

## Welcome to the second HRLC newsletter

This edition gives you an overview of our activities and projects within the last six months, and highlights some exciting upcoming events. The Centre organised a successful 2008 Student Conference and Summer School, and has welcomed a number of well-known human rights experts.

As you will see, Centre members have been very active in research, with new publications including: the 'Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers', a Toolkit on Detention Monitoring Mechanisms of asylum-seekers and refugees, a legal study on homophobia and discrimination, as well as new issues of the Human Rights Law Review and the International Human Rights Reports.

There are particular achievements of our Centre staff to highlight: Co-Director Professor Michael O'Flaherty was recently re-elected to the UN Human Rights Committee with an outstanding number of votes, Alice Edwards, Head of the Forced Migration and Human Rights Unit, was awarded the prestigious Fellowship of the American Society of International Law while important research grants have been awarded to Dr. Daniel Moeckli, head of the Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights Unit and Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of the International Criminal Justice Unit, together with Emile Hunter, Research and Programmes Coordinator, have been awarded important research grants for new projects. Learn more about the activities and projects of the ICJ Unit in the 'Unit Focus' on page 4.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

### In this issue...



Shanti Dairiam speaks at  
Third Annual Paragon  
Human Rights Lecture



MC Mehta gives  
keynote address at  
Student Conference



Gelek Namgyal  
awarded Human Rights  
Defender Fellowship



Centre members visit  
Victim's Unit at Extraordinary  
Chambers in the  
Courts of Cambodia

### Michael O'Flaherty topped the poll in election to UN Human Rights Committee

HRLC Co-Director Professor Michael O'Flaherty topped the poll in elections to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee. He received the support of 136 out of the 157 governments participating in the election. The other eight successful candidates had total votes ranging from 86 to 117. He was elected on nomination of the Government of Ireland and will serve in his second term as Committee member until 31 December 2012.

The UN Human Rights Committee comprises independent experts, who assess how states are meeting their obligations under the UN's major human rights treaty, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Welcoming the emphatic re-election, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin T.D., said: "He has served with great distinction during his first term on the Committee and can now make a further valuable contribution. Michael O' Flaherty will continue to bring to the role a wealth of practical experience and a wide knowledge of human rights issues. He will also be an independent and impartial voice as required by the Covenant."

### Successful Ninth Annual Student Human Rights Conference welcomed over 100 students to Nottingham

On Saturday 8th March, HRLC welcomed over 100 students from across the UK and Europe, and from a variety of different disciplines, to the Ninth Annual Student Human Rights Conference on the theme of International Human Rights and the Environment.

We were delighted to have with us four leading experts as keynote speakers: M.C. Mehta, Indian Supreme Court Advocate and leading human rights activist; Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Queen Mary University London and member of the International Water Resources Committee; Emilie Filmer-Wilson, Human Rights Specialist, United Nations Development Programme and Simon Baughen, University of Bristol, expert on the Alien Torts Claim Act and the Unocal litigation.

Ten student panellists, from undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes, presented papers under the topics 'Our Human Environment', 'A Right to Water', 'The Role of Industry and Natural Resources, and 'Is it time to legislate?'. The Conference explored the impact of trade, globalisation and climate change on international human rights and the environment, and critically examined the social responsibilities of individuals, corporate entities and governments in ensuring respect for human rights and the environment. In lively debates, potential solutions of ensuring the respect for human rights, sustainability of the environment and conservation efforts were discussed.

The next student conference, to take place in March 2009, will be on the topic 'Freedom of expression'.



## Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers launched

The *Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers Working in Conflict and Post-conflict Environments* were launched on 3 July at United Nations Headquarters in Geneva.

The launch of the *Guiding Principles* culminates a major four-year project, 'Consolidating the Profession: The Human Rights Field Officer', led by HRLC under the direction of Professor O'Flaherty.

The *Guiding Principles* emerged from a highly consultative process that took account of the views of a wide range of current and former human rights field officers, as well as other experts, and reflect the proceedings at expert consultations convened by the project in Asia, Africa and Europe. They are intended to enhance the professional practice of human rights field officers. It is envisaged that they will also be of assistance to the various actors, such as humanitarian and development agencies, and international military and police components, who engage with human rights field operations, whereby they will have a better understanding of their work and methods.

'Consolidating the Profession' is a research, training and capacity-building project that seeks to enhance human rights fieldwork. It is carried out in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international human rights research and training institutions. Key achievements include in-depth research papers on emerging challenges in human rights fieldwork, training and capacity-building programmes conducted for UN human rights missions in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Africa, two major books on human rights fieldwork, and the *Guiding Principles*, with the associated *Statement of Ethical Commitments of Human Rights Professionals*.

All research and training outputs developed within the framework of the project, including electronic copies of the *Guiding Principles*, as well as a library of information related to human rights fieldwork, are available on the dedicated project website:

Kevin Turner  
HRFO Project Officer

HRLC Co-Director Professor Michael O'Flaherty writes: *We thank Kevin Turner warmly for his work for and support to this project. As the project comes to a close, we will miss greatly his enthusiasm and gifted contribution. We wish him well for the future.*

## HRLC expert visits Lesotho's mental health facilities

In late June, mental health law expert Professor Peter Bartlett conducted a fact-finding and scoping mission to Lesotho as part of HRLC's project, 'Designing Mental Health Law in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Lesotho', funded by the Nuffield Foundation. Over a period of two years, Professor Bartlett will work with the Government of Lesotho and relevant international and local actors to develop new mental health legislation for Lesotho, in accordance with relevant international standards.

The initial visit aimed to identify key issues for the drafting process and to obtain a comprehensive range of views on the best legislative options for reform in the country. During his visit, Professor Bartlett, together with Nathalie Drew from the World Health Organisation, and Melvyn Freeman met with a number of state representatives, including the Head of the Parliamentary Council, the Chief Magistrate and the Director of Public Prosecution. They also visited relevant health care facilities and the national health training college.

Under Professor Bartlett's guidance, the project will provide case study from which to develop guidance for the drafting of optimal mental health legislation for other countries with similar legal systems and levels of economic development as Lesotho.

## HRLC to host Chinese Death Penalty Reform delegation

On 29 September, HRLC will host senior Chinese representatives from the National People's Congress and Supreme People's Court, as well as eminent academics from Beijing Normal University. The visit is organised by the Great Britain China Centre as part of its EU-funded project on Death Penalty Reform in China and aims to provide the delegation with an understanding of international human rights standards related to the death penalty as well as European experiences in the abolition of the death penalty. Delegates will meet with Professors David Harris, Dirk Van Zyl Smit, Paul Roberts and Richard Pascoe, Director of the China Policy Institute.



## Tree-planting on campus offsets Student Conference carbon emissions

As a finale to the Ninth Annual Student Conference on 'International Human Rights and the Environment', the Student Committee that organised the conference held a tree planting ceremony to offset the carbon emissions of the Conference keynote speakers.

Co-Director Professor David Harris planted the *Prunus Avium Flore Plena* (a cherry tree) on the West Lawn between Cut Through Lane and Jubilee Avenue on University Campus. The Conference Report is available online.



## Second Annual Summer School on Human Rights Monitoring

Held between 16-20 June, this year's Summer School focused on 'Engaging with the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies', examining approaches aimed at maximising the cooperative participation of governments and national institutions with the UN bodies. Co-Director Professor Michael O'Flaherty welcomed 25 participants of nearly 20 nationalities, including representatives of national human rights institutions, government bodies, UN offices and civil society organisations. Speakers included Dr Beate Schoepp-Schilling, Rachel Brett, Professor Jaap Doek, Professor Michael O'Flaherty, Professor David Harris, Dr Nathalie Prouvez, John Kissane, Frauke Seidensticker, Jane Connors, Virginia Bras-Gomes and Markus Schmidt.



## High-level Workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy announced

HRLC is pleased to announce a high-level workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy, co-sponsored by the European Inter-University Centre (EIUC) and organised with the participation of the University of Poznan, Poland.

The two-day workshop at the EIUC, Venice, from 29-30 January 2009 will address the long-standing practice of human rights diplomacy by States and international organisations, its development following the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights (1993) and the advent of diplomatic office holders tasked specifically with human rights responsibilities. In particular, the workshop will examine the roles of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional high level human rights posts such as those within the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A number of academics and high-level expert practitioners will be invited to undertake policy-related research, to be presented and discussed at the workshop and which will become the basis of a publication, to be issued under the auspices of EIUC with Cambridge University Press.

The workshop forms part of HRLC's ongoing commitment to conducting policy-driven research on the reform of UN Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Bodies.

The project directors are: Professor Michael O'Flaherty (Nottingham), Professor Dżidek Kedzia (Poznan) and Dr George Ulrich (EIUC, Venice).



## Third Annual Paragon Human Rights Lecture: The Role of Women in Society

The role of women in British and Malaysian societies was examined at the Third Annual Paragon Human Rights Lecture, which took place at the University of Nottingham's Malaysia campus on 12 May 2008.

The lecture was delivered by two recognized experts in the field of women's rights: Shanti Dairiam, member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and founder and director of the International Women's Rights Action Watch in Asia and the Pacific, and Vanessa Munro, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Nottingham. The speakers provided thought-provoking insights into British and Malaysian perspectives on women's rights and equality, and engaged in a lively debate with the audience composed of guests from academia, representatives of the government and the Malaysian Human Rights Commission, legal professionals and members of the diplomatic community and NGOs.

Before the event, Professor Michael O'Flaherty said, "This event will make an important contribution to dialogue between UK and Malaysia-based human rights experts as well as strengthen links between the two campuses of the University. We are delighted that two such distinguished specialists have accepted our invitation to lecture and enjoyed a fruitful and enriching debate."

The Annual Paragon Human Rights lectures are co-hosted with Paragon Law, a Nottingham-based law-firm and provide an opportunity for internationally renowned human rights leaders to address issues of great current importance before an audience of local and national dignitaries. Previous speakers include Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International (2006), and Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2007).



## Human Rights Defender Fellowship awarded to Gelek Namgyal

Gelek Namgyal, Executive Secretary of the Tibetan Parliamentary and Policy Research Centre in New Delhi, has been appointed as the first Human Rights Defender Fellow at HRLC. Gelek will take part in the short course on International Human Rights Law, between September and December 2008. Initiated by HRLC, the Fellowship forms part of our commitment to provide training and research opportunities at risk scholars and human rights defenders. The Fellowship is a direct outcome of the CARA funded project on 'Scholars At Risk' in 2007 and the visit of Hina Jilani, former UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, in February.

## HRLC hosts Fair Trials Training Programme

At the end of March, HRLC hosted a week-long meeting of young lawyers from Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and the UK, as part of the Fair Trials International Young Defenders Training Programme. Designed to support emerging human rights and fair trial defenders in Europe, participants were given practical training on a range of criminal law issues, with emphasis on fair trial rights and specific cross-border processes and were given opportunities to share their relative professional and cultural experiences

## The ICC Legal Tools and the EU: University Knowledge Transfer Award

HRLC has been awarded one of seven grants from the University's Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy Group for a nine month project entitled 'Towards a Successful Partnership: the ICC Legal Tools and the European Union'. Led by Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of the ICJ Unit, and Emilie Hunter, Research and Programmes Coordinator, the project will facilitate exchange between HRLC experts and EU policy makers on the role of legal research tools, such as HRLC's Database on Implementing Legislation and other ICC Legal Tools, in enhancing the functionality of International Criminal Justice and in furthering the EU's broad commitment to promote the ICC.

# UNIT FOCUS: International Criminal Justice Unit

Since its inception five years ago, the International Criminal Justice Unit has established itself as one of the pre-eminent centres on the practice of international criminal law. Under the leadership of Dr. Olympia Bekou, the Unit has received international recognition for its research, training and capacity building work with a particular emphasis on activities supporting the enactment of national legislation for the International Criminal Court. In December 2006, the Unit joined the ICC's Legal Tools Project and became one of five Outsourcing Partners of the International Criminal Court.

## ICC Legal Tools Project

Within the Legal Tools Project, a network of five European-region institutes tasked with developing a unique and innovative set of electronic resources and services for the ICC, HRLC has created a dynamic, fully-searchable database of national legislation implementing the Rome Statute.

In May this year Dr. Bekou, joined by ICC representatives and other Legal Tools partners, presented the Unit's work before the EU Working Group on International Law (COJUR) in Brussels. This was the first interaction of EU Member States with the Legal Tools Project. In September 2008 Dr. Bekou spoke at a symposium hosted by the Institute of International Law and International Relations at the University of Graz, Austria, where scholars and representatives of the Ministries of Justice from Austria, Croatia, Germany and Switzerland met to discuss key issues related to the implementation of serious international crimes. The Graz symposium provided a first opportunity to present the database to an expert audience.

Once online, database users will be able to search national implementing legislation using geographic or thematic categories, enabling searches based on keywords or Articles of the Rome Statute. This will allow national legislators and other interested persons to retrieve the relevant provisions of enacted legislation and read analytical commentaries on each of them. The aims of the database are threefold: enhancing the capabilities of states to draft effective national legislation; providing the legal/research community with a time-saving resource; and primarily facilitating the effective functioning of the ICC.



## University Knowledge Transfer Award: ICC Legal Tools and the EU

The Unit entered a new phase in its work, following the award of a grant by the University for a nine month project entitled 'Towards a Successful Partnership: the ICC Legal Tools and the European Union'.

The project aims to facilitate exchange between HRLC experts and EU level policy makers on the role of legal research tools, such as HRLC's Database on Implementing Legislation and other ICC Legal Tools, in enhancing the functionality of international criminal justice and in furthering the EU's broad commitment to promote the ICC regime.

Issues to be addressed include the number of states that have not yet adopted legislation implementing the Rome Statute (nearly 57% of State Parties) and the identification of how the remaining 43% of State Parties may be equipped with adequate resources to prosecute international crimes and cooperate effectively with the ICC. The Legal Tools project is designed precisely to deal with such problems.

'Towards A Successful Partnership' will take place between September 2008 and June 2009, through research, a series of dialogues with EU level policy makers and research users, and the production of expert papers.

## Bilateral Assistance

Work on the database is complemented by the Unit's provision of bilateral assistance to states during the national ICC implementation process. In 2006 HRLC experts Dr. Olympia Bekou and Professor Robert Cryer undertook assistance visits to Samoa and Fiji. Samoa enacted its ICC legislation in November 2007. The Unit is also currently providing similar legal support to countries from the Caribbean Region. Following the first fringe seminar organised during the 6th ICC Assembly of States Parties meeting in December 2007, the Unit provided technical assistance to Jamaica, while capacity-building missions are currently being discussed with States in the region.

## Capacity-Building

The Unit regularly conducts capacity building programmes concerning ratification and national implementation of the ICC Statute. These courses provide government officials, members of the judiciary and other professionals with an in-depth understanding of key aspects of the ICC regime and the problems that States face in implementing it at the national level. Since 2003, the Unit has organised training programmes in the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa for 99 State representatives, academics and Judges from 38 countries.



# HRLC and the School of Law

The Human Rights Law Centre forms part of the School of Law, with a long history of engagement with School activities.



## LL.M. in Human Rights Law

The School of Law is proud of its human rights programme. Our world class team exposes students to the most exciting and important ideas and developments in the field. All of the senior human rights teaching staff have international reputations; they have also amassed second-to-none experience of human rights policy making and practice in the framework of such organisations as the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

The modules at the heart of the programme provide a thorough grounding in international human rights law. Many of the more specialised topics are cutting edge and innovative, such as, for instance, 'Mental Disability and International Human Rights' and 'Rights, Human and Other Animals'. One module taught by HRLC's Professor O'Flaherty, 'International Human Rights Field Operations: Law in Practice', is the only course of its kind in the world.

The learning experience is greatly enhanced by the wide international background of the student body, bringing together talented and committed people from across the globe, many of whom have considerable experience of human rights work.

We also try to assist students with internships and other work to gain experience of human rights in practice. Many of our students, after completion of their degree, obtain jobs with the United Nations or other international organisations, with governments or non-governmental organisations, or otherwise in the field of human rights.

We run an exciting programme of guest lectures, delivered by distinguished scholars and practitioners. We regularly host groundbreaking conferences and other events that contribute to the development and the application of the international legal standards.

Through its Student Activities Unit, HRLC supports a number of student-led human rights initiatives. These include:

## Annual Student Human Rights Conference:

The Annual Student Human Rights Conference is organised by a committee of students, with assistance from HRLC, for students from across the UK and Europe. The Conference takes place annually, at the end of the 2nd term and includes a programme of high-profile key note speakers on contemporary human rights issues, followed by panels of student presentations. It is more than just an academic experience; it provides a forum for students to meet and develop professional networks with fellow students, experts and academics from across Europe.

The topic for the 10th Annual Student Conference is 'Freedom of Expression'. Topics of previous conferences include: 'International Human Rights and the Environment' (2008), 'International Criminal Accountability' (2007), 'The UN Security Council and Human Rights' (2006) and 'Whose culture, whose rights - exploring the universality of human rights' (2005).

## Human Rights Film Series

The Human Rights Film Series is a student-led initiative, produced with the support and guidance of HRLC. The series has been designed to include engaging and provocative films which articulate human rights issues from around the globe. Films are introduced by experts or practitioners and are followed by lively debate, providing participants with an opportunity to share their own expertise and knowledge of the subject matter. A small team of students will be involved in the design, implementation and promotion of the series as

well as in the organisation of appropriate speakers for each screening. Films are screened on campus and are free.

## Human Rights Film Festival

In March 2008, HRLC joined with the art house Broadway Cinema in Nottingham city centre to organise a one month film festival showing award winning films which highlighted contemporary human rights issues of national and international importance. Following the success of the March festival, we will be hosting another human rights film festival at Broadway Cinema in October to kick start the 2008/09 academic year. For details, see page 8.

## Internships and Bursaries:

As a result of HRLC's expanded internship and bursary programme, 14 students benefited from HRLC sponsored internships and placements in 2008: Nicholas Hutchings (Human Rights Committee Internship), An-Sofie Leenknecht ('Human Rights Field Officer' - Project Internship), Javier Argomaniz (Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights Internship), Annika Jones, Agnes Flues, Lena Sherif (International Criminal Justice Internships), Jennifer Wall and Sanjay Patel (European Human Rights Law Unit Internship), Monica Esposito (Forced Migration and Human Rights Internship), Sophia Soares (Student Activities/Publications Internship) and Emilia Hanna (Human Rights Film Series Internship/European Human Rights Law Internship), Sarah Raveling (Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia), Annika Jones (International Criminal Court) and An-Sofie Leenknecht (UNHCR Chile).



## Research Assistance Opportunities

HRLC enjoys and encourages the participation of students in its work, and aims to provide students with practical experience and exposure to the human rights field: in 2008, over 28 students worked with the Centre.

Throughout the year, the Centre offers various opportunities for interested LL.M./Masters and PhD students to carry out research on projects and support the Centre's events. Visit the Centre's website for more information on upcoming research opportunities.

## HRLC publishes research on homophobia and discrimination

HRLC has published a report examining homophobia and discrimination experienced by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community within the UK. This is the first in a series of thematic reports and studies on fundamental rights issues that HRLC legal experts, led by Professor David Harris, will produce for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency over the next three years.

Written by HRLC experts Professor Jeffrey Kenner, Professor Therese Murphy and Ms Toni Johnson, the first thematic legal study on 'Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in the United Kingdom' examines and assesses the implementation of Employment Directive 2000/78/EC (prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation) in the UK. The report deals specifically with discrimination and homophobia in the context of freedom of movement, asylum and subsidiary protection, family reunification, freedom of assembly, criminal law and hate speech. It also sheds light on transgender issues and highlights examples of good practice.

Two further thematic studies are currently under preparation: one dealing with the issue of 'Child Trafficking in the UK', the other one looking at National Human Rights Institutions in the UK.

The thematic studies will be used as a basis for comparative analyses amongst the 27 EU Member States and for EU policy developments and legislation in the subject area. The studies are published on the HRLC website within the Publications Unit.

## Alice Edwards awarded American Society of International Law Fellowship

Alice Edwards, City Solicitor's Educational Trust Lecturer in British Human Rights Law and Head of the newly established Forced Migration and Human Rights Unit, has been awarded the prestigious Helton Fellowship of the American Society of International Law. The fellowship has facilitated the conduct of field research in Uganda as part of the HRLC's Refugee Women Project. The project aims to survey the development and emergence of specific policies on refugee women and girls, with a focus on the application and implementation of international human rights standards relevant to such displaced people.



## Leading Indian environmental lawyer visits HRLC

Mr M.C. Mehta, world-renowned environmental lawyer and human rights activist, visited HRLC in March. He delivered the keynote address on 'The environment as a human right' at the Ninth Annual Student Human Rights Conference on International Human Rights and the Environment. Enjoying the dialogue with students, he also presented a lecture on 'The Right to Life: Bringing Environmental Cases to the Indian Supreme Court' for students and introduced the film 'Drowned Out' at our Human Rights Film Festival at Broadway Cinema.

M.C. Mehta is an attorney in the Supreme Court of India, one of the founders of the Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action (ICLEA), and director of the M.C. Mehta Environmental Foundation in New Delhi. M.C.'s landmark environmental cases in the Supreme Court of India have resulted in the protection of India's natural and cultural treasures – including the Ganges River and the Taj Mahal – from the adverse effects of pollution.

## Detention Toolkit on asylum-seekers and refugees presented at UNHCR Consultations

The Forced Migration and Human Rights Unit recently presented its new 'Toolkit on the monitoring of asylum-seekers, refugees and other migrants in detention' at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees NGO Annual Consultations held in Geneva. Launched on 26 June, the Toolkit is an important point of reference in this area, cataloguing the main mechanisms for monitoring places of detention and arbitrating cases relating to detention.

## New issues of HRLC Journals published

The latest publications from the Human Rights Law Review (Vol. 8(2), 2008) and International Human Rights Reports (Vol. 15, 2008) are now available. The Law Review is the leading UK-based international human rights law journal and the IHR Reports are a well-used resource on such developments as UN Human Rights Committee decisions and international treaties and declarations.



## Human Rights Film Festival to be held at Broadway Cinema in October

Our second Film Festival for 2008 is inspired by experiences of counter-terrorism strategies. Award-winning films - State of Fear: The Truth About Terrorism; Standard Operating Procedure; The Edge of Heaven and Elite Squad - will be screened every Sunday in October at 6pm, with guest speakers introducing each film. The Festival is programmed in partnership with Broadway Cinema, the School of Geography and the Centre for the Study of Post-Conflict Cultures.



## The Future of UN Treaty Monitoring

On the invitation of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights at University College Cork, Professor O'Flaherty delivered the keynote address on the 'Future of UN Human Rights Treaty monitoring' at the UCC Postgraduate Conference on Criminal Justice and Human Rights in May 2008.



## Centre members visit Victim's Unit in Cambodia

Research and Programmes Coordinator Emilie Hunter and Research Associate Caroline Przybylla got a first-hand insight into the workings of an internationalised criminal court when visiting the 'Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia' in Phnom Penh on 16th May.

They visited the courts premises and met with members of the Victims Unit to discuss the work of the Unit in providing legal information and assistance to victims of the Khmer Rouge, and the possibility of collaborative activities with HRLC. During their visit, they also met two alumni from the University of Nottingham Law School: Ms Marija Brackovic, former ICJ Unit student assistant and 2007 LLM Graduate and Mr Ton Vong, 2008 Chevening Fellow.



## Emilie Hunter speaks at the Law Society Graham Turnbull Prize

Research and Programmes Coordinator, Emilie Hunter, joined Professor Geraldine Van Bueren (Professor of International Human Rights Law, Queen Mary University) and Andrew Holroyd (Law Society President) as a keynote speaker at the Law Society's Annual Graham Turnbull Memorial Competition, on 24th April. She spoke on the role of human rights law in combating social injustice, using the example of the Spanish National Court's investigation into torture and crimes against humanity committed against the Tibetan people.

## Focus on National Human Rights Institutions

Professor Michael O'Flaherty in June participated as a panellist in an Expert Workshop on links between National Human Rights Institutions and academia, which was convened at Harvard Law School.

In September, he presented the keynote address at the 5th Roundtable meeting of European National Human Rights Institutions, organised by the Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

The meeting in Dublin assembled the presidents of European National Human Rights Institutions, as well as senior-level representatives of the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to discuss the topic of 'Domestic rights: Strengthening Independent National Structures'.

## Daniel Moeckli awarded FP7 funded Counter-Terrorism Project

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights Unit, the Centre will form one of seven European partners to the project entitled 'DETECTER-Detection Technologies, Terrorism, Ethics and Human Rights'. Funded under the EU FP7 programme, the HRLC component will be directed by Dr Daniel Moeckli, head of the CTHR Unit. Over two years, HRLC will analyse the legality of using data mining programmes – counter-terrorism tools used by governments to screen millions of personal data sets for information about possible terrorists. Starting in 2009, 'DETECTER' will lead to the development of a set of principles and best practices for the use of data 'mining' by government security and law enforcement agencies.

## Expanding Global Philanthropy to support Human Rights

Professor Michael O'Flaherty, delivered the welcome address at a meeting of philanthropists on the topic 'Expanding Global Philanthropy to support Human Rights' on 15th September in Bellagio, Italy.

# Selected HRLC Events

## Forthcoming events:

### Expert Dialogue on Death Penalty Reform in China

**29 September 2008, University of Nottingham**

Hosted by HRLC, 11 senior Chinese representatives from the National People's Congress and Supreme People's Court and from Beijing Normal University will engage in a dialogue on death penalty reform with Professors David Harris, Dirk Van Zyl Smit, Paul Roberts and Richard Pascoe, Director of the China Policy Institute.

### Human Rights Film Series: Broadway Festival

**Every Sunday evening at 6pm throughout October 2008, Broadway Cinema Nottingham**

The Human Rights Film Series is moving to Broadway Cinema throughout October with a special series of human rights films introduced by high profile speakers, including 'State of Fear: The Truth About Terrorism' (introduced by Hicham Yezza and Rizwaan Sabar); 'Standard Operating Procedure' (introduced by Dr. Rod Thornton, lecturer in terrorism); 'The Edge of Heaven' (introduced by Dr. Alexander Vasudevan, lecturer in Cultural and Historical Geography) and 'Elite Squad' (introduced by Prof Else Vieira, School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, London Queen Mary University)

For the full programme, visit the Human Rights Film Festival page of the HRLC website.

### 'The European Convention on Human Rights: Current Issues II'

**14 November 2008, Great Hall, Trent Building, University of Nottingham**

This conference will highlight and address new challenges facing the European Convention system. Speakers include Judge Egbert Myjer (Judge, European Court of Human Rights), Professor Dominick McGoldrick (Professor of Public International Law, University of Liverpool), Marko Milanovic (University of Cambridge, former Associate, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights) and Sergey Golubok (Registry, European Court of Human Rights).

### Capacity-building in Kosovo

**Autumn 2008, Kosovo**

HRLC, in association with OSCE, will deliver a training programme for government officials in Kosovo. The training team will be led by HRLC Co-Director Prof. Michael O'Flaherty.

### Fringe meetings at Seventh session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties

**14 - 22 November 2008, The Hague, Netherlands**

Members of the ICJ Unit will attend the 7th ASP meeting and will give a presentation of the Database on National Implementing Legislation and the ICC Legal Tools to state representatives and NGOs.

### High- Level workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy

**29-30 January 2009, European Inter-University Centre, Venice**

The HRLC with the European Inter-University Centre (EIUC) and organised with the participation of the University of Poznan, organize a two-day high-level workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy, which will address the long-standing practice of human rights diplomacy by States and international organisations, its development following the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights (1993) and the advent of diplomatic office holders tasked specifically with human rights

### Tenth Annual Student Human Rights Conference: Freedom of Expression

**14 March 2009, University of Nottingham**

### Short course on International Human Rights Law

**5 January - 20 March 2009, University of Nottingham**

The course is intended for those interested in gaining an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards and the international machinery of the United Nations, Council of Europe, the OAS and the African Union for implementing these standards

For detailed information on the Short course, including modules, application and fees, please visit the Short Course page of the HRLC website.

## Previous:

### Third Annual Paragon Human Rights Lecture: The Role of Women in Society

**12 May 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Shanthi Dairiam, member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and Vanessa Munro, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, discussed the 'Role of Women in Society: UK and Malaysian perspectives', at the Prince Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

### ICC Legal Tools Presentation, COJUR Meeting

**29 May, Brussels**

Dr Olympia Bekou, Head of the ICJ Unit, gave a presentation on the EU and the ICC Legal Tools to foreign ministries representatives of the 27 EU member states at the meeting of the ICC sub-area of the public international law working party (COJUR).

### Presentation of Toolkit on Detention Monitoring Mechanisms of asylum-seekers and refugees

**26 June, Geneva**

The Forced Migration and Human Rights Unit launched a new Toolkit on the Monitoring of Asylum-seekers, Refugees and Other Migrants in Detention: International, Regional and National Mechanisms at the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations in Geneva. The Toolkit outlines some of the main international, regional and national mechanisms that have mandates to monitor or visit places of detention or individuals held in detention or detention-like conditions.

### Launch of the Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers

**3 July, Geneva**

The Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers Working in Conflict and Post-conflict Environments were launched on 3 July at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva. The *Guiding Principles* emerged from a highly consultative process and reflect the proceedings at expert consultations convened by the 'Consolidating the Profession: the Human Rights Field Officer' project in Asia, Africa and Europe. They are intended to enhance the professional practice of human rights field officers.

## In Focus...

### Conference: 'The European Convention on Human Rights: Current Issues II'

**14th November 2008  
Great Hall, Trent Building, University of Nottingham**

The Human Rights Law Centre, with the kind support of the Council of Europe, is pleased to announce its upcoming one-day conference on 'The European Convention of Human Rights: Current Challenges'. The Conference follows on from the successful event on the same topic held in 2006 which attracted over 100 participants. Covering issues that will be of interest to academics and practitioners alike, this conference will highlight and address new challenges facing the European Convention system.

Judge Egbert Myjer (Netherlands) will be the keynote speaker. He will be joined by Professor Dominick McGoldrick, who will speak about 'Islam and the European Convention on Human Rights' and Marko Milanovic, who will discuss the Behrami case. Sergey Golubok will talk about Russian cases at the European Court of Human Rights.

More information on the Conference programme is available on the HRLC website.

### Conference Fees:

Legal Practitioners: **£100** Academics: **£30** Students/NGOs: **£10**  
(Lunch and refreshments are included)

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