



“And Then Came 9/11”: Professor Sir Nigel Rodley Reflects on *Counter-Terrorism: The Human Rights Deficit*

On Tuesday, 22 February, the Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) welcomed Professor Sir Nigel Rodley to Nottingham for HRLC's 2011 Annual Spring Lecture on *Counter-Terrorism: The Human Rights Deficit*. The event was attended by over 160 staff and students from the University of Nottingham and elsewhere.

Sir Nigel is the Vice-Chair of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee and Chair of the University of Essex Human Rights Centre. He has over three decades of experience in the human rights field and during that time has witnessed the remarkable progress of UN human rights protection mechanisms. He has *in prima persona* helped shape that progress from within, first as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and then as member of the UN Human Rights Committee.

In his lecture, Sir Nigel analysed the serious challenge to the international human rights protection system posed by the counter-terrorist policies adopted in the US and elsewhere after 9/11. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 exposed an enemy that requires maximum resistance, provided that resistance is within the law and consistent with human rights. However, the world witnessed a series of responses that were without the law, in flagrant violation of the law or which sought to circumvent the law. Torture, unlawful interrogation techniques, secret detention, extraordinary rendition, internment and the use of special tribunals or military commissions were justified and defended in legal memoranda, that effectively rewrote the rule book, re-interpreting international law so that not even peremptory rules such as the absolute prohibition of torture apply to alleged terrorists, leading to a 'legal black hole'. This legal black hole though was not created by a monolithic system, it was rather a strategy put together by a political cabal, which did not reflect the traditional culture of values of the US civil service and armed forces. The change in the US administration brought with it a stop to unlawful policies in counter-terrorism, but has failed so far to address the issue of impunity and responsibility of the perpetrators of human rights violations and the drafters of legal memoranda justifying those violations. However, the US Supreme Court has recently given judgements more in keeping with human rights standards.



Prof. Sir Nigel Rodley (left) and HRLC Co-Director Prof. David Harris at Spring lecture



Dr. Guglielmo Verdirame (centre) engages with conference participants



HRLC Co-Director Prof. Michael O'Flaherty (centre) in conversation with Maria Stavropoulou (left) and Prof. Guy Goodwin-Gill (right)



Dr. Chaloka Beyani (left) in discussion with Prof. Guy Goodwin-Gill

Contemporary Challenges for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On Saturday, 26 February 2011, the 12th Annual Student Human Rights Conference welcomed over 140 participants from many academic institutions to explore the main challenges that refugees and IDPs face at the present time.

The morning and afternoon sessions were opened by prominent keynote speakers who set the tone for the event and ensured a lively and rich discussion throughout the conference. Prof. Guy Goodwin-Gill introduced some of the protection gaps and problems of seeking refuge in the 21st century, considering how to bridge the gap between international obligations and national law or policies. Dr. Guglielmo Verdirame focussed on the protection of refugees in the South, in particular on the question of refugee camps, arguing that "putting refugees in camps is one of the main challenges to the protection of their human rights". Maria Stavropoulou provided insight from firsthand experience and practice within the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, highlighting the complexities of refugee protection and showing refugee protection in the context of irregular migration. She also discussed the complexities of displacement out of North Africa at the present time. Dr. Chaloka Beyani reflected on the main challenges to the protection of IDPs and the priorities for his mandate as UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs.

The four keynotes were complemented by four panel discussions during which 11 students from universities across the globe presented papers on topics as diverse as: durable and sustainable solutions for refugees and IDPs, the pros and cons of status definition, the rights of stateless persons, and the specific challenges associated with the protection of IDPs.

A full list of student panellists and their papers' titles, as well as partial video coverage of the conference are available on HRLC's website.

Keeping Up Momentum for Treaty Body Reform

Since its adoption in November 2009 following a reflection process initiated by HRLC's Prof. O'Flaherty, *The Dublin Statement on the Process of Strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System* has been a catalyst for stakeholders to reflect on how the current treaty body system could be further enhanced.

In November 2010, twenty major international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) published the NGO Response to the Dublin Statement. The NGO response welcomes the Dublin Statement and endorses many of its principles, presenting comments on the parameters, methods and objectives of reform as contained therein. It also puts forward further proposals for strengthening the treaty bodies, addressing recommendations to the treaty bodies themselves, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and States.

The Poznan Statement on the Reforms of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System (see Newsletter – Autumn 2010) was presented at the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations in New York on 18 January 2011. The meeting was attended by over 100 representatives of UN Member States and Observers. The Poznan Statement and other initiatives for treaty body reform were discussed at a Human Rights Council side event on 7 March 2011 that was addressed by Prof. O'Flaherty and other experts. Other upcoming events include an intergovernmental conference in Sion, Switzerland.

It is generally accepted that this phase of the reflection process triggered by the Dublin Statement should conclude in 2011 with a view to encourage relevant stakeholders to take the necessary action. For this purpose, HRLC will convene a consultative event in November 2011 – to take place in Dublin and to be known as Dublin II. This event will be made possible through the support of the Government of Ireland and OHCHR. Invited participants will include the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the chairpersons of all nine of the UN human rights treaty bodies. It is envisaged that an important output of Dublin II will be a synthesis report and specific recommendations to the UN on treaty body reform.



©OHCHR, HRLC Co-Director Prof. Michael O'Flaherty (right) and Prof. Malcolm Evans at the Poznan meeting

Prof. O'Flaherty Joins Forum on Human Rights in Dublin

On 10 December 2010, HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty led a workshop at the 2010 DFA-NGO Forum on Human Rights in Dublin, Ireland. The Forum is organised every year by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and is intended to facilitate a broad-based, but focused discussion on a range of human rights issues relevant for Ireland, with particular emphasis on foreign policy related matters. This year's thematic focus was on Ireland's upcoming examination under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council. Prof. O'Flaherty is also an expert member of the Joint Department of Foreign Affairs/NGO Standing Committee on Human Rights. The full report of the forum is available at: <http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=317>.

Dr. Bekou Returns to Kampala

Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit, joined a panel at the international conference *Armed Groups and Post-Conflict Peace-Building in Africa* in Kampala, Uganda. In her presentation she analysed 'The Role of the National Judicial System in Post-Conflict Justice'. The conference was part of the 'Africa Peace-Building Project' led by Dr. Catherine Gegout, Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Nottingham together with colleagues from the University of Cambridge, University of Botswana and Makerere University, Uganda. The project analyses the nature and consequences of the interaction between domestic and international actors in managing post-conflict peace-building.

Emerging Human Rights Issues: Prof. O'Flaherty Delivers Keynote Address



From left to right: John Costello; Dr. Katherine Zappone; HRLC Co-Director Prof. Michael O'Flaherty; Dr. Lydia Foy; Mary White TD Irish Minister of State for Equality, Integration, and Human Rights; Dr. Maurice Manning

On 20 November 2010, HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty delivered the keynote address at the 8th Annual Human Rights Conference of the Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and the Law Society of Ireland. The conference examined emerging human rights issues with a focus on human rights and the environment, business, data protection, immigration, and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender rights. The conference brought together legal practitioners, including members of the judiciary, the Bar and the Law Society as well as academics, statutory bodies and human rights organisations to explore these issues. Other speakers at the conference included Ms Mary White TD, Irish Minister of State for Equality, Integration, and Human Rights; Mr Maurice Manning, President of the Irish Human Rights Commission; and Mr John Costello, President of the Irish Law Society'. The full keynote address is available at: <http://www.ihrc.ie/publications/list/professor-michael-oflaherty-keynote-address-emergi/>.

Dr. Yik Chan Chin joins HRLC Research Team

Dr. Yik Chan Chin joined HRLC in December 2010 after being awarded the Nottingham Advance Research Fellowship in October 2010. This prestigious two-year fellowship is awarded by the University of Nottingham to outstanding early career researchers in any academic discipline represented at the university. Her research project, *The Interplay between Law and Society in Defamation Litigation in China: Norm, Actor and Social Construction*, focuses on the interaction between the courts' application of defamation law and the construction of norms on defamation in China as example of a society in legal transition. Dr. Chin will examine how norms such as the right to freedom of expression are defined and interpreted in the local society through the power of discourses mobilised by both domestic and international agents, and their relationship to the development of the courts' legal reasoning in adjudications of defamation cases.

Capacity Building for Judicial Experts from Iran

In November 2010, HRLC delivered a week-long training course for 12 judicial experts from Iran. Responding to the needs and preferences of participants, as expressed during the design of the training, the seminars covered international standards, with particular emphasis on the operation of the criminal justice system in the UK and the UK's compliance with its international law obligations. Academic staff of the University of Nottingham School of Law and expert practitioners were called to provide participants with an adequate balance between theoretical insight and practical experience. The sessions were complemented by study visits to key legal institutions in Nottingham and London. These included hearings at Nottingham's Magistrate Court and Crown Court, a visit of HM's Prison in Nottingham and meeting with its governor, Mr. Peter Wright, as well as a visit to Nottingham's Bridewell Police Station.

On the last day, the group travelled to London and visited the newly established UK Supreme Court, meeting with Lord Brown and Lord Mance, justices of the Supreme Court. Further London events included a meeting with the Director of Studies at the Judicial Studies Board, His Honour Judge Phillips, and a meeting with staff of the International Bar Association.



HRCL Co-Director Prof. David Harris (left) in conversation with Lord Brown at the UK Supreme Court

Prof. O'Flaherty Delivers Keynote Address at a Conference in Tokyo

On 4 November 2010 Prof. O'Flaherty delivered the keynote address at the conference *Promoting Human Rights in Japan through UN Treaties* at Waseda University, Tokyo. In his address, Prof. O'Flaherty assessed the UN human rights treaties and the related protection mechanisms, evaluating whether the treaty body system constitutes a 'substantial contribution for world peace and the wellbeing of its Peoples' or rather 'one of the most powerless, under-funded, formulaic and politically manipulated institutions of the United Nations'. He reviewed the development of the treaties and their procedures and considered their impact for the protection of human rights, including in the Japanese context. The full keynote address is available at:

<http://www.euijwaseda.jp/common/pdf/1011040'FlahertyScript.pdf>.

New Publication – The Fundamentals of International Human Rights Treaty Law

Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Ad Interim and HRLC Fellow Dr. Bertrand G. Ramcharan has recently published a new book that presents the fundamentals of international human rights treaty law. It is aimed at national leaders, officials or legal advisors who have to implement the international human rights treaty regime into the law and practice of their country. It covers the principal international and regional human rights treaties and draws upon the jurisprudence and practice of their monitoring organs. The book is published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers in February 2011.

Prof. O'Flaherty Participates in Expert Workshop on Freedom of Expression and Incitement to Hatred

On 9-10 February 2011, OHCHR held the first of a series of regional expert workshops on *The Prohibition of Incitement to National, Racial or Religious Hatred* in Vienna. Similar workshops will be held later this year in Nairobi, Bangkok and Santiago, Chile. The aim of these workshops is to identify legislative and judicial practices and policies that can effectively prohibit and prevent the advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, while ensuring full respect for freedom of opinion and expression. Prof. O'Flaherty addressed the plenary meeting. He is the UN Human Rights Committee Rapporteur for the development of a new general comment on freedom of opinion and expression.



Prof. Almudena Rodríguez Moya at HRLC in February 2011

HRLC Welcomes Visiting Scholar from Spain

Professor (Titular) Almudena Rodríguez Moya from the Law Faculty of the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia in Madrid joined HRLC in January 2010. During her stay she will conduct a comparative analysis of laws and policies related to migration and minorities adopted in the past 50 years in the UK. Her current research project – *Administrating Cultural Diversity in Spain: a Proposal* – analyses the opportunities and difficulties created by increased migration in Europe after World War II, with particular focus on relevant policies and laws. Most European States, despite adopting different standpoints, agreed that the correct approach was multiculturalism, namely 'the respect of different cultures, in order to help citizens to live their lives according to their cultures'. However, recently, influential European leaders such as David Cameron and Angela Merkel have suggested that multiculturalism has not worked. Prof. Moya's research examines this controversial area.

Human Rights Law Centre Fellows

The success of many HRLC activities is based on the experience, knowledge and professionalism of the people who collaborate with us. The Centre works closely with academics in the School of Law (HRLC members) and often partners with external experts, practitioners and consultants. Over the years, we have had the pleasure of working with a variety of experts. When these collaborations evolve into a more substantive professional relationship, these individuals are invited to become Fellows of the Human Rights Law Centre. We would like to thank our Fellows and will be sharing some of their interesting stories.

James Rodehaver

James is a successful human rights field officer. In the past two decades, he has been at the centre of a number of conflict and post-conflict situations, engaging in innovative solutions to complex human rights problems in the field.



James Rodehaver

He is the Deputy Director of the Human Rights Unit within the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), where he is trying to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in four priority areas: protection of civilians, violence against women, combating impunity, and protection of fair trial and due process rights. UNAMA's Human Rights Unit produces regular thematic reports as advocacy tools, the most recent examples of which are an analysis of *Harmful Traditional Practices and Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan* and the Mission's annual report on *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*. "The Unit's reporting focuses on the practical: analyzing human rights violations, noting what the state has done to correct or exacerbate a harmful human rights situation, and concluding what needs to be done next. This latter part is the core focus. Recommendations to correct problems are the reason to write a report and

ensure its future use and utility to governmental and non-governmental partners, not to mention the human rights field officers working within the Mission." James' current work is focusing on monitoring places of detention run by the National Security Directorate in Afghanistan, the primary state intelligence service, and lobbying for accountability mechanisms for serious human rights violations within peace and stabilization efforts in the country. "Presently, much of the work I am doing and that the Unit is doing is focused on ensuring that the institutions of this country can increasingly hold human rights violators and war criminals to account. Ending impunity will be crucial to ensuring that some form of sustainable peace and a modicum of justice for victims is possible".

Before heading to Afghanistan, he was Director of the Human Rights Departments of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. These field missions have two of the largest human rights field presences in the world and have engaged in ground breaking work in monitoring war crimes trials and the independence, efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole. During his four-year tenure in the UN Mission in Kosovo, James worked specifically on issues related to minority rights, transitional justice and returns, confronting Western European Governments on the forcible repatriation of minority asylum-seekers, particularly members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, from Kosovo. He drafted and oversaw implementation of the UNMIK Policy on Forced Returns, in which the UN administration refused to accept forced repatriation of those minorities, as well as of Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians from Northern Mitrovica. "The work done in Kosovo on forcible repatriations was ground-breaking as it focused on the rights of the individuals to return sustainably and the ability of the state (which at the time was the UN) to protect the life and livelihoods of those persons returned. It foreshadowed the present migration crisis in Europe today."

As a human rights officer in Sierra Leone in 1999 and 2000, James conducted field investigations into violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses committed by the various parties to that civil war. Later on he contributed to the draft Statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

James has worked closely with the Centre providing expert advice to the *Consolidating the Profession: the Human Rights Field Officer* project.

Alice Edwards

Alice is an expert in refugee law, human rights and feminist theory. An alumna of Nottingham's LLM in Public International Law, she obtained her PhD from the Australian National University. Her professional life combines academic excellence, challenging field work and policy-related activities.

She is Senior Legal Coordinator, Division of International Protection, at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, where she leads the organisation's core work on refugee law and policy and human rights.



Dr. Alice Edwards in Oxford

"It is an immense challenge and privilege to be at UNHCR in the year of the sixtieth anniversary of the primary refugee instrument, the 1951 Refugee Convention. Much has changed in the years since the Convention was first enacted, not least the ever greater struggle to advance the rights of refugees in a climate of increasing hostility, discrimination and xenophobia."

Alice has been on the law faculties of, among others, the Universities of Nottingham and Oxford, teaching refugee law and leading ground-breaking research projects as head of HRLC's Forced Migration and Human Rights Unit and later at Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre. She is widely published, including her book, *Violence against Women under International Human Rights Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and a co-edited collection, *Human Security and Non-Citizens: Law, Policy and International Affairs* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

She has also worked as a protection, legal and gender adviser to UNHCR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Morocco and Geneva (at HQ); refugee policy adviser at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International; expert adviser to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on questions of displacement and statelessness; and lead amicus in a brief to the US Supreme Court on questions of sexual equality and statelessness (Flores-Villar v. United States of America, 2010).

HRLC has benefited from her extensive experience and knowledge and she serves as valuable advisor for HRLC in all issues related to the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons.

"One of the most impressive aspects about Nottingham's HRLC is that it is a place of innovative thinking and research, through which solutions to such problems can hopefully be found."

The Importance of Judicial Training in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights



HRCL Co-Director Prof. David Harris and judicial experts from Kano State, Nigeria at conclusion of training on IT law and human rights

In her first thematic report to the UN Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Gabriela Carina Knaul de Albuquerque e Silva - alumna of HRLC's International Human Rights Law Short Course (see Newsletter – Winter 2010) – examines the need for the provision of adequate legal education, including international human rights law, for judges and lawyers.

Appropriate legal education for judges and lawyers is a determining factor for their independence. The independence of the judiciary is a core component of democracy, the rule of law and good governance. Democracy fosters the full realisation of all human rights, and vice versa.

Judges, prosecutors, public defenders and lawyers must be aware of, and sensitive to, human rights standards, principles, rules and jurisprudence, as they need to be able to interpret and implement international human rights law at the domestic level. In many countries there is a norm at the constitutional level prescribing that international treaties ratified by the country form an integral part of national law. In case of conflict, the international norm mostly takes precedence. Thus, judges and lawyers are called upon to uphold not only the domestic law, but also international human rights standards.



Seminar on criminal justice standards for judicial experts from Russia

As noted by the Special Rapporteur in her report, in most countries there is a lack of continuing education opportunities for judges and lawyers. Lack of adequate training and professional knowledge also means that judges are more easily influenced, with a direct impact on their capacity to render justice independently and impartially. Where continuing learning opportunities are available, often these do not cover the international obligations entered into by the State, particularly in the human rights sphere. In many States texts of international treaties and/or related jurisprudence are not available. In other States information flow is so slight, that judges and lawyers don't know if/which treaties the State has ratified. In other States, the application of human rights standards is severely punished by the executive branch so that judges risk sanctions and even deprivation of liberty.

In cases where the national statutory framework violates basic human rights standards, a proactive judiciary should recommend the repeal or amendment of a law or rule if inconsistent with international human rights standards. Otherwise the judiciary contributes to the perpetuation of human rights violations by the continued application of domestic legal norms and provisions which are not consistent with international human rights practice, contributing to a culture of impunity. The importance of judicial training, particularly in international human rights standards is therefore paramount.

Since its establishment in 1993, the HRLC has acquired extensive experience of creating and implementing bespoke training and capacity building programmes for judges, lawyers and other legal system officials from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. Previous clients include the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights; the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand; the Offices of the Attorney General of Kano State Nigeria, Fiji and Samoa; the Ukrainian Supreme Court, as well as judges and lawyers from Iran, Russia, and China among others.

Training courses are designed in direct consultation with our clients to ensure course content and methods are appropriate to the different perceptions, expectations, responsibilities and interests of participants.

Our trainers have an extremely broad range of expertise in core human rights issues and topics, including: international, regional and national human rights standards and protection mechanisms; independent monitoring of human rights; national implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; British criminal justice system. In addition to these main areas of expertise, HRLC is able to deliver bespoke training on specific human rights law aspects, such as labour law standards and workers' rights or internet law and human rights.



Justice Viruch Limvichai, President of the Supreme Court of Thailand, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with HRLC for continued collaboration on human rights training

HRLC has the capacity to tailor course length to meet participants' needs and availability, typically ranging from 1 day to two weeks. While most training takes place in English, we are able to provide both consecutive and simultaneous interpretation. We can advise our clients on the most appropriate method of interpretation and ensure that the programme content reflects the chosen method.

HRLC uses a range of pedagogically appropriate training methods to ensure that participants receive targeted training and capacity building, appropriate to their needs, experience and positions. Methods include: comprehensive reading materials, advanced study seminars, interactive teaching methodologies and group work opportunities, case studies, dialogue with practitioners, and study visits.



Simultaneous interpretation Thai-English during training course

HRLC Successfully Concludes Training Programme in Iraq

Between August and December 2010, HRLC delivered a training programme for Iraqi civil society organisations (CSOs) contracted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The training programme, entitled *Human Rights Treaties: Maximising the Engagement of Iraqi Civil Society*, comprised four week-long workshops delivered in Erbil, Iraq, to 25 representatives of Iraqi CSOs by Arabic speaking expert trainers. The training aimed to empower Iraqi CSOs to produce effective shadow reports to be submitted to treaty bodies.

The training programme focused on essential legal concepts in international human rights law, core human rights treaties, the treaty body system, with particular emphasis on the preparation and distribution of Shadow Reports, as well as essential strategic activities during the treaty body reporting cycle.

Feedback from participants was very positive. One participant wrote in the final evaluation questionnaire: "I would like to thank the University of Nottingham and UNOPS/UNAMI for organising this highly important workshop. We need more of workshops as such in order to enhance our capacity and skills as Iraqi NGOs and civil societies concerned with Human Rights violations monitoring and reporting".



Group photo at conclusion of fourth workshop in Erbil, Iraq

Human Rights Law Centre Lunchtime Briefings

Each month, HRLC hosts a lunchtime briefing by the University of Nottingham School of Law PhD candidates on human rights related aspects of their research. Occasionally, external experts are invited to deliver a presentation on specific topics of interest for the research community. The briefings are open to all PhD law students and provide an opportunity to discuss and analyse current issues, as well as recent developments and case law in international human rights law. Briefings so far have included: *Human Rights in Chechnya and the North Caucasus* (Dennis Krivosheev, Researcher Russian Federation, Amnesty International); *'Fragmentation or Unity' of International Law Revisited: Analysing the European Convention on Human Rights when the European Court Takes Cognizance of Public International Law Norms* (Adamantia Rachovitsa); *Pandemic Influenza - An Actor Network Theory Analysis of Public Health Law in England* (Gearóid Ó Cuinn); *Norm Conflicts, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law* (Marko Milanovic).

HRLC Short Course Empowers Iraqi Human Rights Defender

Among the cohort that started HRLC's International Human Rights Law Short Course in January 2011 is Dr. Inass Al-Enezy. A political science academic from Iraq, she is part of a research team investigating the conditions of women in Iraqi academia funded by the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA). Conscious of the discrimination that became evident through her research, Inass decided to create an association which aims to advance the professional reality of women academics in Iraq through knowledge of international human rights law. To strengthen her own knowledge, she decided to attend HRLC's Short Course.



Dr. Inass Al-Enezy in Nottingham, February 2011

"My people, my female colleagues, my students, all of them, and I of course, need to know our rights, they need somebody who takes their hand and helps them up to safety, to remind them that they are human and have the right to live in dignity. To achieve the best for all of them, I believe we all should be armed with law and know our rights, to be strong enough to defend our rights, because if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall in the hole".

Improving Implementation and Follow-Up of UN Human Rights Decisions

On 22-23 November 2010, Prof. O'Flaherty participated as expert panellist in the conference *Improving Implementation and Follow-Up: Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, Universal Periodic Review*, organised by the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Brookings Institution, and UPR-Watch. The conference focused on methods to improve the implementation at national level of the findings and recommendations of the principal UN human rights mechanisms. As noted by Prof. O'Flaherty, the discussion on how to improve implementation of specifically treaty body findings is part of the broader reflection on how to strengthen the treaty body system more generally. The full presentation is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5q1oNEL9AM>.

Moving to Mars - A Million Miles from Burma

On 15 February 2011 the Human Rights Film Series screened *Moving to Mars - A Million Miles from Burma*, which follows two Burmese families as they resettle from a refugee camp in Thailand to Sheffield. The event introduced the theme of the refugees for the 12th Annual Student Human Rights Conference later that month. Mr. Tesfamhret Tsegazghi, from the Refugee Council's Sheffield Resettlement Team, was personally involved in assisting the two families portrayed in the film start their new life in Sheffield. Mr. Tsegazghi introduced the film engaging the audience in a scenario exercise of the different stages in the long journey of a refugee, from fleeing home to resettling in a new country.

Human Rights in 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. The School of Law is ranked fourth in the UK in the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and has a grade of "Excellent" for teaching. The LLM in Human Rights Law provides a thorough grounding in international human rights. The School of Law's academic staff are all prominent scholars with second-to-none experience of human rights policy making and practice. They are therefore well placed to supervise ambitious and innovative PhD research projects.



The Law and Social Sciences Building, University of Nottingham

The Next Generation of Human Rights Experts: A Profile of PhD Candidate Gearóid Ó Cuinn

Gearóid completed his LLM at the University of Nottingham School of Law in 2007 and stayed on to pursue a PhD research degree. He is now concluding his doctorate. His research, combining his background in molecular biology and law, explores the interactions between science and law in the governance of influenza pandemics. This integrates approaches from science and technology studies (STS) with socio-legal studies to help understand how public health threats are constructed and the role played by rights. Through HRLC Gearóid also assists Prof. Thérèse Murphy in her research on new technologies and human rights, and he is involved with an ESRC funded initiative examining the role of the European Court of Human Rights in regulating health care technologies. As HRLC Student Programmes Officer he developed connections with law and film establishing the on-campus Human Rights Film Series and long-term collaborations with the Broadway Cinema in Nottingham. This summer also sees the release of the feature length documentary, funded by the Irish Film Board, based on the Arab community of the Israeli occupied Golan Heights; a project developed from his research as a human rights monitor in the territory. Through his interest in International Humanitarian Law Gearóid has long campaigned on human rights issues in Palestine. In 2009 he was part of a small team of cyclists who travelled 4000 miles from Glasgow to Gaza raising awareness and funds for medical aid for the besieged civilian population.



PhD Candidate Gearóid Ó Cuinn

The School of Law offers a number of scholarships for prospective post-graduate and research students. For scholarships to pursue an **LLM degree**, see: <http://nottingham.ac.uk/law/prospective/ma-degrees/funding.aspx> - Deadline: 31 May 2011. For scholarships to pursue a **PhD degree**, please visit: <http://nottingham.ac.uk/law/prospective/research-degrees/funding.aspx>, or contact Ms Joanne Bailey, joanne.bailey@nottingham.ac.uk.

New Master Degree in International Law, Security and Terrorism

The turn of the new century has witnessed a continuing shift in the nature of conflict and security. Attention has turned to issues such as threats and attacks by terrorists and insurgents, the responses of States to these threats and to the spread of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the idea of post-conflict rebuilding. The conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq show that it is necessary to study these crises from the perspectives of both law and politics to gain a complete picture of the issues and to be able to analyse the arguments and outcomes.



© UN Photo/Martine Perret

The School of Law and the School of Politics and International Relations have developed an innovative and interdisciplinary master programme in International Law, Security and Terrorism. The programme will allow students to explore key legal and political issues in contemporary security as they relate to warfare, conflict and terrorism, to place conflict and security issues and events within a legal and political context and to understand the relationship between law and politics in international relations. It will also facilitate the analysis of the justifications, causes and consequences of war, conflict and terrorism, including the legal and political responses available to deal with international security threats.

The course is structured around two specialised core modules – Terrorism and Insurgencies and Law of War and Peace – that will explore the central themes presented. These core modules will be complemented by a number of optional modules to cover a wide range of related legal and political topics. The degree is completed by the submission of an independently researched dissertation on a subject chosen by the student with guidance from academic staff.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/law/prospective/ma-degrees/course-list/ma-security.aspx>.

Forthcoming Events

Summer School on *Protecting Human Rights through United Nations Mechanisms*

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to announce its 2011 Summer School on *Protecting Human Rights through United Nations Mechanisms*.

Aim of the Summer School

The Summer School gives participants an insider's understanding of the mechanisms and equips them with the tools to best use the UN system for the protection of human rights. It is aimed broadly at professionals in non-governmental organisations, national human rights institutions, government, international governmental organisations, field operations, and interested academics and students.

Content of the Summer School

The Summer School devotes sessions to the human rights treaty bodies (the reporting and individual communications procedures), the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Procedure, Special Procedures (UN human rights special rapporteurs, etc.), and the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its field presences. The focus throughout is practical and applied. The Summer School is a highly interactive event in which all participants will be encouraged to be fully involved. The training methods include presentations, Q and A, group exercises and role play. The working language for the Summer School is English. All participants receive an extensive electronic file of resource materials.



Summer School 2010 participants

Faculty of the Summer School

The Summer School will be led by Professor Michael O'Flaherty, HRLC Co-Director; Member of the UN Human Rights Committee; former head of various UN human rights field presences.

Confirmed members of the Summer School faculty for 2011 include:

- Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, Chair of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex; Vice-Chair, UN Human Rights Committee; former Special Rapporteur on Torture;
- Dr. Bertrand Ramcharan, former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Dr. Ibrahim Salama, Director, Human Rights Treaties Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Professor Zdzisław Kędzia, Chair of Constitutional Law, Adam Michiewicz University; former senior UN official;
- Rachel Brett, Human Rights and Refugees Representative, Quaker UN Office, Geneva;
- Marie-Eve Friedrich, Petitions Team, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Professor George Ulrich, Rector, Riga Graduate School of Law;
- Tanya Ward, Deputy Director, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Dates and deadlines

Summer School dates: 13 – 17 June 2011

Registration deadline: 3 May 2011

Fees

The course fee is £900.00, which includes:

- Tuition
- Lunches and refreshments
- Course materials
- Accommodation

For participants who do not require accommodation, the course fee is £650.00.

Registration

Interested participants need to submit a registration form, which can be downloaded from our website or obtained through contacts provided below. There is a non-refundable deposit of £200.00 payable upon registration. The registration and deposit are due by 3 May 2011. The balance of fees is to be paid before 1 June 2011. Participants will need to meet their own travel costs and arrange visa and other UK entry requirements.

For more information please contact Kobie Neita,

Tel: +44 (0)115 84 66309; Fax: +44 (0)115 84 66579;

kobie.neita@nottingham.ac.uk or visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/summerschool.

In Brief...

Special Issue of the Human Rights Law Review

This special issue of the *Human Rights Law Review* published in December 2010 looks at new technologies from a human rights perspective. There is a flurry of law- and policy-making on new technologies at the international level, and a sense of excitement about particular technologies as potent tools for advocates and practitioners. However, serious human rights concerns have been raised about particular new technologies and despite references to science and technology in core human rights instruments, this field is still in formation.

The special issue is clustered around four themes. Entrepreneurialism – is the European Court of Human Rights a norm entrepreneur in the field of new technologies and human rights? Hype – will human rights subsume bioethics? Can transgenic crops feed the world? Neglect – the Venice Statement and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress; citizen participation in the regulation of new technologies. Harnessing technology – technology as a tool for advocacy and practice in the field of human rights and criminal justice for atrocities.

The Human Rights Law Review is edited by the Human Rights Law Centre for Oxford University Press.

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