. The highly successful event confirmed the originality and importance of the project, and provided exciting leads.

This autumn Professor Murphy and the project team will be moving to the next stage of the research, interviewing current and former regulators of new health technologies.

Make Nottingham a Traffic-Free Zone



Student Assistant Ana Filipa Santos introduces a panel discussion with panellists (from left) Amy Weatherburn, Zoe Emmett and Darryl Dixon.

HRLC joined forces with anti-trafficking charity Unchosen to bring their roadshow to the Nottingham Contemporary in May 2014. Through film campaigns Unchosen works at raising public awareness and combating all forms of human trafficking, forced labour, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in the UK and Ireland.

The roadshow comprises a selection of short films from over 60 submissions to the first Unchosen Human Trafficking Film Competition. Each film, based on real life cases, gives a voice to someone who has suffered in the dark underworld of modern day slavery and shows what can and must be done to stop it.

Three highly emotive and poignant films were screened during the evening. The first of which was *The Trip*, directed by Prano Bailey-Bond.

The Trip tells the true story of Hung, a young Vietnamese man trafficked abroad on the promise of a job and a new life, only to be forced to work in a cannabis factory upon arrival. Now a prisoner, his existence becomes monotonous and claustrophobic. This was followed by *Let's Talk About Sex*, directed by Li-Da Kruger. The film introduces the viewer to Anja and Ian, a man and a woman from two vastly different backgrounds with two vastly different experiences of a sexual encounter. The final screening of the night was *Nicu*, directed by Niki Anastasi. Nicu is a 9-year-old boy trafficked from Romania. Together with a friend he roams the streets of London, stealing in order to survive. In a letter to his mother, Nicu tells her of the 'riches' he has found abroad.

The screenings were followed by a panel discussion and Q&A sessions with Darryl

Dixon, Director of Strategy, Gangmasters Licensing Authority who provided insight into the regulatory role of labour inspectorates; Zoe Emmett, Poppy Family Reunification Worker, Eaves who spoke of efforts to reunite families who have been affected by trafficking and Amy Weatherburn, HRLC Research Assistant, University of Nottingham who outlined recent research conducted by HRLC into severe forms of labour exploitation of migrant workers. The discussion provided an insight into how to spot signs of modern day slavery in your local area, and other awareness raising advice. The discussion also considered the scope of modern day slavery and the type of people who are most vulnerable to it.

Further information can be found at: Unchosen www.unchosen.org.uk/ Eaves www.eavesforwomen.org.uk/ and GLA www.gla.org.uk.

Children's Rights in a Time of Austerity

Professor Aoife Nolan, Economic and Social Rights Joint Unit Head, participated in a high-level conference organised by the Council of Europe in Dubrovnik. The conference sought to assess progress achieved in the first two years of the Council of Europe's implementation of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015). Furthermore, the conference sought to propose priority actions for the remaining two years of implementation of the Strategy. Finally, it identified challenges that will require Council of Europe action beyond 2015. Attendees included the Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and multiple representatives of European governments.

Professor Nolan gave a speech on *Children's Rights and Economic Growth in a Time of Austerity* at the plenary session entitled *Growing with children's*



Professor Aoife Nolan joins panel at Council of Europe Conference.

rights: Overcoming obstacles for a sustainable future. Professor Nolan first outlined the position of children in Europe after the global financial and economic crises and identified the key features of austerity. She then discussed what is required by children's rights in terms of economic policy making. She outlined policy alternatives to austerity and made a number of recommendations with regard to what the Council of Europe should do to ensure the protection of children's rights in the current economic climate.

What can we learn from Kony 2012?

On 17 July 2014 Professor Dino Kritsiotis, International Humanitarian Law Unit Head, chaired a panel discussion on "Kony2012", held at Oxford University. It was co-hosted with the University's Master's Programme on International Human Rights Law. The event followed on from the IHL Unit's Second Annual Roundtable, *Kony 2012: The Power and Possibilities of the Internet for International Law*.

The panel was opened by Professor Kritsiotis who spoke of the necessity of those working in the fields of human rights, international humanitarian and criminal law to take multiple interpretations from the "Kony2012" campaign to inform their work. Professor Kritsiotis' opening remarks were followed by presentations from Dr Yassin Brunger (University of Leicester) who spoke on 'Catch Me if You Can' – *Apprehending Fugitives and the ICC* and Dr. Christine Schwöbel (University of Liverpool), whose presentation was entitled, *The Kony 2012 Campaign and the Perils of Marketing Justice*. The final presentation was given by Thérèse O'Donnell (University of Strathclyde), who spoke on *Kony 2012 and the Bitter Harvest of "Greatest Responsibility"*.

Mayfest: Rights All Over The World

In May 2014 HRLC represented the School of Law as the University opened its doors for the Annual Community Day, Mayfest. The focus of HRLC's stand was on both the universality of rights and children's rights. Through party hat making and flag decorating, members of the local community creatively engaged with their human rights. By the end of the day, we had a world map filled with beautifully decorated flags documenting rights children attending Mayfest felt should be universal.



World map full of flags decorated with universal rights.



HRLC members join the fight to end sexual violence in conflict.

Social Media Campaigns @UoNHRLC

Over the summer months HRLC has used its social media presence to join two-high profile human rights campaigns.

To show solidarity for the victims of war time rape and to coincide with the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, organised by the Prevention of Sexual Violence Initiative that was held in London between 10 and 13 June 2014, HRLC members took to Twitter in support of the #TimeToAct campaign. The Summit, co-chaired by the then Foreign Secretary William Hague and Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Angelina Jolie, was designed to create irreversible momentum to combat sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. The Summit brought together ministers from over 100 states, heads of UN entities, religious leaders, activists, academics, and survivors of sexual violence.

Professor Sandesh Sivakumaran, member of HRLC's International Humanitarian Law Unit, participated in the Summit by guiding discussions during the session on sexual violence against men and boys in armed conflicts. The Summit led to the creation and dissemination of the *International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict* which provides basic standards of best practice on the documentation of sexual violence as a crime under international law. Professor Sivakumaran acted as a reviewer in the preparatory stages of the protocol.

The campaign aims to put a stop to sexual violence in conflict and to end the culture of impunity for perpetrators. Sexual violence in conflict affects women, girls, men and boys alike. Its occurrence is not only rife in conflict settings, but it is often used as a weapon in and of itself. These practices are not new and international efforts have been made for many years to bring an end to these atrocities. Rape was recognised as a crime against humanity by

the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 1998, which found for the first time that rape could also constitute genocide under international law. Subsequently the crimes of rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity all appear in the 1998 *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* as crimes against humanity.

On 17 July, HRLC staff led by Professor Olympia Bekou, International Criminal Justice Unit Head, joined the #JusticeMatters campaign. The campaign was launched jointly by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the President of the Assembly of States Parties to commemorate International Criminal Justice Day.

International Criminal Justice Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC, on 17 July 1998. The campaign serves to unite supporters of justice by promoting victims' rights and helping to prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world. Currently, the ICJ Unit is working on two major

projects pursuant to this aim: the Cooperation and Judicial Assistance Database (CJAD), part of the Case Matrix Network International Criminal Justice Toolkits Project (CMN ICJ Toolkits Project), and the ICC Legal Tools Project - National Implementation Legislation Database (NILD).

Professor Olympia Bekou says: "The #JusticeMatters campaign promotes a shift from a 'culture of impunity' to a 'culture of accountability'. On 17 July – the Day of International Criminal Justice – HRLC was proud to stand alongside those who support the effective prosecution of grave crimes. HRLC promotes the universal ratification and national implementation of the Rome Statute, which works towards enhancing cooperation, and builds national capacity to put an end to impunity."

Both campaigns seek to bring an end to grave and systematic human rights violations, provide justice for victims and to end impunity and are given the full support of HRLC in its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and the establishment and strengthening of the rule of law worldwide.



HRLC members strongly believe that #JusticeMatters.

Proposed Arab Court of Human Rights: An empty vessel?

The League of Arab States (LAS) was the first regional inter-governmental organisation. First established in 1945 by seven Arab states the number has now grown to 22 spanning Asia and Africa. Much like its subsequent regional equivalents, the main purpose of the LAS is to foster close relations between member states in the region.

The founding document of the LAS, the Charter of the Arab League, has no specific mention of human rights, which is possibly reflective of the fact that the international human rights standards known today were not yet in existence. However there are a number of bodies charged with human rights related issues that now exist. In 2005, the Summit of the LAS adopted the revised Arab Charter of Human Rights (the Charter) after revising the 1994 version, which was widely criticised for falling below international human rights standards. As per Article 45 of the Charter, the Arab Human Rights Committee was established to act as an independent supervisory mechanism overseeing the implementation of the Charter.

Unlike other international and regional human rights treaties, the Charter has no individual or collective complaints mechanism, leaving victims of human rights violations with no recourse to remedies. The Kingdom of Bahrain proposed the establishment of an Arab Court of Human Rights (the Court) in 2011. In March 2014, the Summit of the League, which had earlier approved the creation of the Court in principle, also approved a draft statute of the Court. An expert committee, which was created to draft a statute for the Court, drafted the Statute behind closed doors and without consulting with civil society organisations, despite repeated requests from human rights organisations to be heard in the process. During two conferences in May 2014, the first held jointly by the LAS and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cairo and the second jointly hosted by the LAS and the Bahrain National Institution for Human Rights, it was announced that the draft statute had been finalised and was scheduled to be presented to the LAS Ministerial Council (the Council) for approval during its meeting in September 2014.



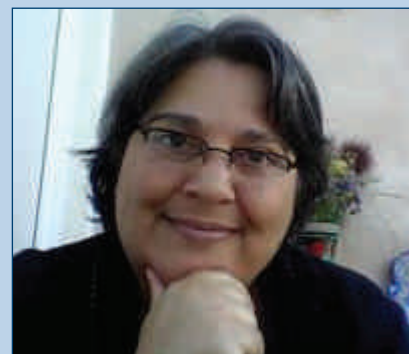
Session of the Ministerial Council ©League of Arab States

In response to the draft statute, a coalition of national and global non-governmental organisations (NGOs) issued a statement in July 2014 to call for the substantial revision of the draft statute of the Court. Other joint letters to the same effect were sent just before the Council session in September to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of member states of LAS. A four-member delegation including Ms Mervat Rishmawi, HRLC Fellow, representing a number of prominent national and international organisations, also headed to Cairo prior to the Council session and met many LAS officials and permanent representatives of member states to LAS, in order to explain their concerns. They asked that LAS should take further time and consider revision before adopting the Statute.

Speaking of the Statute, Mervat says: *"Several national, regional and international organisations have a number of fundamental concerns over the proposed statute. We are concerned over the lack of transparency in the preparation of the Statute. We have fundamental concerns that without providing individual victims direct recourse to the Court, as the latest draft provides, the draft statute defeats the fundamental purpose and objective of establishing the Court. A regional court of human rights must provide access to justice and a right to effective remedies and reparations for violations."*

The coalition criticised the fact that only states are given the right to petition the Court and that applications to the Court by NGOs are to be at the discretion of the state. Such provisions mean that the draft statute falls below standards enshrined in international human rights law, which in turn results in LAS members failing to meet their own international obligations.

At the time of printing the Council was in session and a vote was scheduled to be taken on the Statute. For updates on this and other human rights issues please refer to the HRLC news page at <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/news> or follow us on twitter @UoNHRLC.



Mervat Rishmawi, HRLC Fellow

HRLC Fellow Profile: Mervat Rishmawi

Mervat Rishmawi is a Palestinian human rights consultant and activist who obtained her LL.M degree from the University of Essex in 1994. In 2014 she was selected to join the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), Palestine's National Human Rights Institution (NHRI).

Prior to joining the ICHR, she worked with the International Secretariat of Amnesty International for approximately 12 years, predominantly as the Legal Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA). As such, she was one of a five-member regional legal advisory team, each responsible for one region in the world. She also worked as Deputy Director of Amnesty's MENA Programme. During her work with Amnesty International, Mervat developed most of the organisation's work in relation to the League of Arab States. She provided legal advice to research teams, ensuring accuracy of legal analyses pertaining to international human rights and humanitarian law. She also provided training to human rights practitioners such as activists, judges and lawyers.

Since leaving Amnesty International in 2010, Mervat has worked as a self-employed human rights consultant focusing on projects and training to strengthen civil society organisations across the MENA region, as well as further her work on the League of Arab States.

Mervat has written a number of reports for Amnesty International, including many on the human rights mechanisms of the League of Arab States, and has been published in academic journals and text books.

One Year On: FRAME Update

In March 2014 HRLC was delighted to welcome representatives from partner universities in the FRAME (Fostering Human Rights Among European Policies) project to the University of Nottingham for a Cluster Meeting and Workshop. Over the two day meeting project partners in Cluster 2, EU Multi-Level and Multi-Actor Human Rights Engagement, were able to discuss progress to date and plan the way ahead.

Partner universities were represented by Professor Dżidek Kedzia, Mr Jakub Jaraczewski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań), Dr Beáta Huszka (Institute of Political and International Studies, Eötvös Loránd University), Dr Tamara Lewis (University College Dublin), Ms Maija Mustaniemi-Laakso (Institute for Human Rights, Department of Law, Åbo Akademi University), Dr Axel Marx and Ms Laura Beke (Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies).

Within Cluster 2, partner universities focus on various aspects of the EU's engagement with other actors. Adam Mickiewicz University (WP5) addresses the EU's engagement with the UN/Regional Multilateral Organisations; Eötvös Loránd University (WP6) focuses on the EU's regional partnerships and bilateral cooperation; while HRLC (WP7) and University College Dublin (WP8) addresses the EU's engagement with non-state actors and the issue of coherence among EU institutions and Member States, respectively.

Following the cluster meeting in June 2014, Professor Jeffrey Kenner, Ms



Professor Jeffrey Kenner chairs panel at the FRAME General Assembly.

Agnes Flues and Mr Petr Pribyla represented HRLC at the FRAME General Assembly at the Belgian Senate in Brussels. The General Assembly meets once a year and acts as the project's main forum for updates and feedback on research progress among all partners. It is also an occasion for engagement with relevant external stakeholders, providing an opportunity to test first research results.

The General Assembly featured a policy roundtable with senior EU policy-makers and civil society representatives. Three panel discussions analysed different aspects of EU internal and external human rights policies. The first panel was chaired by Professor Kenner and focused on the issue of coherence in EU human rights policies. The other panels discussed the EU Council's Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy and questions around human rights indicators.

FRAME is an EU Seventh Framework Programme collaborative research project involving 19 research institutes from around the world including HRLC which acts as Cluster Leader for Cluster 2.

Fundamental Rights in the EU: HRLC Research

As a member of FRANET, the multidisciplinary research network of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), HRLC has contributed to a number of reports that have been published in recent months.

The 2013 Annual Report *Fundamental rights: challenges and achievements in 2013* outlines practical suggestions on how to better protect the fundamental rights of people in the EU. The Report highlights in particular FRA surveys conducted on violence and discrimination towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, on violence against women, and on anti-Semitism. Focus is also placed on data surveillance and protection and safeguarding the lives and rights of migrants.

HRLC also provided research and data collection services for a thematic report on *The right to political participation of persons with disabilities: human rights indicators*. The report outlines the barriers and obstacles which must be addressed before the political participation of persons with disabilities is fully realised according to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The report contains a comparative analysis across EU Member States and was informed by an HRLC ad hoc country report which provided background information on the situation in the UK.

In addition HRLC produced a national ad hoc information report on data protection redress mechanisms and their use and contributed to a report on the criminalisation of irregular migrants for publication by the FRA.



Panel members (from left) Mr Iain MacLeod, Dr Federica Gioia, Mr Rodney Dixon QC, Professor Olympia Bekou and Ms Amal Alamuddin.

Contemporary Challenges for the International Criminal Court

In May 2014 Professor Olympia Bekou's new title, *Contemporary Challenges for the International Criminal Court*, was launched at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London. The book brings together perspectives of a number of leading specialists in the field of international criminal justice to provide insights into the functioning of the Court at the intersection between international criminal law theory and the practice developed by the Court.

To mark the event a seminar entitled *Current Trends in International Criminal Justice*:

Courts, Cases and the Rule of Law was held alongside the launch. The discussion, chaired by Mr Rodney Dixon QC of Temple Garden Chambers, explored the importance of the network of international criminal courts and their case law for advancing the rule of law at the international level.

Professor Bekou was joined on the panel by: Ms Amal Alamuddin, Doughty Street Chambers; Dr Federica Gioia, International Criminal Court and Mr Iain MacLeod, Legal Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Accountability for Detention and Interrogation: Analysing the UK's Practice and Policies

In April 2014 HRLC Co-Director Professor Dominic McGoldrick delivered two lectures at the Workshop on *Detainee Handling in International Military Operations* held at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. The three-day thematic Workshop was attended by participants from 14 different countries and provided an in depth analysis of the treatment and questioning of detainees, as well as the sharing of intelligence gained. The first of Professor McGoldrick's sessions contributed to this analysis by covering the evolution of UK practice and policy concerning accountability for detention and interrogation. The second covered human rights issues related to the transfer of intelligence.

Human Rights in the School of Law

Trio of Summer Interns joins HRLC team

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

Anna-Shereen Holland has recently completed her undergraduate degree in BA Law with French

and French Law. During her final year of university she held a student assistantship position within HRLC, providing editorial assistance for the Torture Yearbook. As HRLC's Publications Intern, she assisted Dr Anne Lister with the production of the *International Human Rights Reports*, one of HRLC's leading publications.

Petr Madr is currently studying for a Master's degree in Law at Charles University in Prague and spent a year in Nottingham as an exchange student. He previously interned in the Department of European Law in Prague and the Czech Office of Government. He is primarily interested in EU human rights law and the European Convention on Human Rights. As HRLC's Human Rights Law Research Intern Petr provided editorial and research assistance to Professor David Harris and Ms Carla Buckley.

Katerina Katsimardou Miariti, ICC Database on National Implementing Legislation (NILD) Intern, is originally from Greece where she acquired her Bachelors in Law. Her interest in international criminal law was born during her year as an Erasmus student at the University of Strasbourg. Katerina is currently completing her LLM in International Criminal Justice and Armed Conflict, and she has been working for the ICJ Unit's NILD project throughout the academic year. During her internship Katerina assisted Professor Olympia Bekou in enhancing the capacity of NILD.



Summer Interns (from left) Anna-Shereen Holland, Petr Madr and Katerina Katsimardou Miariti.

Furthering the Student Experience: Summer School Scholarships

This year five fully-funded scholarships were awarded to University of Nottingham postgraduate students to attend the HRLC Summer School on the Rights of the Child. We spoke to Marlen Jakobi, Human Rights Law LLM student to hear about her experience of attending the Summer School.



Marlen Jakobi, University of Nottingham LLM Student.

"One of the main reasons I applied for the scholarship is because I didn't have the opportunity to take the Children's Rights module during my LLM and I have an interest in developing my knowledge in the area. I was also drawn to the Summer School because Professor Aoife Nolan is such a knowledgeable, passionate and dedicated tutor and I felt the diverse programme would add a different dimension to my studies."

"My overall experience of the Summer School was great; I was very excited and didn't know what to expect. I was quite surprised to see the diverse range of issues covered by children's rights and had my eyes opened to topics I had yet to consider. By the end of the week I had come to see children in a different light. We discussed many times how children have their own rights and their own mind. As a sister and now an aunt, and hopefully a mother one day, it strengthened my view of how important it is to know how to approach children in a different way."

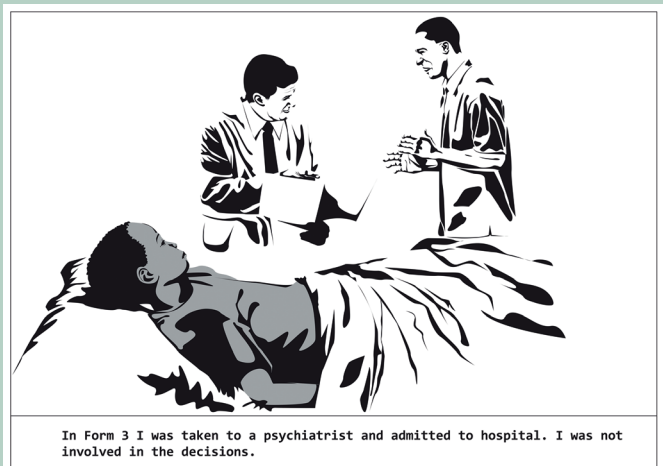
"The lectures and people were extremely interesting, coming from such different walks of life and professional disciplines. In this regard the Summer School provided an excellent networking opportunity at such an important time for me. Many great relationships were formed during the week and I feel I have built a network of people I will be able to contact in the future. It was also a great opportunity to see what career paths are out there in the field and to see how the law that we learn on the LLM is used in practice."

Nottingham Law Students Join Mental Disability Advocacy Centre

Two University of Nottingham undergraduate law students with a passion for human rights, Iga Wojtasik and Caroline Armstrong, were appointed Student Advocate Officers for the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) in March this year. MDAC is an international organisation advancing the rights of individuals with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities. Since their appointment Caroline and Iga have been promoting MDAC's work throughout the University, publicizing their reports and collaborating with various human rights societies to spread the message.

Speaking of her work with MDAC Iga says: *"Having witnessed first-hand the stigma associated with mental disabilities, I believe that raising awareness about the inequalities and violations suffered by individuals with mental incapacities is a crucial area of human rights protection, that often does not get enough concern."*

For more information about MDAC's goals and to access their most recent reports, please visit <http://www.mdac.info>.



In Form 3 I was taken to a psychiatrist and admitted to hospital. I was not involved in the decisions.

Forthcoming events

HRLC Short Course

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.

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 2015. Scholarships will be available. Further information will be published



soon on the HRLC website. Course fees, dates and contact details for further information are available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse

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.

HRLC Distance Learning Course

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 intended for those who cannot take on the commitment of a full-time course.

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



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

Cooperation and the International Criminal Court: An Expert Workshop

On 18-19 September 2014, HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit will host an Expert Workshop on Cooperation and the International Criminal Court in Nottingham.

This invitation-only event will bring together senior experts from the Court, academia, and civil society to explore challenges affecting the ICC's international co-operation regime. It will include panels on non-cooperation, witness-related issues, the freezing of assets, and obstacles to cooperation faced at national level.

The United Nations Special Procedures System: An Expert Workshop

In November 2014, Professor Thérèse Murphy and Professor Aoife Nolan, Economic and Social Rights Joint Unit Heads, along with Dr Rosa Freedman, University of Birmingham, will run an Expert Workshop on the UN Special Procedures System.

The Workshop will consider the development and structure of the Special Procedures system and an array of topical issues - from engagement with states to the relationship between the system and other parts of the UN human rights machinery. The event will bring together current and former mandate holders, scholars and a variety of professionals with experience of Special Procedures work.

Human Rights and Conscientious Objections Conference

On 5 November 2014 HRLC will host a one-day conference on Human Rights and Conscientious Objections, convened by Professor Dominic McGoldrick, HRLC Co-Director. It will cover issues including the basis for conscientious objections, religiously-based conscientious objections, whether conscientious objections are protected as part of freedom of religion, conscientious objections to military service and in a medical context. Registration details will be on the HRLC website soon.

HRLC Staff Updates

Laura Wills joined the Human Rights Law Centre as Research Assistant in March. She holds an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Bristol, and has conducted research for the Human Rights Implementation Centre there. She also worked as a Caseworker at Bristol Refugee Rights.

HRLC Research Associate **Petr Pribyla** left the University following his appointment as Officer in the political section of the Delegation of the European Union to Uganda. Whilst in post at HRLC he made major contributions to the FRAME Project and was a highly-valued member of the team.

HRLC bids farewell to visiting scholar **Professor Yuejun Guo** (East China University of Science and Technology). During his stay from 28 August 2013 to 19 August 2014, Professor Guo conducted research into a project sponsored by Chinese National Social Sciences Fund on the Implementation Mechanisms of the International Law Related to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and a project sponsored by the Ministry of Education China on The Optional Protocol of the ICESCR and China.

HRLC Updates

For all the latest updates on our activities, follow us on Twitter at @UoNHRLC or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/hrlcentre>.



Contact details

Human Rights Law Centre,
School of Law,
University of Nottingham, University Park,
Nottingham, NG7 2RD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)115 84 66309
Fax: +44 (0)115 84 66579

Human Rights Law Centre Co-Directors:

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