

## Expert Workshop on the Harmonisation of International Human Rights Law



Above: Harmonisation Workshop Presenters (from left to right) Professor Alastair Mowbray, Professor Larissa van den Herik, Professor Frans Viljoen and Dr Clara Sandoval. Below: Workshop participants.



On 24-25 June 2013, HRLC hosted an expert workshop to explore an increasingly important human rights issue.

*International Human Rights Law: Towards Pluralism or Harmony?* convened a group of 25 leading actors in international human rights adjudication, including practitioners and academics. The workshop explored the opportunities and challenges posed by the co-existence of multiple regional and international human rights bodies.

Serving and former judges, members and staff of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and United Nations human rights treaty bodies, as well as leading UK and European academics in the area were represented.

Participants reviewed the extent of dialogue between human rights bodies and

debated the desirability of harmonising regional and international jurisprudence. Former President of the Inter-American Court, Professor Dinah Shelton, spoke positively of the Inter-American system's extensive engagement in judicial cross-fertilisation.

Her support for greater harmonisation was echoed by Simon Walker of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Judge Ben Kioko of the African Court.

Others highlighted the significance of political and cultural differences between regions, as well as the barriers to judicial dialogue created by budgets and language. Professor Malcolm Evans, Chairperson of the UN Sub-committee on the Prevention of Torture, raised the challenge of practical and methodological co-ordination.

Proceedings from the Workshop will form the basis of a forthcoming book.

## FRAME Kicks Off!

This large scale, multi-disciplinary research project on Fostering Human Rights Among European (Internal and External) Policies (FRAME) will keep HRLC busy over the next four years.

The project is co-ordinated by the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies and involves a consortium of 19 academic partners in Europe and worldwide.

Professor Jeffrey Kenner is leading HRLC's team, which includes Professor Mary Footer, Professor Aoife Nolan, Professor Peter Bartlett, as well as HRLC Fellows Professor Michael O'Flaherty, Dr. Mary Dowell-Jones, and Dr. James Harrison.

The Project's aim is to understand the challenges and opportunities for the EU's human rights engagement and to recommend policies and tools to ensure that these challenges are overcome and opportunities are seized in an optimal manner.

The research will concentrate around four main themes or clusters: Factors, Actors, Policies, and Tools.

HRLC will co-ordinate the second cluster on Actors, i.e. EU Multi-

Level and Multi-Actor Human Rights Engagement, and its own research will focus on one of the main sub-themes: Engagement with Private Actors, Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and Civil Society.

Other themes (work packages) covered by the cluster are: Engagement with UN/Regional Multilateral Organisations (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan Human Rights Centre); Regional Partnerships and Bilateral Cooperation (Eötvös Loránd University); Coherence Among EU Institutions and Member States (University College Dublin).

The research period commenced on 1 August 2013 and will run for three years, followed by nine months of dissemination of its results. For more information, please visit the FRAME website at: [www.fp7-frame.eu](http://www.fp7-frame.eu)





Professor Philip Alston

## The Prohibition of the Use of Force: Death by a Thousand Strikes

Professor Philip Alston delivered the HRLC Annual Lecture on 4 March 2013, considering *The Prohibition of the Use of Force: Death by a Thousand Strikes*.

In this highly engaging lecture, Prof. Alston discussed the scope of extra-territorial use of force and the re-writing of rules of engagement, based upon his experience as UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions (2004-2010) and his eminent academic research. Prof. Alston commented upon the discourse and analysis of the legal justifications for the use of force and the rules of engagement of the US and its allies.

He underlined the need to ensure that discussion regarding the use of force is not merely restricted to the use of drones as they will soon be outdated by new, more sophisticated and highly technological weapons. Hence the necessity to focus on the principles, rather than the specific weaponry used. The lecture also touched upon some broader issues, such as the involvement of non-state actors, the impact on civilians, the use of human rights discourse to justify interventions and compliance with international law.

A video of Prof. Alston's lecture is available to watch on the HRLC website: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/annuallecture](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/annuallecture).

## 24th Annual Advanced Course on the Laws of War

HRLC hosted the 24th Annual Advanced Course on the Laws of War from 6 – 18 June 2013. The course was 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.

The course was led by HRLC Co-Director Professor McGoldrick with Dr. Bekou, Sandesh Sivakumaran and Dr. Milanovic of the University of Nottingham School of Law, along with Professor Robert Cryer, University of Birmingham, giving presentations.

## Court Administration in England and Wales: Sharing Best Practice

In June 2013, HRLC welcomed a delegation of thirty-six court officials from the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand.

The two-week course, entitled *Court Administration in England and Wales*, focused upon the processes and procedures within the criminal and civil courts and tribunal system of England and Wales.

The programme was developed in partnership with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) Learning and Development team. The course combined academic seminars that provided the necessary legal background, with expert seminars delivered by practitioners that work for or with the courts and tribunal system, notably Paul Rich, HMCTS Learning and Development Delivery Officer; Nick Taylor, School of Law, University of Leeds; Susan Russell, University of Nottingham, and Deputy District Judge; Richard Roberts, Associate at Browne Jacobson LLP and Professor John Jackson, University of Nottingham. Course participants also had an opportunity to take a close look at the functioning in practice of British courts and tribunals during visits to relevant institutions in Nottingham and London: the Nottingham Magistrates' Court, Nottingham Crown Court, HMCTS County Court Bulk Office in Northampton, HMCTS Mental Health Tribunal Back Office in Leicester, the Royal Courts of Justice, the Judicial College, the Judicial Appointments Commission and the UK Supreme Court.



Delegation of Thai Court Officials outside UK Supreme Court, London.

## HRLC agrees Partnership with Faculty of Law, University of Khartoum

In March 2013, HRLC was delighted to welcome a delegation of seven academics from the Faculty of Law, University of Khartoum, led by its Dean, Dr. El Rasheed Hassan Sayed.

The dialogue with the Khartoum Law Faculty started in Sudan in January 2013, during HRLC's training programme for Sudan's Human Rights Commission (see HRLC Newsletter, Winter 2013).

Colleagues in Khartoum are in the process of establishing their own human rights law centre, which will develop an LLM in human rights (the first in Sudan), as well as provide research and capacity building in Sudan and beyond.

These initial meetings are intended to be the building blocks for extensive future collaboration, which might include staff and student exchanges, joint conferences, research and capacity building

projects. During their week-long stay, our Sudanese colleagues participated in a number of key HRLC events including our Annual Lecture and the 14th Annual Student Human Rights Conference. They also joined one of Prof. McGoldrick's LLM seminars and presented to students about human rights law in Sudan.

The delegation's visit was sponsored by the British Embassy in Khartoum.



Left: Delegation from University of Khartoum Law Faculty with Professor David Harris. Centre: Participating in LLM Seminar on Religion and Human Rights. Right: Discussion with Professor Todd Landman at Student Conference 2013.



# HRLC in the Community

## Unsilenced: Confronting Violence Against Women

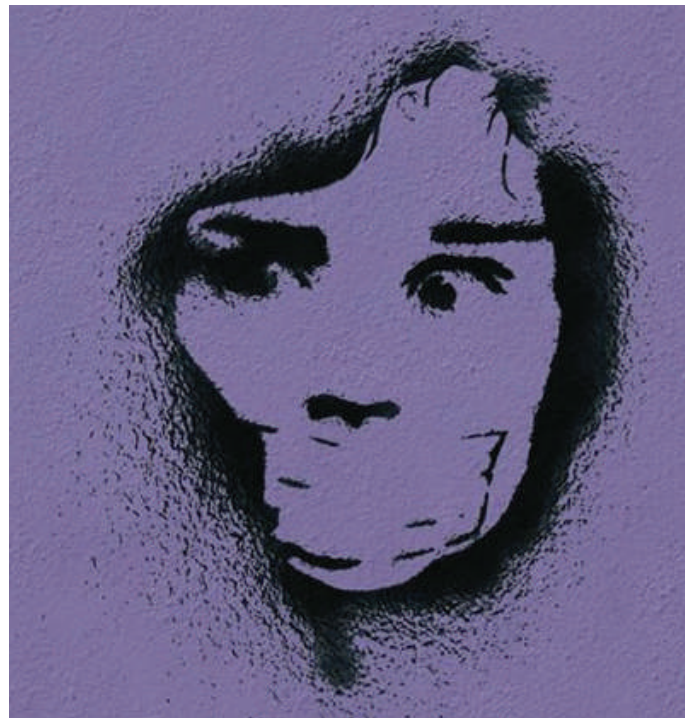
### Human Rights Film Season

Women face sexual harassment, domestic abuse, rape. Every day. All over the world. In the UK. In Nottingham. Violence against women, the violation of women's rights are not out-dated issues. They are however under-reported, not often or not publicly talked about, silenced.

"We chose to name the event 'Unsilenced' as the victims of domestic violence or rape often remain silent, the crime goes unpunished and the vicious circle continues." This is how Hania Radwanska explained the impetus behind the Film Season. Together with Rachel Finnegan and Bettina Keimel, they formed the 2012-13 Human Rights Film Series Student Committee and have organised film screenings on campus throughout the academic year. For this important topic, however, they chose to involve the broader Nottingham community and raise awareness of the issue of violence against women through film screenings at the Broadway Cinema. Four films were shown, highlighting different issues: for each of them a speaker was invited to introduce the film, place it into the context in the country concerned, in the UK and Nottingham, and lead the Q&A after the film. The response from the public was extremely positive, with full screens for every film.

*Cairo 678* presents a startling insight into sexual harassment, following the day-to-day struggles of three women in Cairo, echoing also recent events in and around Tahrir square. Amal Treacher Kabesh (School of Sociology, University of Nottingham), provided some further information about the specificity of the Egyptian context. However, as emerged during the discussion, women in Nottingham face the same kind of harassment, maybe less widespread, but identical in nature.

*The Price of Sex* is an investigative journey into the underworld of sex trafficking which exposes how poverty, corruption and lack of access to justice prompt one of the most flourishing and profitable businesses in



the world. Denise Marshall (Chief Executive of Eaves) explained how victims of sex trafficking, once they reach the UK, are kept in what is a modern form of slavery and what Eaves does to help them.

*War Witch* is a harrowing depiction of the story of Komono, a young girl in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), abducted at the age of twelve by rebel forces. Through Komono's story, a glimpse is caught of the DRC's on-going conflict and the life of child soldiers. Dr. Olympia Bekou (HRLC, School of Law, University of Nottingham) shared observations from her own visits to the DRC and further details about how the conflict has affected in particular girls and women, specifically, the systematic use of violence against women and children as a weapon of war.

And finally, three short films - *Leaving*, *Kim* and *Daddy's Little Bit of Dresden China*, all UK productions addressing the issue of domestic abuse, as well as its effects on children. Kerry Sullivan, Co-Manager of Equation (formerly Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum), shed light on domestic abuse in Nottinghamshire and illustrated the work that Equation does in Nottinghamshire and beyond, with adults and children, to promote healthy relationships and therefore prevent domestic abuse.

Proceeds raised by HRLC throughout the sale of advance discounted tickets were donated to : Eaves, Rape Crisis, Equation and Nottingham Women's Centre.



HRLC stand at Mayfest 2013.

## Always look on the (B)Right Side of Life

In May 2013, HRLC represented the School of Law at the University's Community Open Day: Mayfest. This year, HRLC captured the attention and imagination of visitors with two creative activities: Kite Making and the Tree of Rights. Both activities inventively encouraged, in particular, young visitors to reflect on the rights of the child. With Kite Making children built colourful kites with 'right quotes' in just 10 minutes, while the Tree of Rights was decorated by children with leaves on which they wrote the rights that were most important to them.



Kitemaking at Mayfest 2013.



Summer School Participants talking to Professor Michael Freeman.

In conversation with...

**Dr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur**

**HRLC:** What are the key challenges that the UN Committee faces in its work?

**BDM:** I think the main challenge is the implementation challenge. Unfortunately so far we only have the state party reporting procedure, which has the main mandate to look into children's rights and it's unfortunate the Committee so far hasn't had the opportunity to look at individual complaints, because that comes with its own added value.

The Committee will obviously use the new individual complaints mechanism to make pronouncements on important points, and they will not only be relevant for the children in the States Parties that are involved in that mechanism, but also for other states and other children who may find themselves in comparable situations.

But the main challenge that we have is ensuring our concluding observations are implemented by States Parties. That is a real challenge; in some instances we have found ourselves sitting with a State Party report and making the same recommendations we made before because the State Party in some circumstances didn't have the capacity, or in other circumstances didn't have the will, and in many circumstances a combination of the two, to implement the concluding observations.

## Highly Valuable, Inspiring and Uplifting: HRLC Summer School on the Rights of the Child

The new HRLC Summer School on the Rights of the Child was held in Nottingham from 24-28 June 2013. Professor Aoife Nolan led the programme which showcased contributions from highly experienced international experts on children's rights, with backgrounds in advocacy, research and practice.

The wide range of topics discussed during the Summer School by faculty and participants in this highly-interactive programme included the protection of the rights of the child from African and European perspectives, as well as specific themes such as freedom from violence, children in armed conflict, freedom of



Summer School Group Work.



Professor Laura Lundy delivering Summer School session.

In conversation with... **Ms Lisa Mye**

**HRLC:** What are the key ways in which children's rights can be advanced at the UN? Who are the key actors?

**LM:** When you look at the UN you need to be looking at what mechanisms exist, and the key ways to do that, and especially if you want to advance at the national level, is to look at the reporting process. So, to make sure that the Committee on the Rights of the Child has the information, it needs to really understand what is going on in the country, what are the priorities and what needs doing. If you want to advance a specific topic, you





Summer School on the Rights of the Child participants.

religion and the socio-economic rights of children. The programme included also a general overview of the UN standards and mechanisms specifically aimed at protecting the rights of the child. Sessions covered techniques and methodologies for monitoring and advocating children's rights in the international arena, as well as ensuring children's access to justice.

The practical application of the legal framework for advancing the rights of children was the main objective of this Summer School. One Summer School participant said: "I feel as if children's rights are now three-dimensional – lifted off the page in full colour and action!"

The participants, comprising practitioners working in the field and children's advocates based in Malaysia, Nepal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Greece and the UK, stated that they found the Summer School to be "highly valuable, inspiring and uplifting! The diversity of themes combined with excellent teachers and presentations are setting new standards."

The Summer School faculty included: Professor Michael Freeman, University College London; Professor Matthew Happold, University of Luxembourg; Professor Ursula Kilkelly, University College Cork; Professor Laura Lundy, Queen's University, Belfast; Professor Dominic McGoldrick, University of Nottingham; 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; Mr Simon Flacks, Reading University and member of the Child Rights International Network; Professor Aoife Nolan, University of Nottingham.

## In conversation with...

### Mr Simon Flacks

**HRLC:** What are some of the key obstacles that children face in accessing justice?

**SF:** I think there is one overarching key obstacle which is the place of children in society and the recognition of children as rights holders. I think the lack of that recognition means that criminal justice processes and systems are less likely to recognise and respect the rights of children and adolescents. Other key obstacles are many, but include: inadequate legal provisions, inadequate legal rights protection in a particular country that are particularly tailored to children's rights. General social understanding of childhood and difficulties of understanding children as rights holders is probably the main obstacle. There are obstacles around recognising that children might need specific care and attention including psycho-social assistance to help them through a damaging or traumatising process, where there are complainants and victims and so on.

## In conversation with...

### Professor Ursula Kilkelly

**HRLC:** How – if at all – does protection of children's rights under the European Convention on Human Rights differ from protection under the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

**UK:** There are very significant differences; primarily there are very few references to children and children's rights in the ECHR. But we have seen through the case law of the European Court the development of rights relating to children, through the interpretation of convention provisions not specific to children. Another feature of the ECHR's case law is that it is largely from a parent's or adult's perspective, primarily because the adult is taking the applications. The Court has arguably had little opportunity to develop a children's rights jurisprudence. But when it has had an opportunity, it has sometimes taken it, but not always. What we have seen over the years is a really interesting use by the Court of the child-specific provisions like the CRC and other more specific provision for children's rights to develop the protection afforded by the ECHR. It's through the combination of those approaches and the increasing way in which international courts draw on this variety of standards that we see children's rights advanced through mechanisms about human rights rather than children's rights exclusively.

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look at other areas of the Committee's work, such as seeing if they can do a General Comment or have a debate during a day of general discussion. Then you could use another mechanism, like using the Human Rights Council, seeing if an issue could be discussed at the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child, also seeing if a new mandate can be created, a new Special Rapporteur on an issue that is being neglected or on a grave and systematic violation, and there is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism that can be used to complement the reporting process of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).



Professor Aoife Nolan delivering Summer School session.

# Human Rights and Democracy: Two Sides of the Same Coin?

## HRLC 14th Annual Student Human Rights Conference

The 14th Annual Student Human Rights Conference: *Human Rights and Democracy: Two Sides of the Same Coin?* was held at the University of Nottingham on 9 March 2013.

The Conference looked at human rights and democracy against the backdrop of the Arab Spring. Recent events in the MENA region have served as a very visual and poignant reminder of the importance that many of the world's population attribute to democracy: it is an idea(l) that embodies freedom, equality, safety, expression and development.

The great force with which people demand democratic institutions raises the question whether democracy can, or does, fulfil its grand promises. And also: is democracy a pre-requisite for full human rights democracy? Which human rights are essential for a functioning democracy?

The tone of the day was set by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navi Pillay who provided food for thought in her opening video message. High Commissioner Pillay reminded the audience of the key priority areas within OHCHR's mandate when taking into account the relationship between human rights and democracy.

These questions were addressed more widely and deeply throughout the day, by four outstanding keynote speakers. Mr Alfred de Zayas, UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable

International Order considered the obstacles he faces in the implementation of his mandate. Professor Todd Landman, Professor of Government and Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolutions, University of Essex explored the interrelation of human rights and democracy and the precarious triumphs of ideals. Ms Louise de Sousa, Head of the Human Rights and Democracy Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office approached the Conference theme from the perspective of women's rights. Ms Mervat Rishmawi, HRLC Fellow and independent consultant specialising in the MENA region, analysed the claims for human rights and democracy of the Arab Spring.

Four student panels further developed these themes in their presentations:

### Panel 1: Human Rights and Democracy: Common Allies or Coincidental Friends?

- *Is There No Alternative to Democracy for Protecting Human Rights? Lessons from the Arab Spring*, Lydia Davies-Bright (University of Nottingham)
- *Iraq's Constitutional Struggles and the Threats to the Freedom of Expression*, Hanin Nabeel (Goldsmiths, University of London)
- *The Protection of Human Rights in Ex-communist Societies: The Case of Armenia*, Aristi Voulou (University of Leicester)
- *Pakistan: A Democracy Coming into its Own*, Karen Mersiovsky (University of Nottingham)

### Panel 2: Questioning the Implementation of Human Rights and Democratic Norms

- *Democracy at the Human Rights Council? Yeah, Right!*, Ruth Houghton (University College, University of London)
- *Individuals in a Democratic State Context: 2010 French Ban on the Burqa, the Principle of Laïcité and a Restricted Right to Religion in Europe*, Christopher Beaven (University College, University of London)
- *Democracy and the Right to Vote in Ethnically Divided Societies: Theory and Practice in Cyprus*, Nasia Hadjigerogiou (King's College, University of London)

### Panel 3: Human Rights and Democracy: Contemporary Issues in the Modern World

- *Protecting Whistle-blowers: A Critical Appraisal of the Official Secrets Act 1989 and the Recent Jurisprudence of the Strasbourg Court*, Dimitrios Kagiari (University of Hull)
- *Tahrir or Tottenham: Two Tales of the Social Media and the Myth of Freedom*, Ignas Kalpokas (University of Nottingham)
- *The Co-option of Human Rights and Feminist Rhetoric to justify the War on Terror*, Lynsey Mitchell (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)



Keynote speakers at Student Conference 2013 (left to right) Professor Todd Landman, Professor Dominic McGoldrick (Chair) and Mr Alfred de Zayas.



Student Conference Committee 2013 with Mr Alfred de Zayas (centre).

### Panel 4: The Forgotten Subjects of Democracies

- *Prison(er) Democratization: User Voice and the Prison Council Model - An Ethnographic Exploration of Participatory Governance in Three English Prisons*, Bethany Schmidt (Inst. of Criminology, University of Cambridge)
- *Citizens, Foreigners or Humans? Jus Meritum and Problems with Human Rights in the United Kingdom*, Maria Werdine (London School of Economics and Political Sciences)
- *Absolute Rights and Unpopular Minorities: Exploring the Interplay between Democracy and Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights*, Natasa Mavronicola (University of Cambridge)

In addition to the Conference day programme, the HRLC Student Conference Committee, in collaboration with the HRLC Film Series Committee, organised a film screening of *Enemies of Happiness*. This film was chosen to emphasise a key theme connected to human rights and democracy: the political participation of women in democratic institutions and to commemorate International Women's Day 2013 (Friday 8 March 2013).

HRLC would like to extend its thanks to the Student Committee that organised the Conference – Ben Warwick, Alessandra Wayman, Janet Ng, Samrah Mian, Bettina Keimel and Joel Simpson.

Watch High Commissioner Navi Pillay's opening message and the keynote addresses at: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/annualstudentconference](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/annualstudentconference).



Student Conference participants and panellists chatting during break.



Keynote speakers at Student Conference 2013 (from left to right) Ms Mervat Rishmawi, Professor Harris (Chair) and Ms Louise de Sousa.



# HRLC and the School of Law

## HRLC Welcomes Summer Interns

The HRLC team was joined by four interns over the summer 2013.

**Michael O'Donohoe** is currently studying for the LLM in International Criminal Justice and Armed Conflict, and worked for the ICJ Unit's flagship project: the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD), part of the ICC's Legal Tools. Having studied international criminal law during his year abroad in the US, he was attracted to the Legal Tools project by the opportunity of contributing behind the scenes to the work of the Court.

**Marine Corhay** is originally from Belgium, where she had the opportunity to do an internship within the legal service of Public International Law from the Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs. This experience confirmed her interest in public international law, specifically in international criminal law and humanitarian law. She is currently completing her LLM in Public International Law, and decided to apply for the NILD internship to further develop her knowledge of international criminal law.

**Bhaktimayi Nair** hopes to pursue a career in public international law and to this end will be commencing her studies for a LLM degree in September 2014. Prior to this, her aim is to deepen her understanding of the practical application of international law, specifically international human rights and criminal law, through her work with organisations like



Summer Interns 2013 (from left to right) Romana Lemishka, Bhaktimayi Nair, Michael O'Donohoe and Marine Corhay.

Amicus ALJ and HRLC. Bhakti is providing editorial assistance to Dr Anne Lister for the production of the International Human Rights Reports, one of HRLC's leading publications.

**Romana Lemishka** is completing her LLM in International Law and working on her dissertation which focuses on specific rules of treaty interpretation and their potential for prevention of negative effects of fragmentation of international law. As a HRLC intern, she is assisting Professor Harris by undertaking human rights law research in connection with HRLC activities and the preparation of a new edition of Harris, O'Boyle and Warbrick, *The Law of the European Convention on Human Rights*.



Delegation of Thai Judges with Professor Harris and Professor Peter Cartwright.

## Consumer Protection Law course for Thai Judges

In June 2013, HRLC welcomed a delegation of thirty-six judges from the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand.

The two-week course on *Consumer Protection Law* focused upon international and UK standards of protection for consumers in law and practice. The programme, developed and led by Professor Peter Cartwright, who specialises in this area of law, covered the

following thematic areas:

- consumer protection in context institutions and techniques; unfair commercial practices;
- dangerous products;
- enforcement and consumer redress and contemporary challenges in consumer practice. The seminars were delivered by academics and practitioners, including Professor Geraint Howells, University of

Manchester; Deborah Parry, Consumer Law Consultant; Dr. Richard Hyde, University of Nottingham; and Helen Parker, Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Policy at Which?

The seminars were complemented by study visits in London to relevant institutions, such as the Gough Square Barristers Chambers, the Financial Services Ombudsman, UK Houses of Parliament, and the UK Supreme Court.

## Vienna +20: Advancing the Protection of Human Rights

Professor Mary Footer, Head of HRLC's Business, Trade and Human Rights Unit, participated as an expert at the *Vienna +20: Advancing the Protection of Human Rights* Conference. The two-day Conference formed part of the Vienna +20 Action Week (24-28 June 2013) commemorating the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in June 1993, a landmark in the realisation and advancement of human rights.

The Conference convened over 100 high level experts including human rights defenders, representatives of civil society, UN experts, representatives of regional and national human rights institutions and academics. The Conference encouraged reflection upon the main developments in the advancement of human rights since 1993 and participants discussed the strengthening of the current international human rights system. The Conference examined three main issues and aimed to

develop action-oriented recommendations that will further improve human rights protection in the rule of law; women in public and political life; development and human rights. Prof. Footer contributed to Working Group 3 on *Mainstreaming Human Rights: A Human Rights Based Approach for the post-2015 Development Agenda*.

The recommendations of the Vienna +20 Conference included:

- The right to an effective remedy for victims of human rights violations in the UN System and national and regional systems;
  - Universal realisation of women's rights; the adoption of a human rights-based approach to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- A fully comprehensive overview of the Conference recommendations emanating from the working group discussions is available at: <http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en/news/recommendations-expert-conference-vienna20-advancing-protection-human-rights>.

# Forthcoming Courses 2013-14

## 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.

### Course Content

The course content covers:

- 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.

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.

Course fees, dates and contact details are available at : [www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse)

## HRLC Distance Learning Course

This is a course 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 Content

The course content covers:

- 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

Course fees, dates and contact details are available at : [www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse)

## Recent Publications

- McGoldrick, D., *The Limits of Freedom of Expression on Facebook and Social Networking Sites from a UK Perspective*, Human Rights Law Review (2013) 13 (1) 125-151;
- Müller, A., *The Relationship between Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Volume 2*, Nottingham Studies on Human Rights, (Brill Academic Publications, 2013);
- Human Rights Law Review (Volume 13 Issue 1 March 2013, Oxford University Press);
- International Human Rights Reports - Volume 20 Issue 2 -April 2013;
- Yearbook of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment Volume 18 (2013).

## Social media and Freedom of Expression

Professor Dominic McGoldrick spoke on the Legal Regulation of Facebook and Social Networking Sites at international workshop 'Social Media, Regulation and Freedom of Expression: a Comparative Perspective', held at the Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, from 23 - 24 May 2013.

Prof. McGoldrick expanded on his recent publication in the Human Rights Law Review examining how social networking sites (SNSs) have revolutionised modern communications.

It traces the growth in the number of criminal prosecutions and civil actions related to materials on SNSs and assesses their compatibility with international and European human rights standards.

## Visit from Chinese Ministry of Justice

HRLC welcomed a delegation from the Department of Judicial Assistance and the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Justice of China in June 2013.

HRLC Co-Director, Prof. McGoldrick provided the delegation with an *Introduction to Common Law – Comparison with Civil Law*. This was followed by a session by Sandesh Sivakumaran, Associate Professor, School of Law, University of Nottingham, who addressed the topic of *Knowledge Transfer and Legal Education in the UK*.

The delegation also had the opportunity to meet other Nottingham academics over an informal, collegial lunch: Professor Peter Cartwright, Professor of Consumer Protection Law; Professor Peter Bartlett, Professor of Mental Health Law; Professor Nick Manning, Director of the Institute for Mental Health and Dr. Sanam Saidova; Lecturer in Law.

## The Validity of 'Odious' Debts in International Law

In March 2013, HRLC welcomed back a former LLM student, Benjamin Schneider, now a PhD candidate at Berlin Humboldt University. During his stay in Nottingham, Benjamin delivered a guest lecture entitled *The Validity of 'Odious' Debts in International Law - are States Bound by Debts Contracted by Their Despotice Predecessor Regimes?*



### HRLC Updates

Follow HRLC for all the latest updates on the Centre's activities on Twitter at @UoNHRLC or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/hrlcentre](http://www.facebook.com/hrlcentre).

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