



14<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Human Rights Conference 2013

**Human Rights and Democracy: Two Sides of the Same Coin?**

**Saturday 9 March 2013**  
**Law and Social Sciences Building, University of Nottingham**

**Programme**

09.00	Welcome Refreshments and Registration	Atrium/Room B62
09.15	Conference Opening with Video Message from <b>High Commissioner Navi Pillay</b>	Room B62
09.30	<b>Morning Session</b>	Room B62

Chaired by **Professor Dominic McGoldrick**, Professor of International Human Rights Law and HRLC Co-Director

*Obstacles to the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable Order*

**Mr Alfred de Zayas**, UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order

*Human Rights and Democracy: The Precarious Triumph of Ideals*

**Professor Todd Landman**, Professor of Government and Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, University of Essex

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11.00 Refreshments Atrium

11.15 Delegates choose between two student-led discussion groups, which will run simultaneously:

**Panel 1: Human Rights and Democracy: Common allies or coincidental friends?**

Room A1, Chaired by Ben Warwick

*Is There No Alternative to Democracy for Protecting Human Rights? Lessons from the Arab Spring.*

**Lydia Davies-Bright**, University of Nottingham

*Iraq's Constitutional Struggles and the Threats to the Freedom of Expression.*

**Hanin Nabeel**, Goldsmiths University

*The protection of human rights in ex-communist societies: the case of Armenia.*

**Aristi Voulou**, University of Leicester

*Pakistan: A democracy coming into its own.*

**Karen Mersiovsky**, University of Nottingham

**Panel 2: Questioning the implementation of human rights and democratic norms**

Room B1, Chaired by Bettina Keimel

*Democracy at the UN Human Rights Council? Yeah Right!*

**Ruth Houghton**, University College, London

*Individuals in a Democratic State Context: The 2010 French ban on the Burqa, the Principle of Laïcité and a Restricted Right to Religion in Europe.*

**Christopher Beaven**, University College, London

*Democracy and the Right to Vote in ethnically divided societies: Theory and Practice in Cyprus.*

**Nasia Hadjigerogiou**, King's College, London

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12.45      *Lunch* Atrium

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13.30      **Afternoon Session** Room B62

Chaired by **Professor David Harris, Emeritus Professor and HRLC Co-Director**

*Human Rights and Democracy and the Arab Spring*

**Ms Mervat Rishmawi**, Human Rights Consultant specializing in MENA region and HRLC Fellow

*Women and Democracy*

**Ms Louise de Sousa**, Head of Human Rights and Democracy Department, United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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14.45      *Refreshments* Atrium

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15.00      Delegates choose between two student-led discussion groups, which will run simultaneously:

**Panel 3: Human rights and democracy: contemporary issues in the modern world**

Room A1, Chaired by Janet Ng

*Protecting whistle-blowers: A critical appraisal of the Official Secrets Act 1989 and the recent jurisprudence of the Strasbourg Court.*

**Dimitrios Kagiarios**, University of Hull

*Tahrir or Tottenham: Two Tales of the Social Media and the Myth of Freedom.*

**Ignas Kalpokas**, University of Nottingham

*The Co-option of Human Rights and feminist rhetoric to justify the War on Terror.*

**Lydney Mitchell**, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**Panel 4: The Forgotten subjects of democracies**

Room B1, Chaired by Joel Simpson

*Prison(er) Democratization: User Voice and the Prison Council Model - An ethnographic exploration of participatory governance in three English prisons*

**Bethany Schmidt**, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge

*Citizens, Foreigners or Humans? Jus Meritum and Problems with Human Rights in the United Kingdom.*

**Maria Werdine**, London School of Economics and Political Sciences

*Absolute rights and unpopular minorities: exploring the interplay between democracy and Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.*

**Natasha Mavronicola**, University of Cambridge

16.45      Closing Remarks from **Professor David Harris**, Professor Emeritus and HRLC Co-Director Room B62

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