

World Experts Gather in Nottingham

HRLC was honoured to welcome an array of global experts who joined us in Nottingham to participate in two specialist workshops.

Cooperation and the International Criminal Court

In September 2014 the International Criminal Justice Unit convened an invitation only workshop on Cooperation and the International Criminal Court (ICC). The event brought together experts from the Court, academia, government and civil society to explore the current challenges affecting the ICC's international cooperation regime and included panels on non-cooperation, witness-related issues, the freezing of assets, and capacity building at the national level.

Turn to pages 4 and 5 for more detail about this event.



From left to right, Professor Aoife Nolan, Professor Dominic McGoldrick, Professor Thérèse Murphy and Dr Rosa Freedman.

United Nations Special Procedures

On 6-7 November 2014, the Economic and Social Rights Unit hosted an invitation only Expert Workshop on the United Nations Special Procedures System, with 21 experts including current and former mandate-holders, representatives of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), members of United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies, academics and members of civil society.

The Workshop was convened by Professor Aoife Nolan, Professor Thérèse Murphy, Joint Heads of the Economic and Social Rights Unit, and Dr Rosa Freedman of the University of Birmingham. Professor Nolan, opening the Workshop, observed that the Special Procedures system is at a crucial stage of its development and is facing challenges from both

within the UN system and from States. The Workshop gave participants an opportunity to discuss these in depth and to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the Special Procedures system.

There were four panels during the two-day programme which addressed the development and structure of the Special Procedures system, operationalisation of the system and engagement with States, the politicisation of mandates and the impact of ideological tensions on the Special Procedures system.

An executive summary of the Workshop will be published on the HRLC website in due course outlining the main themes discussed and a full feature will be available in the next edition of this Newsletter.

Four More Years as UK Contractor for EU Fundamental Rights Agency

In October 2014 HRLC was re-awarded the multi-annual framework contract as the UK member of FRANET, which is the FRA's multi-disciplinary research network.

Over the next four years, HRLC will conduct social and legal research examining developments in the protection of fundamental rights in the United Kingdom in key thematic areas as determined by the FRA's Multi-Annual Programme 2013-2017:

- Immigration and integration of migrants, visa

- and border control and asylum
- Information society and, in particular, respect for private life and protection of personal data
- Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Discrimination
- Roma integration
- The rights of the child
- Access to justice including judicial cooperation
- Victims of crime, including compensation to victims

The data collated will facilitate the Agency's



comparative analyses and feed into policy debated within the EU's main bodies.

HRLC has been the UK Contractor for FRANET since 2011 and prior to this was a member of the FRALEX network (2008-2011).



IHL Roundtable Contributors.

WW1 100 Years On: Historical and Future Reflections

The third Annual International Humanitarian Law Unit Roundtable was held on 29 November 2014, at the Walton Hotel in Nottingham. The theme for this year, *International Humanitarian Law and the First World War: Historical and Future Reflections*, was designed to coincide with the centennial anniversary of the start of the First World War in August 1914.

This year's Roundtable was very generously sponsored by the British Red Cross and it brought together outstanding presentations from four students of the Nottingham LLM programme (Sarka Ostadalova; Amir Hossein Barmaki; Njahira Gitathi and Isabelle Sammut) and presentations from four leading scholars in the field: Kristin Hausler (British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London);

Professor Peter Rowe (Lancaster), Professor Neville Wylie (Nottingham) and Dr. Gabriela Frei (Oxford).

The Roundtable was chaired by Professor Dino Kritsiotis, International Humanitarian Law Unit Head, and Professor Sandesh Sivakumaran. Professor Kritsiotis opened the third Roundtable recalling that the idea behind this event is to provide LLM students with a unique platform to present their research and ideas. Jennifer Scott (of the British Red Cross) said how delighted the British Red Cross was to be involved with this initiative. Professor Kritsiotis also offered a particular word of thanks to Michael A. Meyer OBE, Head of International Law at the British Red Cross, for the warm support he had extended to the Roundtable.

Children and Young People's Rights: Impacts of Austerity

In October Professor Aoife Nolan, Joint Head of the Economic and Social Rights Unit, gave a keynote speech in Edinburgh at the Annual Conference of the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children (ENOC) on *The Impact of Austerity and Poverty on the Realisation of Children and Young People's Rights*. ENOC links 42 independent children's rights institutions from 34 countries in Europe.

The Conference involved all of the Children's Ombudsmen and Commissioners in Europe. In addition to inputs from both ENOC members and international experts, the Conference saw the launch of a participatory project called 'Austerity Bites' involving contributions from children and young people across Europe. Professor Nolan also drafted the statement on 'Children and Austerity' which was adopted by consensus by ENOC members at their annual general meeting the next day.

From Nairobi to Nottingham: HRLC Hosts Fellows from the African Prisons Project

The African Prisons Project (APP) was founded by University of Nottingham alumnus, Alexander McLean. Alexander 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 in Nottingham. From its humble roots APP gradually grew to become the organisation it is today, working to restore dignity and hope to prisoners in Africa.

In October 2014 HRLC was pleased to once again provide the academic leg of a six-week capacity-building programme for Kenyan prison officers. The three-day course was convened by Professor Dominic McGoldrick, HRLC Co-Director, who also delivered sessions on *Prisoners and the right to vote* and *Life imprisonment as a human rights issue*. Professor McGoldrick was joined by colleagues from the School of Law Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit, Ms Sangeeta Shah, Dr Melanie Jordan (School of Sociology), Dr Nell Munro, Mrs Georgie Benford and Professor

Noel Whitty. The course faculty provided sessions on a variety of human rights issues relating to prisoners including: *Prisoners and human rights*, *International human rights regimes*, *Prisoner health and healthcare*, *Prisons and the institutionalisation debate*, *Treatment for mental disorder in detention: the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and *Human Rights as organisational risk in the UK prison sector*.

During the rest of their stay in the UK the fellows visited a number of detention facilities enabling important comparative discussions of the prison systems here in the UK and in their native Kenya during sessions. In turn these discussions fostered a valuable knowledge exchange between the APP Fellows and University of Nottingham staff.

Reporting on the prison officers' experience in Nottingham, Lauren Laing-Buisson, APP UK Learning Journeys Officer, said: "The four



Professor Dominic McGoldrick presenting APP Fellow with his certificate of attendance.

Kenyan prison officers reported the short course on Human Rights and Imprisonment with HRLC as being the highlight of their secondment in the UK. They found it incredibly useful to reconsider their role as prison staff and the function of their national prison service from a 'human rights' point of view. The knowledge they gained of human rights and penological issues has informed their plans for change in their local prison environment and led them to think more broadly about the humane treatment of inmates under their charge. The academics delivering the course were inspiring and persuasive, and the HRLC's staff were incredibly supportive to their needs. African Prisons Project considers the short course to be a fundamental part of the staff training it gives the seconded prison officers and will be glad to pursue further engagement in the future".



African Prisons Project Fellows with Mrs Georgie Benford and Professor Dominic McGoldrick.

Proportionate Defence in Morality and Law

On 2 December 2014, Professor Jeff McMahan, who has recently taken up the White's Chair in Moral Philosophy at the University of Oxford, delivered the third Annual Lecture of the International Humanitarian Law Unit, chaired by Professor Dino Kritsiotis, IHL Unit Head. Professor McMahan is the author of *Killing in War* (2009) and *The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life* (2002). The title of his lecture was *Proportionate Defence in Morality and Law*, during which Professor McMahan questioned the function of the principle of proportionality in international legal discourse, specifically in the context of war or armed conflict. He developed some of his existing scholarship on these questions, including *Proportionate Defence in the Journal of Transnational Law and Policy* (2013-2014).

Outlining the premise of proportionality in moral philosophy, Professor McMahan delivered a stimulating presentation on the interdisciplinary dimensions of proportionality in morality and law and encouraged greater interaction between these two disciplines. Professor McMahan then engaged a series of vigorous questions from the audience following his lecture.



Professor Dino Kritsiotis (left) and Professor Jeff McMahan.

Absolute rights or open to limitation? HRLC holds Conference on Conscientious Objections

In November 2014, HRLC held a one-day conference on *Human Rights and Conscientious Objections – Theory and Practice*. The event was convened by HRLC

Co-Director Professor Dominic McGoldrick who also presented on *Recognising Conscientious Objections: Perspectives from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. Professor McGoldrick was joined by leading thinkers in the field of conscientious objections. HRLC was pleased to welcome Dr Yossi Nehushtan, Keele University, who spoke on *Civic Conscience, Selective Conscientious Objection and Lack of Choice*; Dr Kimberley Brownlee, Warwick University, who covered *The philosophical basis for recognising conscientious objections*; Dr Mary Neal, Strathclyde University, who outlined *Conscience, Healthcare and Human Rights: issues raised by the Doogan litigation?* and Professor Peter Cumper, University of Leicester, presenting on *The public manifestation of religion/belief: the limits of conscience*.

The event was well received by students, academics, legal practitioners and civil society representatives contributing to lively Q&A sessions following each presentation.



National Courts and the Legal Regulation of Armed Conflicts

On 27 October 2014, Dr Sharon Weill, University of Geneva/The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (CERAH) and Sciences Po (Paris), delivered a seminar on her recently published work, *The Role of National Courts in Applying International Humanitarian Law* (Oxford University Press, 2014). The seminar was jointly convened by HRLC's International Humanitarian Law Unit and the Nottingham International Law and Security Centre (NILSC), with Professor Dino Kritsiotis, IHL Unit Head, and Professor Nigel White, NILSC Co-director, in the Chair. The seminar addressed the importance of national courts in upholding the legal regulation of armed conflicts involving the United States, the United Kingdom and Israel.

Scottish Equality Budget Statements: Embedding Human Rights Considerations

In December 2014, Professor Aoife Nolan, Economic and Social Rights Joint Unit Head, gave a presentation on *Human Rights Budget Analysis* to the Scottish Government Equality Budget Advisory Group. This Group's remit is to help shape the Government's equality approach to the Budget. The Scottish Government is committed to exploring with the Equality Budget Advisory Group how it might embed human rights considerations more explicitly within future Equality Budget Statements in the longer term. Professor Nolan's presentation was based on her extensive experience in relation to human rights and budgets, including her recent books in this area, *Human Rights and Public Finance: Budgets and the Promotion of Economic and Social Rights* (Oxford: Hart Publishing 2013) and *Applying an International Human Rights Framework to State Budget Allocations* (London: Routledge 2014).

ICJ Unit at 13th Assembly of States Parties in New York

In December 2014, members of HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit attended the 13th annual session of the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Whilst in New York, Professor Olympia Bekou, ICJ Unit Head, joined a number of leading experts from national prosecution services, the ICC, NGOs and the EU to speak on *Complementarity in Practice: Mexico and Georgia* at a side event convened by the Case Matrix Network (CMN) and co-hosted with Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Norway, the European Commission and the Centre for

International Law Research and Policy (CILRAP). Together, the speakers addressed the challenges faced by national investigators and fact-finders in effectively documenting and investigating core international crimes and serious human rights violations.

The side event also saw the launch of the French-language version of the CMN ICJ Toolkits Project Blog, which is also available in English, Spanish and Georgian at <https://blog.casematrixnetwork.org/toolkits/>. HRLC is a partner of the ICJ Toolkits Project and, in this capacity, is developing a new database on cooperation and judicial assistance legislation.



From left to right, Ms Katerina Katsimardou, (CMN Research Fellow) Professor Olympia Bekou (ICJ Unit Head), Mr Daley Birkett (HRLC Research Associate), Dr Emilie Hunter (Project Director and CMN Deputy Director), Ms Léa Rambaud (Project Communications Officer), Dr Annika Jones (Lecturer at University of Exeter).

In Focus: Global Gatherings: HRLC We



Professor Olympia Bekou opens proceedings at the Cooperation Workshop.

Cooperation and the International Criminal Court: An Expert Workshop

In September 2014, HRLC hosted an expert Workshop on Cooperation and the International Criminal Court (ICC), convened by Professor Olympia Bekou, Head of HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit and HRLC Co-Directors Professor David Harris and Professor Dominic McGoldrick.

In their opening remarks, the convenors recalled the longstanding relationship between HRLC and the ICC through the Legal Tools Project. HRLC officially became the second outsourcing partner of the Court, having signed a cooperation agreement with the ICC in 2006 to develop a dynamic, fully-searchable database of national legislation implementing the Rome Statute as well as legal analysis thereof. It was also observed that HRLC remains the Court's longest serving outsourcing partner.

This invitation-only event gathered high-level experts from academia, government, civil society, and the Court's Presidency, Registry, Chambers, and Office of the Prosecutor, to explore current challenges affecting the ICC's international cooperation regime. Panellists discussed, among other topics, issues surrounding non-cooperation with the Court; victim and witness related issues; the system for the tracing, freezing, and seizure of assets; and obstacles to cooperation with the Court faced by actors at the domestic level and how to overcome them by offering tools and resources for enhancing national capacity.

Professor Bekou and Mr Daley Birkett, HRLC Research Associate, delivered the final presentation of the event, introducing the Cooperation and Judicial Assistance Database (CJAD) to the participants. CJAD is being developed as part of a project funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and

Human Rights, in which HRLC has partnered with the Case Matrix Network and the Central and Eastern European Initiative for International Criminal Law and Human Rights to develop and customize four toolkits which support legal work, policy and advocacy concerning core international crimes and serious human rights violations. One of the toolkits is the Ratification, Implementation and Co-operation toolkit, which aims to provide national legislators, State institutions, independent organisations, NGOs and academics with tools, resources and services to support efforts to ratify and implement the ICC Statute and to cooperate with the Court.

CJAD will be the main component of the toolkit and will provide information and analysis on all aspects of implementing legislation relevant to the ICC Statute and will function alongside the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD), a related tool also developed in Nottingham since 2006 as part of the ICC Legal Tools Project. Professor Bekou and Mr Birkett stressed how CJAD will strengthen the cooperation regime by providing free, universal access to information on cooperation legislation which, in turn, enables States to draft more effectively by comparing approaches taken by other States.



Mr Daley Birkett presents CJAD to Workshop participants.

Together they explained the academic scientific process that underpins the development of CJAD, describing how pieces of legislation are broken down to fine-grain decompositions at paragraph level, based on a long list of purposely-designed keywords, in order to increase the accuracy of the search results and to enable detailed searches by users.

The Workshop was held under the Chatham House Rule in order to maximise opportunities for open and constructive engagement with its themes, important matters key to the future of cooperation with the ICC as well as current challenges. It is envisaged that the event will lead to the publication of an edited collection, to which the expert attendees will contribute.

The Workshop and related contributions to the edited volume will undoubtedly inform the development of the Ratification, Implementation and Co-operation toolkit and, specifically, CJAD.

The Workshop offered a timely platform to showcase the new database to a select, expert audience and the issues discussed during the event will guide HRLC going forward in developing the toolkit to encourage better cooperation with the Court.

Cooperation and the International Criminal Court: Final Report Published

The Final Report from the expert Workshop is now publicly available online at: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/documents/specialevents/cooperation-and-the-icc-final-report-2015.pdf>.

The Report raises the crucial importance of cooperation to the current functioning of the ICC and analyses challenges faced by the cooperation regime as shown by its case law on non-cooperation. The Report provides as follows: "It was observed that the Office of the Prosecutor totally relies on cooperation and goodwill of States to perform its duties because of the lack of an ICC enforcement mechanism. It was noted that there are procedures through which a finding of non-cooperation can be made. For example, non-cooperating State Parties can be referred to the Assembly of States Parties and the UN Security Council can be informed when States do not cooperate with resolutions thereof. This said, it was also observed that, even if a finding of non-cooperation is made by one of these bodies, such a finding does not necessarily lead to the arrest and surrender of accused persons. It was equally emphasised that the Office of the Prosecutor is faced with non-cooperation at all



From left to right: Dr Will Lowe (CJAD technical developer), Professor Olympia Bekou (ICJ Unit Head), Dr Emilie Hunter (CMN Deputy Director) and Dr Annika Jones (CMN Fellow).

stages of its investigations. This challenge is exacerbated by the fact that the Office is reliant upon the authorisation of States to carry out all of its prosecutorial activities, without which any activities conducted on State territory would be illegal" (paragraph 17).

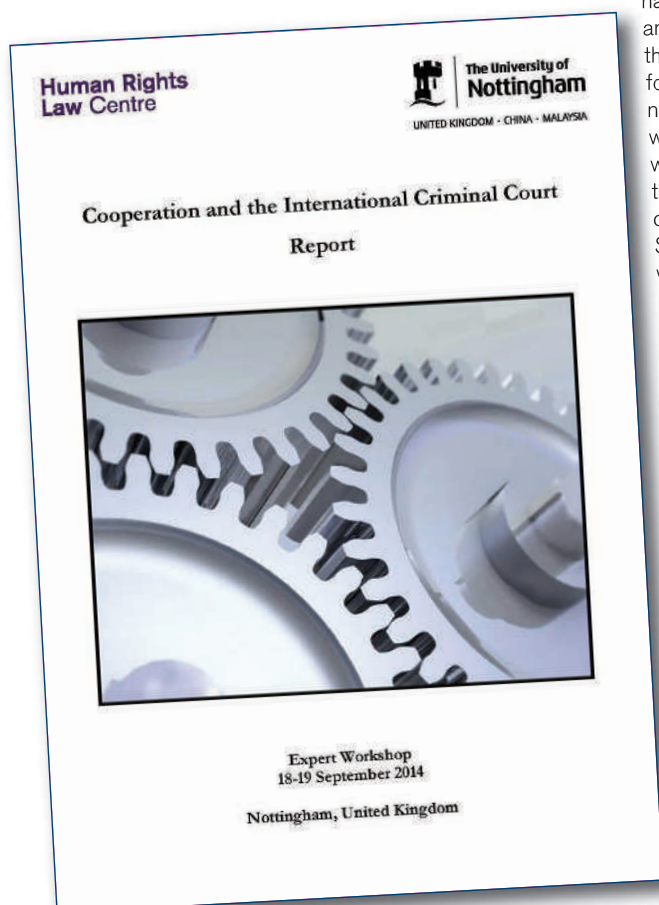
The Report also highlights the need for effective national implementing legislation and shows how CJAD will support this effort. The Report notes as follows: "The importance of robust national implementing legislation was also raised by participants when discussing the part played by the Registry in promoting cooperation between the ICC and States. In this regard, situations in which States are willing to assist but their respective domestic legislation does not provide for cooperation with the Court was cited as a problem, which effective national implementing legislation might and ought to remedy if passed" (paragraph 83).

"Following a request by The Hague Working Group on Cooperation, HRLC is developing CJAD, which will be a specialised database on national implementing legislation concerning cooperation. The importance of national implementing legislation was emphasised by a number of participants during discussions. It was further

observed that it is not easy to find examples of national legislation enabling better cooperation with the Court. As a result, it was noted that CJAD will serve as a central information hub on all aspects of cooperation legislation, offering its users free access to up-to-the-minute data on how States have interpreted the obligation to cooperate with the ICC under the Rome Statute, which is currently lacking. It was also observed that CJAD can be used as a capacity building tool: its users will be able to review, compare and access information online and free of charge. If it is accepted that the future of international criminal justice is reliant upon building capacity at the national level, one participant suggested that CJAD will be of particularly benefit to less well-resourced jurisdictions, as well as the Court, national legislators and global civil society" (paragraph 88).

Professor Bekou and Mr Birkett explained the methodology behind CJAD during their presentation to the Workshop. According to the Report: "Finally, the process underpinning the development of CJAD was discussed. It was observed that, having conducted desktop research to find relevant national implementing legislation, these documents are broken down to fine-grain decompositions at paragraph level, based on a long list of purposely-designed keywords. This process increases the accuracy of the search results, enabling detailed searches on cooperation legislation" (paragraph 89).

The Workshop concluded with the expectation that a book would be produced based on the fruitful discussions during the event. Participants welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the edited collection.



The Islamic State Crisis – Panel Discussion

On 25 November 2014 HRLC, in conjunction with the Nottingham International Law and Security Centre (NILSC), held a panel discussion on

The Islamic State Crisis. The panellists, Professor Nigel White (Head of School and Co-Director of NILSC), Dr Marko Milanovic (Associate Professor), Dr Aris Georgopoulos (Assistant Professor) and Professor Dominic McGoldrick (HRLC Co-Director), addressed a variety

of legal issues arising from the Islamic State (ISIS) crisis, including the legality of the use of force against ISIS in Iraq and Syria under UK and international law, as well as international responses to problems caused by foreign terrorist fighters from the West.

Professor McGoldrick opened by providing a factual overview of the threat posed by ISIS. He then invited his fellow panellists to explore the legal position of ISIS. Together, the panel discussed whether ISIS should be treated as an armed group, a terrorist organisation or a sovereign State and therefore whether it has any international legal obligations, such as those arising under humanitarian or human rights law.

The panel then discussed how to classify both the Iraqi and Syrian conflicts with ISIS, whether international or non-international, whether they are the same or different and whether they need to be considered separately or together. The event concluded with a lively Q&A session.



#Orangeurhood: HRLC Joins the Fight to End Violence Against Women

In 2008 Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, launched the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign with the aim of raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

Year-on-year, the campaign seeks to galvanise action to end gender-based violence. On 25 November 2014, International Day to End Violence against Women, a 16-day campaign was launched inviting participants to come together and "Orange YOUR Neighbourhood". HRLC, alongside University of Nottingham International Criminal Law students, took to Twitter and 'oranged' Nottingham's most famous 'hood' in support of the global fight to end gender violence.

Professor Olympia Bekou, International Criminal Justice Unit Head, commented: "As part of the celebration of International Day to End Violence against Women, HRLC turned orange in support of the UN UNiTE campaign and to reiterate its commitment to end the culture of impunity for violence against women and girls."



The LLM class 2014-15 joins the fight to end violence against women.

The Khmer Rouge on Trial in Cambodia – Tales from a Prosecutor

On 14 November 2014, HRLC welcomed Mr Keith Raynor, Senior Advocate with the Public Defender Service in the UK Ministry of Justice, to deliver a seminar on *Transitional Justice - Prosecuting Former Senior Leaders of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia*.

From May 2012 until June 2014, Mr Raynor worked for the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT) as a Senior Assistant Prosecutor within the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). At the ECCC, Mr Raynor formed part of a team of international and Cambodian prosecutors trying former senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. While in Cambodia, Mr Raynor also provided rule of law training to personnel in the Cambodian domestic criminal justice system.

Since 2004, Mr Raynor has been a Recorder of the Crown Court in England and Wales, hearing cases on the Midland Circuit. With more than 20 years' advocacy experience in criminal law cases, appearing both for prosecution and the defence, Mr Raynor has appeared as leading counsel and counsel alone in many serious cases and has appeared regularly in the Court of Appeal. He is also admitted to the List of Counsel at the International Criminal Court.

In his seminar, Mr Raynor discussed the structure of the ECCC within the context of the transitional justice mechanisms employed in Cambodia. Following an extensive overview of the structure and policies of the Khmer Rouge regime – including profiles of the accused indicted by the tribunal – Keith discussed the establishment, jurisdiction and applicable law of the ECCC. In particular, he noted the extensive role played by the co-investigating judges and civil party lawyers in the proceedings, which are largely based on a French civil law model.

The talk was chaired by Professor David Harris, HRLC Co-Director.



Mr Raynor.

What's New in the FRAME World

In October 2014, the first report produced by the Nottingham FRAME (Fostering Human Rights Among European (External and Internal) Policies) research team was published. The Report is the result of a collaborative effort between HRLC researchers and colleagues at Åbo Akademi University in Finland, which looked at the positive and negative human rights impacts of non-state actors. It was authored by Professor Jeffrey Kenner, Professor Aoife Nolan, Professor Mary Footer, Mr Petr Pribyla, Mr Nicolas David, Dr Mary Dowell-Jones, and Ms Maija Mustaniemi-Laakso, and is available to view online at <http://www.fp7-frame.eu/reports/>.

The HRLC team of researchers has now begun work on the next report in the series which will address the EU's engagement with non-state actors and will be published in Spring 2015, in collaboration with partners Åbo and Graz.

As well as producing reports for the project, HRLC leads a wider research cluster within FRAME. Professor Kenner supervises the overall work of researchers here at the University of Nottingham and facilitates co-ordination among our research partners at the National University of Ireland, Dublin, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.

Our partners have produced some exceptional work over the past number of months with three new reports on diverse topics including analysis of the coherence of human rights policy making within the EU, a report on implementing instruments of human rights policy and a critical assessment of the EU's engagement with UN bodies. These reports are available online on the link mentioned above.

HRLC in the School of Law



Student Conference

On Saturday 7 March 2015 HRLC will hold its 16th Annual Student Human Rights Conference, *Migration and Human Rights: Perception v Reality*. The Conference is organised by a student committee, with assistance from HRLC, and provides a unique opportunity for students to organise and shape the content of a world class human rights conference. On the Conference Committee this year are: Emma Knight (LLM), Gabriela Majercikova (LLM), Lian Selby (LLB Senior Status), Martha Tengensha (LLM) and Iga Wojtasik (LLB). The full conference report will feature in the next edition of our Newsletter.

Human Rights Film Series 2014-15

With the start of the new academic year came the launch of this year's Human Rights Film Series, a student-led HRLC Initiative. It shows engaging and provocative films which bring challenging human rights issues to life. The context of each film is briefly introduced by a relevant expert followed by discussion. Screenings are organized by a student committee and are free and open to all staff and students.

The series kicked off with a screening of *The First Grader*, a touching film based on the true story of Kimani Maruge, a Mau Mau veteran in his eighties who enrolled in elementary education after the Kenyan government announced universal and free elementary education in 2003. The series continued with screenings of *God Grew Tired of Us*, *Hunger*, *Show Me Love*, *Taxi To The Dark Side*, *Black Power Mixtape* and *The Golden Dream*. Two more screenings are to be announced before the end of term. A Film Festival at Broadway Cinema is planned for June 2015.

The Human Rights Film Series Student Committee 2014-15 are: Elysia Buchanan (Law), Albin Gustavsson and Bridie Rollins (Politics and IR).

Jessica Allen, University of Nottingham Undergraduate in Law with French, was appointed as a European Law Students' Association (ELSA) Delegate to the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in September 2014. HRLC was pleased to contribute to her travel costs for this unique opportunity.

In carrying out her role Jessica acted as the UK representative during the second week of the session in September 2014. As an ELSA Delegate Jessica sat alongside NGO representatives and observed how decisions are taken and human rights policies are created in the highest UN human rights forum.

On her return to the UK Jessica talked to her fellow students about her attendance at the Human Rights Council. She gave a short presentation outlining her role as the UK Representative for ELSA. She also reported her experiences of witnessing first-hand UN human rights decision and policy making, including during Universal Periodic Review sessions and consultations held prior to the adoption of new UN Resolutions. She wrote a blog post outlining the main human rights issues following the adoption of Resolution A/HRC/27/L.7 on the Safety of Journalists by the UN Human Rights Council for the leading UK Human Rights Blog available at <http://goo.gl/QNghNo>.

Speaking of her experiences Jessica says: "I witnessed a wealth of the work that the United Nations Human Rights Council undertakes. The opportunity to observe informal consultations on draft resolutions, such as one on civil society space, was particularly enlightening as I was able to see the way that countries interact procedurally.

I have also developed an increased awareness of niche contemporary human rights issues after attending side event panel discussions, considering topics such as religious violence in India and the sexualisation of children. I had the freedom to choose specific topics that interest me and to converse with several established figures in the human rights sphere. Travelling as a delegate has given me the freedom, independence and



Jessica Allen at the entrance to the UN in Geneva.

opportunity to explore human rights issues in my own time. Thank you so much to the HRLC team for sponsoring and supporting me to make it (and everything since) happen."

ESR Reading Group

4 December 2014 saw the second meeting of the ESR Unit Reading Group, organised by School of Law PhD students Naomi Lott and Emma Scali. They were joined by colleagues from the faculty and doctorate students in Law for a session discussing readings on the inter-relationship between democracy and economic and social rights.

Nottingham Students to Compete in IHL Moot

Three LLM students from Nottingham; Elysia Buchanan, Beata Babacova and Nino Nikolayshvili, are heading to Charlottesville, Virginia, USA, in March 2015 to represent the School of Law and the IHL Unit for the next round of the Concours Pictet, an international moot competition focusing on international humanitarian law. This is an impressive achievement; safe travels and fly our flag high as you head to the USA!

Forthcoming events

HRLC Short Course in International Human Rights Law

HRLC's International Human Rights Law Short Course is a three month residential course designed to give an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards through seminars, guest lectures, workshops, visits, tutorials and conferences. It provides valuable insight and contextual knowledge of the practical operation of human rights law for those interested in human rights protection, from civil society organisations, government, judiciary, police, charity or legal professions, academia, media and business.

Course Content

- United Nations and regional human rights standards;
- The United Nations human rights system: the Human Rights Council, Treaty monitoring bodies and Special Procedures;
- Regional human rights systems;
- Implementation of human rights standards in national systems, human rights commissions and other bodies.



Participants may also take modules from the LLM programme of the University of Nottingham School of Law. The course can be extended to six months with an internship (subject to eligibility) at a non-governmental organisation or a research option within the Centre.

The next course will start in September 2015 – Anamax Charitable Foundation scholarships will be available and further information will be published soon on our website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/short-course

HRLC Distance Learning Course in International Human Rights Law

This course is designed to give an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards and of the UN and regional systems that implement them. The course is taught by leading human rights academics and practitioners in the international human rights systems.

The course is aimed at individuals who require a deeper knowledge of the increasingly important subject of international human rights law in their professional life, or who wish to embark upon a career in human rights. It is particularly intended for those who cannot take on the commitment of a full-time course.

Course Content

- UN Human Rights System
- Regional Human Rights Systems (African, European and Inter-American)



- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Refugee Law
- International Criminal Justice
- Current Human Rights Issues
- International Humanitarian Law
- Women's Rights
- The Rights of the Child

Course fees, dates and contact details for further information are available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/distancelearning

HRLC Visitors

In December 2014, HRLC was joined by visiting scholar Professor Vitor Blotta, Professor of Law and Ethics of Journalism and Publishing, University of São Paulo. Whilst in Nottingham Professor Blotta, under the supervision of HRLC Co-Director Professor Dominic McGoldrick, worked on a research project entitled *Privacies in Public: on the legitimacy of privacy and freedom of information in Brazil and England – Public debates on the regulation of Brazilian Internet and the Leveson Inquiry*. To complement his research Professor Blotta organised two workshops that brought together interdisciplinary perspectives on the challenges to surveillance. He concluded his time at HRLC by presenting his research findings to University of Nottingham staff and postgraduate students.

HRLC Staff Updates

In September 2014 HRLC was pleased to welcome **Stuart Wallace** as our new Research Associate. Stuart will be assisting Professor Jeffrey Kenner on the *Fostering Human Rights Among European (Internal and External) Policies (FRAME)* project. He will be conducting research for Work Package 7 on Engagement with Private Actors TNCs and Civil Society and coordinating the second cluster on EU Multi-Level and Multi-Actor Human Rights Engagement.



Stuart Wallace.

Stuart has recently completed his doctoral dissertation at the University of Nottingham. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge having previously worked at the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court and as a Research Assistant at the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law in Vienna.

In December 2014 HRLC was sad to say farewell to Research Assistant **Amy Weatherburn**, who has left Nottingham to begin her doctoral studies at Vrije University Brussels.

Amy has been an important member of the HRLC team, beginning as a Student Assistant whilst studying at the University of Nottingham for her Human Rights LLM in 2010, then as a Talent Builder intern in 2011 and then joining the staff team in early 2012 providing research and support for many of the Centre's projects, particularly in research for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. We thank Amy for all her hard work and wish her all the best for her future.

Correction

The article on page 6 of the 14th Edition of the Human Rights Law Centre Newsletter refers to a publication by Professor Olympia Bekou, *Contemporary Challenges for the International Criminal Court*. The title was in fact co-edited with Dr Andraž Zidar from the British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

HRLC Updates

For all the latest updates on our activities, follow us on Twitter at @UoNHRCLC or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/hrlcentre>.



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