

## In this issue...



Mary Robinson delivers  
annual dinner speech at  
AHRI Conference



Thomas Hammarberg  
addresses AHRI Conference



Prof O'Flaherty presents the  
*Guiding Principles for Human  
Rights Field Officers* in New  
York; full report is on page 6

The Autumn 2009 newsletter gives an overview of our activities and projects during the past six months. The Human Rights Law Centre organised and hosted the prestigious Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) Conference, kicking off the four-year long network and research programme. HRLC has also been part of a milestone initiative of the International Criminal Court, through the launch of the National Implementing Legislation Database which forms part of the ICC's Legal Tools. And we launched our new website. Other highlights include:

- *Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers* launched in New York, June
- Second visit to Maseru, Lesotho to consider the draft Mental Health Bill, September
- Third Human Rights Defenders Fellowship Programme in January-March 2010

Amidst all of this activity, we say farewell to Emilie Hunter and welcome her successor as Coordinator, Bailey Grey. We also welcome Professor Nigel White, who returns to Nottingham and who will head a new Unit, Security and Human Rights.

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

Professor David Harris  
Professor Michael O'Flaherty

## National Implementing Legislation Database Launched on ICC Website

In May, the International Criminal Court (ICC) launched the National Implementing Legislation Database of the ICC Statute (NILD) as part of its online Legal Tools service. The unique relational database was designed by HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit between 2006 and 2009 while further developments are planned until 2014. The ICC's Legal Tools is a unique knowledge-transfer platform for international criminal and human rights law.

Led by Dr. Olympia Bekou (ICJ Unit Head), Dr. Will Lowe and Emilie Hunter NILD has been created with the invaluable research assistance of Annika Jones, Agnes Flues, Vidan Hadzi-Vidanovic, Richard Hyde, Melanie O'Brien and David Krivanek and support of over 25 student research assistants.

NILD provides the public with a fully searchable electronic database of national laws which implement the Rome Statute and is complemented by overviews of each state's legislation. NILD enables users to conduct refined searches of currently over 2,000 pages of legal documents and notes using thematic categories based on keywords or Articles of the Rome Statute. Importantly, NILD facilitates comparative analysis in a time-saving and resource-efficient manner and can serve as an aid to states that may be considering implementing the Rome Statute into their domestic legal system.

HRLC is one of eight outsourcing partners for the Legal Tools, which provide the general public with free access to more than 40,000 documents on international criminal law and justice through several databases and legal research and reference tools and has sole responsibility for NILD.

## Mary Robinson Addresses International Conference on Partnerships and Reform for Human Rights Protection

Over 120 human rights scholars and activists gathered at the University of Nottingham between 18 – 19 September for the 10th Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI), Partnerships and Reform for Human Rights Protection. Organised by HRLC Co-Director Professor Michael O'Flaherty and assisted by Agnes Flues, the conference brought together participants from UN

agencies, global and regional NGOs, human rights institutes and academic research institutions. A number of eminent guest speakers joined former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, including Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg and Ambassador Jan Nordlander representing the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. The conference addressed key issues surrounding the strengthening of national human rights systems, reform of UN human rights mechanisms and new perspectives on human rights partnerships.

A full report is on page 4.



## Respecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity

During May and June, Co-Director Prof. Michael O'Flaherty gave a number of keynote addresses on sexual orientation and gender diversity. In May he addressed a conference convened by the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, on the topic of Respecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

In June, Prof. O'Flaherty addressed the United Nations Human Rights Council Side Panel on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, in Geneva, Switzerland. Other speakers included the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay.

## Third Human Rights Defenders Fellowship Programme to begin in January 2010

As part of our commitment to support the work of human rights defenders, we will offer three fellowships for human rights defenders to participate in our International Human Rights Short Course which will run between January and March 2010. Building on our experience of hosting human rights defenders and at-risk scholars, the fellowship will enable selected defenders to develop their understanding of international human rights law. Since September 2008, the Human Rights Law Centre has hosted human rights defenders from Iraq, Ethiopia and Tibet.

The Short Course programme includes seminars in UN and regional human rights standards, field visits to NGO's, a UK prison and a court.

Fellows will be invited to participate in Centre activities, such as the Human Rights Film Series, the annual student conference, lectures and events and will be encouraged to promote their work for the protection of human rights to relevant audiences in the UK through talks, involvement in human rights education and media work. Opportunities for career development and training will also be available through University of Nottingham training programmes.



## Olympia Bekou Delivers Keynote Address to the Judicial Training Institute of Thailand

On the invitation of the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand, Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of the International Criminal Justice Unit, delivered the keynote address at the celebration of the 127th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Thai Judicial System. Dr. Bekou gave a lecture for senior-level Thai judges on 'The International Criminal Court: Prospects and Challenges'. The address was part of a five-day exchange visit by Dr. Bekou to the Judicial Training Institute in Bangkok in April.

## Thai Judges and Officials Undertake Training on Criminal Justice and Human Rights

In June, 70 judges and officials from the Judiciary of Thailand - including senior members of the Thai Supreme Court, criminal courts and civil courts - took part in a one-day seminar directed by Prof. O'Flaherty that was designed to give participants an overview of key issues in criminal justice and human rights at the domestic and international level. Participants were given insight into relevant topics including the ratification and national implementation of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, human rights protection in international law, and protection of human rights relevant to the criminal justice process. The Human Rights Law Centre has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand.

## HRLC Hosts Fair Trials International Young Defenders Training Programme

In June, HRLC hosted a week-long training programme for young defenders, organised by Fair Trials International. Participants experienced high-quality training, information and mentoring opportunities in the fields of human rights law, criminal law and advocacy, learned about foreign legal systems and received practical training on a range of criminal law and civil liberties issues. The programme was designed to support emerging human rights and fair trial defenders in promoting a culture of respect for the defence of human rights within their own countries.





## Review Meeting of Draft Mental Health Legislation Held in Lesotho

In September, Professor Peter Bartlett completed the second mission to Maseru, Lesotho as part of this 24 month project, along with project partner Natalie Drew (World Health Organisation) and project consultant Dr Soumitra Pathare. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the project aims to support the creation of a Mental Health Bill for the Government of Lesotho, as a case study for the design and delivery of mental health law in developing countries.

In the fourteen months since the last visit, Professor Bartlett had developed a draft bill, along with a dedicated drafting committee headed by Mathaabe Ranthimo at the Lesotho Ministry of Health and the international experts. In this visit the bill was presented over two days to a broad stakeholder group, including medical professionals, police, law reform personnel, court officials, social workers, government actors, users of psychiatric services and their carers. With the comments of those stakeholders in mind (no major amendments required, thankfully!), the drafting panel then spent three days going over the bill, line by line.

And none too soon. While the meetings were happening, the Lesotho Minister of Health gave a press conference, indicating that he expected the mental health bill to be debated and passed when the new session of Parliament comes up in their autumn.

Other outputs will follow, such as academic articles and a guidance document for those looking to do mental health law reform work in Africa. The project is due to finish in March 2010.

## Knowledge Transfer Project on the ICC and EU Completed

In June, the Centre's International Criminal Justice Unit completed its knowledge transfer project, The ICC Legal Tools and the European Union: Towards a Successful Partnership, which was designed to provide dialogue and exchange with potential European Union beneficiaries of the International Criminal Court's Legal Tools.

A series of meetings and demonstrations were held over nine months with key actors from the Legal Service of the European Commission and European Council, the European Initiative for Human Rights and Democracy, States and NGOs. Activities included the first ever demonstration of the Legal Tools and HRLC's component, the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD) to over 40 States at the Assembly of States Parties, which was co-sponsored by the governments of the UK, Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, and a dialogue with NGO's hosted by the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

Directed by Emilie Hunter and Olympia Bekou, the project benefited from the guidance of Morten Bergsmo, Coordinator of the ICC Legal Tools Project and research assistance of Caroline Pryzbylla and Mark Chadwick.

## HRLC Co-Director Elected to the Governing Body of the World Organisation Against Torture

In June Co-Director Professor O'Flaherty was elected to the governing body (General Assembly) of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT).

Created in 1986, OMCT is the main coalition of international non-governmental organisations fighting against torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances and all other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.



## Cooperation Agreement with the International Criminal Court Extended until 2014

In July, an extended Cooperation Agreement was signed between The Human Rights Law Centre and the International Criminal Court, ensuring the expansion of HRLC's responsibilities as the outsourcing partner to the Legal Tools project with sole responsibility for national implementation. Under the new agreement, HRLC will develop several new functions including notes on the legislative approach and content of each State and a more detailed analysis of the particular provisions of each legislation.

The revised agreement can be found online at: <http://www.legal-tools.org/en/work-on-the-tools/co-operation-agreements/>

## Demonstration of ICC National Implementing Legislation Database to UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

In July, International Criminal Justice Unit Head Dr Olympia Bekou was joined by Klaus Rackwitz, ICC Office of the Prosecutor, and Morten Bergsmo, Coordinator of the ICC Legal Tools Project, to demonstrate the newly launched NILD to key staff of the FCO from the War Crimes Section of the International Organisations Division and the Human Rights Democracy and Good Governance Section.

# Partnerships and Reform for Human Rights Protection

## 10th Annual AHRI Conference, 18 – 19 September

At the AHRI Conference, the Human Rights Law Centre brought together global human rights leaders to debate reform of human rights protection systems, including Mary Robinson, former Irish President and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.



Ambassador Nordlander, Prof Bailey (Head of the School of Law), Prof O'Flaherty and Prof Butenschen (AHRI Chair) open the conference

Over 120 participants from UN agencies, global and regional NGOs, human rights institutes and academic research institutions took part in the three day conference, which included plenary panel sessions where leading experts on the conference themes presented their thoughts on the various challenges facing the practice and reform of human rights protection, and working group dialogues, which developed in more detail the issues and challenges raised. The conference themes will help form the work directions of the four-year long network and research programme of AHRI which is funded through the COST programme of the European Science Foundation.

### Mary Robinson Gives Annual Dinner Address

In what was widely regarded as the conference highlight, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson gave a rousing speech following the Annual Dinner, stressing the need for continued human rights engagement in a period of widespread erosion of the promotion and protection of human rights. She highlighted the importance of women in human rights work.

### Human Rights Issues Facing the EU

Ambassador Jan Nordlander, representing the Swedish Presidency of the EU presented the human rights challenges and opportunities of the Swedish Presidency of the EU.

Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, addressed participants on Saturday morning, giving an expansive overview of the challenges facing human rights protection in Europe, including the importance of internet and blogging culture, the need to create an environment for NGOs within society and the complacency of Western European States with regard to the breakdown in asylum systems.

### Strengthening National Human Rights Institutions



Prof McWilliams presents challenges faced by National Human Rights Institutions

Professor Wouter Vandenhoe, University of Antwerp; Professor Monica McWilliams, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Marcia Kran, Director of OHCHR's Research and Right to Development Division; and Dr Gauthier de Beco, Catholic University of Louvain, considered theoretical and practical methods for upholding human rights at the national level. This included exploration of human rights based approaches, the role of national human rights institutions, development of human rights tools for monitoring and planning, and reform initiatives within the UN system. The Working Group engaged in discussions on human rights based approaches to development.

### Reform of UN Human Rights Mechanisms



Dr Ramcharan illustrates reform options for UN human rights mechanisms

Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture; Professor Michael O'Flaherty; Dr George Ulrich, former Secretary General of the European Inter-University Centre; and Dr Bertrand Ramcharan, Former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights gave far-reaching presentations on the challenges and possible reform paths for UN human rights mechanisms. The Working Group considered the recent proposal by Manfred Nowak and Julia Kozma for a World Court of Human Rights, while also considering opportunities to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

### New Perspectives on Human Rights Partnerships

Professor Wolfgang Benedek, Director of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy; Lisa Horner, Head of Research and Policy at Global Partners; Professor Therese Murphy, University of Nottingham School of Law; and Dr Radu Mares, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, examined potential developments for human rights partnerships. The Working Group met on Saturday with Thomas Hammarberg, where further discussion took place, considering the two areas for further reflection: human rights partnerships between IGOs and civil society and between transnational corporations and NGOs. The discussion considered the need for clarity on human rights partnerships terminology, for clear indicators and benchmarks, and on the role of academics and researchers in human rights partnerships.



Prof Vojin Dimitrijević, Director of the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, comments during the plenary debate.

### Postgraduate Research Participation

Postgraduate researchers were encouraged to participate in the conference, by means of an innovative research poster competition. In collaboration with Oxford University Press, HRLC awarded conference sponsorship to the two best poster submissions: Philipp Schmidinger - Oxford Brookes University and Katherine Wepplo - SOAS.



# 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.

Right: HRLC Co-Director Prof Harris with 2009 summer interns Krystyna Urbanova, Emily Soothill, Mark Chadwick, Chloe Cheeseman and Kirsti Green



PhD students Amrei Müller and Stephenson Chow exchange views with Prof. Robert McCorquodale, Director of the British Institute for International and Comparative Law

## LLM Programme

The School of Law continues to enjoy a very busy year. We are delighted to welcome Professor Nigel White, Professor of Public International Law, back to the School of Law. Nigel has a long career with the University of Nottingham, from where he obtained his doctorate. He worked his way through the ranks, firstly as a lecturer in law in 1987, all the way to Professor of International Organisations in 2000, before leaving for a while in 2005 to Sheffield University, where he was also Dean of Law. Nigel will also be Co-Director of the Research Degrees Programme.

Professor Vanessa Munro (with Sharon Cowan and Helen Baillot) has received a grant for £130,000 from the Nuffield Foundation to conduct a pioneering study into rape disclosure and asylum decision-making.

The project, which is to be based here in Nottingham, will use a combination of methods to examine the scale of disclosure of rape amongst women seeking asylum in the UK. It will also explore the ways in which their narratives of rape emerge in the asylum application process, and will reflect upon the way in which their claims are responded to by decision-makers at both the UK Border Agency and the Asylum & Immigration Tribunal.

The project follows a successful pilot study, conducted by the researchers in late 2007, and commenced in August 2009.

We are also delighted to welcome a new cohort of students to the School, and in particular, our postgraduates who plan to study in the field of human rights law. This year has seen a large increase in the

number of postgraduate Thai students, many of whom have heard of us through the highly-regarded agreement on human rights education between the Human Rights Law Centre and the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand. We hope that the time of all our students here in Nottingham is a happy one.

## Student Activities

Through the spring and summer the Human Rights Law Centre has supported a number of student-led human rights initiatives, attracting students across the university and the world. For instance, in June representatives of the University College London (UCL) Human Rights Student Programme, led by Dr George Letzas (Lecturer in Law at UCL), gave a talk to staff and students about their recent report, Abolition of Freedom Act 2009. This was organised by LL.M student Nicola Cosentino.

## Film Series

Following the Spring exams, the film series continued to screen provocative films to an appreciative campus community, showing Tony Gatlif's award-winning film, *Gadjo Dilo*, which focuses on a love affair between a young French man and a gypsy dancer, and the rich and persecuted world of gypsy custom and musical culture. *In Prison My Whole Life*, introduced by Prof Dirk van zyl Smit, Winner of 'Best Film' at the 2008 Geneva International Film Festival on Human Rights, examines the controversial case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther Party activist who has been on death row for murder in the United States since 1981.

## Internships

As part of the Centre's commitment to broadening students' experiences of human rights practice and providing students with opportunities to gain vital experience in leading human rights work, nine students benefited from sponsored summer internships on a diverse range of projects: Emily Soothill, Edward McCullagh and Clementine Rendle (Oxford Reports on International Human Rights Database), Derek Inman, Mark Chadwick, David Hayes and Kristyna Urbanova (International Criminal Justice), Kirsti Green (Association of Human Rights Institutes Conference) and Chloe Cheeseman (HRLC Communications).

## Bursaries

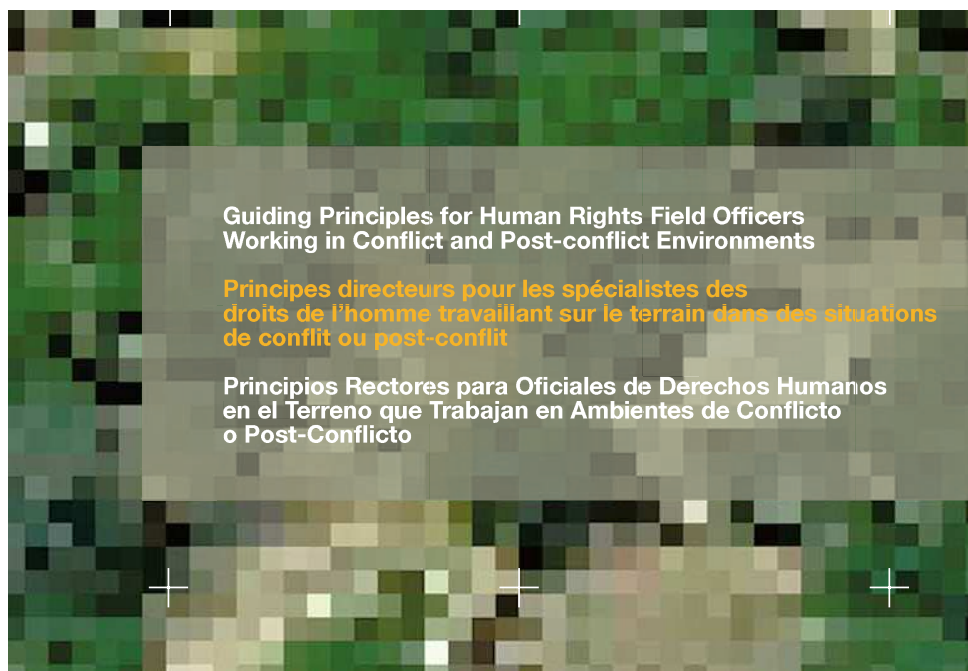
In May, LL.M graduate An-Sofie Leenknecht completed her internship with UNHCR in Chile, returning to a position at the Belgian National Human Rights Institute. In July, PhD candidate Annika Jones completed her internship with the International Criminal Court which was extended by three months.



Prof Murphy speaks about new technologies and human rights

## 11th Annual Student Conference: New Technologies and Human Rights

Following a network award made to Prof. Therese Murphy, the 11th Annual Student Human Rights Conference will address the challenges and advantages of new technologies and human rights.



## Strategic Dissemination of the *Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers*

Earlier this year, The Human Rights Law Centre received an award from the University's Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy Group. Led by HRLC Co-Director Professor Michael O'Flaherty with research assistance provided by Agnes Flues, the grant funded a 5-month project for the *Strategic Dissemination of the Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers (GPs)*. The GPs had been finalised in 2008 as one of the final publications of the international research project *Consolidating the Profession: The Human Rights Field Officer*, also led by Prof. O'Flaherty.

The grant has been used to further disseminate, and promote the GPs. As a preliminary step to dissemination, a multi-lingual brochure was created in the languages of the GPs (English, French and Spanish) and 800 further GPs were printed and strategically distributed to academic institutions worldwide and to all UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators. Two major achievements of the project have been the completion of annotations and explanatory texts to the GPs - which provide a valuable guide to the legal, practical and theoretical framework underpinning the GPs - and the creation of a multi-lingual, dedicated website ([www.hrfoguidingprinciples.org](http://www.hrfoguidingprinciples.org)).

On 27 May the GPs were presented in New York during a lunch event hosted by Ambassador Paul Kavanagh at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations. Diplomats, senior UN officials as well as NGO representatives attended the event. The panel consisted of Prof O'Flaherty, Mr William G. O'Neill, Ms Jessica Neuirth (Director of the OHCHR New York Office) and Dr George Ulrich, who also contributed to the GPs annotations.

## HRLC Co-Director Addresses UN Human Rights Council on Women's Rights

In June, Co-Director Professor Michael O'Flaherty addressed a plenary session of the UN Human Rights Council on the topic of Equality before the Law: Concrete Steps to Further Women's Equality. Speaking at the Council's annual discussion on women's human rights, Prof. O'Flaherty, member of the UN Human Rights Committee, noted that issues of women's inequality before the law and related discrimination concerns had become a dominant preoccupation of the Committee. He called for reinforced commitment from all UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies and recommended that more women be elected to them to address the current gender imbalance.

The video can be streamed here:  
<http://www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/archive.asp?go=090604>

## Michael O'Flaherty to Co-Edit Publication from High-Level Workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy

Following the successful high-level expert workshop on Human Rights Diplomacy in January, a book project is underway, edited by Professor Michael O'Flaherty (HRLC Co-Director), Professor Dzidek Kedzia (Poznan) and Dr George Ulrich (EIUC), with editorial assistance provided by University of Nottingham PhD candidate Amrei Mueller. The Expert Workshop was held in Venice and was a collaborative event between The Human Rights Law Centre, the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) and the Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan.

## New Human Rights Law Centre Website Launched

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to announce the launch of a new website this autumn. The site content has been expanded and improved with user-friendly features. Visitors to the site can keep up to date with the Centre's activities by viewing current news and event feeds, sign up to our e-newsletter, and browse a detailed catalogue of all current and previous projects. Details of opportunities to get involved in Centre activities have also been expanded, with the site now including comprehensive sections on the Centre's impressive range of short courses, training and capacity building programmes as well as student-led projects, internships and bursaries.



## Human Rights Law Review Makes Articles Available Free Online

*Human Rights Law Review* is a peer-review journal which publishes critical articles that consider human rights in their various contexts, from global to national levels, book reviews, and a section dedicated to analysis of recent jurisprudence and practice of the UN and regional human rights systems. It is produced at the Human Rights Law Centre for Oxford University Press (OUP) led by Editor-in-Chief and HRLC Co-Director Professor David Harris with editorial assistance provided by Research Associate Carla Buckley. OUP have made two articles available FREE online when visiting the journal's website: *Separate Opinions in the European Court of Human Rights* by Robin C.A. White and Iris Boussiakou and *Gender Discrimination under EU and ECHR Law* by Samantha Besson.

See <http://hrlr.oxfordjournals.org/>



## Strengthening Reform of the UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies: The Dublin Statement

Since 2005 The Human Rights Law Centre has played a vigorous role in the consideration of United Nations treaty monitoring body reform. Led by Co-Director and UN Human Rights Committee member Professor Michael O'Flaherty this has included the commission of a series of research papers, the convening of an expert consultation in February 2006 and the wide dissemination of the consultation output, now referred to as the "Nottingham Report." In the intervening period, a range of reform initiatives have been proposed and considered at the United Nations, focusing on greater harmonisation of the working methods of the treaty bodies. Now, between September and November, a group of treaty body experts will develop a statement setting out a "road map" for reform that abides by identified standards of good practice. Professor O'Flaherty has initiated this process which is intended to assist stakeholders in considering where next to go with the reforms. The Statement, to be known as the "Dublin Statement on the Strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System", will be finalised at a meeting in Dublin in November. This activity is funded by the Government of Ireland.



## HRLC Participates in First Seminar of the EU-China Human Rights Network

In May, Research and Programmes Co-ordinator Emilie Hunter, participated in the first EU-China Human Rights Seminar of the current Network, held in Prague. The seminar was made possible as part of a €1.5 million European Commission contract awarded to the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway. The Human Rights Law Centre is a member of the Steering Committee of this project. Sixty-five European and Chinese academics, practitioners, NGO representatives and officials came together to discuss access to justice in both Europe and China and the rights of persons with disabilities.

## Alice Edwards Presents Research to CEDAW Committee in New York

Alice Edwards, former Head of the HRLC's Forced Migration and Human Rights Unit, presented her background paper to a joint high level roundtable discussion between the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in New York in July. It is entitled Displacement, Statelessness, and Questions of Gender Equality under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

## Staff Changes at HRLC

Over the summer, Emilie Hunter and Caroline Pryzbylla left HRLC to pursue new ventures: Emilie took up a PhD position at the European University Institute, while Caroline is now managing micro-credit schemes for women in Indonesia. Emilie will be replaced by Bailey Grey- to see her profile, refer to In Brief on page 8.



## Professor Nigel White Returns to Nottingham

The Human Rights Law Centre is delighted to welcome Professor Nigel White back to the School of Law from the University of Sheffield. In September he took up his Chair as Professor of Public International Law and became the head of HRLC's Security and Human Rights Unit. Through the new unit, Prof. White will continue to direct two projects, Private Military and Security Contractors and Human Rights Law, which is part of the EU FP7 Priv-War programme and Counter Terrorism and the Rule of Law, a seminar series that will lead to an edited collection, supported by the Club of Madrid, the World Justice Project and the American Bar Association. Prof. White obtained his PhD from Nottingham, joining the School in 1987 and serving as Head of School between 2000-2003. A specialist in international law, Prof. White's research interests include collective security law, European security law, the law of armed conflict, peacekeeping law, and the law of arms control.

# Selected HRLC Events

## Forthcoming:

### New Human Rights Law Centre Website Launched

Autumn

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to announce the launch of a new website this autumn, with expanded content and more user-friendly features. Visitors will be able to explore a comprehensive projects catalogue, browse details of news, regular events, and core Centre publications. Details of opportunities to get involved in Centre activities have also been expanded, including comprehensive sections on our short courses, training and capacity building programmes as well as student-led projects, internships and bursaries.

### Lecture: 'Human Rights and the UN'. Peter Gooderham, UK Ambassador to the UN, Geneva

17 November at 14.30,  
University of Nottingham LASS A100

### Expert Meeting on Treaty Monitoring Body Reform

18 – 19 November, Dublin

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### Panel Discussion: Academics At Risk, organised with CARA

24 November at 14.00,  
University of Nottingham LASS A100

### 11th Annual Student Human Rights Conference: New Technologies and Human Rights

20 March 2010, Nottingham

## Previous:

### Conference: Partnerships and Reform for Human Rights Protection, Association of Human Rights Institutes Annual Conference

18-19 September, Nottingham

This international conference addressed the key issues surrounding Partnerships and Reform for Human Rights Protection. A number of eminent speakers contributed to the conference, including former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson and Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg. In three interdisciplinary working groups, the participants also focused on the main challenges arising out of the reform of UN human rights mechanisms and the potential for human rights based development and human rights partnerships.

### Conference Presentation: In the Hands of the State: Implementing Legislation and Complementarity

15 -16 September, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, The Hague

Dr Olympia Bekou, Head of the ICJ Unit, gave a presentation at the Grotius Centre Conference, The ICC and Complementarity: From theory to practice in the panel session, Operationalising Complementarity in the ICC System.

### New York Launch of the *Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers*

27 May, New York

Ambassador Paul Kavanagh, the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, launched the Guiding Principles, to diplomats, senior UN and NGO officials. A panel discussion was led by Co-Director Prof O'Flaherty, Mr William G. O'Neill (independent human rights consultant), Ms Jessica Neuwirth (Director of the OHCHR New York Office) and Dr George Ulrich (former Secretary General for the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation).

### Lecture on Prospects and Challenges for the International Criminal Court

22 April, Bangkok

Dr Olympia Bekou, Head of HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit, delivered the keynote address at the celebration of the 127th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Thai Judicial System, entitled The International Criminal Court: Prospects and Challenges at the Judicial Training Institute in Bangkok, upon the invitation of the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand.

## In Brief...



## HRLC Welcomes New Coordinator

In September, The Human Rights Law Centre welcomed its new Coordinator, Bailey Grey, following the departure of Research and Programmes Coordinator, Emilie Hunter to the European University Institute.

Bailey joins us following two years at Amnesty International Ireland where she designed and delivered a capacity building programme on human rights implementation targeted at the community, voluntary, & public sectors in Ireland. This project aimed to elevate economic, social, & cultural rights in Ireland and establish indivisibility of all human rights in practice. She holds an MA in the Theory & Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex. Bailey has many years of voluntary experience on human rights issues, including activist casework on death penalty cases, setting up a New York-based women's human rights action group, & working with juvenile asylum-seekers on their claims among others.

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