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Navi Pillay and Prof. O'Flaherty at the Dublin meeting



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Prof. Sarah Joseph guest lectured on the Human Rights Council

Corrigendum

In the last edition of the Newsletter, COST - the principal funder of the 10th Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) - was incorrectly identified as a programme of the European Science Foundation. COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. The AHRI Conference launched COST Action IS0702: The Role of the EU in UN Human Rights Reform.

Welcome to the winter edition of our Newsletter!

The past months have kept us very busy. Student activities are in full swing, with activities such as the Human Rights Film Series attracting great interest and support and preparations well underway for this year's International Students Human Rights Conference. The new Security and Human Rights Unit is up and running. The new cohorts of Short Course students and Chevening Fellows have arrived for their training programmes. We have been busy with human rights policy-related work and, in November, we convened a meeting on human rights treaty body reform that was attended by the UN High Commissioner and other distinguished experts.

We hope you will enjoy reading about these and the other aspects of our activities. As always, we look forward to your feedback.

Professor David Harris
Professor Michael O'Flaherty

UN High Commissioner Addresses Groundbreaking Event on Reform of the Human Rights Treaty Body System

On 18 and 19 November 2009 the Human Rights Law Centre, on the initiative of its Co-Director Prof. Michael O'Flaherty, with the support of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, convened a meeting of UN human rights treaty body experts in Dublin, Ireland, to finalise a statement that marks out key parameters for a programme of reform of the treaty body system: *The Dublin Statement on the Process of Strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System*. The text of the statement was developed in the period from September to November, and it has been signed by 35 current and former treaty body members, all acting in a personal capacity.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Ms Navanethem Pillay, joined the expert group for a session of the meeting on 19 November 2009. Ms Pillay stated that the two major challenges facing the treaty body system relate to resources and coherence. She reiterated her call for the speedy development of proposals which could enable the treaty body system to be more rational, coherent, coordinated and effective. She added that "[...] treaty body experts are optimally placed to initiate such reflection and achieve the requisite balance between specificity of tasks and coherence of outcome. Experts such as those gathered here today must lead the discussion and involve civil society and national human rights institutions in this important endeavour. [...] The role of States Parties and their views shall also be solicited once specific proposals are formulated through the different events of which the Dublin meeting is a welcome and timely starting point".

More information on page 2.

Summer School on Protecting Human Rights through United Nations Mechanisms

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to announce the 2010 Summer School on Protecting Human Rights through UN Mechanisms, which will run from 28 June - 2 July 2010. The focus of the Summer School will be practical and applied, providing participants with an insider's understanding of UN human rights mechanisms. Sessions will be devoted to the work of

the human rights treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and its field presences. Speakers include: Prof. Michael O'Flaherty (Member of the UN Human Rights Committee); Prof. Sir Nigel Rodley (Vice-Chair, UN Human Rights Committee and former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture), Dr. Ibrahim Salama (Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR), Rachel Brett (Human Rights and Refugees Representative, Quaker UN Office), Kate Fox (Petitions Team, OHCHR), Bela Kapur (Conflict Advisor, DFID and formerly with OHCHR and DPKO) and Tanya Ward (Irish Council for Civil Liberties).

The Dublin Statement on the Process of Strengthening of the UN Human Rights Treaty Body System

The Human Rights Law Centre has participated prominently in the debate on reform of the UN human rights machinery. In February 2006, HRLC hosted an Expert Workshop on Reform of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies. In January 2007, a special issue of the *Human Rights Law Review* was dedicated to the subject.

In 2009 the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights signalled through various speeches and comments that a newly invigorated policy-level process of reflection and action on treaty body reform was needed. In September 2009, HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty initiated a reflection process on next steps for reform, with the participation of current and former members of treaty bodies, all acting in a personal capacity. This process led to the Dublin expert

meeting that also benefited from the participation in one of its sessions of the High Commissioner. Subsequently the experts issued *The Dublin Statement on the Process of Strengthening of the UN Human Rights Treaty Body System*. The statement does not present detailed solutions or specific reform outcomes. Instead, it is intended as a recapitulation of the elements necessary for an effective process of reform, marking out what its authors consider to be key parameters, objectives and methods for such a programme. The statement seeks to identify what might be termed a "road-map" for a reform that abides by identified standards of good practice. In identifying each of the elements of the road-map, the statement distils lessons from previous reform efforts and initiatives. The Statement affirms that "reform should enhance the capacity of the treaty body system to address the human rights contained in the respective treaties in a manner that respects the universality, indivisibility and the equal significance of all human rights". The Dublin Statement attaches great importance to the need for consultation of all relevant stakeholders (States Parties, treaty bodies, civil society, national human rights institutions and others) and for the inclusiveness of the reform debate: "(r)eform should always be undertaken in consultation among concerned stakeholders". The statement recalls that a considerable degree of reform can be undertaken without any need for treaty re-negotiation. With regard to reforms that would demand treaty changes, it observes that any reform goals that require such a process must be of such an importance as to "justify the protracted and sometimes unpredictable process of amendment".

The Dublin Statement will be presented at the United Nations in Geneva on 26 January 2010 and it is in the process of being widely distributed among all stakeholder groups. It can be found at: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/HRLC/index.aspx>.

The High Commissioner's address to the Dublin meeting is at:

<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/1CAC0BBC6B7FFE8DC12576770061150C?opendocument>



Expert Group finalises the Dublin Statement



Participants of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue

Prof. Kenner represents HRLC at Seminar of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue

In November 2009 Prof. Jeffrey Kenner participated in the second seminar of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, held in Beijing. The seminar focussed on issues related to 'Access to Justice' and 'Human Rights and the Global Economic Crisis'. Prof. Kenner joined a panel discussion on 'The Economic Crisis and Labour Rights' giving a presentation on the topic 'Bringing Labour Rights from the Periphery to the Centre of the EU's External Relations Agenda: A Necessary Response to the Economic Crisis?'. HRLC is a member of the Steering Committee of this project, which is hosted by the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Galway.

Prof. O'Flaherty speaks at the Tenth Irish NGO Forum on Human Rights

HRLC Co-Director Prof. Michael O'Flaherty was a speaker at the Tenth NGO Forum on Human Rights, convened by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin on 20 November 2009. Prof. O'Flaherty's panel discussed strategies for NGO participation and input into the work of the UN Human Rights Council, particularly in relation to the new Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. Prof. O'Flaherty focussed on the relationship between the UPR and treaty body procedures, observing that the two systems are proving complementary for now although the risk of tensions and inconsistencies remains of concern.

New Human Rights Committee General Comment on Freedom of Expression

Prof. O'Flaherty presented the first draft of a new General Comment on Freedom of Expression (Art. 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) at the October 2009 session of the UN Human Rights Committee. Prof. O'Flaherty had been appointed by the Committee as its Rapporteur for this General Comment in the March 2009 session. The draft is now under review and will be further considered during the Committee's upcoming session in March 2010. Once the draft will have received its first reading it will be put for comment by interested parties.



Dr. Bekou and Elizabeth Evenson (Mphil in Human Rights, Nottingham) at the 8th ASP

HRLC at 8th Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Dr Olympia Bekou, head of HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit, attended the 8th Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague (18 - 26 November 2009).

HRLC is an Outsourcing Partner of the ICC's Legal Tools Project, for which it developed the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD). This year the Legal Tools were acknowledged for the first time in the ASP's Omnibus Resolution adopted on 26 November: "[the Legal Tools] by aiming at equipping users with the legal information, digests and software required to work effectively in the field of international criminal law, contributes significantly to the promotion of international criminal law and justice and thus to combating impunity".

On 24 November, Dr Bekou spoke at an ASP side event, *Implementing Legislation of the Rome Statute of the ICC in Domestic Legal Orders*, organised by Parliamentarians for Global Action and Amnesty International - International Justice Project.

NILD is available on the ICC's website at:
<http://www.legal-tools.org/en/access-to-the-tools/national-implementing-legislation-database/>.

HRLC and the School of Law

The Human Rights Law Centre is part of the University of Nottingham School of Law, with a long history of engagement with School activities. The School of Law is ranked fourth in the UK in the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and has a grade of "Excellent" for teaching. The LLM in Human Rights Law provides a thorough grounding in international human rights law. Many of the modules are cutting edge and innovative, one being the only of its kind in the world: *International Human Rights Field Operations: Law in Practice*, taught by Prof. Michael O'Flaherty. This year, two human rights modules have been introduced into the undergraduate programme: *International Human Rights*, taught by Ms Sangeeta Shah, and *UK Human Rights*, taught by Prof. Noel Whitty.

The School of Law's academic staff are leading international experts with second-to-none experience of human rights policy making and practice. For instance, Mr Sandesh Sivakumaran, lecturer in law, has been recently awarded the Journal of International Criminal Justice - Giorgio La Pira prize for 2009. He has also been an International Legal Advisor to the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Many Nottingham graduates pursue distinguished careers in human rights work at the national and international level. David Tolbert, who completed his LLM in Public International Law with distinction, will become president of the International Center for Transitional Justice in March 2010, after a tenure of almost 15 years at the UN as a Senior Legal Advisor, Deputy Chief Prosecutor and Assistant Secretary-General. HRLC engages with the student community, beyond the School of Law.

In November 2009, the Nottingham University Model United Nations Society hosted the second Nottingham International Model United Nations Conference, attended by over 250 participants. HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty opened the proceedings of this extraordinary event.

HRLC Co-Director Addresses European Consultation on Cooperation for Human Rights Protection

Prof. Michael O'Flaherty was a speaker at the European consultation on "Enhancing Cooperation between Regional and International Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights - a Consultation for Europe", organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on 16 - 17 December 2009, in Strasbourg. Representatives from the European Court of Human Rights, the Council of Europe (CoE), the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, as well as from UN human rights mechanisms participated in this consultation. Prof. O'Flaherty addressed the plenary on the topics of "Complementarity in Complaints Mechanisms: Jurisdiction, Admissibility and Jurisprudence" and "Cooperation for the Strengthening of National Human Rights Protection Systems".

Prof. William A. Schabas to Deliver 2010 Spring Lecture

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to announce that Prof. William A. Schabas, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, will deliver HRLC's 2010 Spring Lecture on "Victor's Justice: Politics and International Criminal Prosecution". Prof. Schabas holds the chair in human rights law at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has published extensively in international human rights law and international criminal law. In 2009, he was elected President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. In May 2002, the President of Sierra Leone appointed Prof. Schabas to the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, upon the recommendation of Mary Robinson, then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Prof. Schabas has participated in numerous international human rights missions on behalf of non-governmental organisations.

HRLC Thanks the Interns of the Talent Builder Programme

Between September 2009 and January 2010 the Human Rights Law Centre took part in the Talent Builder Internship Programme, organised by the University's Centre for Career Development.

HRLC received three recent graduates, Adam Landes, Roxana Cimpeanu and Claire Balding, as interns.

The scheme has been created to ensure that University of Nottingham graduates continue to develop skills needed to meet increasing demands from employers by providing practical experience working within the University. The interns, with backgrounds in management, international relations and public international law, worked on a number of HRLC projects within the Publications Unit and the International Criminal Justice Unit.



Prof. Harris, HRLC staff and the Talent Builders Interns 2009

UNIT FOCUS: Security and Human Rights Unit

The Security and Human Rights Unit undertakes research into the relationship between international human rights and humanitarian law and current issues of security, such as the threats of terrorism and responses to it; the increased use of private military and security contractors; and the changes to peacekeeping and other peace operations. The Unit was established in September 2009, building on the work of the Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights Unit between 2006-2009.



Participants of the first high-level workshop of the World Justice Project on the Rule of Law and Terrorism, Sheffield, June 2009.

The Unit is headed by Prof. Nigel White, an expert in public international law including human rights law, and a specialist in peacekeeping, the law of armed conflict, the law relating to terrorism, and the law relating to the regulation of private military and security contractors. The Unit is currently conducting three major research projects.

Private Military and Security Contractors and Human Rights Law

This project investigates the regulation and accountability of Private Military and Security Contractors (PMSCs), as well as States and organisations employing PMSCs, under human rights law and international humanitarian law. The Unit participates in a consortium of seven European universities, funded under a grant provided by the European Union within the seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for research and development, to consider the issue of European regulation of PMSCs (Priv-War project). The project assesses the impact of the increasing use of PMSCs in situations of armed conflict. It examines the regulatory framework at national, European and international levels, with a

view to ensuring improved compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law. Since the start of the project in January 2008, reports on the externalisation of peacekeeping, the responsibility of international organisations for the wrongful acts of PMSCs, national regulation and self-regulation of PMSCs have been submitted to various national and international bodies, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the European Commission. More recently, Prof. White submitted via the Priv-War consortium comments to the Draft Convention on the regulation of PMSCs, prepared by the UN Working Group on Mercenaries. It is envisaged that Priv-War will submit a proposal for European regulation of PMSCs in December 2010 to the relevant bodies of the EU.

For more information, see: <http://priv-war.eu/>.



Participants of the second high-level workshop of the World Justice Project on the Rule of Law and Terrorism, Santander, June 2009.

Security and Human Rights before UK Courts

This project identifies, summarises and analyses significant cases that are decided by UK courts, raising matters of human rights law and security (e.g. the Al-Jedda case decided by the House of Lords in 2007). Among those identified, the most significant or relevant cases are selected for inclusion in the *Oxford Reports on International Law before Domestic Courts* (ILDC) – Prof. White and Prof. Mary Footer are co-editors of the UK's entries to this database. In November 2009 a workshop was hosted in Nottingham, with the financial support of COST, for all UK reporters to the Oxford database. In early 2010 the first set of cases will be submitted for inclusion in the database. Furthermore, information collected in the framework of this project will be used to contribute to the World Justice Project (see below) and for further research projects on the national implementation of human rights norms in the face of security threats.

For more information, see: www.oxfordlawreports.com.

World Justice Project on the Rule of Law and Terrorism

This project is conducted under the umbrella of the World Justice Project (WJP). It aims to develop and improve compliance with fundamental rule of law principles (human rights, humanitarian, international criminal and refugee law) applicable to responses to terrorism at the national, regional and international level. One of the primary objectives is to provide policy guidance to governments, legal and non-legal policy makers and practitioners on how to reconcile security imperatives and human rights exigencies. As such, its underpinning theme is how the legitimate security imperative of governments and international organisations may be accommodated within, rather than erode, international rule of law standards. A main output of the project will be an edited book, with contributions from 40 international experts, analysing States' treatment received by suspected terrorists, from identification to detention, in the light of international human rights and humanitarian law standards.

For more information, see: www.worldjusticeproject.org.

Small Talk with A Very Special Rapporteur

Gabriela Carina Albuquerque e Silva



Gabriela Carina Knaul de Albuquerque e Silva is a student of HRLC's International Human Rights Law Short Course. She is also the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. A Brazilian national, Gabriela has a Master Degree in Civil Law and an MBA in Administration of Justice from the University of Sao Paulo. She started her career as a judge in 1998, adjudicating civil and criminal cases in juvenile justice. The Brazilian judiciary later entrusted her with monitoring detention conditions and prisoner's rights in Mato Grosso's maximum security prison. Subsequently she developed and implemented a nationwide project for the enhancement of the administration of justice, which was completed in February, 2009. The UN Human Rights Council appointed her as a Special Rapporteur (SR) in Summer 2009. She was the first career judge and woman to be appointed to this position.

Why did you decide to undertake a course in human rights and why did you choose HRLC's Short Course?

"After my appointment as SR, the perspective of my field of work changed. Until then I had dealt with human rights law only at the national level, now I was confronted with my first international experience. I felt I needed to strength my formation in international human rights law, with a specific focus on the UN's human rights machinery. I looked for a course that could provide me not only with a strong theoretical background, but also with a comprehensive insight into international human rights mechanisms and practice. I chose

to come to Nottingham because I had received excellent recommendations from different sources and HRLC's Short Course provides an ideal combination of theory and practice. In addition, I wanted an environment that would allow for substantial independent study, research and writing and improvement of my English language skills".

Why did you decide to continue the Short Course in the spring?

"Mainly because during the Spring Course I will be able to attend new, interesting modules that are relevant for my work. Currently, I am also investigating the possibility of converting the two Short Courses into an LLM in Human Rights Law. Furthermore, I greatly enjoy the opportunity of being part of an innovative and stimulating academic environment, working with people from different legal systems, academic and professional backgrounds. The courses are run by experts who know not only human rights law in theory, but have worked with it in practice."

How will HRLC's Short Course help you fulfill your mandate as SR?

"I am particularly interested in assisting countries to rebuild their justice system. The connection between justice and peace was already recognized by the Charter of the United Nations in 1945. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 affirmed that everyone is entitled to be tried "by an independent and impartial tribunal". These questions are at the core of my mandate as SR.

I am already applying many of the things I learned during the first Short Course in my current work. At the same time, the mandate is very challenging and stimulates me to ask more questions, striving to understand more deeply what promotion and protection of human rights are. It is a circle of understanding, learning, experiencing, and wanting to learn more. Furthermore, before coming here my experience was limited to human rights protection at the national level. Now I feel part of the international human rights community. The broad spectrum of human rights issues that are covered by the modules offered in the Short Course will allow me also to take a more holistic approach in the dialogue I entertain with governments, the civil society and local communities before and during my country visits and when formulating recommendations."

What issues will your next report address?

"I completed my first ever field visit in December 2009 to Colombia. The report is due for submission to the Human Rights Council in June 2010. Currently I am also working on a thematic report on the importance of training of judges and lawyers in international human rights standards. Strengthening justice systems is the spadework for a peace built upon respect for human rights. I hope to fulfill my mandate preventing abuses against judges and lawyers and denouncing attacks against the independence of the judiciary".

HRLC is pleased that Gabriela is continuing her studies with us and would like to thank her for this conversation.



Daria Davitti

The Next Generation of Human Rights Experts: A Profile of PhD Candidate Daria Davitti

Daria is interested in human rights law and practice in conflict settings and in the interplay between investment law and human rights law in transitioning contexts. She is currently working on a doctoral thesis on the impact of investment protection mechanisms on the realisation of human rights in Afghanistan. Her thesis explores the scope and feasibility of a human rights approach to investment in conflict countries, which during the delicate transitioning period from conflict to peace are also in most cases struggling to attract foreign direct investment and to obtain a fair deal when entering into international investment treaties.

Whilst analysing the relationship between investment law and human rights law, her research focuses on the effective implementation of a conflict-specific human rights protection framework which can ensure both investment and human rights.

Daria worked in Afghanistan for three years, first with DACAAR (Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees) and then as a Human Rights Officer for UNAMA (UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan). At the end of 2009 she returned to Kabul as a consultant for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Daria is involved in various research projects of the HRLC, and has assisted Prof. O'Flaherty in his research on the professionalisation of human rights field officers, and Prof. Footer in her research on soft law mechanisms for business and human rights. She is also supporting the human rights summer course and the short courses.

Student Research Assistants 2009-2010

The Human Rights Law Centre enjoys and encourages the participation of students in its work. This academic year HRLC received over 45 applications and selected 26 Student Research Assistants that will provide essential assistance to the unit heads in carrying out their projects and activities. The aim is to provide students with important practical skills and exposure to human rights work. They are:

European Human Rights Law Unit

Sanyu Awori, Gearóid O'Cuinn, Catriona Potter and Nancy Williams

International Criminal Justice Unit

Milena Castellnou, Elias Diab, Anastasija Dubrovska, Jonathan Hasson, and Kirilis Kirejev

Publications Unit

Segolene Savoye de Puineuf and Fanny Wanga

Security and Human Rights Unit

Daniel Dore, Jessica Evans, Oliver Lowry, Sorcha Mulligan, Sharon Smithurst, and Kalliopi Stathopoulou

Student Activities Unit

Victoria Hunter, Fiona Law, Helen McNally, Ciana-Marie Pegus, Adam Qureshi,

Meredith Schwane, and Amy Weatherburn

Support to HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty
Stacy Weld-Blundell

HRLC Welcomes New Short Course Students and Chevening Fellows

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to welcome the new students of its *International Human Rights Law Short Course*, which will run from 7 January - 19 March. This term's cohort includes participants from Afghanistan, Iran, Brazil, Spain, Northern Ireland, Nigeria, Turkey, Italy and The Netherlands. Participants include recent graduates and professionals from various backgrounds. For instance, the two participants from Afghanistan have previously worked for the Afghan National Human Rights Commission and the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA).

HRLC is also pleased to welcome the 2010 Chevening Fellows from Cambodia, China, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Somalia and Sudan.

Participants will attend seminars at HRLC by leading academics and experts, including Prof. Surya Surbedi, University of Leeds and UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Cambodia; Prof. Paul Hunt, University of Essex and former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health; Emma Douglas, UK Ministry of Justice; Paul Green, Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Murray Hunt, Joint Committee on Human Rights; Eric Metcalfe, Justice; Iain Byrne, Interights; Dr. Dimitrina Petova, Equal Rights Trust; Prof. Philip Leach, London Metropolitan University; Prof. Mashood Baderin, SOAS; Prof. Shaheen Ali, University of Warwick; Aileen Kavanagh, University of Oxford; Dr. Alice Edwards, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford; and Prof. Paul Roberts, University of Nottingham. Study visits to key human rights institutions in London and Geneva include: the Supreme Court, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Participants will take also a two week human rights placement in London.

11th Annual Student Human Rights Conference

From DNA databases to surveillance satellites, new technologies are having a significant impact on human rights. This year's 11th Annual Student Human Rights Conference, *New Technologies: Your Life? Your Health? Your Privacy? Our Human Rights*, will explore this relationship, examining how new technologies can help or hinder the progress of human rights. The conference will take place on 20 March at the Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham. Tickets booked before 5 March will cost £15 for students and £30 for non-students. For more information about the programme and registration please visit our website or contact HumanRightsConference@nottingham.ac.uk.

Congratulations to the 2009 Summer Interns

Our 2009 summer interns have all successfully moved forward on their career paths: Chloe Cheeseman is now a graduate scriptwriter at BYG Systems, Nottingham, and will start postgraduate studies in human rights at LSE or Essex; Kirsti Green is working in the Media and Communications Team at Amnesty International's EU office in Brussels; Derek Inman is completing an internship with the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Project, International Commission of Jurists, Geneva. In April he will start an internship with the Presidency Section of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Mark Chadwick has started studies for a PhD in International Criminal Law and David Hayes is reading for the LL.M in Criminal Justice, both here at the University of Nottingham.

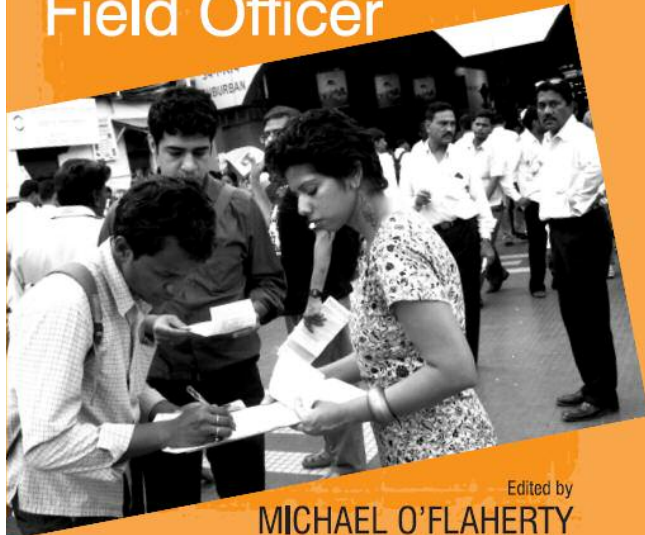
Launch of the 2009 Human Rights Film Series

The Human Rights Film Series, a student-led initiative, is in its fourth year. Films are screened every fortnight and remain one of the most popular HRLC events. Autumn 2009 films included: *This is England*, *Sling-Shot Hip Hop*, and *Iran (Is Not The Problem)*. The Human Rights Film Series also welcomed back three volunteers of the charity Invisible Children with a special screening of their documentary. On 29 November 2009, HRLC in collaboration with the Bang! Short Film Festival announced the winners of the Rights in Motion Award at Broadway Cinema: *Laguna Negra* by Michael Watts won in the international category; *Echoes* by Robert Brown won in the national category.



Victoria Hunter (Human Rights Film Series, 2nd from right) and the Invisible Children volunteers

The Professional Identity of the Human Rights Field Officer



Edited by
MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY
and **GEORGE ULRICH**

The Professional Identity of the Human Rights Field Officer

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to report the publication of a new book on human rights field work by Prof. O'Flaherty (with Dr. George Ulrich, eds): *The Professional Identity of the Human Rights Field Officer* (Ashgate, 2010). The volume elaborates the parameters of the professional identity of the human rights field officer. It follows on an earlier work, *The Human Rights Field Officer: Law, Theory and Practice* (Michael O'Flaherty, Ashgate, 2007), that comprised a wide-ranging survey and critique of the historical development of human rights field work and its current situation. The new work builds on this material to construct normative and prescriptive frameworks for field work: there is a shift from critical analysis to the construction and justification of professional guidance.

Bertrand Ramcharan (former UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights) commented: "[t]his is a pathbreaking book that covers new ground and makes an insightful contribution to international human rights law. In human rights work idealism needs to be combined with professionalism. The volume covers a vital area and should be read by everyone going into the field as a human rights officer."

Both books draw in part from the proceedings and outputs of a major international and inter-institutional research project on the professionalisation of human rights field work, led by the Human Rights Law Centre (*Consolidating the Profession: the Human Rights Field Officer*, 2004-2008).

For information on how to obtain a copy of these books see:

http://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calctitle=1&pageSubject=501&title_id=9482&edition_id=11942 and

http://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calctitle=1&pageSubject=501&sort=pubdate&pagecount=17&title_id=7672&edition_id=10035

Prof. O'Flaherty Visits Bosnia and Herzegovina

On invitation of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Prof. Michael O'Flaherty visited Bosnia and Herzegovina from 4 - 7 November 2009. While there he delivered a lecture at OSCE headquarters on the topic of "National Engagement with UN Human Rights Supervisory Procedures". He also met with the Bosnia-Herzegovina Human Rights Ombudsmen, Nives Jukic, and Jamninka Dzumhur, Assistant Minister for Human Rights and Refugees, Saliha Djuderia, representatives of NGOs and the OSCE Mission Human Rights Director, James Rodehaver.

Guest Lecturers on the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Law Centre and the School of Law welcomed guest lecturer, Peter Gooderham, United Kingdom Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on 18 November on the topic of 'The United Nations Human Rights Council: A Political Perspective', offering a unique insider's perspective on the functioning of the Human Rights Council. On 26 November, HRLC welcomed Professor Sarah Joseph, Director of Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University, on the topic of 'The United Nations Human Rights Council - A Three-Year Report Card', which provided an engaging analysis of the Human Rights Council since its inception three years ago.

New Issue of the Human Rights Law Review

Launched in 2001, the Human Rights Law Review (Oxford University Press) is HRLC's flagship publication edited by Co-Director Prof. David Harris. It seeks to promote awareness, knowledge and discussion on matters of human rights law and policy, addressing the wider human rights community, while academic in focus. The Review 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. Volume 9 of the series was published in December 2009 and includes articles by Hugh King, 'The Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations of States'; Amrei Müller, 'Limitations to and Derogations from Economic, Social and Cultural Rights'; Dominick McGoldrick, 'Accommodating Muslims in Europe: From Adopting Sharia Law to Religiously Based Opt Outs from Generally Applicable Laws'. For subscription information, please visit: <http://hrl.oxfordjournals.org/>.

New Website for Human Rights Field Officers

In Summer 2009, the Human Rights Law Centre developed a new website specifically dedicated to the *Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers* (www.hrfoguidingprinciples.org). The website was designed and conceptualised with the user in mind, paying particular attention to user friendliness and light contents so as to make it readily accessible in countries with slow internet connections. The website (in English, French and Spanish) contains the Guiding Principles, the Statement of Ethical Commitments for Human Rights Field Officers, as well as annotations and explanatory notes to both texts. The site also features a forum, which aims to further discuss current issues relating to human rights field work

Selected HRLC Events

Forthcoming events:

Presentation of the Dublin Statement on the Strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System

26 January 2010, Geneva

The Dublin Statement will be presented at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in an event co-hosted by the Human Rights Law Centre and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations in Geneva. Three of the signatories to the statement will form the panel: Prof. Cees Flinterman, Ms. Shanthi Dairiam and Prof. Michael O'Flaherty.

Sir John C. Smith Trust Fund Annual Visiting Scholar Program

26 February 2010, Nottingham

Prof. David Feldman, Rouse Ball Professor of English Law at the University of Cambridge, will be a Visiting Scholar in the School of Law in the week between 22-26 February. As part of his visit, he will hold a workshop on the UK Human Rights Act, organised by the Human Rights Law Centre.

Study Visit of Iranian Judges & Lawyers on the International Human Rights System

February 2010, Nottingham and London

A small group of senior-level judges and lawyers from Iran will visit the Human Rights Law Centre in February. They will attend seminars on different aspects of the international human rights system and undertake study visits to legal institutions in Nottingham and London.

2010 Spring Lecture 2 March 2010, Nottingham

Prof. William A. Schabas, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, will deliver HRLC's 2010 Spring Lecture on "Victor's Justice: Politics and International Criminal Prosecution". Prof. Schabas is a leading international expert and scholar in international human rights law and international criminal law.

Training Courses for Thai Judges and Court Officials

March and May 2010, Nottingham

In 2009 HRLC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand to provide training in human rights law on a regular basis. This year HRLC will hold two three-week training courses for Thai Judges and Court Officials. The March course will focus on international and English labour law, while the May course will focus on international human rights standards.

New Technologies: Your Life? Your Health? Your Privacy? Our Human Rights. 11th Annual Student Human Rights Conference 20 March 2010, Nottingham

The 2010 conference will explore the inter-relation between human rights and the global consequences of the advancement of new technologies. By encouraging multi-disciplinary participation, the conference seeks to reaffirm the necessity of incorporating human rights discourse when discussing the controversial nature of the science and technology domain. It provides students with an opportunity to present their research to an international audience alongside leading practitioners, scholars and experts.

Summer School on Protecting Human Rights through United Nations Mechanisms

28 June – 2 July 2010, Nottingham

The 2010 Summer School will have sessions devoted to the human rights treaty bodies (the reporting and individual communications procedures), the Human Rights Council's Universal Period Review mechanism and Special Procedures, and the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its field presences. The seminars will be taught by highly experienced experts on the UN human rights system from a wide variety of backgrounds. The Summer School will be an interactive event in which all participants will be encouraged to get fully involved.

Human Rights Film Festival at Broadway Cinema July 2010, Nottingham

The third Human Rights Film Festival at Broadway Cinema will take place in July 2010. This year's festival theme, 'Human Rights in the UK', intends to highlight four human rights issues within the UK – security measures, youth & anti-social behaviour, migrants, and misperception of rights. Films to be screened will be selected by the students of the Film Series Committee in collaboration with Broadway Cinema.

In Brief...



HRLC Welcomes New Research Associate

The Human Rights Law Centre is very pleased to welcome Agnes Flues as Research Associate. Agnes has been working at the Human Rights Law Centre since January 2009 on a number of HRLC projects, before which she was an intern for the International Criminal Justice Unit. She holds a European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from The European Inter-University Centre, Venice, and a Master's Degree in International Relations and Human Rights from the University of Padua, Italy. Since beginning at the Centre, she has worked as a project officer on a number of HRLC projects, including the *Seminar for Thai Court Officials on International Human Rights Standards*, the *Strategic Dissemination of the Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers* and the *Dublin Statement on the Process of Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body Reform*.

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