

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea visits Nottingham

On 8 October 2015 the Human Rights Law Centre was pleased to host Ms Sheila B. Keetharuth, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.

In her third report to the UN Human Rights Council Ms Keetharuth highlighted her concerns regarding the growing number of unaccompanied Eritrean minors leaving the country. The extremely dangerous journeys undertaken by these children on the road to safety, as well as the long term effects of the traumatic incidents encountered along the way, are a major concern. The report also notes the particular risk of trafficking faced by

The common route taken by migrants from Eritrea is through the desert to North Africa and then across the Mediterranean, entering Europe via Italy or Greece and then continuing onwards to northern Europe. In light of the many traumatic experiences endured by these children, both in Eritrea and en route to Europe, it is vital that reception arrangements in receiving countries prioritise the best interests of the child over other considerations such as border control.

At the request of Ms Keetharuth, HRLC convened a Roundtable discussion on human rights perspectives of the situation of unaccompanied minors. The Roundtable was chaired by Professor Dominic McGoldrick, HRLC Co-Director and Professor of International Human Rights Law. Roundtable contributors were:

- Professor Ralph Sandland, University of Nottingham, Professor of Law and Difference, who spoke on *Human Rights Standards and their Application In Respect of Unaccompanied Minors*;
- Dr. Vanessa Pupavac, Associate Professor, University of Nottingham, who spoke on *Open Borders Approach v Human Rights/Human Trafficking Approach: The Protection of the Rights of Minors*;
- Ms Laura Wills, HRLC Research Assistant, who spoke on *Safeguarding Unaccompanied Minors*;



Political map of Eritrea

these children with their enhanced vulnerability and their need to rely on and trust smugglers in order to make their journeys.



From left to right: Dr. Vanessa Pupavac, Ms Sara Arapiles, Ms Laura Wills, Ms Alison Birch, Dr. Roda Madziva, Ms Sheila Keetharuth, Professor Ralph Sandland and Professor Dominic McGoldrick

- Dr. Roda Madziva, Research Fellow, University of Nottingham, who spoke on *The Effects of Temporary Status for Unaccompanied Minors*;
- Ms Alison Birch, Founder of After18, who spoke on *Growing up in the UK only to be threatened with removal at 18 and Young Eritreans' Perception of the Likely Reception Arrangements in Europe*;
- Ms Sara P. Arapiles, Asylum Support Worker, Rainbow Project, who spoke on *Changes to UK Country Guidance on Eritrea*.

After the Roundtable Ms Keetharuth delivered a talk to University of Nottingham students detailing her mandate and giving an overview of the human rights situation in Eritrea.

Current events: The refugee crisis

In light of the refugee crisis, HRLC organised a series of talks and events analysing the current crisis through a human rights lens.

The first event was a talk by Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill of the University of Oxford, one of the world's leading experts in refugee law. Professor Goodwin-Gill was invited to Nottingham by the Nottingham International Law and Security Centre (NILSC) and HRLC to give a talk on the ongoing refugee crisis. The talk was followed by a panel discussion addressing several aspects of the refugee crisis with Dr. Stuart Wallace, HRLC Research Fellow, Mr David Letts of the Australian National University and Ms Laura Sartoretto of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul and was chaired by Dr. Marko Milanovic.

Professor Goodwin-Gill talked about practical challenges and legal duties under the Refugee Convention. He indicated that the

principle of non-refoulement has led States to taking measures preventing refugees accessing their borders. However, he believes that undoubtedly this will not stop refugees from seeking asylum in Europe because "when you see a fence you don't say 'I better go home and die quietly'. You say 'Under? Over? Round?'".

Other events included two film screenings of Eritrean Exodus and a panel discussion on Syria and refugees. Read more about these on page 3.



Human Rights and foreign policy: a UK Government perspective



Professor David Harris, Mr Philip Barclay and participants

In November 2015 HRLC invited Mr Philip Barclay, Head of Security and Justice at the Human Rights and Democracy Department within the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), to the University of Nottingham

to talk about the UK's foreign policy priorities and tools in the area of human rights.

Mr Barclay spoke about the UK Government's strategy for the abolition of the death penalty, led by his team using two separate approaches. At embassy level, FCO supports local NGOs in 15 different countries which run projects that campaign against the death penalty. This multilateral approach supports initiatives for the abolition of the death penalty through the UN Human Rights Council and treaty bodies. Mr Barclay described the UK Government's view on the abolition of the death penalty as pragmatic, where "every movement is progress".

Mr Barclay further talked about torture prevention metrics, which are much harder to

identify because governments do not admit to using torture. The FCO thinks that the use of torture is widespread and considers the prevention mechanisms created by the UN Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol to be of great practical importance. However, Mr Barclay submitted that these only work if governments are seriously committed to their implementation.

In addition, Mr Barclay explained the priorities of the new government, which centre around three human rights themes. They are 1) democratic values and the rule of law; 2) the rules-based international order; and 3) human rights for a stable world. These themes feed into the idea that rules exist that apply to everyone and that if a state breaks those rules, they should be held to account.

HRLC's Autumn Short Course

From September until December 2015, HRLC ran its International Human Rights Law Short Course. Ms Lingjia Bu, a lecturer in law at the Guangdong University of Finance and Economics, Dr. Somnong Duangsavath and Mr Phetvanxay Khouasakoun, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos, Mr Francis Semwaza, an advisor from Tanzania, Mr Manaye Belay Mulatu, from the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and Mr Mohaned Mustafa Elnour Ahmed and Mr Osman Mabarak Musa Mohamed, two lawyers from Sudan, gained a practical understanding of human rights law during the three months they spent in Nottingham. Mr Semwaza and Mr Mulatu were awarded Anamax Charitable Foundation Scholarships to attend the short course.

The participants hoped that the course "will continue to provide the technical support to all human rights stakeholders for years to come".



Group picture of the Autumn 2015 Short Course participants together with HRLC administrator Ms Kobie Neita, HRLC Research Fellow Ms Carla Buckley and HRLC Co-Directors Professor Harris and Professor McGoldrick

ICJ Unit at 14th Assembly of States Parties in The Hague

In November 2015, members of HRLC's International Criminal Justice (ICJ) Unit attended the 14th annual session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

On this occasion, HRLC's work featured in the presentation of the CMN-ICJ Toolkits Project in a two-part side event co-hosted by Finland, France, Germany, Norway, the European Commission, and the Centre for International Law Research and Policy. Our project partners, Mr Ilia Utmelidze, CMN Director, Dr. Emilie Hunter, CMN Deputy Director and Ms Agata Odrobinska, ICLHR Initiative, updated more than 80 delegates and participants of the ICC ASP on progress and activities of the CMN-ICJ Toolkits Project. They were joined by ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, ICC Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and Enrique Carnero Rojo of the ICC Office of Public Counsel for Victims.

Throughout 2015, the CMN-ICJ Toolkits Project has been active in five countries while developing its global tools. More information on the project is available at <https://blog.casematrixnetwork.org/toolkits>.



From left to right: Ms Lea Rambaud, Ms Katerina Katsimardou-Miariti, Mr Eugene Bakama, Ms Annika Jones, Ms Agata Odrobinska, Professor Olympia Bekou, Dr. Emilie Hunter, Ms Ewelina Tylec, Dr. Hemi Mistry and Mr Ilia Utmelidze

APP continues: Five Ugandan fellows welcomed to Nottingham

In October 2015 HRLC continued its collaboration with the African Prisons Project (APP) and welcomed five Ugandan fellows for a short course on human rights and imprisonment. Mr Deogracious Ogwapit, Ms Aliyo Naatukunda, Ms Ninsiima Maureen, Mr Alex Oloka and Mr Eric Baletirewa were in the UK for three months to complete a Professional Fellowship funded by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission.

The HRLC programme at the University of Nottingham addressed some human rights challenges relating to imprisonment. These included: human rights as organisational risk; mental disorder in detention; prisoners and the right to vote; access to legal advice; and life imprisonment as a human rights issue. The seminars were led by Professor Dominic McGoldrick, Dr. Vicky Vouleli,

Ms Sangeeta Shah, Professor Noel Whitty, Professor Peter Bartlett, Dr. Vicky Kemp and Dr. Angelika Reichstein.

More information on APP, a charity focusing on improving the living conditions of prisoners in Africa founded by a Nottingham alumnus, is available on its website: www.africanprisons.org.



The Ugandan fellows together with APP staff member Mr Matteo Cassini

The Eritrean Exodus – Special event of the Human Rights Film Series

In November HRLC in collaboration with the Rainbow Project hosted two screenings of the documentary *Refugee: The Eritrean Exodus*: one on the University of Nottingham's University Park campus and one at the Nottingham Playhouse, as part of the UK premiere tour of the film. The director of the film, Mr Chris Cotter, joined the screenings in Nottingham for the introduction and Q&A session.

The indefinite military service and the gross and systematic violation of human rights taking place in Eritrea force over 5,000 Eritrean citizens to leave the country every month. They have to take risky routes in order to seek protection in foreign countries. After crossing the border into Ethiopia or Sudan, thousands of Eritreans remain in refugee camps there, whilst some others move on towards Israel or Europe.

The film follows the Eritrean refugees' journey to Ethiopia and further to Israel. Mr Cotter wanted to discover the reasons that lead Eritreans to leave their country and to understand their life in diaspora, revealing their suffering to the entire world. He first went to refugee camps

in northern Ethiopia, including a camp in the Afar Region never documented before, and heard stories from Eritrean refugees about indefinite military conscription, the widespread abuse of human rights and the shoot-to-kill policy on the border of Eritrea against people of any age trying to leave the country. He also documented stories about kidnapping and trafficking in the Ethiopian and Sudanese refugee camps, as well as torture in the Sinai.

25% of the profits of the film and merchandise will be donated to support Eritrean refugees in the United States and abroad.

For more information and to book a screening, see:
www.theeritreanexodus.com.



Director Chris Cotter (2nd from left) with Ezedin Osman, Ms Sara Arapiles and Ms Dianne Skeritt from Rainbow Project who joined the panel discussion after the screening at the Nottingham Playhouse

Panel discussion: "Syria + Refugees = Threat to UK?"

In November 2015, HRLC in collaboration with the Nottingham International Law and Security Centre (NILSC) organised a panel-led discussion on the current crisis in the Middle East and the refugee crisis in the region and EU. The panel consisted of Ms Natalie Bennett, Green Party Leader, Dr. Aidan Hehir of the University of Westminster, Dr. Daria Davitti, Keele University, Dr. Mark Jago, University of Nottingham and was chaired by Professor Mary Footer, NILSC co-director and Head of HRLC's Business, Trade and Human Rights Unit. Each panellist offered their perspective on the events in Syria and the Middle East and the consequent humanitarian crisis.

Dr. Jago provided the overarching philosophical framework within which the discussion took place, focusing particularly on the difference between utilitarian and deontological approaches to policy making and politics. Ms Bennett expressed her party's view that the UK should take approximately 250,000 of those refugees who are already in Europe and it needs to deal with the people who are in need as a matter of urgency. Dr. Hehir spoke of his personal experience of the camps in Calais and the wider context in which this crisis is occurring. Dr. Davitti provided interesting and relevant comments on the EU legal framework for dealing with refugees and migrants and the importance of using appropriate terminology. Presentations from the panel triggered several questions and comments from the audience, including the controversial – and inaccurate – perspective that everyone in Calais is an economic migrant and should be treated as such.



From left to right: Ms Natalie Bennett, Dr. Aidan Hehir, Professor Mary Footer, Dr. Daria Davitti and Dr. Mark Jago

Updates from the FRAME team

HRLC is pleased to welcome Dr. Nariné Ghazaryan, Assistant Professor in the School of Law, and Ms Katrina Sissins, former HRLC Summer Intern, to the FRAME research team in Nottingham.

In October, Professor Jeff Kenner, Project Leader for FRAME in Nottingham, and Dr. Stuart Wallace, HRLC Research Fellow, attended a workshop organised by project partners in Poznan entitled *EU Engagement with the United Nations and Regional Organisations in the Field of Human Rights*. The workshop aimed to provide a forum for discussing issues at the heart of the EU human rights policy in the context of the UN and regional human rights protection systems. In December, Professor Kenner and Dr. Wallace attended the conference *Human Rights in EU Trade and Development Policies: Following the Silver Thread*, in Brussels. The conference was organised by the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, FRAME coordinator, and Scotland Europa, and aimed to discuss the findings of the FRAME project regarding the impact of EU trade and development policies on human rights. Professor Kenner presented on the panel "Human rights in EU trade policy". He discussed one of the case studies undertaken within the FRAME project on the EU-ILO Bangladesh Sustainability Compact.



Professor Jeff Kenner presenting at the FRAME conference in Brussels

In January the FRAME team attended the workshop *The Role of Human Rights in the EU's Regional Partnerships and Bilateral Cooperation* organised by project partners in Budapest. Dr. Wallace presented on extraordinary rendition and the 'war on terror' and the EU-US Extradition Treaty, and Dr. Ghazaryan presented on the EU's Eastern Partnership. Also in January Professor Mary Footer and Dr. Wallace joined the World Bank Multi-stakeholder Consultation Meeting in Brussels on the World Bank's environmental and social safeguarding policies.

Further information about FRAME can be found at www.fp7-frame.eu.

In Focus: The death penalty

“Capital punishment is the most prem

There is a global movement towards the abolition of the death penalty. The Human Rights Law Centre undertakes activities that contribute to the progressive elimination of its use worldwide. We believe that it is essential to maintain an informed public discourse on the issue and build constructive dialogues with key stakeholders. To this end we have engaged with academics, practitioners and members of the public for the following activities.

Barriers to Abolition: A Global Perspective on the Death Penalty



From left to right: Mr Abdul Rashid Ismail, Professor Jon Yorke, Professor McGoldrick, Dr. Bharat Malkani and Professor Carolyn Hoyle

On 22 October 2015 HRLC was pleased to host an expert panel discussion on the remaining barriers to ending the use of the death penalty worldwide. The panel was chaired by Professor Dominic McGoldrick, HRLC Co-Director.

Professor McGoldrick was joined on the panel by:

- Professor Carolyn Hoyle, University of Oxford and Director of its Centre for Criminology;
- Professor Jon Yorke, Birmingham City University and member of the FCO Death Penalty Advisory Group;
- Abdul Rashid Ismail, practising lawyer in Malaysia and former President of the Malaysian National Human Rights Society;
- Dr. Bharat Malkani, University of Birmingham and Co-ordinator of the Birmingham Law School's Pro Bono Group.

Professor Hoyle opened the proceedings by outlining her work on the use of the death penalty in China. She expressed her concern regarding the fact that China remains, by a significant margin, the world's number one executor and that information on its use of the death penalty remains a state secret. Despite this she went on to note a number of positive steps taken, such as the decline in the number of executions and the significant reforms made to the criminal process over the past 10 years, including the changes introduced in 2011 that reduced the number of crimes that carry a death sentence.

Professor Yorke then discussed a number of issues in relation to Islamic law and the death penalty. He began by outlining the different categories of crimes that carry the death penalty under sharia law and their theological origins. He explained that *tazir* offences, unlike *zina* (sexual immorality) and *huddud* (crimes against god) which have punishments prescribed in the Quran and the Hadith, fall outside of theological reason and are thus easier to be viewed through a human rights lens. Professor Yorke concluded his presentation by highlighting the progressive reasoning used by Sudanese judges in the case of Miriam Ibrahim and noted that there is scope for an interpretation of

Islamic principles that moves away from the use of the death penalty. Mr Ismail followed with an overview of the use of the death penalty in Malaysia highlighting a number of concerning practices, including the existence of a mandatory death sentence for a number of crimes including some drug offences.

Dr. Malkani closed proceedings by discussing the use of the death penalty in the United States. He also noted a number of positive developments, such as the decline in the number of death sentences over the last 15 years and the abolition of its use across 8 states in the last 7 years. He also noted that public opposition to the death penalty is at an all-time high and that moves towards abolition are supported by high profile individuals, such as Justice Scalia who publically announced that he would not be surprised if the Supreme Court found the death penalty unconstitutional. Dr. Malkani submitted that



barriers to abolition in the US do not relate to crime and punishment, but to culture. Dr. Malkani pointed out the strong links between use of the death penalty and racial inequality in the US: the use of the death penalty was revived after the abolition of slavery following the American civil war; moreover, a death sentence is far more likely for the murder of a white person than that of a black person.

y: Moving towards abolition

meditated of murders" – *Albert Camus*

Timeline of an Execution

On Thursday 10 December 2015, to mark Human Rights Day, HRLC was pleased to hold an exhibition of pieces from Scott Langley's Death Penalty Photography Documentary Project at The Bohunk Institute.

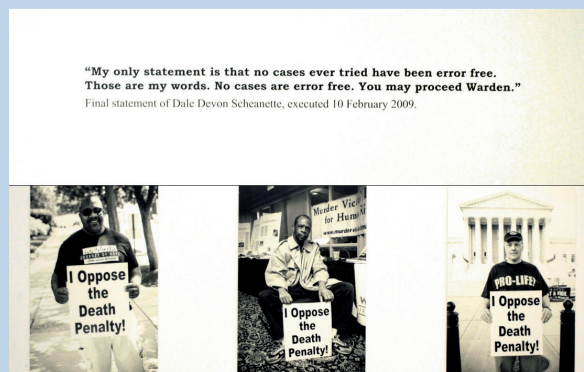
Human Rights Day commemorates the day on which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly. It aims to promote human rights and raising awareness across the globe. Article 1 of the UDHR states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, but evidence has repeatedly shown that the poor, those suffering from mental health problems or from a minority background run a higher risk of facing the death penalty.

A collection of chilling photographs documenting the timeline of an execution night were displayed alongside portraits of exonerated individuals who have spent time on death row. Members of the University of Nottingham Amicus-ALJ society were on hand to give details of the cases of the people featured in the exhibition, to highlight how miscarriages of justice can and do happen.

Nottingham Amnesty was also present and invited attendees to join their Write for Rights 2015 campaign by writing letters in support of individuals on death row.



Snapshots from the exhibition



Some of the photographs displayed at the exhibition

Death penalty lawyers attend HRLC's Short Course

Mr Mohaned Mustafa Elnour and Mr Osman Mubarak Musa are both qualified lawyers who work for the Justice Centre for Advocacy and Legal Consultancy based in Khartoum, Sudan. The Centre provides free legal representation for victims of human rights violations and, in particular, acquired an expertise in freedom of religion cases. Both lawyers have worked on many high profile cases, including the Miriam Ibrahim death penalty case, which gained international attention last year.

We caught up with Mohaned and Osman to hear about their experiences in Nottingham

Why did you decide to do this course?

We know Sudanese law but felt there was a gap in our knowledge with regard to international human rights standards and we felt building our knowledge in this area would help us with many of our cases. We wanted to be able to make a connection between international treaties and domestic Sudanese law.

What was your highlight of the course?

We were given a lot of information about treaties and were also able to study more specialised areas such as freedom of religion and international humanitarian law, which will be very useful to us in the future.

The ability to attend the numerous events organised by the Human Rights Law Centre was also a highlight. It was extremely useful and interesting to hear from eminent practitioners and scholars, such as Mr Andrew Caley and those on the Death Penalty Panel.

Attending LLM classes is also helpful and gives us the option to study more specific areas. It was also helpful to learn alongside the LLM students.

What did you take away from the course?

We learnt so much here and we have found ourselves thinking many times that the information we have learnt here would have helped us in many cases in the past and have no doubt that this knowledge will benefit our clients in the future. We will take the knowledge gained on this course back home and use the courts to fight for the application of international human rights standards in Sudan. In particular, we will be taking a constitutional appeal on the Miriam

Ibrahim case which will be built mostly with the knowledge we have learned here.

Would you advise others to attend future HRLC short courses?

I would advise anyone working in the field of human rights to take this course. Even though I have practical experience and have worked on many successful cases, experience alone is not enough. I have learned so much here that will benefit my practice in the future. When you match experience with knowledge then you are the best you can be.



Mr Mohaned Mustafa Elnour
Ahmed and Mr Osman Mubarak
Musa Mohamed

I strongly recommend any human rights defenders and/or government officials take this course.

European Fundamental Rights – an FRA update

HRLC is the UK Contractor for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and provides research and data collection services on the implementation of fundamental rights in the UK, which feed into the comparative reports published by the FRA.

In August the FRA published a report on *Freedom to conduct a business: exploring the dimensions of a fundamental right*. As one of the lesser-known rights of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the meaning of freedom to conduct business is examined in the report. In September the FRA published *The cost of exclusion from healthcare - the case of migrants in an irregular situation*, a report on the potential costs of providing migrants in an irregular situation with timely access to health screening and treatment, compared to providing medical treatment only in emergency cases. *Promoting respect and diversity - Combating intolerance*, a special contribution to the European Commission's first annual colloquium on fundamental rights, and *Antisemitism: Overview of data available in the European Union*, the FRA's annual update on anti-Semitism, were made available in October. In the same month, the FRA issued a paper providing guidance to policy makers and practitioners on the use of measures for asylum seekers and people in return procedures that do not needlessly deprive them of their right to liberty: *Alternatives to detention for asylum seekers and people in return procedures*.

Also published in October, *Guardianship systems for children deprived of parental care in the European Union*, is a comparative

report which examines the guardianship systems across the 28 Member States. The report identifies the lack of a uniform approach to guardianship, both between and within Member States. This often results in less than adequate support and protection for children. The particular complexity of the situation in the UK is noted in the Report. The protection gap in the UK is highlighted in particular, when social workers assigned to safeguard children are not given legal responsibility to represent them in any proceedings. A comprehensive handbook on children's rights - *Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child* - was published in November 2015.

Finally, the FRA published *Surveillance by intelligence services: fundamental rights safeguards and remedies in the European Union - Mapping Member States' legal frameworks*, containing a comparative analysis of the EU Member States' legal frameworks regarding surveillance with an overview of existing fundamental rights standards. The report shows that, while intelligence services play a vital role in protecting national security, there is a need for stronger and more comprehensive oversight of these services so that they can be held to account.

All FRA reports can be accessed at: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications>.



Islamic State and International Humanitarian Law: IHL Unit Roundtable

In November 2015 the IHL Unit hosted the fourth annual International Humanitarian Law Roundtable at the Walton Hotel in Nottingham. This year's theme was the Islamic State and International Humanitarian Law. The Roundtable provided the LLM students Mr Arun Bora, Mr Shaun Payen, Mr Joud Saeb, Mr Ratislav Šutek and Ms Mona Liban with an opportunity to present their research and ideas alongside academic experts Dr. Michael Kearney of the University of Sussex and Dr. Anicée Van Engeland of the University of Cardiff, as well as Mr Ibrahim Olabi, Executive Director of the Syrian Legal Development Programme. Following a welcome by Professor Dominick McGoldrick, HRLC Co-Director, the event was chaired by Dr. Marko Milanovic and



Participants at the IHL Roundtable

Professor Neville Wylie and the presentations and discussions engaged with the topic in a legal, historical, social and cultural context. The Roundtable was introduced and concluded by Professor Dino Kritsiotis, Head of the IHL Unit, and was generously funded by the British Red Cross.

Prosecuting genocide: From Srebrenica to Cambodia – Andrew Cayley

In October 2015 Mr Andrew Cayley was invited to Nottingham by the HRLC International Criminal Justice (ICJ) Unit to give a lecture on Prosecuting Genocide: From Srebrenica to Cambodia.

The lecture was chaired by Professor Olympia Bekou, Head of the ICJ Unit. Mr Cayley is the UK Director of Service Prosecutions and the civilian head of the Service Prosecuting Authority, having



Mr Andrew Cayley

been appointed to this position in December 2014. Previously, he worked as prosecutor before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Mr Cayley spoke about his experiences as a prosecutor at the different international criminal courts, the presentation of evidence and the history of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and Cambodia.

#16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, Human Rights Day. It aims to raise awareness of and speak out against violence against women and girls around the world to effect change. In 2015 the UN Secretary-General's UNITE to End Violence against Women theme was #OrangetheWorld, using the colour orange to symbolise a brighter future without violence. HRLC contributed a picture to the campaign.



HRLC's #OrangetheWorld picture

HRLC and the School of Law

Annual Student Human Rights Conference

On Saturday 5 March 2016 HRLC will hold its 17th Annual Student Human Rights Conference, *UN Human Rights Council: Ten Years On*. The Conference is organised by a student committee, with assistance from HRLC, and provides a unique opportunity for students to organise and shape the content of a world class human rights conference. On the Conference Committee this year are: Ms Hina Ali (LLB), Mr Mark Dawson (LLB), Ms Natalie Flather (MSci), Mr Christopher Lamoureux (LLM) and Ms Yunan Shen (LLM).



Even Lawyers Were Children Once – Hamlyn Lecture

In November, the School of Law hosted the 2015 Hamlyn Lecture entitled *Even Lawyers Were Children Once*. Professor Aoife Nolan, Head of HRLC's Economic and Social Rights Unit, introduced the lecture which was delivered by Professor Michael Freeman, University College London (UCL).

In this lecture, Professor Freeman posed the question of whether a good childhood requires a framework such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and whether lawyers remembering their own childhood would have wanted this. The values supporting rights for children, such as dignity, respect and equality along with the principles and some of the main norms were examined. Professor Freeman presented the view that the Convention is a great achievement, but only a beginning.

Professor Freeman's lecture was the second of three lectures delivered by him on the topic of children's rights. Earlier in November, he spoke in Leeds on the topic *Are Children Human?*. The series was concluded by a lecture at UCL addressing *A "Magna Carta" for Children?*. The Hamlyn Trust was created by Miss Emma Hamlyn in memory of her father, a solicitor and Justice of the Peace in Torquay, Devon, England. The object of the Trust is to further knowledge and understanding of the law, and this is achieved through an annual series of public lectures by distinguished judges, legal practitioners, academic lawyers and other eminent speakers.

Public Procurement and Human Rights

Dr. Aris Georgopoulos and Dr. Annamaria La Chimia, of the School of Law's Public Procurement Research Group, co-organised the first International Workshop of the Learning Lab on Public Procurement and Human Rights with the Harrison Institute at Georgetown University Law Center, the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) and the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR). The Workshop took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in November.

The purpose of the Learning Lab was to facilitate the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in the context of public procurement. The objectives of the first workshop included, among others: providing a global dialogue on public procurement and human rights in the context of the UNGPs; launching the Learning Lab's mapping report of procurement and human rights in key jurisdictions; and gathering input on the purpose and scope of the future activities of the Learning Lab.

The Rights Track: Pro VC launches human rights podcast

In Summer 2015 we were pleased to welcome Professor Todd Landman as Pro Vice Chancellor for the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences. Prior to arriving in Nottingham Professor Landman had an esteemed career in political science working on the systematic analysis of problems in development, democracy and human rights.

On 10 December 2015, to mark Human Rights Day, Professor Landman launched The Rights Track, a podcast series about human rights. Throughout the series Professor Landman will be interviewing leading thinkers in the field of human rights.

The first programme featured a discussion with Professor Chris Fariss, Pennsylvania State University, questioning whether we have become better at practising and upholding human rights and the methods available to evaluate this. The second programme saw Professor Landman and Professor Amanda Murdie, University of Missouri, analysing the role played by NGOs in protecting human rights on the ground.



Professor Todd Landman

For more information and to listen, please visit: <http://www.rightstrack.org/>.

Rights and Justice research priority area

With its Research Strategy 2015-2020 the University of Nottingham introduced five global research themes to match global challenges that pose critical questions which academics research to directly have an impact on the lives of all. Amongst the global themes are 'sustainable societies' and 'cultures and communications', and within these a research priority area looking at Rights and Justice has been identified. HRLC, together with 17 other research centres across the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, is part of this unique interdisciplinary grouping of scholars, the largest in the world.

The RPA Rights and Justice is led by Professor Aoife Nolan, who is also head of HRLC's Economic and Social Rights Unit, and Professor Zoe Trodd, founding co-Executive Director of the Centre for Research in Race and Rights in the Faculty of Arts. Ms Agnes Flues, HRLC Co-ordinator, is a member of the RPA's management team.

Initial activities concentrate on consolidating and embedding the RPA through internal networking as well as community engagement activities – for example, within the context of LGBT History Month in February 2016. Another area of focus relates to leveraging research in three thematic areas: children, migration and security. This will be achieved through pilot workshops that will bring together expertise across the RPA and identify common themes and interests for large research projects that will span the lifetime of the RPA.

Forthcoming Events

Summer School on the Rights of the Child

The Human Rights Law Centre Summer School on the Rights of the Child will run from 27 June to 1 July 2016. The objective of this exciting programme is to consider issues concerning the rights of the child that are a matter of current legal, political and societal attention, both internationally and comparatively. These include child participation, child poverty, children in conflict, and child rights monitoring and advocacy.

The Summer School will examine international and regional child rights law, including the work of the international courts and treaty monitoring bodies mandated to consider violations of the rights of the child. The Summer School has a highly interactive



Participants of the 2014 HRLC Summer School

programme in which all participants are encouraged to be fully involved.

The Summer School faculty for 2016 include:

- Professor Laura Lundy, Director of the Children's Rights Centre, Queen's University, Belfast;
- Dr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the African Union, and Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Professor Ralph Sandland, Professor of Law and Difference, University of Nottingham;
- Patrick Geary, Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, (UNICEF).
- Dr. Najat M'jid, former UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and International child rights expert;
- Ms Lisa Myers, Consultant, former Director of Child Rights Connect;
- Professor Matthew Happold, Professor of Public International Law, University of Luxembourg;
- Professor Aoife Nolan, Professor of International Human Rights Law, University of Nottingham; and
- Dr. Jason Pobjoy, Barrister, Blackstone Chambers, London.

The 2016 Summer School will be led by Professor Aoife Nolan, Professor of

International Human Rights Law, University of Nottingham and Academic Lead of the University's Children and Childhood Network.

Previous participants, comprising practitioners working in the field and children's advocates based all over the world, 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".

HRLC International Human Rights Law Short Course – Autumn 2016

The next HRLC international human rights law short course will run in Autumn 2016 for three months. Further information on course content, fees, dates and contact details are available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse.

HRLC Distance Learning Course – Autumn 2016

The next intakes for the HRLC international human rights law short course are on 18 April 2016 and 13 June 2016. Further information on course content, fees, dates and contact details is available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/distancelearning.

Upcoming events

Upcoming public events in Spring 2016:

Annual Student Human Rights Conference, UN Human Rights Council: Ten Years On – Saturday 5 March 2016, 9am-5pm.

Seminar by Sir Nicolas Bratza, Chairman of the International Advisory Panel on Ukraine, Former President of the European Court of Human Rights and Honorary Professor at the School of Law, Monday 7 March 2016 at 11:30am

HRLC Annual Lecture by Sir Rabinder Singh QC, Making Judgments on Human Rights Issues, English High Court judge of the Queen's Bench Division, Tuesday 8 March, 2016 at 5pm.

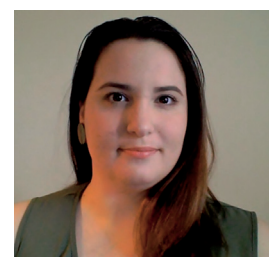
HRLC Staff Updates

Welcome to Ms Katerina Katsimardou-Miariti.

Ms Katerina Katsimardou-Miariti was appointed Research Assistant within HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit. Ms Katsimardou-Miariti is a former LLM student of International Criminal Justice and Armed Conflict and was a HRLC Summer Intern in 2014. More recently, she has been working for the Case Matrix Network (CMN), undertaking extensive research on sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Having joined the University of Nottingham in February 2016, she will be developing the Cooperation and Judicial Assistance Database (CJAD).

Goodbye to Dr. Anne Lister

Dr. Anne Lister, HRLC Senior Research Fellow, retired in October 2015. She was the Assistant Editor of the International Human Rights Reports and the Yearbook of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Anne played a key part in launching both publications and assuring their success over many years. We wish her all the best.



Ms Katerina Katsimardou-Miariti

HRLC Updates

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