



JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network Conference 2015

Human Rights: Beyond the Courtroom

A conference for **students, trainee solicitors** and **pupil barristers**

Saturday 14 March 2015, 9.30am – 5.00pm

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, 28 Tudor Street, London EC4Y 0AY

In an election year when one of the UK's main political parties will challenge the role the Human Rights Act 1998 plays in the protection of individual rights; we explore the importance of human rights – and the protection of the HRA – beyond the courtroom.

Hillsborough, Leveson, Litvinenko and Mid-Staffordshire are only a handful of high-profile examples of how human rights advocacy in alternative forums may be used to protect the rights of the vulnerable and to improve the law for us all.

Protecting the rights of bereaved families in inquests, securing compensation for miscarriages of justice and helping public bodies learn good practice lessons, the HRA and the European Convention on Human Rights have played a crucial role.

This one-day conference will give law students, trainee solicitors and pupil barristers a unique opportunity to come together to explore some key topical human rights issues in domestic law, policy and practice.

Meet with the JUSTICE team and leading practitioners in their fields to discuss the role human rights law plays beyond litigation in the civil and criminal courts.

As a delegate, you will:

- discuss topical, cutting edge human rights issues with leading practitioners
- gain a greater practical understanding of the role of rights protection in areas of legal practice within the UK
- gain a unique insight into the workings of one of the country's leading human rights organisations
- network with other students interested or working in human rights across the UK

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Human Rights: Beyond the Courtroom

14 March 2015 **PROGRAMME**

9.30 *Registration*

9.50 *Welcome - **Andrea Coomber**, Director, JUSTICE*

10.00 **Death and the state: the importance of human rights in inquests and public inquiries**

Leslie Thomas QC, Garden Court Chambers

Leslie Thomas QC has appeared in most of the highest-profile inquests of the last decade. Representing the families of Mark Duggan and Azelle Rodney and a number of the Hillsborough families, he has been described as: “The fearless and formidable” and a “street fighter” for his clients.

Leslie will reflect on his career, on the importance of human rights law in inquests and public inquiries, in helping secure accountability and transparency for violations of human rights by public bodies, and for protecting the rights of bereaved families.

- Questions & Answers

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.15 **Morning Breakouts**

(Choose one of the following three sessions)

1. Criminal cases: redress following conviction

Jodie Blackstock, Director of Criminal Justice and EU Policy, JUSTICE

JUSTICE’s early work centred on overturning conviction of the wrongly accused and ensuring victims of crime and miscarriage of justice were properly compensated. A number of bodies have been set up to orchestrate these post-courtroom processes in recent years, including the Criminal Cases Review Commission, the Independent Assessor of compensation for miscarriage of justice and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. We review the successes of these bodies - their remit, the human rights issues raised by their operation and reform, and consider the important role practitioners play in assisting some of the most vulnerable people to seek justice in their causes.

2. Learning lessons beyond litigation: inquests and public inquiries

Angela Patrick, Director of Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE

Transparency, accountability and the scope of the state’s obligations – these are key issues faced by JUSTICE in its work on effective inquests and public inquiries.

Having heard from our keynote speaker about the challenges and opportunities for practitioners working in inquiries and inquests, explore some of the key human rights issues raised in recent case law and practice.

3. Human rights in practice: Q & A

Chair: **Ruchi Parekh**, Legal Officer, JUSTICE

Panel: **Andrea Coomber**, Director, JUSTICE

Deba Das, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Kate Beattie,¹ Crown Office Row

Florence Iveson, Crown Prosecution Service

Julia Farrant, Crown Prosecution Service

Sarah Askew, Leigh Day

Christine Baker, Leigh Day

This workshop gives delegates a chance to quiz a panel of practitioners, including those at the start of their careers. Hear firsthand their experiences of building a career in law, post-studies.

- Get your questions ready.

12.30 *Lunch* (hosted by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer)

1.30 **Repeat breakout groups** - (see 11.15 for details)

2.45 *Tea break*

3.00 **JUSTICE - A review of the human rights year**

A commitment to human rights runs through the heart of the JUSTICE vision and strategy. Our human rights work goes far beyond our third party interventions in the UK and European courts.

From research on the future of access to justice to informing the development of new counter-terrorism legislation, from work to secure redress for victims of torture and miscarriage of justice to defending the Human Rights Act 1998, the protection of individual rights in the UK is at the heart of our work.

This is an opportunity to explore the high and low points of the human rights year.

4.00 **Afternoon keynote**

Human rights: challenging the class of 2015

Raju Bhatt, Partner, Bhatt Murphy

Raju Bhatt is a founding partner at Bhatt Murphy. Over the past 25 years he has specialised in providing help to members of the public who seek accountability from the state and its officers, with a focus upon the treatment of individuals in the criminal justice system (including the police, the prison service and the prosecuting agencies).

Hear about his life in the law, the role which human rights have played in his work and on the challenges and opportunities facing human rights lawyers and their clients in 2015.

- Questions & Answers

5.00 *Close*