

## In this issue...



MoU signed with the  
Office of the Judiciary of Thailand



Human Rights Diplomacy  
Workshop in Venice



Study Tour for  
Iranian Judges & Lawyers



Visual Art at the Freedom of  
Expression Festival

The Spring newsletter gives an overview of our activities and projects during the last six months. The Centre organised two major conferences addressing human rights issues of current concern and our members have taken a lead in international conferences and meetings at the UN, ICC, EU and Council of Europe.

Since October 2008, more than 200 professionals from governments, judiciary, national human rights bodies and NGOs from around the globe have participated in the Centre's short course and training programmes. Get an in-depth report on our Short Course and Training Unit in the 'Unit Focus' on p.4.

Other highlights include:

- *Human Rights Diplomacy*, Expert Workshop, January 2009
- *Bringing Rights Home*, Spring Lecture, January 2009
- *Memorandum of Understanding with Thai Office of the Judiciary*, February 2009
- *Beyond Words: Freedom of Expression*, 10th Annual Student Conference and Festival, March 2009
- *Human Rights Defender Fellowships*, October 2008–March 2009

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

## EU Fundamental Rights Agency Director delivers Spring Lecture

On 28 January 2009, Morten Kjaerum, international human rights expert and first Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), delivered the HRLC Spring Lecture on the topic '*Bringing Rights Home - Challenges for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency*'.

In a thought-provoking lecture, Mr Kjaerum highlighted the positive impact that human rights law has had over the last 50 years and critically addressed future human rights challenges, which the FRA seeks to address.

The lecture attracted more than 70 students and staff from across the University.

FRA provides assistance and expertise to the EU and its Member States on the implementation of Community law and on fundamental rights matters. HRLC is the UK member of the FRA's legal expert group (FRALEX), producing thematic studies, flash reports and bulletins with respect to specific fundamental rights issues in the UK.

Mr Kjaerum also met with HRLC's Chevening Fellows and Human Rights Defender Fellows, where he outlined his experiences as a former member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and as former Director of the Danish Institute of Human Rights, the National Human Rights Institution of Denmark.

## Human Rights Field Officer project awarded Knowledge Transfer Grant

Professor O'Flaherty and HRLC have been granted one of twelve awards from the University's Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy Group to further develop, disseminate and promote the '*Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers Working in Conflict and Post-Conflict Environments*'. The *Guiding Principles* articulate the first ever set of professional standards for human rights field work, developed in a major four-year international research project, '*Consolidating the Profession: The Human Rights Field Officer*', directed by HRLC Co-Director Professor O'Flaherty.

The award will enable the development of explanatory texts and annotations to the *Guiding Principles* as well as their widespread dissemination, to facilitate engagement with academics, policy makers, practitioners, relevant governments and intergovernmental organisations.

A multi-lingual website will be launched, dedicated to the *Guiding Principles*, explanatory texts and annotations, to ensure the widest possible accessibility to this important tool for human rights professionals.

It is envisaged that the further dissemination and promotion of the *Guiding Principles* and related annotations will be a central contribution to the developing doctrine of human rights fieldwork, will guide policy-makers and inform future training efforts.



## Discussion

### 'Defending Human Rights and Freedom of Expression'

introduction by **Emilie Hunter**, Research & Programmes Coordinator  
presentations by human rights defenders from **Ethiopia, Iraq & Tibet**

A discussion introduced by Emilie Hunter on the activities of the Human Rights Law Centre in supporting the work of human rights defenders and at-risk scholars. Presentations will be made by HRLC's Human Rights Defender Fellows from Ethiopia, Iraq and Tibet.

Thu 05 March 2009 - A100 LASS - 14.00 - 16.00

## Freedom of Expression Festival 2009

Celebrating a decade of student-focussed human rights initiatives at HRLC, the 10-day Festival explored the inherent need for freedom of expression and its contemporary challenges, from the perspectives of different cultures. The Festival culminated in the Annual Student Human Rights Conference, on 14 March 2009.

Organised by the Student Conference Committee, the Festival provided a stimulating and interactive environment for over 600 students and the local community.

### Cinefora:

'Leaving Fear Behind', a documentary shot by Tibetans inside Tibet on the reality of their lives, introduced by Dechen Pemba who helped secure the film footage.

'Zakia Did Stand Up', including a discussion on Afghanistan by Kamran Mir Hazar, editor of Kabul Press; Horia Mosadiq, Afghanistan Researcher for Amnesty International and Farid Hamidi, Commissioner at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission;

'An Independent Mind', with Q&A by the film's BAFTA award-winning director Rex Bloomstein;

'Jihad For Love', the world's first documentary film on the coexistence of Islam and homosexuality, introduced by Imam Muhsin Hendricks whose personal story features in the film.

### Theatre:

'The Asylum Monologues', performed by Actors for Human Rights and followed by a roundtable discussion on the tragedies facing asylum seekers in the UK, with Alice Edwards, Head of HRLC's Forced Migration Unit, and Eamon Collins, legal representative for refugees.

### Discussions:

'Defending Human Rights and Freedom of Expression', presentations by HRLC's Human Rights Defender Fellows and Emilie Hunter, Research and Programmes Coordinator.

### Master-classes:

'Understanding Freedom of Expression', led by Dr Daniel Moeckli, Head of HRLC's Counter-Terrorism Unit, for undergraduate students;  
'Human Rights Protection Strategies', led by Professor Chris Sidoti, Adjunct Professor, University of Western Sydney, for postgraduate students

### Art:

'Conscience', by multi-faceted artist Chris Lucas of Arun Productions, the pen and ink art work was created throughout the Festival and will be hung in the HRLC.

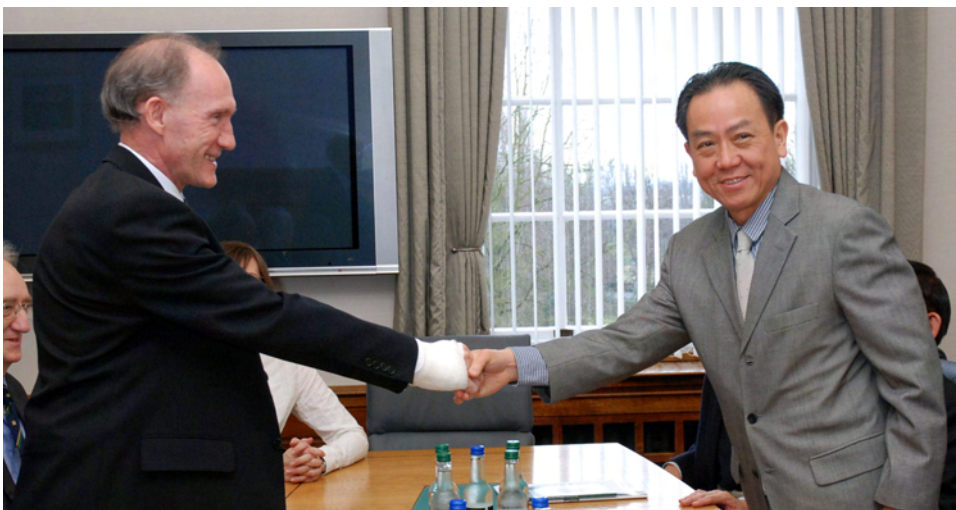
## HRLC participates in COST Action 'The Role of the EU in UN Human Rights Reform'

The Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) has established a new network to consider 'The Role of the EU in UN Human Rights Reform' funded by COST.

The Action aims to increase and consolidate knowledge of the ongoing process of institutional, structural, and procedural reforms of the UN human rights system, in order to recommend standpoints for the EU in this process while working towards strengthening the protection of human rights world-wide.

Coordinated by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM), Professor O'Flaherty will continue his role as a Steering Committee member. Emilie Hunter, Research and Programmes Coordinator, represented HRLC at the first Steering Committee meeting of the programme in Brussels on 6 November 2008 and Professor O'Flaherty will participate in the first meeting of Working Group 1 (The UN Human Rights Monitoring Machinery) in April at BIM.

Between 18-19 September 2009, HRLC will host the Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes, which is convened with the support of COST and funded by the EU. AHRI was founded in 2002 and is now one of the world's largest consortia of academic human rights research institutes, with a membership of 25 institutions from 20 European countries.



## Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand

On 17 February 2009, HRLC and the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand signed an MoU to forge closer ties between the two institutions.

Mr Phinij Susaoraj, Secretary General of the Office of the Judiciary and Professor David Greenaway, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham signed the agreement, following discussions on cooperation with HRLC.

## Fifth ICC Legal Tools Partners' Network meeting

On 18 November 2008, members of HRLC's ICJ Unit participated in the fifth meeting of the ICC Legal Tools Outsourcing Partners' (LTOP) network, organised by the Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law (HiIL).

Emilie Hunter, Coordinator of the LTOP network between July and December 2008, presented future collaborative network activities, while Dr Will Lowe, HRLC Fellow on Methods and Data, demonstrated the new LTOP Network Website.

## Challenges and Opportunities for Freedom of Expression

Professor O'Flaherty delivered a public lecture at the Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University on 4 March. His topic was 'Article 19 UDHR: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities for Freedom of Expression.'

The text of the lecture is available at:

<http://www.hks.harvard.edu/cchrp/events/2009/month03/article19.pdf>





## Beyond Words: Freedom of Expression and Its Contemporary Challenges

On 14 March 2009, the Tenth Annual Student Human Rights Conference welcomed more than 80 students from the UK, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia and Oceania as the final event of the Freedom of Expression Festival.

Prominent international human rights figures delivered keynote addresses:

**Professor Chris Sidoti**, Expert in International Human Rights Law, Former Australian Human Rights Commissioner, Former Director of the International Service for Human Rights;

**Professor Dimitrina Petrova**, Founding Executive Director of The Equal Rights Trust UK, Founding Executive Director of European Roma Rights Centre, Hungary (1996-2007);

**Imam Muhsin Hendricks**, Founder and President of The Inner Circle Foundation, South Africa, Specialist in Islam, gender, sexuality and human rights.

Student panellists from 11 universities and research institutions presented papers on the following themes: *'Media and New Technologies'*; *'Reshaping the Meaning of Freedom of Expression'*; *'Freedom of Expression and National Security'*; *'Current Challenges to Freedom of Expression'*.

The Conference provided a unique platform to debate contemporary issues of freedom of expression, drawing on a diverse mix of knowledge, backgrounds, disciplines and experiences, providing enriching discussions and exchange opportunities between students, practitioners and experts in the human rights field.

The Student Conference and Freedom of Expression Festival was organised by Law students Sanyu Awori, Steven McCauley, Vanja Hamzic, Sean Hennelly, Jamie Turner and Daria Davitti, under the guidance of HRLC.

## Human Rights Defender Fellowships

Ms Luma Al-Imara, Iraqi scholar, and Mr Bekele Debela Woyecha, Ethiopian human rights activist and writer, were awarded HRLC Human Rights Defender Fellowships to participate in the Short Course on International Human Rights Law.

They participated in a number of Centre activities, including the Freedom of Expression Festival, where they presented their work for the protection of human rights in the discussion 'Defending Human Rights and Freedom of Expression'.

## New General Comment on Freedom of Expression

The UN Human Rights Committee has appointed Professor O'Flaherty as its Rapporteur to draft a new General Comment on Freedom of Expression (Art.19 ICCPR).

He will submit a first draft to the Committee at its October session this year.

## HRLC participates in new EU China Human Rights Academic Network

HRLC has been appointed to the Steering Committee of the new EU-China Human Rights Academic Network, coordinated by the National University of Ireland, Irish Centre for Human Rights and funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

## Fundamental Rights Agency Roundtable Meeting on Homophobia

HRLC Co-Director Professor O'Flaherty was one of three invited experts at a roundtable meeting on homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, convened by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency in Riga in November 2008.

Following the FRA comparative report on *'Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in the EU Member States, Part I - Legal Analysis'*, published in June 2008, the meeting focused on the importance of a horizontal anti-discrimination directive, the need for an EU wide framework to tackle homophobic and transphobic hate crime and hate speech and the recognition of LGBT families in the context of freedom of movement within the EU.

As part of the Agency's network of legal experts (FRALEX), HRLC produced a national study on homophobia and discrimination, which contributed to the FRA's comparative report.



## High-level Workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy

On 30-31 January 2009, a high-level expert workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy was convened by HRLC, the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) and the Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, in the Monastery of San Nicolò Venice – Lido. The meeting explored the notion, dimensions and means of human rights diplomacy with a view to better understanding the sector and promoting good practice.

Participants included Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, first president of the UN Human Rights Council; Ambassador Christian Strohal, Austrian representative to the UN; Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture; Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur for DPRK; Bertrand Ramcharan, former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Professor Hurst Hannum, Tufts University and Peggy Hicks, Human Rights Watch. Other participants included academics, diplomats and senior officials of NGOs and international organisations.

The workshop report, prepared by UoN PhD candidate Amrei Mueller, will be available on the HRLC website shortly. An edited volume on human rights diplomacy is planned to develop the key issues and results of the workshop.

# UNIT FOCUS: Short Courses and Training Unit

The Short Courses and Training Unit convenes a wide range of short courses and tailor-made training programmes for governments, judiciary, human rights defenders, legal professionals, students and academics from around the globe. Annual short courses include the *International Human Rights Law Short Course*, *The Chevening Fellowship Programme on Implementing Human Rights Conventions* and the *Summer School on Monitoring Human Rights Treaty Bodies*. In addition, the Centre regularly designs and implements a range of off-the-shelf and bespoke training and capacity building programmes.

## Short Course on International Human Rights Law

This is a unique, three-month residential training and research programme. Since its beginning in 1997, professionals and students from over 40 countries have developed their knowledge and understanding of human rights law through a combination of specialised seminars, participation in LL.M modules, regional field visits and internship placements.

The *Short Course* provides participants with an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards and protection systems at international, regional and national levels. The course programme includes specialised seminars on:

- the UN human rights system, including the work of the Human Rights Council, human rights treaty monitoring bodies and special rapporteurs;
- regional human rights systems, focusing on the African, European and Inter-American human rights systems;
- the implementation of human rights standards through national courts, human rights commissions, and other bodies;
- the role of national and international NGOs;
- human rights issues and topics of current concern.

Participants also attend four modules of the LL.M programme of the School of Law, and undertake study visits to NGOs, criminal courts and prisons.

The *Short Course* has two inductions each year: late September–December and January–March. There is also the possibility of extending the autumn course to six months, with participants undertaking an internship with an NGO, working on a supervised research project at the Centre, or continuing their studies to complete the LL.M.

The course is conducted by HRLC staff and School of Law faculty, plus invited practitioners. It is led by HRLC Co-Directors Professor David Harris, former member of the European Committee of Social Rights, and Professor Michael O'Flaherty, member of the UN Human Rights Committee and formerly of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Due to its short-term, integrated and flexible study model, the *Short Course* is particularly attractive to professionals desiring to enhance their knowledge of human rights law, while having only a limited

time period available. Previous participants have included government officials, Attorney General officials, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, ombudsmen, UN field operations staff, national human rights commission staff, army and police officers, legal and other professionals. The 2009 Spring *Short Course* brought together an equally diverse group: a lecturer in political science from Iraq, a Human Rights Commissioner from Afghanistan, a Human Rights Officer from the UN mission in Sudan and an Ethiopian human rights activist and writer.

For further details on application requirements and costs of the *Short Course*, please consult the dedicated *Short Course* website below.

## Training

The Centre regularly conducts targeted capacity-building and training programmes on human rights issues for various key actors on the national and international level,



including members of international organisations, government, judiciary, civil society organisations and others. Previous clients include the FCO, DFID, the OSCE, the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand, the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, UN field missions in Afghanistan and Iraq; Attorney General Offices in Samoa and Fiji.



## Chevening Fellows Course on Implementing Human Rights Conventions

Since 2005, the Centre runs an annual programme for mid career professionals, between January and March, funded by the prestigious Chevening scheme of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Council. The programme includes specialised seminars on international human rights standards and protection mechanisms on both international, regional and national levels, taught by renowned academics and distinguished visitors. Fellows also undertake visits to the UN in Geneva and to key political and judicial institutions in London and Nottingham.

## Annual Summer School on Human Rights Monitoring

Led by Professor O'Flaherty, the *Summer School* addresses the practice and procedures of the various human rights treaty bodies, examples of good practice in State Party reporting, the role of national human rights institutions as well as the effective NGO participation in the reporting process. It is conducted by leading experts in the field, including current and former members of UN treaty monitoring bodies, senior-level staff of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and representatives of national human rights institutes.  
(not running in 2009)



# HRLC and the School of Law

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



The School of Law has achieved an excellent outcome in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, being ranked in the top five Law Schools in the UK. The School returned 100% of its lecturers, associate professors and professors in the Exercise: 95% of the School's research was judged to be of international quality, with 30% world-leading.

Other recent successes include lecturer Alice Edwards' award of the Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship in the Human Rights of Women for 2008, from the University of Texas School of Law, for her article: *'Violence against Women as Sex Discrimination: Evaluating the Policy and Practice of the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies.'*

Sandesh Sivakumaran, lecturer in law, has been appointed the International Legal Advisor to the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He will assist in the management and organisation of the *Prosecutor v Sesay et al* appeal (the RUF case) and will be on leave until June 2009.

In February 2009, the School of Law hosted Professor Jonathan Simon, of the University of California (Berkeley), as its 2009 J.C. Smith Trust Fund Visiting Scholar. He participated in a highly successful workshop entitled *'Governing Through Risk, Governing Through Rights.'* The workshop brought together many of the leading scholars of the field and was convened by Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit, who was recently awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Greifswald.

The School also hosted a seminar series by world-renowned international lawyer Professor Martti Koskeniemi, Dr Knut Doermann from the International Committee of the Red Cross, human rights barrister Rabinder Singh QC Matrix Chambers, as well as High Court judge and Nottingham graduate, Sir Nigel Sweeney.

It regularly hosts groundbreaking conferences and other events that contribute to the development and the application of international legal standards.



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

## Annual Student Human Rights Conference

The topic of the 10th Annual Student Conference was *'Freedom of Expression'*. Topics of previous conferences include: *'International Human Rights and the Environment'* (2008), *'International Criminal Accountability'* (2007), *'The UN Security Council and Human Rights'* (2006) and *'Whose culture, whose rights - exploring the universality of human rights'* (2005). See pages 2 and 3 for reports.



## Human Rights Film Series

During 2008/9 the Human Rights Film Series screened ten films and documentaries, including *'Taxi to the Dark Side'*, *'The Devil came on Horseback'* and *'Peace, Propaganda and the Promised Land'*. A small team of students organise the screenings, led by PhD candidate, Gearoid O'Cuinn, with the support and guidance of HRLC. Films are screened on campus and are free.

## Human Rights Film Festival

In October 2008, HRLC organised its second month-long film festival with the art house Broadway Cinema to screen award-winning films which highlighted contemporary experiences with counter terrorism strategies: *'State of Fear: The Truth about Terrorism'* (speaker: Hicham Yezza, local writer and activist); *'Standard Operating Procedure'* (speaker: Professor Alex Danchev, School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham); *'The Edge of Heaven'* (speaker: Dr Alexander Vasudevan, School of Geography, University of Nottingham); *'Elite Squad'* (speaker: Professor Else Vieira, Queen Mary College, University of London).

## Internships and Bursaries

During the summer months, HRLC will offer a number of internships, providing students with the possibility to gain vital experience in HRLC's human rights projects. A selection of bursaries are also provided by HRLC for undergraduate or graduate students in the School of Law to help finance an internship or placement with an NGO or international organisation working in the area of human rights.

## Research Assistance Opportunities

32 students from the School of Law provided research assistance to HRLC throughout the year, including flagship projects with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the International Criminal Court. They were: Daria Davitti, Sanyu Awori, Vanja Hamzic, Sean Hennelly, Rebecca Lindsay, Steven McCauley, Jamie Turner (Student Conference Committee); Laura Graham (FRALEX project); Adamantia Rachovitsa (OUP Online Project); Abdul Latif Shakoor (CTHR Unit); David Parker, Lydia Geny (FMHR Unit); Sepideh Tabatabaie, Mariam Saidan, Emily Soothill (Film Series); Nadia Banteka, Chloryne Dewi, Lydia Geny, Jelena Hadzic, Derek Inman, Thairi Moya, Sabrina Munao, Samantha Stark, Sepideh Tabatabaie, Alvin Tan (ICJ Unit); Tom Bewick, Chloe Cheeseman, Anna Johansson, Lydia Geny, Sabrina Gilani (Human Rights Defenders Project); Amrei Müller, Jure Vidmar, Rose Alice Murphy, Sophia Ashraf, Laura Graham, Derek Inman, Laurence Murat (Publications).



In addition, 31 undergraduate and postgraduate students from the School of Law participated in a collaborative metadata backlog project to support the forthcoming launch of the ICC Legal Tools website and were awarded with a Certificate, issued by the Legal Tools Outsourcing Partners and the International Criminal Court.



## Human Rights Leader visits HRLC

Professor Chris Sidoti, distinguished human rights law expert and former Director of the International Service for Human Rights, visited HRLC in March 2009. He participated in a number of HRLC activities, including the Chevening Fellows Programme, Freedom of Expression Festival and the Student Conference.

Professor Sidoti delivered a stimulating address at the Tenth Annual Student Human Rights Conference, entitled *'Freedom of Expression: Both More and Less What You Might Think'*. Opening the Conference, his presentation outlined how the liberty to express oneself is a human right of longstanding global recognition but there remains a contemporary struggle to establish its boundaries. Discussing the Metis of Nepal, the Danish Cartoon Affair and the Bill Henson controversy, he showed that the scope of the right is not precisely defined and its confines are often passionately contested.

During his visit, he participated in the Freedom of Expression Festival as guest lecturer for a master class on *'Human Rights Protection Strategies'* targeted at postgraduate students. He also engaged with Chevening Fellows on the *'Protection of Human Rights in Australia'* and *'The UN Human Rights System: An NGO Perspective'*, drawing on his experiences as Australian Human Rights Commissioner (1995-2000), and his significant involvement in creating the worldwide move by governments to establish national human rights commissions.

## HRLC Annual Conference: 'Current Challenges to the European Convention System'

On 11 November 2008, more than 100 scholars, experts and students from 15 institutions came together at the Great Hall of the University to discuss current challenges to the European Convention system, for the Annual Human Rights Conference.

Organised by the European Human Rights Law Unit, HRLC was delighted to host five distinguished European Human Rights Law experts as keynote speakers: Judge Egbert Myjer (European Court of Human Rights); Professor Dominick McGoldrick (University of Liverpool); Marko Milanovic (University of Cambridge); Sergey Golubok, (European Court of Human Rights Registry) and Professor Alastair Mowbray (University of Nottingham).

They gave critical and thought-provoking presentations on topical issues such as *'Islam and the European Convention'*, *'the Behrami case'*, *'Russian Cases at the European Court of Human Rights'*, and *'The Court's approach to overruling its own precedent'*.

## HRLC Intern wins Times Law Award

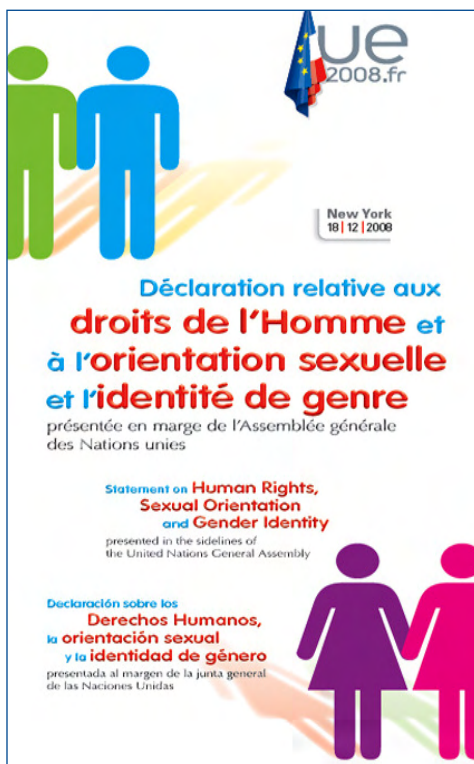
HRLC Intern Bryn Adams took the first prize of £3,500 in The Times Law Awards 2009 with his essay entitled *'Should people in the public eye have a right to privacy?'*

Bryn was an intern with the EHRL Unit between January- March 2009, writing headnotes on European Court of Human Rights cases for the Oxford Reports on International Human Rights Law Database.



## HRLC Visiting Fellow Jan Martin Hoffmann

Jan Martin Hoffmann, PhD candidate and research assistant at the Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany, was a Visiting Fellow at the Human Rights Law Centre between October and December 2008. Focusing his PhD research on the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights, he joined the EHRL Unit to conduct research on the effect of the Human Rights Act 1998 on the legal system of the United Kingdom. He also wrote reports and analyses for the Oxford Reports on International Human Rights Law database.



## Ensuring respect for Human Rights in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity

In December 2008, HRLC Co-Director Professor O'Flaherty was a featured speaker at the symposium that was convened at the UN General Assembly in association with the delivery of a statement on human rights in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity.

The statement, supported by 67 States, calls for comprehensive protection from discrimination, full enjoyment of human rights and accountability and justice for the violation of human rights because of anyone's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Professor O'Flaherty was Rapporteur for the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. At the symposium, it was recalled that these Principles were an important impetus and source for the General Assembly Statement.



## States engage with the HRLC Database on National Implementing Legislation (ICC Legal Tools Project)

As part of its University-funded initiative *'The ICC Legal Tools and the European Union'*, HRLC's ICJ Unit coordinated the first ever briefing seminar for States on the ICC Legal Tools at the Seventh ICC Assembly of States Parties Meeting in the Hague in November 2008.

Hosted by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the lunch-seminar was co-sponsored by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and was attended by more than 40 government representatives from Europe, Africa and Asia-Pacific.

Entitled *'The ICC Legal Tools: its Services, Goals, Status and Further Development'*, Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of the ICJ Unit, gave the first ever live demonstration of the functions of the database on national implementing legislation. Her demonstration was preceded by an introduction to the *Legal Tools Project* by Morten Bergsmo, Senior Researcher, PRIO and chaired by Klaus Rackwitz, Senior Administrative Manager, ICC Office of the Prosecutor.



## Thai Court Officials and Judges undertake human rights programmes

In February and March 2009, over 170 Judges and Court Officials from the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand took part in three capacity-building programmes on human rights and criminal justice. The programmes coincided with the signing of a MoU between the Office of the Judiciary and HRLC.

The programmes focused on civil and political rights relevant to the criminal justice process, and dealt with human rights standards protecting vulnerable groups such as women and children. Delegates were also given a practical insight into the process of administration of justice in the UK, through study trips to the Magistrates' and Crown Courts, and the prison in Leicester. The courses were conducted by leading academics as well as experts from the local police, probation, courts and prison services. They also included presentations from the Women's and Homeless Service, Metropolitan Support Trust, the Criminal Cases Review Commission and the UK Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

## HRLC Co-Director appointed as External Expert for the Council of Europe

Professor O'Flaherty has been appointed as External Expert to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers for the drafting of a CoE recommendation on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, to ensure respect for the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and to promote tolerance towards them. He addressed the Committee in Strasbourg on 18 February.



## Demonstration of ICC Legal Tools for NGOs

Hosted by the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, HRLC coordinated a briefing session for over 70 NGO representatives, entitled *'Introduction to the ICC Legal Tools Project'* at the Seventh ICC Assembly of States Parties Meeting in the Hague in November 2008. Dr Olympia Bekou presented the Database of National Implementing Legislation which will be available on the ICC website in Spring 2009. She was joined by representatives of each of the Legal Tools Outsourcing Partners who also briefly introduced their work.

## Study Tour on the British Criminal Justice System for Iranian Judges & Lawyers

In January 2009 HRLC convened a study tour for eight senior-level judges & lawyers from Iran. The programme covered different aspects of the British criminal justice system, and related human rights issues, through a combination of seminars, study visits and dialogues with British legal professionals and judges, including Judge Stokes, QC and Lord Justice Hughes.

## Chevening Fellows Programme on Implementing Human Rights Conventions

12 senior-level professionals from government ministries, National Human Rights Commissions and civil society organisations in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe participated in the Chevening Fellows Course on *Implementing Human Rights Conventions* between January – March 2009.

The course programme included specialised seminars on international human rights standards and protection mechanisms on international, regional and national levels, taught by School of Law academics as well as distinguished visiting lecturers from academia, government institutions and NGOs, including the Ministry of Justice; FCO; Joint Committee on Human Rights; JUSTICE, Frontline Defenders and Amnesty International.

The Fellows undertook study visits to London, including to the House of Lords Appellate Committee and the Parliament, and to local courts, a prison and a mental-health facility in Nottingham. The programme also included a four-day visit to the UN in Geneva.

Following their residential training in Nottingham, the Fellows undertook work placements at different institutions in London.

# Selected HRLC Events

## Forthcoming events:

### Conference: 'Respecting sexual orientation and gender diversity' 6-8 May 2009, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Professor O'Flaherty will give a keynote address at the Conference on the topic "Respecting sexual orientation and gender diversity", convened by the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights National Institutions in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Professor O'Flaherty was Rapporteur for the Yogyakarta Principles on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, which were adopted in Yogyakarta in March 2007.

### 'Launch of the new version of the ICC Legal Tools' May 2009, The Hague, Netherlands

A new version of the ICC Legal Tools will be made available through the ICC website. The new 'Legal Tools Database' provides the general public with free access to more than 40,000 documents on international criminal law and related services. It has advanced search and browse capacities. This unique electronic library on international criminal law and justice serves as an important knowledge transfer platform for human rights and criminal justice professionals around the world.

### Launch of the Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers June 2009, New York

Following the successful receipt of a University Knowledge transfer grant for further dissemination of the 'Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers Working in Conflict and Post-Conflict Environments', arrangements are being made for a launch of the *Principles* at the UN Headquarters in New York during June 2009.

### Fair Trials International Young Defenders Network Training Programme 22-26 June 2009, University of Nottingham

HRLC will host a week-long training programme for young lawyers from across Europe, which is organised by Fair Trials International. The programme aims to support emerging human rights and fair trial defenders to promote a culture of respect for the defence of human rights within their own countries, thereby improving access to justice.

### HRLC Summer Internship Programme June – September 2009, University of Nottingham

HRLC will offer a number of paid internships, providing students with the opportunity to gain vital experience in leading human rights projects within HRLC.

### AHRI Annual Conference 'The Role of the EU in UN Human Rights Reform' 18-19 September 2009, University of Nottingham

HRLC will host the Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI), which is convened with the support of COST and funded by the EU. AHRI was founded in 2002 and is now one of the world's largest consortia of academic human rights research institutes, with a membership of 25 institutions from 20 European countries.

External participants are welcome to attend the conference. Registration details and the conference programme will be available on the HRLC website shortly.

### Short Course on International Human Rights Law 28 September – 4 December 2009, University of Nottingham

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

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

## Previous:

### Expert Dialogue on Death Penalty Reform in China

29 September 2008, University of Nottingham

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

### High- Level workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy

30-31 January 2009, European Inter-University Centre, Venice

HRLC together with the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) and the University of Poznan was host and sponsor to a high-level workshop on human rights diplomacy. The workshop provided an occasion to reflect on the current challenges and opportunities in the area of human rights diplomacy.

### The Relationship between Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Bodies and the Universal Periodic Review Procedure

20 March 2009, Geneva

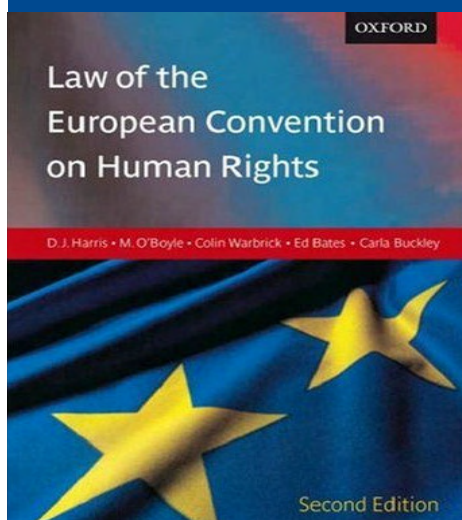
Professor O'Flaherty participated as expert panellist at a side meeting at the UN Human Rights Council on the topic of the relationship between the human rights treaty bodies and the Council's Universal Periodic Review Procedure, hosted by the governments of Ireland and The Netherlands.

### The International Criminal Court: Prospects and Challenges

19-24 April 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

By invitation from the Office of the Judiciary, Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of the ICJ Unit, delivered a lecture at the Thai Judicial Training Institute in Bangkok, Thailand.

## In Focus...



### New edition of 'Law of the European Convention of Human Rights' published

The long-awaited second edition of the legal textbook 'Law of the European Convention on Human Rights', whose authors include HRLC Co-Director Professor David Harris and HRLC Research Associate Carla Buckley, was published by Oxford University Press in March 2009.

An up-to-date and comprehensive account of Strasbourg case law and its underlying principles, this book facilitates an in-depth understanding of European Human Rights law. It fully explores the extent of the Convention's influence upon the legal development of the contracting states, and reveals exactly how such a powerful authority has been achieved and maintained. It sets out and critically analyses each Convention article that constitutes the substantive guarantee, and examines the system of supervision.

Harris, O'Boyle & Warbrick: *Law of the European Convention on Human Rights*. Second Edition  
David Harris, Michael O'Boyle, Edward Bates, and Carla Buckley  
Oxford University Press/ ISBN: 978-0-406-90594-9  
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914 pages

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