



University of
Nottingham

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Human Rights Law Centre Newsletter

Summer 2018



Image credit: Joel Bergner

**NEW – Online PG Cert
in International Human
Rights Law**

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#RightsOutLoud

Forced Migration Unit – activities update



On 7–8 November 2017, HRLC's Forced Migration Unit convened a workshop – *Tackling Root Causes? EU Aid and Governance to Control Migration.*

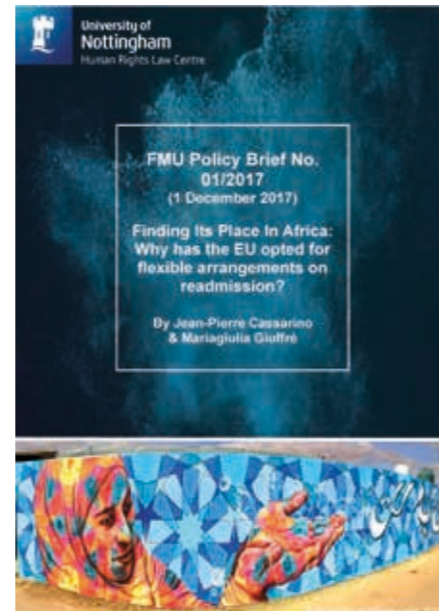
We were pleased to welcome scholars, non-governmental organisations, policy and lawmakers for lively discussions on the nexus between EU development policies and EU migration policies, and their broader legal and political implications.

In particular, discussions were centred around the EU's response to the European refugee 'crisis' and its increasingly intensified approach to the external dimensions of its migration policy that has been increasingly observed following the launch of the European Agenda on Migration in May 2015.

The workshop also saw the creation of the Forced Migration Network comprising of workshop participants and interested individuals from academia, civil society and legal practice. The Network is currently collaborating to create the FMU Policy Brief Series. This series will address the topics covered during workshop and will respond to further developments in these areas.

The series was launched with a timely brief by Jean-Pierre Cassarino and Mariagiulia Giuffrè. 'Finding its Place in Africa: Why has the EU opted for flexible arrangements on readmission?' addresses a number of key questions in relation to the use of soft law instruments for readmission procedures. Its publication coincided with the conclusion of the fifth African Union-European Union Summit that took place in Abidjan on 29–30 November 2017.

The second brief by Daria Davitti, HRLC Forced Migration Unit Head, and Anca-Elena Ursu examines the political and military interventions in the Sahel by the EU and its Member States, aimed mainly at the securitisation of this key strategic region. Within this context the brief focuses on the implications of the recent escalation of these policies for Niger and for the vulnerable people who found themselves stranded in the region. The brief highlights why the continuation of such an approach would not stop migration towards the EU and



risks exacerbating existing tensions in the region, whilst also further endangering the refugees themselves.

The briefs are free to access on the Forced Migration Unit webpage (nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/operationalunits/forced-migration-unit/publications) and are intended to be used by scholars, practitioners and NGOs while carrying out their work and in particular to contribute towards lobbying against harmful practices. Further briefs are being developed, so please visit the webpage for the latest additions to the series.



ELSA Nottingham students contribute to report on Migration Law

In March, the International Legal Research Group on Migration Law of the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) released a report compiling data on national migration law across 28 European countries, in collaboration with the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly.

ELSA Nottingham conducted research and compiled information for the UK component, under the academic supervision of Dr Daria Davitti, Head of HRLC's Forced Migration Unit, and under the coordination of Alumna Jessica Allen, (BA Law with French and French Law).

The main focus of the report is an analysis of national legislation regarding the asylum-granting system, immigration regulation law, statistics, and national implementation of the European Court of Human Rights' decisions regarding migrants. Other thematic areas include migrants' access to education, political participation and healthcare.

Experts gather to discuss the execution of ECtHR judgements

On 28–29 September 2017, HRLC in partnership with the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) held an expert workshop on the Execution of Judgments of the ECtHR. The main focus of the discussions revolved around the obstacles that arise within states as well as those encountered by the court in ensuring compliance with the judgements.

Discussions were opened by Professor Alastair Mowbray, University of Nottingham, and Professor Fiona De Londras, University of Birmingham. They addressed, respectively, the development and usefulness of quasi-pilot judgments and the infringement procedure under Article 46 of the ECHR as a means to tackle non-execution of judgements. Olga Chernishova, Head of Division at the Registry of the ECtHR, discussed the influence of general and individual

measures adopted by states on the Court's practice in the context of repetitive violations of Article 2. In particular, the implications of practical, legal and political nature. She was followed by Pavlo Pushkar, Department for the Execution of Judgments of the ECtHR, who explained the work of the department in the implementation of the court's judgments. Paul Mahoney, former Judge of the ECtHR, then examined the execution of judgments in respect of the procedural obligation to investigate alleged violations of Articles 2 and 3.

During a panel chaired by Sir Nicolas Bratza, Former President of the European Court of Human Rights, country-specific focus was made by Ayse Bingol Demir, Legal Officer at the Media Legal Defence Initiative, on Turkish cases and Professor Brice Dickson, Queen's University Belfast, on Northern Irish cases. The event concluded with a panel discussion

on the ways to improve execution of judgements chaired by Professor David Harris, HRLC Co-Director. The panellists: Murray Hunt, Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law; Professor Ed Bates, University of Leicester and Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou, University of Liverpool, reflected on the Committee of Ministers Annual Report, the Court's subsidiarity in decisions' execution and other rule of law issues.

(Write up by Ms Dziana Pranichnikava, UoN LLM Student)



NEW – Online PGCert International Human Rights Law

Enhance your experience and career prospects through advanced training
Develop your knowledge of human rights law

Overview

Knowledge of the international human rights system has become an essential requirement for those working to improve the situation of persons around the world.

Designed to fit around your commitments, this distance-learning course allows you to study this area part-time.

Content

You will be provided with a thorough grounding in human rights law and systems, as well as the opportunity to pursue more specialist interests such as the rights of the child and international criminal law.

This course will help you obtain a sound theoretical understanding of human rights law and up to date knowledge of how international human rights standards and systems operate in practice.

Structure

You will complete 30 credits of core modules and a further 30 credits from a choice of optional modules. For each module, you will be provided with extensive materials including basic text, case studies, further reading and self-test questions. You will have access to a reading pack of core academic articles.

All material is provided online, and there will be academic support and a discussion forum for each module.

There is also an intensive residential weekend at the University of Nottingham. This provides the opportunity to develop understanding through traditional face-to-face teaching (lectures, seminars and workshops). These will be delivered mainly by academic staff from the University of Nottingham, with a few sessions also presented by guest lecturers.

The intensive teaching sessions constitute an important element of the programme. You are strongly encouraged to attend, although this is not compulsory.

Modules

Core

- United Nations Law
- Regional Human Rights Law: The Inter-American and African Systems

Optional

- Business and Human Rights
- Economic and Social Rights
- The European Convention on Human Rights
- International Criminal Law
- The Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons in International Law
- The Rights of the Child

Updates from the IHL Unit



November 2017 saw a flurry of activities for the IHL Unit.

On 14 November Jelena Pejic, Senior Legal Adviser in the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva delivered the IHL Unit's Annual Lecture on Current Challenges to IHL: Law and Practice. Rather than an academic digression, the lecture provided insights to the practical challenges to the implementation of IHL and the work of its greatest champion, the ICRC.

On 29 November, the sixth Annual LLM Roundtable took place at The Walton Hotel. International Humanitarian Law and the Graphics of Violence saw presentations from Jessie Hohmann (Queen Mary, University of London), Sara Kendall (University of Kent), Thérèse O'Donnell (University of Strathclyde), Isobel Roele (Queen Mary, University of London), Christine Schwoebel (University of Liverpool), Gus Waschefort (University of Essex) and LLM candidates Georgina Adams, George Bailey, Ujjaini Chatterji, Elena Lunder and Sarah Thin. The roundtable has become a highlight in the LLM calendar and gives a unique opportunity for students to engage with scholars in a collegial setting, discussing contemporary issues in international humanitarian law.

HRLC continues commitment to ending gender based violence

On Thursday 30 November HRLC hosted a talk by Ms Sumaiya Khan, Senior Crown Prosecutor and domestic violence lead at Crown Prosecution Service East Midlands.

Ms Khan spoke to staff and students about her role as senior crown prosecutor and the evolution, challenges and practice of prosecuting domestic violence offences.

The talk marked the beginning of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, a global campaign promoted by UN Women from 25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, until 10 December – Human Rights Day.



Career inspiration for UoN students – talk from APP's Kirat Kalyan



On 15 November 2017, Kirat Kalyan, Secondment Manager at African Prisons Project (APP), visited Nottingham and gave a talk on the work of APP.

APP is a London based NGO founded by Nottingham Law alumnus Alexander McLean, who was spurred into action after witnessing the poor living conditions of prisoners whilst doing voluntary work in Uganda. On his return to the UK he established APP as a student society here at the University of Nottingham. APP gradually grew to become the organisation it is today, working to restore dignity and hope to prisoners in Africa.

Since 2013, HRLC has been working with APP on the delivery of its intensive secondment programmes for African prison officers. The programme brings to the UK a group of prison officers to learn about its penal system, through workshops and meetings with representatives from the police, the courts, the Ministry of Justice, prison, probation and resettlement services. The academic leg of the programme is delivered by HRLC through a three-day short course on imprisonment and human rights.

Enhancing protection for vulnerable groups in Russia

In September 2017, HRLC partnered with Citizens' Watch International (CWI) in the delivery of the latest initiative under CWI's education programme, Magna Carta International.



Funded by the European Endowment for Democracy through the British Embassy in Moscow, the project aimed to improve access to justice for two vulnerable groups – persons with disabilities and migrants – by strengthening the knowledge and skills of Russian lawyers practicing in these areas.

The training programme comprised an initial training in St Petersburg in late September, which was attended by over 40 Russian lawyers. Over two days, two Russian experts and two UK experts provided by HRLC (Catherine Casserley from Cloisters Chambers in London on disability and Deirdre Sheahan from Paragon Law in Nottingham on migration) gave an initial overview of the legal landscape in both countries and examples of challenges faced in practice. From this initial group, 10 lawyers in each area of specialisation were selected through a home assignment. For these two groups, HRLC organised two study visits to the UK, the first, in December 2017, focused on disability law and policy and the second, in January 2018, on immigration matters with a specific focus on asylum law and policy.

In the delivery of the two programmes, HRLC collaborated with a host of leading academics, practitioners and civil society organisations including our colleagues in the School of Law and School of Sociology, as well as representatives from:

- The Ann Craft Trust
- Baker Evans Solicitors
- Blackstone Chambers
- Bail for Immigration Detainees
- Cloisters Chambers
- The Department for Work and Pensions
- Detention Action
- Disability Rights UK
- Doughty Street Chambers
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Freedom from Torture
- Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

- Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum
- Paragon Law
- University of Leeds

The programme also included visits to key institutions including, courts, tribunals, psychiatric hospitals and the London office of UN High Commissioners for Refugees.

Speaking of their visit to the UK, one participant said:

"Our trip had a big positive impression on me. Everything was wonderfully organised. A big thank you to the organisers for putting on an event at such a high level. I was particularly struck by the independence and unbiasedness of the court towards all those involved in legal proceedings. The justice system in Russia need only aim towards this. I am sure that in my future work I will benefit from the knowledge I gained during our trip."

HRLC and CWI are planning similar future activities and look forward to further collaboration.

International Human Rights Law Short Course 2017

Between September and December 2017, HRLC was pleased to be joined by seven new students on our residential short course on international human rights law. From legal practitioners to NGO workers the group was comprised of students from Pakistan, the Gambia, Ireland and the UK

The course is designed to provide an in-depth understanding of international human rights law and students are also given the opportunity to attend some classes from LLM modules.



Special Procedures book launched in Geneva

On 25 September 2017, The United Nations Special Procedures System (Brill, 2017) was launched at the UN in Geneva.

The book is edited by Professor Aoife Nolan, HRLC Economic and Social Rights Unit Head, Professor Rosa Freedman, University of Reading and Professor Thérèse Murphy, Queen's University Belfast and was produced following an Expert Workshop on the UN Special Procedures System hosted by HRLC in November 2014. The book is the sixth volume in Brill's Nottingham Studies on Human Rights, edited by HRLC.



The launch was a collaborative event between the UN Office Geneva and the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva.

Chaired by Mr Julian Braithwaite, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the event involved interactive discussions on the UN Special Procedures System and presentations from:

- Aoife Nolan, HRLC Economic and Social Rights Unit Head
- Rosa Freedman, Professor of Law, Conflict and Global Development, University of Reading,
- Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief
- Beatriz Balbin, Chief, Special Procedures Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

FRA Update – new research and publications on fundamental rights

Since August 2017 and following on from the completion of two large fieldwork projects, HRLC Researchers, Ms An Cuypers and Ms Laura Wills, drafted the UK contribution to the FRA's Fundamental Rights Report 2018.

The Fundamental Rights Report is an annual publication that monitors legal and policy developments across the following thematic areas: equality and non-discrimination; racism, xenophobia and related intolerance; Roma integration; information society and data protection; the rights of the child; access to justice and the rights of persons with disabilities. It also provides analysis of the use of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter) at the national level.

Additionally, Ms Cuypers drafted a report relating to misogyny, gender stereotyping and hate speech against women, while Ms Wills provided the UK submission relating to constitutional national legal provisions for the FRA's Charterpedia resource. The Charterpedia is a FRA online tool, which provides easy-to-access information on the Charter. It aims at providing legal professionals, researchers and other interested individuals, quick access to Charter-related information. It is thus an information-hub providing relevant article-by-article information.

Ms Wills also authored the UK submission for a service request on anti-Muslim and anti-migrant hatred. The data collected from across the 28 EU Member States will be used by the FRA to create database that will assist policy makers in developing evidence based policy responses at EU and national level.



Publications

The FRA has also published a number of reports for which HRLC Researchers and experts provided UK data and information:

- Challenges facing civil society organisations working on human rights in the EU
- Child-friendly justice
- European legal and policy framework on immigration detention of children
- Living in another Member State: barriers to EU citizens' full enjoyment of their rights
- Surveillance by intelligence services: fundamental rights safeguards and remedies in the EU
- Together in the European Union

#RightsOutLoud

On 10 December 2017, Human Rights Day, to mark the start of a year-long campaign leading up to the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the HRLC's Student Activities Unit and the European Law Students' Association (Nottingham) collected video recordings of staff and students reading the articles of the UDHR in a number of languages.

Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights, proclaiming for the first time the inalienable rights to which everyone – regardless of race,

religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status – is inherently entitled as a human being. It's the most translated document in the world, currently available in 504 languages.

Representing the University's diverse and vibrant community, recordings were gathered in the following languages:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| ■ Afrikaans | ■ Malay |
| ■ Armenian | ■ Mandarin |
| ■ Dutch | ■ Portuguese |
| ■ English | ■ Punjabi |
| ■ Farsi | ■ Romanian |
| ■ French | ■ Runyankole |
| ■ German | ■ Slovenian |
| ■ Greek | ■ Spanish |
| ■ Hindi | ■ Swahili |
| ■ Irish | ■ Turkish |
| ■ Italian | |



The video was created in support of the UN OHCHR's #Standup4HumanRights #RightsOutLoud campaign and is available on our website at: nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/studentactivities/studentactivities.

The Grenfell Tower disaster and human rights accountability – an international perspective

On 6 March 2018, the HRLC and Just Fair organized an event at the House of Lords to commemorate the fire at the Grenfell Tower.

The Grenfell Tragedy is a human and a human rights disaster. At this event hosted by Baroness Jane Campbell of Surbiton DBE, Ms Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, and others explored the human rights problems that led up to and compounded the effects of this terrible event. What questions does human rights law provoke and what answers does it offer? What must the Government do to make sure it meets its human rights commitments and respects the human right to housing?

Other speakers at the event were Samia Badani, Co-chair of the Residents Advisory Panel (Notting Dale), and Aziza Boudafcha, Chair of the Grenfell Walk Residents Association.





Staff changes

HRLC hosts visiting scholar – Dr Ihsan Baştürk

Between October and November 2017, HRLC hosted Dr Ihsan Baştürk, a member of the Turkish Court of Cassation, as a visiting scholar in the Centre. During his time in Nottingham Dr Baştürk conducted research on the right to a fair trial and its relation to the deferment of judgment, as part of a Joint Project on Supporting Individual Application to the Constitutional Court in Turkey, with support from the European Union and Council of Europe.

On 29 November, Dr Baştürk presented his research to UoN staff and students, generating lively discussion and mutual learning.

A fond farewell and a warm welcome



In January 2018, Ms An Cuypers, Research and Project Officer, left HRLC to take up the position of Associate Expert in Human Rights in the Women's Rights and Gender Section of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. We would like to wish An all the best in her new post and thank her for all that she contributed to the centre.

In April 2018, HRLC was pleased to welcome Marie Auter to the team as Research and Project Assistant. Marie holds an MA in Human Rights from University College London and has previously worked as Regional Coordinator at the Observatoire International des Prisons in Paris and most recently as Project and Advocacy Assistant at the International Network of Human Rights in Geneva.



Human Rights in a Digitalised World

On 17 March 2018, HRLC hosted its 19th Annual Student Human Rights Conference 2017 entitled, 'Human Rights in a Digitalised World'. Organised by a group of UoN students, the conference explored the implications of digitalisation on human rights protections and its possible future developments.

Check out the next edition of our newsletter for a full conference report.

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University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

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