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human rights lawyers association



The Law Society

Be a Human Rights Lawyer
17 May 2016
The Law Society





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The Law Society's International Action Team

The Law Society's International Action Team (IAT) is a network of practising lawyers, law graduates, and law students who assist with the Society's international human rights work, mainly to support lawyers and human rights defenders who are at risk or are being hindered in the exercise of their professional duties through intimidation, harassment, violence and prosecution around the world. The International Action Team may also be called upon to assist in matters relating to the strengthening of the rule of law in different countries. The Law Society has trained over 1,000 members for the IAT.

Given that this work has a direct impact on lawyers, human rights defenders, and their families, some basic knowledge of international human rights is required and work opportunities may be allocated taking into account the relevant expertise of the members. Moreover, excellent research skills and attention to detail are useful skills that will ensure that our interventions are evidence-based, concise and thus effective.

Who do we support?

The Law Society supports lawyers and other human rights defenders at risk. Human rights defenders are understood, following the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, as persons who - individually or in association with others - promote and strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels.

The Law Society's international human rights aims:

- In recognition of the fundamental role they play in the administration of justice and the strengthening of the rule of law, to represent, promote, and support lawyers and human rights defenders who are at risk for exercising their professional duties worldwide through interventions and other measures before national and international bodies.
- To design and implement appropriate capacity-building programmes in different jurisdictions aimed at developing the skills of members of the legal profession, as well as establishing inter-regional dialogue, on matters relating to international human rights and the rule of the law.
- To assist solicitors and future solicitors to increase their awareness and understanding, so as to respond more effectively to the impact of international human rights in their practice area and daily work.
- To create opportunities for solicitors and future solicitors to get more involved in international human rights work.

Interventions

Interventions are often sent to national state authorities, signed by the President of the Law Society, and members of the IAT are involved in researching and drafting those interventions. They mostly involve the following situations:

- Lawyers or human rights defenders whose human rights have been violated; who are threatened, intimidated, prosecuted, detained, or assassinated for exercising their professional duties;
- Restrictions on the freedom and independence of the legal profession, the administration of justice, or the rule of law.

As a member of the IAT you are expected to attend training sessions specifically organised to assist the work of the IAT members. If you would like to join the IAT, please send a C.V. and a covering letter, expressing your interest and/or experience, addressed to the Law Society's International Human Rights Policy Adviser: marina.brilman@lawsociety.org.uk.

Follow the Law Society's human rights work on social media:  twitter: <http://twitter.com/LSHumanRights>



About the Human Rights Lawyers' Association

The HRLA's principal objective is to promote, protect and develop effective legal protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the UK legal framework and system of government.

The HRLA is a forum for those involved in the law and legal professions to discuss human rights issues. It facilitates the sharing of knowledge and ideas about human rights law and fosters the exchange of views between specialists from different areas of expertise and the wider legal community.

The HRLA aims to further research, education and training in all areas of human rights law; it collaborates with organisations whose objectives are similar to those of the HRLA; it supports students in their human rights work in the UK and abroad; it organises critical and constructive seminars, lectures, workshops and debates about topical human rights issues.

The HRLA seeks to respond quickly to any developments that affect human rights law in the UK. This may be a judgment of the House of Lords or the European Court of Human Rights, or evolving Government policy. The events based on these developments are free, or subsidized, for HRLA members and strive to create a forum for interactive discussion and debate.

Past events include: *The HRLA 2013 Judicial Review Competition, We Shall Not Be Moved: Balancing the right to protest with the rights and freedoms of others, Human Rights and Cyberspace, Dinner in Honour of Sir Nicholas Bratza, A Consideration of the Family migration Changes and Article 8- Where do we go from here? Time to Stop Twittering On...Is it possible to strike a balance between the right to free speech and the regulation of social media?*

For upcoming events see www.hrla.org.uk/events

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people

Preamble, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948



The Human Rights Lawyers' Association Bursary Scheme

The Human Rights Lawyers' Association recognises that those without independent financial backing are sometimes unable to take up internships, work placements and other either unpaid or poorly paid work in human rights law. They may miss out on these opportunities and be disadvantaged when applying for jobs within the human rights field as a result.

To assist people in this position, in 2006 the HRLA established a bursary scheme to assist law students, either those currently studying (undergraduate degree, postgraduate studies or LPC/BVC/Law Conversion Course) or those who have recently graduated, in undertaking such work. Each year the HRLA provides around 5 awards (short listed from over 100 applicants) of approximately £1000. The bursary money is used to enable the successful applicants to undertake work related to human rights law that they would otherwise be unable to afford to do. That work need not take place in the United Kingdom, but it must be relevant to human rights law in the United Kingdom.

Each year the HRLA will provide around 5 awards from a maximum annual bursary fund of around £6,000, provided there are suitable applicants. A single award will not normally total more than £1,000.

In recent years recipients of the bursary award have worked in human rights organisations all over the world, including:

- The Mental Disability Advocacy Centre in Budapest, Hungary
- Medical Justice in London, UK
- The India Centre for Human Rights in Law in Mumbai, India
- The AIRE Centre in London, UK
- Human Rights Watch in Washington DC, USA
- The Death Penalty Project in Kingston, Jamaica
- Bail for Immigration Detainees in London, UK
- Defence for Children International in Geneva, Switzerland
- The South African Human Rights Commission in Cape Town, South Africa
- JUSTICE in London, UK
- The Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg
- The Forced Marriage Unit in London, UK
- The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People in Belfast, Northern Ireland
- The Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town, South Africa

Please see the bursary section of the website for the detailed policy document and application form, and for reports from previous bursary recipients. If you have any questions about the scheme, please, in the first instance, consult the policy document, which should answer all your questions.

<http://www.hrla.org.uk/Bursary.php>

The HRLA bursary deadline is 5pm 13 June 2016. Please see our website for further details.



Oliver Carter

Trainee solicitor, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Oliver Carter is a trainee solicitor in the Public Law team at Irwin Mitchell LLP and co-chair of Young Legal Aid Lawyers, a group which campaigns for access to justice and supports aspiring and junior lawyers in the legal aid sector. He is also a member of the Young Lawyers Committee of the Human Rights Lawyers Association.

Oliver writes articles about access to justice, public law and human rights for The Justice Gap, Legal Voice, Legal Action, Socialist Lawyer and other publications.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

Gareth Peirce, Geoffrey Robertson QC, Helena Kennedy QC

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

There was no defining moment, but I remember being very confused when I started my Law degree and found myself surrounded by people who wanted to work in commercial law. I had naïvely thought that law was all about justice and protecting people's rights. The study of law also felt largely remote to real world issues, but during postgraduate study I realised that it was possible (although not easy) to forge a career as a lawyer acting for people in important cases touching upon fundamental human rights.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I wasn't the most proactive student during my undergraduate degree, but tried to make up for this during my Master's by doing voluntary work for the Equal Rights Trust, a mini-pupillage at Doughty Street Chambers and editing the Politics section of the student newspaper at my university.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Working on a judicial review for a soup kitchen which was effectively threatened with closure when the local authority tried to force it to move to an unsafe location – we won and the soup kitchen is still operating today, serving hot meals to homeless and vulnerable people every day. The case was reported as *R (Blake & others) v London Borough of Waltham Forest* [2014] EWHC 1027 (Admin), if anyone would like to read the judgment.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

The on-going predicted and inevitable impact of huge cuts to legal aid upon people's access to justice. If people are unable to obtain legal advice and representation, it is often practically impossible for them to enforce their rights.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The debate surrounding a proposed Bill of Rights and repeal of the Human Rights Act has been going on for so long that it can be tiring and depressing to follow, but it is likely to be very important following the EU referendum. It still astounds me that we have a government which effectively promised fewer rights for fewer people in its manifesto.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

The right to a fair trial – although I hope one day its ambit will develop further to guarantee publicly-funded legal assistance in civil cases concerning the protection of fundamental rights.



8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Liberty is great, and I'm sure will go from strength-to-strength under its fantastic new director, Martha Spurrier. It would also be remiss of me not to plug Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL), a group of junior and aspiring lawyers with 2,500 members which campaigns for legal aid and supports the interests of junior entrants to the legal profession. Anyone interested in working in an area of law which has traditionally been funded by legal aid should join YLAL (it's free!): <http://www.younglegalaidlawyers.org/> .

9. *What is your dream job?*

Supreme Court judge. Failing that, I guess I'd settle for the Administrative Court. On a more serious note / until that day, I wanted to be a human rights lawyer to use the law to help people who most need it. I haven't qualified yet, but hopefully I will be able to spend my career helping to enforce and protect people's rights.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Probably not since I was a student, although in October 2014 I did stay up past 4am one Friday night/Saturday morning to write an article about the proposals for reform of human rights law announced at the Conservative Party conference earlier that day. I had a few drinks while I was writing, but I don't think that's apparent from the article (I did of course proof read it in the morning).

11. *What was the last book you read?*

The Children Act by Ian McEwan, which I would highly recommend. Next up is Austerity Justice by Steve Hynes. I do read non-law books too, although I've been struggling to get through Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie for some time.



Professor Sara Chandler QC (Hon)

Visiting professor in clinical legal education, London South Bank University

Sara is Visiting Professor of Clinical Legal Education at London South Bank University, working in the Legal Advice Clinic where she supervises student volunteers who provide free legal advice to the public. She has established a Help Desk at Lambeth County Court where students assist members of the public.

Sara worked at North Lewisham Law Centre from 1982 to 1992, and at Plumstead Law Centre from 1998 to 2003. She was Vice Chair of Law Centres Federation from 2000 to 2002.

Sara has experience in training international pro bono lawyers, and has a particular interest in Uganda, Zambia and Nigeria where she has worked with local Law Societies, Law Schools, NGO's and others in establishing networks of legal aid providers, and pro bono schemes.

She is an active member of the Global Alliance for Justice Education and the Clinical Legal Education Organisation (UK) and participates in the Public Interest Lawyers network, the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education, and Association of Law Teachers. Her special interest is in the teaching of ethics.

She completed 15 years in Law Centres, 5 years in legal aid firms and 9 years at the College of Law before joining London South Bank University. Before becoming a lawyer, Sara worked with refugees from Chile for over 6 years as a bi-lingual social worker, she speaks Spanish fluently.

Sara is Past President of South London Law Society and Past President of the City of Westminster & Holborn Law Society. She is a member of the Law Society's Council, representing solicitors in the voluntary sector, and Past Chair of the Law Society's Human Rights Committee. She is Past President of the Human Rights Commission for the Federation of European Bar Associations (FBE), and Past Chair of the Colombia Caravana UK Lawyers Group, a charity which supports human rights lawyers at risk in Colombia, with an international network of lawyers in 15 jurisdictions. In 2017 she will be the President of the FBE, the first woman to be elected to the post.

Sara has extensive experience in human rights advocacy and in equality and diversity issues.

12. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

The most inspiring human rights practitioners are those who carry on despite threats to their lives, and to the lives of their colleagues, when they have already mourned the loss of their colleagues. Over 450 human rights lawyers have been killed in Colombia since 1990, and human rights defenders receive death threats from well organised paramilitary groups who terrorise with impunity. No effort is made to investigate or prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes. The international legal community regularly calls for the implementation of protective measures for lawyers and judges who are threatened.

13. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I worked with refugees from Chile in the 1970's as part of my political commitment to the rule of law, access to justice and respect for human rights and met many fine people who had suffered torture as political prisoners. As a postgraduate research student I had done field work in Chile in 1971-72 and had seen first hand the enthusiasm, hope and optimism of ordinary people as life began to change for the better. When Pinochet seized power in a military coup in 1973 this was the moment when I knew I had to fight for human rights for the rest of my life. In the 1980's I worked as a social security tribunal representative for 10 years and realised that people have to fight to enforce their most basic human rights like food on the table. In the 1990's I qualified as a solicitor and became a housing (landlord & tenant) specialist, using the law to help homeless people, and to stop people losing their homes because of poverty.



14. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

Yes, when I started working with refugees I was a volunteer. Later, while training for the social work qualification, I went on placement to a Law Centre and found working there really reaches people who are denied basic human rights. It is very important that law students take up every opportunity they get to do voluntary work and go on placement. My route was through working as a volunteer in Law Centres. The first Law Centre I worked in (1980) was in Deptford, South London, and I was on placement for 3 months (Housing: Landlord & Tenant). The second was for 6 months (Social Security and Debt).

15. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

I participated as a signatory to the 60th Anniversary document which commemorated the signing in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris (December 2008). It was an honour to meet one of the original signatories at the event, a lawyer who still practices in Paris in his 90's. In February this year I was made an Honorary QC.

16. What has been the low-point?

The deaths of Chilean refugees (friends) who returned to Chile in the 1970's and 1980's to join the resistance against the military dictatorship, and the deaths of Colombian lawyers over the last few years, including a law student who volunteered as a human rights defender who was killed in December 2010. The UK lawyers who are members of the Colombia Caravana met this student when in Colombia undertaking investigation into the situation of human rights lawyers, it is so hard to believe he is dead.

17. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

I will continue to defend the Human Rights Act against all efforts of the current Government to abolish it. I am also involved in trying to preserve legal professional privilege, the right of lawyers' communications with their clients to remain confidential. In the wake of terrorism in Europe the UK government among others is bringing legislation to enable the investigation of all means of communication. This means that electronic, written and actual face to face meetings between lawyers and their clients are at risk without the strength of strong judicial protection.

18. What is your favourite human right?

The right to a fair trial because without it there is no justice.

19. Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?

Peace Brigades International who support human rights lawyers at risk in Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, Nepal and Kenya by providing volunteers to accompany lawyers everywhere in their daily work. PBI has launched a solidarity campaign called Lawyers at Risk which recruits lawyers to support the work of human rights lawyers at risk.

20. What is your dream job?

U N Special Rapporteur on Human Rights

21. When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?

Never

22. What was the last book you read?

Poverty First Hand - Poor people speak for themselves by Peter Beresford, David Green, Ruth Lister and Kirsty Woodard for Child Poverty Action Group (1999) The book has a quote from The UN Development Programme 1997: "Poor people must organise for collective action to influence the circumstances and decisions affecting their lives. To advance their interests, their voices must be heard in the corridors of power" Fifteen years later this comment is still much needed and should be heeded.



Mohbuba Choudhury

Senior Protection Associate, UNHCR, London

1. *A brief summary of who you are and what you do as a Senior Protection Associate at UNHCR. A brief summary of your career so far.*

My role as a Senior Protection Associate at UNHCR is fairly varied, at the heart of it, it involves ensuring that the UK government meets its obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless persons. Part of this includes: undertaking interventions in precedent setting cases to advance refugee law, providing submissions on legislation and key asylum policy instructions which impact upon asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons, monitoring facilities and procedures at ports/airports/screening units, reviewing the quality of asylum decisions amongst other tasks.

2. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

I have always found the practitioners who work in Law Centres and Citizen's Advice Bureau's across the country most inspiring. They rarely make the headlines, but they do some important work for the most vulnerable in our society.

3. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

There is a cringe worthy line in my university personal statement which shows I was interested in human rights from an early age – I won't repeat it here! But I was lucky enough to intern with Reprieve for a summer and work alongside some dedicated lawyers representing prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. In hindsight, witnessing the mechanics of human rights law here was probably a defining moment.

4. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I was a serial intern! I undertook placements at a number of organisations including Reprieve, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and the Citizens Advice Bureau. This gave me a real insight into what the day to day work would entail.

5. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

A high point was being part of the driving force behind some key changes for persons of concern to UNHCR and contributing to the policy and rules of a new procedure such as the UK's Statelessness Procedure. It provides individuals without a nationality the right to be recognised as stateless and the opportunity to acquire nationality in the long term.

6. *What has been the low-point?*

Realising very quickly that working in a highly politicized field means that changes can take a very very long time to implement.

7. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Particularly topical at the moment is the debate on the rights of spontaneous arrivals of refugees versus the rights of resettled refugees.

8. *What is your favourite human right?*

It has to be Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 'All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.'

9. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Too many to list here, but Liberty and Amnesty International have always done meaningful work to support human rights.



10. What is your dream job?

Probably a mixture of what I'm doing now with a greater element of travelling to field operations in order to appreciate the humanitarian challenges on the ground in other parts of the world.

11. When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?

I now need at least a couple of hours of sleep, so haven't pulled a proper all-nighter for a while!

12. What was the last book you read?

Haruki Murakami – What I talk about when I talk about running.



Sophie Colyer Solicitor, Leigh Day & Co

Sophie is a solicitor in the International Group Claims department at Leigh Day. She joined Leigh Day in 2014 and since then has worked on cases against oil and mining companies in the English courts on behalf of claimants in Nigeria, Zambia and Sierra Leone. Prior to Leigh Day, Sophie worked as a volunteer attorney for six months at the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre, assisting asylum seekers with their asylum claims before the UNCHR. Before shifting to human rights, Sophie worked as a banking lawyer for over five years for top-tiered international law firms in London, Dubai and Sydney.



Paul Dillane

UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG)

Paul is the Executive Director of UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG), a charity which seeks to promote the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people globally and provides specialist support to LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees in the UK.

For six years, Paul was a refugee specialist at Amnesty International UK, where he was responsible for the organisation's involvement in asylum, extradition and human rights litigation in the UK. Paul prepared expert opinions in several hundred individual cases at all levels of the asylum process from first instance to proceedings in the European Court of Human Rights. High profile and reported cases include SB (Uganda) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] EWHC 338 (Admin), BA (Demonstrators in Britain – risk on return) Iran CG [2011] and KB (Failed asylum seekers and forced returnees) Syria CG UKUT 00426 (IAC). He has provided expert evidence in high-profile cases such as AB v Republic of Gambia and Halliday v United Arab Emirates.

Between 2004-2008, Paul was a legal practitioner and advocate in South Wales where he specialised in immigration, refugee and human rights law. He has studied human rights and refugee law at the LSE, Refugee Law Initiative and Birkbeck, University of London. If you use Twitter, and want more information, follow @UKLGIG and @Paul_Dillane.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

I have been lucky enough to meet human rights lawyers and activists from across the world; people like Alice Nkom (Cameroon) and Beatrice Matetwa (Zimbabwe), whose commitment to human rights and the rule of law is unwavering despite the daily threats they face.

My friend Jonathan Cooper OBE, a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers and Executive Director of the Human Dignity Trust, a wonderful charity that challenges in countries across the world laws which criminalise consensual sexual activity between adults of the same sex, is someone I very much admire. Jonathan has been at the forefront of human rights and LGBTI activism and litigation for years. He was instrumental in the passage of the Human Rights Act and is one of its most vocal defenders.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I was a teenager in 1998 when Matthew Shepard, a 22 year old from Wyoming, was beaten and tortured to death simply for being gay. I found this profoundly shocking. I was very conscious that for those who are 'different' – whether that is due to race, religion, sexual or gender identity, etc – discrimination and persecution often occur on a daily basis. Human rights aspire to, and frequently do, offer a solution.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

No, frankly this was not an option. I grew up in a working class family and worked after school and on the weekends as a teenager as money was tight. When I was 18 years old I approached the only law firm in the area with a human rights law department and asked for a job as a paralegal. Surprisingly, they said yes! Thereafter, I juggled work with study.

I was lucky. Social mobility, especially in the legal and human rights fields, is something that worries me. There are not enough funded internships and structured voluntary placements available. That certainly needs to change but up and coming practitioners need to think creatively in order to respond to these challenges.

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

My first appearance in an asylum appeal as an advocate was a very important experience to me. I represented a young woman who had fled the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She had arrived in the UK as a minor but her case had languished in the asylum system for years. I prepared hard but was still petrified, all the more so when I discovered the first judge I would appear before was a QC sitting as a judge part time! The appeal was allowed



at the conclusion of the hearing, still rare in those days. My client told me afterwards that it was only at that moment, despite having lived in the UK for four years, she felt she could begin to re-establish her life and move on from the past. I will never forget that experience. Every other case has followed from this one.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

I represented a gay man from Afghanistan who was forcibly sent back after his asylum claim was refused. Homosexuality is illegal in Afghanistan. The policy of the UK Government at that time, indeed the approach of the courts, was that lesbian, gay and bisexual people should return home and 'be discreet' – to effectively get back 'in the closet' and conceal and suppress their identity. UKLGIG's research exposed that 98-99% of gay and lesbian asylum seekers were refused under this policy and unknown numbers were forcibly removed to violently homophobic countries like Jamaica and Uganda. This was deeply shameful and only ended after the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in HJ (Iran) and HT (Cameroon) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2010] UKSC 31 [Read it!]. Sadly, that was too late for my client. I could not stop his removal from the UK and I never heard from him again. I still often wonder about him, I hope he is safe wherever he is.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

UKLGIG works to support LGBTI asylum seekers in the UK and improve the way in which they are treated. Despite the UK being one of the most LGBTI-friendly countries in the world, our clients face significant obstacles in navigating the complex and frequently unsympathetic asylum system. Given the persecution LGBTI people face around the world, these cases are often matters of life and death. However, standards of decision-making in the UK have been notoriously poor for many years and many genuine people have been refused asylum.

In recent years the use of immigration detention has spiraled out of control. The UK reached a point where it was detaining more migrants and asylum seekers than any country in Europe and the UK is alone in detaining people indefinitely. Seeking asylum is not a crime, yet LGBT people fleeing persecution are incarcerated indefinitely in brutal immigration detention centres where bullying, abuse, and harassment are rife. The UK Government is facing unprecedented pressure to reform. If the Prime Minister wants to demonstrate a real commitment to LGBTI equality, the treatment of LGBTI asylum seekers has to be on the agenda. UKLGIG and I will keep fighting for change.

Furthermore, it seems to me that access to justice and human rights in the UK are under assault on multiple fronts. Extraordinary cuts to legal aid mean that fewer people have the ability to access legal advice and representation. Along with reforms to judicial review, these efforts seem to be an attempt to insulate public authorities and government ministers from challenge. Coupled with the attacks on the Human Rights Act, and the hysterical calls to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights and the Court in Strasbourg, we really do live in very worrying times. Those concerned with justice, including those studying law, should be doing their bit to oppose these plans. There is still time to mobilise and resist!

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the right to seek asylum. It is a grand principle, rather more problematic in reality, but one that is worth fiercely defending.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I am on the board of Hackney Law Centre, which does vital work in my local community providing free representation to some of the most needy people in society, and the Human Rights Lawyers Association.

I work closely with other partner NGO's in the refugee, human rights and LGBTI fields and try to support their work and attend their events wherever possible. UKLGIG is a member of the Detention Forum coalition of organisations campaigning against indefinite immigration detention and I work closely with organisations like Stonewall, Human Dignity Trust and Kaleidoscope Trust in seeking to promote the human rights of LGBTI people worldwide.

We should not work in a vacuum as we are all fighting the same struggles, to uphold fundamental human rights, and we are stronger when we work together.



9. *What is your dream job?*

This is a really tough question. Every month UKLGIG hosts a pro bono legal advice session for LGBTI asylum seekers where specialist lawyers provide assistance. We usually support 100-120 people and I am always struck by the diversity of our clients: LGBTI people from different countries, ethnicities and religions who have experienced terrible abuse and violence on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Ideally, I would like UKLGIG not to even exist but there will always be LGBTI refugees in need of help so long as 75 countries around the world continue to criminalise homosexuality.

Right now, I am happy at UKLGIG. I see first-hand the consequences of the discrimination and persecution LGBTI people face via the experiences of our clients but this drives me to work as hard as I can for improvements here in the UK and progress abroad. Every day is different and challenging: I lobby government ministers and civil servants, I work with journalists to bring to public attention the injustices facing LGBTI asylum seekers, I provide training to judges, lawyers, officials and activists across Europe, I contribute to legal interventions and I raise money to allow us to support some of the most vulnerable people in society.

UKLGIG is a small charity, we have only four staff, but it is unique and we have a dedicated team of pro bono lawyers and supporters. I am very proud to be part of the team and I know the work we do has an impact. Last year, 85 clients – LGBTI people from countries including Russia, Nigeria and Iran - were granted refugee status in the UK and they can now live safely, freely and openly.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

I can't do it, I need eight hours or more of sleep a night. It is not healthy or productive and I wouldn't encourage it. Get some sleep and get back to work in the morning!

11. *What was the last book you read?*

A travel guide for Berlin. I travel a lot for work but usually don't have much free time. I try to at least see one or two sights in every city but its take a bit of planning!



Samantha Ede

Lawyer, human rights team, Ministry of Justice

I am a lawyer in the human rights team in the Ministry of Justice Legal Advisers, currently leading the legal work on the Bill of Rights. I trained in private practice at Russell-Cooke and then moved to the Government Legal Service on qualification. I started in one of the litigation teams of what is now the Government Legal Department doing claims (including human rights claims) brought against the Home Office by prisoners and prison officers, as well as inquest work. I then moved to the Home Office where I advised on sex offenders, lap dancing, drugs and police misconduct before doing a stint of asylum law. I have also worked at the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Adviser to the Government and, as such, human rights issues are often crossing his desk. So I suppose I would say that, as for most Government lawyers, human rights have been a key feature of my career as a civil servant whether I've been advising on new policy ideas or working on Bills or litigation for the Government.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

As a government lawyer, that probably has to be James Eadie QC, First Treasury Counsel. But I also greatly admire those who put their lives on the line to help uphold human rights around the world.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I'm not sure it started out as a particularly conscious choice but it's a critical part of Government Legal Service work and is one of the aspects of the job I find most interesting. For example, if you are involved in high profile human rights litigation for the Government you really get to see the interface between politics, the media and the law.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Yes, although not specifically in relation to human rights work. I did some voluntary work at a Legal Advice Centre in Wandsworth and some vacation placements with solicitors' firms and barristers' chambers when I was still deciding which part of the legal profession I wanted to enter. These tended to tell me what I didn't, rather than what I did, want to do but were certainly essential to ensuring I made informed choices about my career.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Supporting the former Attorney General in a series of meetings with key figures and judges in Strasbourg and representing the UK at the UN's examination of the UK on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Geneva.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Examining sanitation facilities at a prison on the Isle of Wight in order to determine whether conditions amounted to a violation of the ECHR.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The debate about whether there should be a Bill of Rights, given that I'm one of the lawyers in Government currently advising on that policy.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Article 3 seems to have been an important cornerstone of my career, having worked on prison sanitation claims, the Abu Qatada case and whole life.



8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

No.

9. *What is your dream job?*

The one I'm doing.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

11. Not really a regular occurrence in Government but I did work till midnight around 2 years ago when I went to Luxembourg for the hearing on whether the EU accession agreement (paving the way for the EU to become a party to the ECHR) is compatible with the EU Treaties. The judges had a lot of questions on the first day of the hearing and we had to prepare answers for the following day.

12. *What was the last book you read?*

Rebecca



Caterina Franchi

Solicitor, Danielle Cohen Solicitors

Caterina just finished her training contract at Danielle Cohen Solicitors, a niche north London firm specialising in Human Rights, Public Law and Immigration. She is expected to qualify as a solicitor in August 2016. Her work at Danielle Cohen involves assisting and advising clients on asylum, human rights, deportation and immigration issues. She has a particular interest in complex asylum cases and cases involving victims of torture and political dissidents.

Caterina is also a writer and commissioning editor for The Justice Gap, an online magazine about the law and justice aimed at the public. She is also a Young Lawyers Committee member for the Human Rights Lawyers Association and she volunteers for the Liberty Advice Line and St Michael Church Legal Clinic.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

Well, I think different practitioners have inspired me at different stages of my life. When I was still a teenager, I was inspired by Shirin Ebadi and her courage to fight for women's rights. When I moved to London, I heard Helena Kennedy speak at a student conference and I fell in love with her charisma and ideas. Now that I have worked in this field for almost 3 years, I have an endless list of people that inspire me. Before, the list used to be populated by "famous" practitioner, but it now has the names of those people I work with or meet every day and who tirelessly dedicate their life to fighting for justice and human rights.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

During the World Cup final in 2006, I was ill in bed and decided to watch a movie. While people were shouting in the street with joy for Italy's victory, I was watching a movie about two famous Italian Judges that were killed by the Mafia during the 90s. That movie changed me. I became obsessed with the lives of those judges and the problem of Mafia in Italy. That turned into a more general desire to get justice and to defend the most vulnerable. Those two judges gave their lives to fight for what was right and I felt I wanted to do the same, in my own way. That's how I decided to become a Human Rights Lawyer.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

I did many; and I continue to do so. During my University years I was the President of King's Human Rights Project, established the first Human Rights Week at King's and a Human Rights Newsletter. I also volunteered as for the Equal Rights Trust and the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs on their Asylum and Refugees project. After I left University I worked for the UN in Geneva for 6 months and then came back to the UK and volunteered at Lambeth Law Centre.

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

Probably helping the daughter of a very famous Zimbabwean politician remain in the UK. I learnt so much about her father and the history of Zimbabwe from her. She was so afraid to go back to Zimbabwe and so afraid of Mugabe. I truly felt I was a human rights lawyer when we won her case and she was allowed to remain here.

5. What has been the low-point?

The many MANY rejection emails I received from the Human Rights firms, charities and organisations I applied to.

6. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

I am very interested in Immigration detention and in particular the detention of vulnerable people such as victims of torture, pregnant women and children. This is very topical at the moment as the Immigration Bill that is currently going through parliament has focused a lot on these issues, although too little has been achieved!



7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Article 3 – Freedom from torture, inhumane or degrading treatment.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Yes. I am a member of Liberty and I also volunteer for the Advice Line. I have also supported the recent Unlocked16 campaign organised by Right to Remain, Detention Forum and Detention Action against the unlimited detention of immigrants.

9. *What is your dream job?*

I have probably changed the answer to this question a million times since starting my career in human rights.

At the moment, my dream job would be working as a Human Rights Lawyer on high profile cases involving individuals who are being excluded from the Refugee Convention because of their alleged links to terrorism or genocide. I would also love to work more closely with victims of torture and trafficking while also sitting as a part-time judge, ideally in the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal. I also love journalism, legal reporting and writing so my dream job would allow me to combine my legal work with my passion for journalism.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

About 2 weekends ago, but it wasn't work related!

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Half of a yellow sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Tom Gaisford

Barrister, 1 Gray's Inn Square

Before being called to the Bar, Tom practised as a solicitor. He qualified with Reed Smith Richards Butler in 2006, and joined Wilson Solicitors LLP in 2009. Committed and versatile, Tom has developed particular experience in human rights; immigration/asylum; public law; criminal law; prison law; commercial litigation; employment and discrimination.

Tom has appeared regularly in both tiers of the Immigration and Asylum tribunal, the Crown Court and the County Court, inter alia. His speaking engagements include addressing the Moving Worlds Film Festival (Dublin) and the Instituto de Cervantes on African/European migration and development strategy.

In 2006, Tom served as an intern at Trinity Chambers (Trinidad), under the late Desmond Allum SC, where he focused on providing representation to prisoners on death row and probing the constitutional legality of the death penalty.

Since 2007, Tom has provided legal advice to Solidaridad Directa: an innovative development initiative designed to reduce the causes of irregular migration. Tom is legal advisor to the Sante Refugee Mental Health Access Project.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

I find inspiration in any practitioner who uses their craft to help the oppressed. These include solicitors firms such as Wilson Solicitors LLP, Bindmans LLP and other, smaller outfits.

I am inspired by my colleagues at the Immigration Bar for the same/similar reasons. I equally admire NGOs such as HRW, Amnesty, Freedom from Torture and Quilliam Foundation.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I made the decision after qualifying as a City solicitor, though I had subliminally known I would since the 3rd year of my undergraduate degree in History: I had studied the US Civil Rights Movement and had been inspired the skill and resourcefulness of advocates such as Thurgood Marshall.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

On leaving Reed Smith LLP, I did an internship at Trinity Chambers, Port of Spain Trinidad, specialising in death penalty cases. On return I went straight into the MSc in Human Rights at the LSE. There I met a partner at Wilsons Solicitors LLP, who effectively recruited me to work at his firm.

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

I would say perhaps winning a recent removal/disputed nationality appeal against the Home Office for an extremely vulnerable young man from an east African state. I took the case pro bono on request from a former colleague. Together, we secured legal aid, three types of expert evidence and a robust litigation strategy that stood up to scrutiny. We celebrated the young man's grant of refugee status last week.

5. What has been the low-point?

Perhaps losing a defence trial despite contradictory prosecution evidence and whereupon no reasons were given for the conviction. D had been charged with obstructing police officers as they tried to raid his flat. I was left with the sense that I could/should have elicited a better result. Worse, I felt that an injustice had been done: notwithstanding whether or not in fact D had tried to obstruct the officers, the prosecution had not discharged the burden of proof to the criminal standard.



6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Pretty much any concerning mind control/abuse, extremism, and/or our treatment of those implicated. Often I feel compelled to get publicly involved in such debates as these three examples show:
<http://www.independent.co.uk/author/tom-gaisford>

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Without wishing to sound facetious, it's the (unsaid) right to help each other. To my mind it's the universal right we assume when we seek to protect any other human right. I developed this argument here:
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/tom-gaisford/right-to-help-each-other-one-they-missed...>

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Since 2007 I have worked with a Spanish migration/development group operating in Morocco called Solidaridad Directa. I now advise the Sante Refugee Mental Health Access Project <http://www.santeproject.org.uk> and have done some informal work with Quilliam.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Probably this one, though I would like to expand my public law practise into other areas and do more university lecturing.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

When I was instructed to stop the urgent removal of a former soldier to a west African state about which I knew little. I didn't in fact work all night, but cannot have slept more than a couple of hours and fell asleep in the bath when I got home...

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Stanley Milgram's 'Obedience To Authority: An Experimental View' - scary stuff...



Camilla Graham Wood

Legal Officer, Privacy International

Camilla Graham Wood qualified solicitor admitted to the roll of solicitors in England and Wales on 3 October 2011. She currently works at Privacy International as Legal Officer after seven years at Birnberg Peirce & Partners where she specialised in actions against the police, immigration and asylum.

Privacy International is committed to fighting for the right to privacy across the world. It investigates the secret world of government surveillance and exposes the companies enabling it. Camilla is involved in litigation against MI5, MI6 and GCHQ including the acquisition, use and retention of bulk personal datasets and bulk communications data, as well as advocacy work on the Investigatory Powers Bill. She regularly blogs for Privacy International's website. <https://www.privacyinternational.org/news>

Camilla is part of the coordination group of Justice Alliance <https://justiceallianceuk.wordpress.com> Justice Alliance brought together charities, the legal profession and individuals committed to access to justice and the organisation has achieved impressive results in challenging the cuts and held numerous rallies; a sold out comedy event at the Union Chapel in Islington and produced a short video on the impact of cuts to legal aid featuring Stephen Fry <https://youtu.be/piOigFHdVIY>

Camilla is a Director of the Colombia Caravana UK Lawyers Group. The Colombian Caravana UK Lawyers Group is a group of international lawyers that monitor the human rights abuses faced by legal professionals in Colombia. The organisation is committed to supporting human rights lawyers at risk through awareness raising and educational activities as well as observation missions to Colombia to report on the situation impacting the legal community. Members of the group have undertaken international legal observation missions to Colombia in 2008, 2010 and 2012 as part of a commitment by the International Caravana of Lawyers to continue to monitor the human rights abuses faced by legal professionals in Colombia. <http://www.colombiancaravana.org.uk/>

In 2014 she was awarded the Law Society Junior Lawyer Excellence Award and the Legal Aid Practitioners Group Young Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year. She has previously been on the executive committee for both Young Legal Aid Lawyers and Junior Lawyers Division. She now acts as a mentor for Young Legal Aid Lawyers mentoring scheme.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

The legal team at Detention Action and barristers working on challenging the Detained Fast Track System (DFT) over the past few years are inspiring. Many people arriving in the UK are detained from the minute after they claim asylum in the UK. Their entire asylum claim is processed while they are locked in a high security immigration detention centre. The DFT is designed for asylum claims that are considered suitable for a quick decision. However, the decision to fast-track an asylum case is made when very little is known about the person's situation. As a result, vulnerable people with complex cases, including victims of torture, trafficking, gender-based violence and homophobic persecution are regularly detained on the DFT.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

There was not a particular moment. It developed over time. I always hoped I would be in a position to do a job which had a positive impact but thought I might end up in development work. I became disillusioned with this after spending time in Cambodia where my Cambodian friends would ask why the NGO's were all there when they hated Cambodia and patronized them. Whilst there are some great NGO's, the experience made me think that if I focused on helping individuals I could do more good than working for an NGO who after five years or more had little to show. This focused me on a career in legal aid.



3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

My first human rights placement was at the Red Cross and I then worked in Cambodia with Housing Rights Task Force; Legal Aid of Cambodia and was an adviser to Bridges Across Borders. Whilst at Law School I volunteered at Prisoners Advice Service and did some work at Redress and started working at the Law Society in the Human Rights Division. My time with The Law Society ended in the first legal mission to Colombia in support of human rights lawyers and after that I went to Trinidad as part of the Centre For Capital Punishment Studies death row internship scholarship. I came back and did a short internship at Justice and then started working as a legal secretary. I was lucky enough to get quite a few funded placements. Funding is limited and with University tuition fees and rising cost of law school working for free is not an option for many people. My advice to students now is to do the LPC part time so that you can try and find a paralegal or casework job in legal aid.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Being told by human rights lawyers in Colombia that most of them would not be alive without the work of the Colombia Caravana UK Lawyers Group was a high but at the same time made you think how much more you could be doing.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Cuts to legal aid and barriers to access to the profession.

A Treasury Counsel (QC) recently referred to the bringing cases to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal to challenge unlawful government surveillance as 'legal terrorism'. The idea that it is legal terrorism for reputable human rights organisations to carry out their work, including bringing litigation, is something that the Treasury Council should not be saying because that is not a national security issue.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Given my work on the Investigatory Powers Bill I would say that is a key human rights debate I am interested in and it is one that more people should take notice of. Vast surveillance powers will be granted not only to the surveillance agencies but to the police, local councils and other organisations such as the Food Standards Agency. Everyone needs to get involved, get informed and consider what rights to privacy they stand to lose if this Bill goes through and the threats to their data: their emails, their whatsapp messages, their location data, their medical records, their number plates, who they meet, when they meet them, their browsing history.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

They are all important.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

The Hillsborough Inquiry has shone a light onto the importance of inquests. Inquest, a charity supporting families whose family member died at the hands of the state, do vital work. Particularly given the often outrageous disparity between legal representation. The state - prisons, police etc may have a full fleet of QC's whilst the family are representing themselves or have pro bono assistance.

9. *What is your dream job?*

I enjoy my current job and don't think about 'a dream job'.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

I tended to do all-nighters revising as a student and when waitressing as you got paid more for a double shift. Working as a solicitor I don't think you can produce excellent work if you pull an all-nighter and my best work comes with sleep and exercise. All-nighters are negative and counter-productive. Friends from Law School who work in corporate law talk about



all-nighters where the reality is sitting around waiting to be told to do some photocopying. All-nighters should be for when you're having fun and can sleep the next day.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Cryptonomicon, Neal Stephenson

I tweeted when I finished and [root@eruditorim.root](https://twitter.com/root@eruditorim.root) followed me which was weird.



Kat Hacker

Public law solicitor, Duncan Lewis Solicitors

Kat joined Duncan Lewis in September 2008, having been called to the Bar in July 2008. Kat qualified as a Solicitor in 2011 under the Qualified Lawyers Transfer scheme. Kat obtained her Higher Rights in August 2015 and intends to expand her higher court advocacy.

Having qualified as a Level 2 Senior Caseworker and Supervisor under the Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme, Kat currently manages a team. Kat conducts her own advocacy in the Tribunal and more recently has conducted out of hours applications for interim relief before the High Court.

Kat is part of the 'high-quality team' described in Chambers & Partners 2015, run by James Packer. Kat is committed to bringing access to justice for marginalised individuals and represents highly vulnerable individuals ensuring that their best interests are always at the forefront of the case.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

Stephanie Harrison QC – tenacious in her defence of the marginalised. Her work in relation to those refused British nationality on the basis of alleged terrorist activities, and who bring their case in the Special Immigration Appeals Commission has also been influential. Her determination to challenge the right to a fair trial within the Commission, where often 'secret evidence', is used is unsurpassed.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

Having conducted mainly immigration work for the first year, I started carrying out more Public Law work. This was at the time when ZO (Somalia) was going to the Supreme Court (lead case on permission to work for failed asylum seekers). I became more interested in how to challenge negative decisions outside of an appeal remit, and what I do to challenge what I considered to be both unlawful and unfair decisions. Public law was an area in which to achieve the satisfaction of holding the Government to account, and forcing them to correct their errors.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

No. Although whilst at Law school I chose Administrative Law and Human Rights as my additional modules – clearly anticipating that I would end up in this area of law!

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

Recently obtaining asylum for a client after a law four year slog involving lengthy litigation in the High Court. This litigation remains ongoing despite the success and grant of leave. In 2013, I obtained the lead judgment in the Administrative Court in the case of P(DRC) this was the lead case on the consideration of foreign nationals who were criminal offenders as eligible for refugee protection. This resulted in a new country guidance case in the Upper Tribunal and a stay of removals until the conclusion of that guidance.

5. What has been the low-point?

Recently winning a client's Article 8 appeal in the First Tier Tribunal and then losing at the Upper Tribunal. It was found that it was not in the public interest for the individual to remain in the UK despite the fact that, he is now 21 years old; he had been, trafficked to the UK and who had established a private and family life since 2007. As such he is now liable to removal to Bangladesh – but we are due to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

6. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

I am currently interested in the debate surrounding refugees fleeing to Europe. Unclear why we are not doing more as a country to assist those with families in the UK and in particular unaccompanied minors who are vulnerable to human traffickers.



7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Putting aside the absolute rights, I am torn between Article 5 (right to liberty) and Article 8 (right to family and private life). The latter is exceptionally wide ranging and the former is one that is being increasingly breached in immigration detention. Many individuals in immigration detention say it's worse than prison because there is no end date, and there is a sense that you are being doubly punished. The UK is the only country in Europe where there is indefinite detention.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I support the work of Afganaid, an NGO largely based in Afghanistan which helps communities on the ground to be self-sustainable. I have been a spokesperson for them for the last couple of years. I also greatly support the work of Freedom from Torture, and their work with survivors of torture. The work of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants [JCWI] is an equally excellent NGO/charity – and has been influencing the field of immigration and human rights since the 60s.

9. *What is your dream job?*

To work on an orang-utan sanctuary in Borneo.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Tuesday 3 May, ahead of the start of a three day trial concerning false imprisonment (breach of Article 5) of a mother and three minor children for 116 days. One of the longest periods of detention of children known.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks about the immortal cell line of HeLa cells taken from the lady of the title, without her consent in 1951. The book deals with issues concerning the early science of cancer treatment and tissue research as well as the evolution of consent and ethics in the field of medicine. The issue of race permeates the book.



Eeva Heikkila

Chair, Human Rights Lawyers Association and barrister, 9 Bedford Row

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

Nelson Mandela. He acted on behalf of ordinary citizens who were unable to get justice in South Africa at that time. For a while, he was a very popular legal practitioner. Clients would queue up behind his door. Already at that time he changed and impacted the society surrounding him, one individual at the time.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

In high school I was a human rights activist but thought I will inevitably have to go and study business or economics one day. I decided to become a professional dissident when I read a book by Naomi Klein called No Logo. Until then it had never occurred to me that I will not have to "grow up", that I could fight for rights professionally.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I have lost count how many internships and voluntary placements I have undertaken, in the UK and Europe. I worked where ever I could, whenever I could. Not only did I develop in-depth understanding of key human rights issues, I am also intimately aware how the human rights field operates.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

There have been many. Securing political asylum feels incredible. Removing a politically motivated Red Notice feels incredible. But I think when I landed in Guantanamo Bay I felt I would remember that moment for the rest of my life.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Some incomprehensible decisions by the European Court of Human Rights and the lack of reasons for those decisions. These things are very difficult for the victims of human rights violations to understand.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Several. The debate concerning asylum seekers and refugees is politically charged and ill-informed; The juxtaposition of snooping versus security is a false notion and the upcoming Bill might create more issues instead of making us safer; Countering extremism by legislating to restrict freedom of expression might end up exacerbating the issue of radicalisation and the European Convention of Human Rights has never restricted our rights, it has given us rights.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Fair trial and freedom of expression. If these two rights are rigorously upheld, the rest will follow.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I am a great admirer of Article 19 and Redress. I think Human Rights Lawyers Association is also quite impressive, not least as I am the current Chair!

9. *What is your dream job?*

My earliest dream was to be a prosecutor at the International Criminal Court. I now know it is not all I thought it was. Having worked in the human rights field now for some time, the best way is to combine legal practice, academia and civil society work. It sounds complicated but it is doable.



10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

About a month ago. I had to prepare a complaint to the UN Committee against Torture.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Five Ideas to Fight For by Lord Lester. Excellent, this book will never age, the concepts it discusses are eternal and existential. I have also just re-read To Kill a Mockingbird. The book reminds me why we human rights lawyers do what we do.



Justin Leslie

Barrister, Office of the Parliamentary Counsel

I am a barrister who works as a parliamentary counsel. This means that I draft the primary legislation that comes before Parliament. I work exclusively for the government and my clients include the Cabinet Office, the Home Office and the Department of Health. My work involves the analysis of the government's policy objectives and then creating provisions that are clear and effective. Human rights are integral to this, given that legislation should be compatible with the UK's obligations under the ECHR. My work so far has formed part of the Deregulation Act the Scotland Act 2016

Before I became a parliamentary counsel, I was a barrister in private practice at 42 Bedford Row working in public and civil law.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

I find inspiring those people who are willing to make significant personal sacrifices to work in human rights. It is not a well-paid area of law and the working conditions can be very tough. I am particularly in awe of my friend Chessie Aaron-Thomas (Maxwell Gillott) for her dedication to the job.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I remember doing a module in medical ethics on my GDL and wrestling with the issue of assisted suicide around the same time *Purdy v DPP* [2009] UKHL 45. Instead of just debating such topics, I wanted to become involved in these issues myself. This was the catalyst of my interest in human rights and public law.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I spent about 10 months working at the Public Law Project as a legal intern. This was a wonderful experience as I was able to work alongside excellent lawyers working on ground-breaking cases.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Whilst I was in private practice, the high-point of my human rights work were the *pro bono* cases I undertook for Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID). With these cases I would be working with clients in great need of representation. Each time a client was given bail was a great result and was an acute reminder of the value of one's own personal liberty.

Whilst working as a parliamentary counsel, I was happy to see that some work that I had done on allowing the Scottish Parliament to increase gender diversity on the boards of public authorities in Scotland. That was very tricky to balance the demands of anti-discrimination law under Article 14 and EU law.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

I was once involved in an asylum appeal in the Upper Tribunal where I received the papers late and I was still finding my way in that area of law. The judgment that we were appealing was riddled with errors that I hadn't spotted, and the judge took great relish in pointing out how ill prepared I was. It was an excruciating couple of hours. Fortunately for my client, it didn't affect the result but it was a salutary lesson in the importance of preparation.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

I am particularly interested in how human rights will fit into the constitutional arrangements of the UK over the next five to ten years, particularly given the prospect of further devolution.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

I would hesitate to say I had a "favourite" human right. Obviously, the absolute rights are of cardinal importance and cannot be balanced against the public interest. I have always thought Article 8 ECHR is the most interesting article



given its width and constantly developing interpretation. It regularly impacts on my job as a drafter in a variety of contexts. This has included provisions on evictions, information sharing and powers of entry.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I have previously been involved with the work of Medical Justice. In fact, some years ago the HLRA gave me a bursary to allow this work, which was very helpful at the time.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Of all the legal jobs out there, I think my current job suits me best. Being a parliamentary counsel combines hard legal analysis with the need for creativity. In private practice, work that would go onto change the law is relatively rare. Now, all of my work is focused on changing the law. This is a privilege, as well as being great fun.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Fortunately, all-nighters are relatively rare now (although the odd bit of weekend working makes up for it). Having said that last Christmas, I was involved in drafting clauses following the referendum on Scottish Independence, which involved working flat-out over Christmas and New Year. It was an exciting time.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

I'm ashamed to say that I only really dip in to books. For instance, I am trying to read *Erskine May* (which is the authoritative text on parliamentary procedure) but it is very heavy going. A great cookery book I refer to almost daily is *The Flavour Thesaurus* and my guilty pleasure is *Roger's Profanisaurus* which is a great (if outrageous) antidote to staid legislative language.

Having said all that, I'm doing a book review for a book called *Parliament: Legislation and Accountability*, which so far is very good indeed.



Shoaib M Khan

Solicitor and barrister

@ShoaibMKhan

Shoaib works mainly in Immigration and Asylum law. He holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in law, has been Called to the Bar and is qualified as a solicitor. He is also accredited by the OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner) at Level 3. He has worked with several human rights NGOs and continues to do so. He has worked on human rights cases at various levels, including ECtHR cases, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Human Rights Lawyers Association.

Previous roles

His previous roles include work with organisations including Liberty, BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees), the AIRE Centre, the British Institute of Human Rights, the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre and the Kurdish Human Rights Project.

Shoaib has also worked as a paralegal and a Citizen's Advice Bureau advisor. He is a trained community mediator and has volunteered for Victim Support and the Ealing Legal Centre as well as local refugee-rights charities.

Volunteer work / membership

Member of Liberty, JUSTICE, Amnesty, JCWI, ILPA and others.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

So many of them. Anyone who continues to work in this area despite the constant attacks from the Government, politicians and the media, is inspiring and commendable. Right now, anyone who is speaking up in defence of the Human Rights Act is admirable.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I have always found unfairness, abuse of power and general bullying of the weak by the strong intolerable. I wanted to work in human rights before I wanted to become a lawyer and indeed the reason I became a lawyer was to work in human rights. There was therefore no one moment.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

I did a few, some of which are mentioned above. The main aim at the time was to have something to put on my CV, but, now, I do not see how I could have decided what exactly I wanted to do with my career without those experiences. I volunteered in a variety of roles in a variety of organisations and this helped me to determine what kind of work I was good at and what I enjoyed, which has helped me to avoid making bad career choices later.

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

I don't think I've really had much of a human rights career so far, so it is hard to say. It's always heartening to see that one's work is actually making a difference – whether it's getting a newspaper to publish a correction when they misreport a human rights case, or having a judge appreciate your work in court. Anything that makes a difference to the human rights cause is a "high-point".

5. What has been the low-point?

Getting to know the inherent unfairness in some aspects of our legal system has been depressing. A low-point is realising how the odds are stacked against certain vulnerable groups every step of the way. For instance, the way we deal with immigration detainees is constantly demoralising. Every time a judge refuses bail even where the law requires release is a low-point.

6. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

The recent assault on the Human Rights Act by our Government itself and other senior public figures is particularly concerning. Although I am more "appalled by" it than "interested in" it. I find it incredible we are even having this debate and that it can be a genuine proposal that we repeal the Human Rights Act. If the previous generation of



human rights lawyers fought so hard to get a Human Rights Act, I hope we're not the generation that allows it to be taken away.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

I guess I have to say Article 8. As important as Articles 2 and 3 are, Article 8 has really changed our lives. Not many of us are at real risk of being killed or tortured by the state, but our private and family lives are constantly being violated. Even without Articles 2 and 3, most of us would probably be safe from unlawful killing and torture, but with the loss of Article 8, we would lose a whole host of protections.

And, I should say, Article 8 also has to be my favourite human right because it's the Daily Mail's most hated human right, and because, without Article 8, how would people with pet cats get to stay in the UK...

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I am a member of quite a few and try to be as involved in their work as I can. I conduct pro bono bail hearings and legal advice workshops at immigration removal centres for BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees) which I find to be particularly satisfying.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Since I'm dreaming, why not aim high and say judge at the European Court of Human Rights. Although, in the current climate, holding that post may well be more of a nightmare than a dream.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

About two years ago. But that was the first for a long time, and the fact that I remember it shows how rare it is.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

I realise I'm not really answering the question, but the latest must-read for those interested in human rights and related issues is [Five Ideas to Fight For](#) by Anthony Lester.



Grainne Mellon

Garden Court

Lecturer at London School of Economics

Gráinne specialises in public law, human rights and equality law. Her practice includes immigration, detention and trafficking work, community care and court of protection, children's rights and employment and discrimination law.

Gráinne undertakes advisory work, litigation, teaching and training in international and European human rights law and in international criminal law. In 2013, Gráinne was awarded a Pegasus scholarship to complete a fellowship at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York where she worked on national security, international human rights and Guantanamo Bay cases.

Grainne lectures in International Human Rights Law at the London School of Economics and is an Executive Committee member of the Bar Human Rights Committee.

1. A brief summary of your career so far including your work as a barrister and an academic

I specialise in public and employment law at Garden Court Chambers. I also lecture in International Human Rights Law at the London School of Economics and am an Executive Committee member of the Bar Human Rights Committee.

2. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

Mary Robinson, former UN Commissioner for Human Rights has always been an inspiration to me- not least for the work that she has done at the interface of law and politics. I have also been lucky enough to teach with Christine Chinkin at the LSE. Her work on women's rights and international law has been, and continues to be, ground-breaking.

3. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I'm afraid I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a human rights barrister. I grew up in Northern Ireland in what was a highly politicised society and had a real sense, from a young age, of the impact that law could have on people's lives.

On a more practical level, my LLM in Public International Law at the LSE really cemented my interest in human rights law and international law more generally. Studying alongside a diverse group of international lawyers was an eye-opener and a privilege.

4. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

I was fortunate in that I obtained a number of paid internships before completing the BPTC. These included stints in the European Commission in Brussels, the International Criminal Court in the Hague and the US Congress in Washington DC. I also volunteered in the House of Lords and with a children's rights NGO in India.

In addition, as a pupil/junior barrister, I gained a great deal through volunteering as an advocate with organisations such as FRU and Bail for Immigration Detainees. I cannot recommend either organisation enough.

5. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

I really don't know if I can answer this question at this stage- however, getting results for vulnerable clients always reminds me why I do the job and I think is what keeps many barristers going.

I have also loved some of the international work that I have been involved with. In particular I really enjoyed being part of a delegation to Nigeria with the Bar Human Rights Committee where, on behalf of UNICEF, we delivered training on children's rights and international law.



6. What has been the low-point?

There are often difficult days – of late instructions, grumpy judges and delayed trains. But I think the real low points are the memories of those cases, and clients, for whom you didn't get the result you wanted, and for whom, often the consequences are stark.

On a more trivial note, preparing bundles is also pretty awful!

7. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

These days, I am particularly interested in domestic human rights issues-namely the access to justice/ legal aid debate and the wider issue of the politicisation of the debate on the protection of human rights in the UK. I am at a loss about the plans to scrap the Human Rights Act. I think it is an impressive and important piece of legislation and that we should do all we can to retain it.

8. What is your favourite human right?

Trick question- we all know that all human rights are indivisible, interdependent and inter-related! Although, it has to be said that the right to periodic holidays with pay (Art 24 UDHR) is an attractive one!

9. Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?

I support lots and it is very difficult to choose. The Children's Rights Alliance of England and Wales does really excellent work on issues ranging from child poverty to the treatment of children in custody. Rights Watch UK also play an important role in promoting human rights and holding government to account in conflict/post-conflict societies, building on lessons learned in Northern Ireland. Finally, the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York do great work on US and international human rights violations. I think that, in particular, their work on Guantanamo Bay will really stand the test of time.

10. What is your dream job?

This is my dream job (apparently!) I always wanted to combine practice with my academic interests and to do as much international work as I could.

11. When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?

I have never pulled a full all nighter but I'm sorry to say I do often get only a few hours sleep the night before a difficult trial or case. It is getting better though!

12. What was the last book you read?

"The Country Girl" by Edna O'Brien



Angela Patrick

Director of Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE

Angela Patrick is a qualified barrister (2003 call), educated at Durham and Cambridge Universities. In her current role, she leads JUSTICE's strategy on human rights policy and litigation. Before joining JUSTICE, she was assistant legal adviser to the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights. In this role, she advised on a broad range of human rights issues, from the compatibility of the treatment of detainees with the UN Convention against Torture to respecting the right to privacy in the operation of the national DNA database.

Following pupillage at Matrix, Angela practised from Hailsham Chambers. She has held academic posts at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and at University College London. She acts as an expert for the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, training parliamentarians in emerging democracies and their staff on international human rights standards and the rule of law. Angela has published and lectured widely and is a contributing author to Sweet and Maxwell's *Human Rights Practice*. She sits on the Executive Board of the Human Rights Lawyers Association and the Advisory Board of RightsInfo.

JUSTICE is an all-party law reform organisation working on access to justice, human rights and the rule of law. It is the UK section of the International Commission of Jurists.

For more information about JUSTICE, see www.justice.org.uk or follow @justicehq.

12. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

It's a close-call between the human rights defenders working on cases in countries where abuse is rife and their work is both life-saving and life endangering and anyone still working in a law centre or a citizens advice bureau. However, if you get a chance to see Albie Sachs speak, go.

13. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

A thoroughly unhelpful career guidance computer once told me that I should be an "artist" or a "judge".

After deciding I wasn't going to be the next Tracey Emin, I thought that something practical with an income was a good idea. Law was the sensible choice. It seemed to have something to do with social justice and changing unfair "stuff". A fair few years down the line, I'm glad to know that it does (sometimes).

14. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

No. I was hard-up and nervous about debt while studying, so I worked most summers and evenings. I tried to do paid work in the field, for example, doing research for solicitors working on human rights cases. However, there was also a fair share of waitressing, dry-cleaning kilts (a long story) and call centres.

I regret doing no voluntary internships, which would have been far more interesting, rewarding and valuable to society, but I only took pro-bono and voluntary work once I had an income. One of the most interesting projects I've worked on was an International Bar Association programme on the rule of law and human rights for parliaments in developing countries. It was an amazing opportunity to meet and work with human rights campaigners across the world and think about many challenges that we don't see in the UK. Working with our partner lawyers in countries from Mozambique to Georgia was an inspiring learning experience.

15. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

Either helping persuade a particularly resistant Conservative member of the House of Lords that the Human Rights Act 1998 was a "good thing" he should champion OR convincing legal colleagues at the Ugandan Parliament that asking their Government to justify why legislation complies with their constitution and international human rights standards was a proper job for the legislative branch.



16. *What has been the low-point?*

Failing to persuade the same group of Ugandan parliamentary lawyers to recognise that the international human rights framework was key to the debate on their Anti-Homosexuality Bill...

17. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The politicisation of the debate on the protection of human rights in the UK – both at home and away – is both interesting and deeply worrying.

As senior political figures in the UK have retrenched from international human rights standards in the interests of political expediency, it has seriously undermined the reputation of the UK as a voice for the rule of law globally and the global commitment of countries everywhere to enforceable minimum human rights standards. That the Kenyan and Russian Governments are citing the UK Prime Minister's concerns as a reason to diminish their engagement with international law is seriously disappointing.

If we repeal our Human Rights Act to put a "British gloss" on the international standards accepted in the European Convention on Human Rights can we credibly argue against Russia putting their own unique spin on their international commitments?

18. *What is your favourite human right?*

From someone who has always liked to talk too much, freedom of expression must be up there. Without it, for example, you can't take to the streets to complain that your neighbour has been wrongly arrested and savagely beaten for being a religion/colour/sexuality (delete as you like) that the majority object to.

19. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

JUSTICE does an excellent job working on access to justice, the rule of law and human rights, and student membership is excellent value...

On a global scale, Plan runs an inspirational campaign to keep girls in developing countries in education.

20. *What is your dream job?*

My role at JUSTICE has a brilliant combination of public interest litigation and public policy work. I feel very privileged to be part of our small but committed team.

If someone were to offer me the opportunity to do some of this important work remotely, while scuba diving off the Caribbean coast, I wouldn't say no.

21. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

I'd love to say I'm too organised to have ever done anything as silly as work all night, but that would be a lie. Working all night is bad for your health, unproductive and incompatible with a happy home life.

Thankfully, the last time I saw the sunrise in front of my PC was a fair few years ago. I was juggling two projects for the JCHR which were time sensitive: producing draft reports on the Government's proposed reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on the Coroners and Justice Bill (which dealt with restrictions to the National DNA Database, to address the judgment in *Marper*, reform of the Coronial system, and a host of other challenging procedural and substantive reforms to the criminal law). Both were subject to strict parliamentary timetables, both were important and there weren't enough hours in the day.



22. *What was the last book you read?*

For the law geeks (of which I am one), I have just finished *Five Ideas to Fight For* by Anthony Lester (Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC). Those five ideas – Human Rights, Equality, Free Speech, Privacy and the Rule of Law – are ones that we lawyers should be fully equipped to defend.

Unfortunately - as Anthony explains in reflection on his 5 decades in the law – those ideas have been under unrelenting attack by successive governments. The time for action is now.

For everyone else, I've just finished Robert Harris's Cicero Trilogy. Well worth packing if you need a beach read for the summer holidays!



Eirwen Pierrot

Barrister, Field Court Chambers

Eirwen completed her pupillage at Field Court Chambers in September 2015. She now undertakes work in a range of chambers' specialisms and has a particular interest in employment law and public law and local government, with an emphasis on community care and mental health. She is also developing a growing practice in housing and family law. Eirwen is especially interested in the application of discrimination and human rights law in respect of all areas of her practice.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Eirwen worked as a political advisor in the House of Commons, as a case worker for a leading community care and education law solicitors' firm, and with a number of NGOs both in Britain and abroad. She also worked for two years at the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

Anyone who works to promote human rights in an environment that puts their own life on the line. I worked for a while in Cairo and there were truly amazing, committed people out there working in the incredibly difficult political aftermath of the Arab Spring. Azza Soliman, a lawyer who set out a women's legal aid organisation was arrested and charged with criminal violation of protest laws after giving witness testimony about police brutality during the uprisings. I also worked for a while for an organisation called the Human Dignity Trust, where I learned about Caleb Orozco, an LGBT human rights defender bringing a case challenging the criminalisation of homosexuality in Belize. I couldn't put myself on the line in the way these men and women do!

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

It's very cheesy but when I was about 16 a volunteer from Amnesty International came to my school and gave an assembly on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That was pretty much the defining moment.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Yes. I did some volunteer work in a refugee shelter during university and that was helpful in landing me a graduate job out of university at the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). But that was pre the crash in 2008. I think it is much more difficult now to go straight from university into a paid, graduate job in human rights. Internships and voluntary placements are expected. After I decided to convert to law, even with a few years paid experience at the EHRC and in Parliament under my belt, it was almost as if I had to start again and get specific *legal* experience. I did a 6 month paid internship with the Human Dignity Trust, and a 9 months unpaid work at a refugee law centre in Cairo, part funded by a bursary from the HRLA.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far*

When I was working in Egypt I represented two stateless men in their asylum appeals. They had been refused refugee status at first instance and had been detained in Egyptian prison for over two years. They were facing indefinite detention because Egypt had nowhere to deport them to. Winning those appeals felt pretty incredible.

Since becoming a barrister, all the "firsts" are high points: winning your first employment tribunal, winning your first JR. When everything is new, and you feel a little overwhelmed, just getting through it can feel like a high point!

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Every time I am in a waiting area outside court and I see the number of people going it alone thanks to the wisdom of LASPO...

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Using discrimination and human rights law to challenge ever restricting access to justice.



7. *What is your favourite human right?*

The right to dignity. It's not a right per se in the UDHR or in the ECHR, but it is the lens through which all other rights should be viewed. It's now Article 1 of the EU Charter and is contained in many constitutions around the world. The right to dignity means the right to autonomy over one's own life, it means the right to life's basic social and economic necessities, it means the right to equality and non-discrimination. If we all talked a little more about ensuring people's dignity, we'd live in a much more equal and human rights compliant world.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Yes. Rights of Women, Rethink Mental Illness, and Freedom from Torture.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Most of the time it is any job that would enable me to fight cases that could have a real impact on people's lives, whether it is a real impact for my particular client, or a bigger societal impact.

But sometimes I think I'd rather be a barista than a barrister!

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Never a full all-nighter. But there have been times when I've worked until 3am and then got up at 5am. It's important to try and manage your time so that this is exceptional though.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

"Yes Please" by the comedian Amy Poehler. When you spend a lot of time reading case law at work, it's nice to unwind with something light hearted.



Michael Polak

Barrister, Church Court Chambers

Michael is experienced in all aspects of Criminal Defence, Housing, Prison, Family, Employment, and Sports Law. Michael accepts instructions for the defence in criminal matters before the Crown and Magistrates' courts. Michael is liked by clients for his professional manner and the personal investment he gives to each of his cases. He is particularly interested in cases with a human rights or international dimension and has spent time at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, The Black Sash in South Africa, and the Office of the Public Defender in Jamaica.

He has also had exposure to Defamation, Extradition, Inquests, Human Rights, International Criminal Law, and General Civil Law. During pupillage Michael successfully represented a political campaigner in the High Court to resist an application to set aside judgment in a defamation claim. He was described by Master Bard as addressing the court 'in terms clear and modest and perfectly proper'.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

Albie Sachs, a South African advocate then judge of the Constitutional Court. He acted for the those affected by the Apartheid laws. He spent time in solitary confinement and lost an arm and the sight in his eye in a bomb attack on his car. He was one of the drafters of the South African Constitution.

He met the man who placed the bomb under his car and his response to this is inspiring.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

When I started University I wanted to become a commercial lawyer and I undertook some work experience in this area. Although I enjoyed this, I found that the subjects I was most interested in were those with strong human dimensions such as criminal and human rights law. There was no single defining moments however growing up with parents who worked with disadvantaged groups may have had an influence.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

I have undertaken internships and placements with:

- The Office of the Public Defender, Kingston, Jamaica
- United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, Cambodia
- The Black Sash, Cape Town, South Africa
- National Centre for Domestic Violence
- Article 19
- Duty Advice Scheme and Family Advice Scheme at Willesden County Court

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

One recent highpoint was an appeal in which the Appellant had been found guilty of abusing a lady in the street who was his neighbour. He was a good man who had worked hard to support his family in this country. It turned out that the Appellant's neighbour had mounted a racist campaign against this man and his family over a long period and had made their lives very difficult. It was very satisfying to win this case for the Appellant.

5. What has been the low-point?

The low-point of my job is that it involves travelling a lot and sometimes you feel like the system is set up to favour the Prosecution.



6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The situation faced by unrepresented defendants is something which I find worrying. I have acted pro-bono on occasions when I have seen someone struggling in court.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

The right to a fair trial.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I am a member of Amnesty International and undertake voluntary work with the Renaissance Foundation which is a great organisation that helps to inspire and create opportunities for young underprivileged people in London.

9. *What is your dream job?*

My dream is to continue working as a barrister and to develop a practice before the international criminal and human rights courts and tribunals.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

At the moment I am undertaking a part-time Master's degree alongside my work as a barrister and voluntary positions. This means that I do not have much time to sleep but I always manage to get a few hours, and have become an expert at falling asleep on trains and busses.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

I am currently reading *The Tribunal* which is a fun novel about a fictional alleged Serbian warlord facing trial before the International Court for the Former Yugoslavia. In the book this warlord is defended by an American lawyer who moves to the Hague from California to work at the Court. The book is written by an American Lawyer, Peter Robinson who is currently representing Radovan Karadzic in his appeal at the Tribunal.



Naomi Sephton

Lawyer, Ministry of Justice

I am a lawyer within the Human Rights Team at the Ministry of Justice Legal Advisors, part of the Governmental Legal Department. Having graduated with a degree in Law and Human Rights, I have always been interested in this area and after a number of other roles, I joined the Government Legal Department's trainee scheme in September 2011. On qualification I spent two years defending judicial review claims for the Government, mostly against the Ministry of Justice but also for the Attorney General's Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Many of these cases raised human rights issues. Seven months ago I moved to my current role and since then most of my time has been spent working on the proposed Bill of Rights.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

During my two years in litigation I spent a lot of time in the High Court and I always found Lord Pannick QC and Dinah Rose QC impressive.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

When I decided to study law and human rights for my degree, it was either that or art school.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I didn't – but I probably should have.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

My current role - working on the Bill of Rights.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

There have been occasions when I haven't necessarily agreed with the Government's policy that I was defending but that comes with the territory of being a lawyer and an impartial civil servant.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The current one around whether we need a Bill of Rights.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

I think they are all fundamental.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I think most are admirable – personally I have supported Amnesty International for a number of years.

9. *What is your dream job?*

One day I would like to work for the UN and/or an NGO.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Socially – recently. For work – thankfully some time ago.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Tender is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald.



Leanne Targett-Parker Barrister, 10KBW

Leanne trained as a certified accountant with Lloyds of London, going on to be the Financial Director of a property company and then running her own corporate entertainment company specialising in yachting events.

Leanne was a local councillor in Lambeth from 2010-2014 where she was the Chair of Licensing for the full term as well as co-chairing a working group to draft Lambeth's Licensing Policy. She chaired the first Early Morning Restriction Order (EMRO) hearing in the UK.

Leanne is the Treasurer of the Human Rights Lawyers' Association. She is a Trustee and advisor for Centre 70, a legal advice centre in South London. She is the founder and director of the Temple Legal Centre, a dedicated family legal centre (the only one in London) located in Inner Temple

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

The ones who spend years fighting for prisoners on death row.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

After Bar School I did my LLM (London) and wanted to study human rights. With my first tenancy I was thrown into an asylum case without any idea of what I was doing (I had planned to cross-examine the Home Office!!!) and just thought after I got through it what I was doing further afield than in my community and knew how much I needed to carry on doing this.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I had a one year part-time internship with Liberty drafting a legal and accounting in-house manual.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Not one particular high point however winning asylum cases for unaccompanied minors is particularly satisfying.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Dealing with the Home Office on a regular basis and the perpetual erosion of rights for the vulnerable particularly appeal rights.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The refugee position in Europe currently.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Article 8 as I use it the most both in my immigration and family practice.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Liberty and Justice

9. *What is your dream job?*

Doing what I am doing – being a barrister



10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

I have never pulled an all nighter however I regularly work 18 hour days.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

SJ Parris – Heresy and I am working my way through all 5.



Adam Wagner

Barrister, One Crown Office Row
Founder of the UK Human Rights Blog
Founder of RightsInfo

Adam is a barrister specialising in public law, human rights and general civil law. He has been appointed to the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Attorney General's preferred panel of barristers.

He is well known for his human rights advocacy work. He is one of the most followed UK lawyers on Twitter (@adamwagner1) and appears regularly on BBC TV and radio commenting on human rights. He founded the acclaimed [UK Human Rights Blog](#) and the award-winning [RightsInfo](#). He has been shortlisted for Human Rights Lawyer of the Year at the Liberty Awards and Legal Personality of the Year at the Solicitors Journal Awards.

Before joining Chambers, Adam graduated from St Anne's College, Oxford with a first class degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and received an MA in Political Science from Columbia University. He also worked as the chair of a national youth organisation.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

All the usual suspects!

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

Probably after the 9/11 attacks, when I decided to change course at university and without realising it I was on the path to studying law and practising in human rights.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I volunteered for the Liberty Advice Line for a year, FRU for two years and for the Public Law Project for three months. I also worked in a number of human rights organisations in Israel.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far*

The Jagee joint enterprise case.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Being an advocate involves a life of high and low points (known as "winning" and "losing"!).

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The proposed Bill of Rights

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Article 10

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

RightsInfo.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Probably what I'm doing



10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

At university.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Consider Phlebas by Iain Banks



Liana Wood

Solicitor, Leigh Day & Co

Liana is a solicitor in the human rights department at Leigh Day & Co. She joined Leigh Day as a trainee solicitor in 2012 and undertook seats in international and group claims and human rights before qualifying into the employment and discrimination team in September 2014.

Liana works on a range of discrimination and employment cases and multi-party equal pay cases in the civil courts and the employment tribunal.

Liana has particular experience in sex discrimination, disability discrimination, whistleblowing, discrimination in relation to public services and data protection issues. She also has interest in discrimination relating to race, religion and political belief, the rights of individuals working as domestic servants in the UK and employment law in an international context.

Liana has a degree in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge. Prior to joining Leigh Day, Liana worked in Palestine and Pakistan. At the Justice Project Pakistan, Liana assisted in cases involving individuals on death row, torture victims and individuals detained in Afghanistan. Liana also worked at Barnet Law Centre, particularly assisting individuals on very low incomes with employment disputes.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

Asma Jahangir amongst many others! Also the ones whose names aren't known but who plod on trying to represent the vulnerable or marginalised in whatever field, often in difficult circumstances with no glamour and / or credit!

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I don't think there was a defining moment. My family used to say I'd become a lawyer because I love arguing. I wanted to be Prime Minister. When being PM started to seem less attractive/possible, I decided that I wanted to do something do make a difference and law seemed to be a way a potential career path to that end, which I was reasonably suited to skills wise.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Yes although they were quite varied: Jubilee Debt Campaign; Unipal; Barnet Law Service to name a few.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far*

There have been a few moments with cases where I have achieved results which seems small to an outsider, but means so very much to the client - whether it be compensation, the feeling of vindication or of just not being alone. They are the high points.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

My low points tend to involve the people I haven't been to help even though they do potentially have strong claims because they can't afford and/or the compensation they would potentially receive is too little for the claim to be viable.



6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The current debates around asylum

The in/out of Europe debate is interesting in terms of the potential human rights consequences.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

The right to life I guess!

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

There are so many – in my field Kalayaan, which supports migrant domestic workers, does brilliant work.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Aside from what I'm doing now, to set up my own NGO in Pakistan.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

When I was studying probably!

11. *What was the last book you read?*

The Green Road by Anne Enright



Human Rights Organisations

Access to Justice Alliance

The campaign for civil legal aid: the AJA fights for civil litigants to enjoy the same access to representation as criminal defendants by protecting, reviewing and publicising the need for such funding. Activities include demonstrations, debates, marches and government lobbying.

www.accesstojusticealliance.org.uk

Advice Services Alliance

The umbrella body for independent advice services in the UK. Its members are national networks of voluntary organisations providing advice and help on the law.

www.asauk.org.uk

Advocates for International Development

Lawyers with an international conscience. Poverty and inequality are the order of the day, and organised action is the response. Comprehensive network of ways to involve yourself, including campaigns for Millennium Development Goals. Focused towards practitioners, A4ID operates through organised work groups.

www.a4id.org

AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe)

Advises individuals on the punch that European Human Rights law can pack. Their support spans the micro (case by case guidance, provided you aren't trying to skewer the Little Guy) to the macro (expert materials for those organising conferences etc).

www.airecentre.org

Amicus

Works on death penalty cases in the US. Offers internship opportunities as well as case-work volunteer positions and publishes *Amicus Journal*, covering death penalty issues worldwide.

www.amicus-alj.org

Amnesty UK

The old favourite. Justice, freedom, fairness and truth. Universal values. Often quoted, often given short shrift in the real world. Amnesty organise truly international campaigns championing human rights wherever they are trampled upon. Current causes include abolishing the death penalty, ending internet repression, the China situation and violence against women worldwide. Extensive volunteering opportunities.

www.amnesty.org.uk

Bail for Immigration Detainees

This charity adopts a two-prong approach to protect individuals detained as asylum seekers. First, campaigning in the political sphere to amend human rights provisions for detainees and requiring more robust protection mechanisms. Secondly, recruiting volunteers to handle detainees' applications to end their detention. Volunteers recruited in London, Oxford and the South East.

www.biduk.org.uk



Bar Human Rights Committee

Network for human rights-concerned barristers, organising legal research, advocacy training and publicity in Africa, America, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Russia. Particular focus on protection of the rule of law and the people upholding it.

<http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk>

Bar Pro Bono Unit

Barristers have social consciences too. They established an organisation to prove it. Volunteer a minimum of three days of time and expertise per year and bridge the gaping gulf between private funding and the legal aid purse. Short registration process, then an apparently unlimited licence to make law work for people, by working for free.

<http://www.barprobono.org.uk/>

British Institute of Human Rights

BIHR seek to bring human rights to life by producing and shaping human rights tools, public policy and practices that empower people to improve their own lives and the lives of others. They focus on working with the voluntary and third sectors, as well as lobbying government, running research projects and promoting human rights awareness. BIHR offer many internship and volunteering opportunities.

www.birhr.org.uk

Campaign Against Criminalising Communities

Opposing laws based upon a pretext of counter-terrorism, campaigning for such laws to be repealed and defending the right to dissent.

www.campacc.org.uk

Campaign for Freedom of Information

The rubber stamp of secrecy is the enemy, statutory right is the weapon and sustained campaigning is the bread and butter of this group. Sign up for email updates and prove that millions of voices are louder than singular action.

www.cfoi.org.uk

Child Poverty Action Group

Does what it says on the tin; a major force for social and economic justice in the UK. For lawyers, it is a major publisher of leading reference books, particularly on welfare rights, and it provides both telephone advice and training courses to welfare rights advisors.

www.cpag.org.uk

Coalition for the International Criminal Court

Network of NGOs supporting the ICC, via a Universal Ratification Campaign and general work to keep constituent states informed and alive to the workings of the Court. Internships available in Summer and Autumn in New York and The Hague.

www.iccnw.org

Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

Interesting, varied and up-to-date lectures offered in the Temple in London. Worthwhile speakers, usually free attendance and no need to be a fully fledged lawyer to participate. Advance registration required for some events, but turning up early is usually the best guarantee.

www.adminlaw.org.uk



1 Crown Office Row's Human Rights Update website

Barristers' chambers **1 Crown Office Row** runs a website providing details of developments in human rights law, and articles on topical matters.

www.1cor.com/humanrights

Death Penalty Project

Campaigns focus upon the Caribbean and Africa with palpable results: 500 lives saved since 1992. Two pronged approach to legal intervention, via helping individual prisoners and strategic litigation on the public law stage. Plus the research, information dissemination and publication.

www.deathpenaltyproject.org

Discrimination Law Association

Membership available to anyone who cares about preventing discrimination. Activities concentrate on conferences, publications. Particularly useful 'Responses' section setting out the DLA position on legislative instruments impacting on discrimination law.

www.discriminationlaw.org.uk

Doughty Street Chambers *Human Rights Bulletin*

A periodic publication summarising important UK and European human rights cases.

Subscribe at - www.doughtystreet.co.uk/members/join/

Employment Lawyers Association

Extensive roster of events with comprehensive topics without the usual London-centric locations. Essential for employment law practitioners. Membership heftily discounted for golden-hearted people working in the voluntary sector.

www.elaweb.org.uk

Equality and Diversity Forum

Networking organisation bringing together previously disparate groups. Core issues include age, disability, gender, race, religious and sexual orientation discrimination, all set against a broader human rights backdrop. Consistently active with e-bulletins and frequent online news of previous and future events. Formidable body of publications. Notables include the long term Human Rights and Justice Seminars at London Metropolitan University.

www.edf.org.uk

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Ensures the Human Rights Act couples bark with bite. Where once the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Commission for Racial Equality, and the Disability Rights Commission paved the way for human rights monitoring in the UK, the EHRC now treads. Aimed at ensuring protection and publication for individuals' right to participate fully and equally, this non-departmental government body is responsible for its own public funding but politically independent.

www.equalityhumanrights.com

European Criminal Bar Association

Aimed at monitoring the European Union influence on national criminal justice matters, the ECBA encourages defence lawyers to contribute, share information and make public submissions on prospective legislation. Current projects involve the European Arrest Warrant, Cross Border Financial Crime and the death penalty in China.

www.ecba.org/cms



Free Representation Unit

FRU - touchstone for the aspiring law student. Undertake the training course, grasp employment or social security law and help litigants (who would otherwise be flying solo) navigate the system. Personal support from qualified case workers. Hugely rewarding.

www.freerepresentationunit.org.uk

Global Rights

Based at a grass roots level of local activism via field offices in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the United States, Global Rights includes volunteers as staff, fellows and interns.

<http://www.globalrights.org/>

Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers

Monthly lectures on diverse and on-the-pulse topics, delivered by in-the-know practitioners, plus a great publication, Socialist Lawyer.

www.haldane.org/

Housing Law Practitioners Association

Heavily involved in responding to legislative proposals for housing law, the social justice aspect of housing needs no drum roll. Essential for practitioners representing homeless and vulnerable tenants, HLPAs facilitates information sharing between members in addition to campaigning.

www.hlpa.org.uk/

Howard League for Penal Reform

Current campaigns include 'Community Sentences Cut Crime', 'Real Work in Prison' and the obvious 'Prison Overcrowding'. Independent and pro-active, the Howard League offers one internship each year and has extensive support for students interested in establishing a society at their university come September.

www.howardleague.org/

Human Rights Lawyers Association

Excellent, constant stream of lectures on contemporary human rights issues. Bursary scheme for students seeking funding of related placements and helpful vacancies links to fellow organisations. Events are free or heavily subsidised for members, students are welcome and interaction is encouraged. Free student membership.

www.hrla.org.uk/

Human Rights Watch

Defending human rights on a country-by-country basis, the sheer breadth of the organisation's influence is awe-inspiring. Extensive employment and internship opportunities for the human rights devotee.

www.hrw.org/

Immigration Law Practitioners Association

Dedicated to co-ordinating immigration law specialists through training, a robust body of publications and political updates of Government briefings. Boasts a list of immigration related job vacancies for those wanting to jump from the volunteering to the professional boat.

www.ilpa.org.uk

Innocence Network UK

Students helping prisoners overturn wrongful convictions.

www.innocencenetwork.org.uk



INQUEST

Provides support and advice to people concerned about contentious deaths and navigating the inquest system. Targeted both towards lawyers and bereaved families. Tri-annual in house magazine supplements individual campaigns.

www.inquest.org.uk

International Commission of Jurists

Sixty eminent jurists represent different legal systems of the globe, dedicated to advancing human rights via the rule of law. Prides itself on impartiality and objectivity and has a strong international slant (five regional projects). Unfunded internships programme with rolling deadline.

www.icj.org

International Federation of Human Rights (Fédération Internationale des ligues des Droits de l'Homme)

Multi-lingual website, advocating four statutory priorities: assisting victims of human rights abuses, mobilising member states participation, supporting local NGOs and raising awareness. A notable thematic priority is prioritising human rights in the fight against terrorism.

www.fidh.org

Joint Council for the Welfare of Refugees

Aims to combat racism and discrimination in asylum and immigration cases by providing support and advice to practitioners with Legal Service Commission contracts. Does not offer representation directly to applicants. Publishes reasoned responses to legislative initiatives and organises training courses and one-off seminars.

www.jcwi.org.uk

JUSTICE

Possibly the most lawyerly of the UK's campaigning human rights organisations. A law reform-motivated group focusing on criminal justice matters, privacy, asylum and discrimination. Aims to see that the Human Rights Act is worth more than the paper its written on. Get involved via an annual intern programme, *ad hoc* volunteering or full-time employment.

www.justice.org.uk

Law Centres Federation

Central support body for all *pro bono* Law Centres, offering representation to society's most disadvantaged. Offers support and advice to those brave enough to attempt opening a centre in their own community. Affiliated to the LawWorks project, now run by the Solicitors Pro Bono Group – see below.

www.lawcentres.org.uk

Lawworks

Solicitors working for free. Yes, really. Includes support for those wanting to establish a *pro bono* society within their law school (and compete for a spot in the prestigious Law School Pro Bono Awards prize-giving), training courses, and volunteering (for practitioners and students). Regional and London projects.

www.lawworks.org.uk

Legal Action Group

Never lagging behind, promoting equal access to justice to those who need it most. Extensive publications and a very wide ambit (crime, housing, mental health and more), an excellent journal and frequent specialist legal updates. Register your interest for free updates, or join for £30 per year.

www.lag.org.uk



Legalalternatives

Looking for a legal internship? Want it to exactly fit your interests and abilities? Search the Legalalternatives database, gather a wealth of organisation specific information and read feedback from people who have personal first hand experience of the options listed.

www.legalalternatives.co.uk

Liberty

Including the Liberty Guide to Human Rights (www.yourrights.org.uk). Omnipresent, tirelessly campaigning organisation aiming to keep civil liberties a practical aspect of modern living, chiefly by influencing government. Student membership from just £1 per month.

<http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/>

Medical Justice

Seeks basic medical rights for detainees and failed asylum seekers in the UK; publishes a worrying list of case studies in which rights have been denied to individuals. Research projects allow the Foundation to make submissions to the UN. The Habeas Corpus Project aims to challenge the legality of indefinite detention through applications to the High Court, fertile grounds for reform.

www.medicaljustice.org.uk

Mental Disability Advocacy Centre

Working on the human rights of children and adults with actual or perceived intellectual or psycho-social disabilities. A European Central Asian focus. Volunteering opportunities in its Budapest office.

www.mdac.info/

Mental Health Lawyers Association

www.mhla.co.uk/

National Critical Lawyers Group

www.nclg.org.uk/

NO2ID

This single-issue group aims to curb government's pre-occupation with recording and monitoring its citizens' movements and activities. Sign up for free updates, make the No 2 ID pledge and hope no more liberties are taken.

www.nclg.org.uk/

Oxford Pro Bono Publico

More than just a proof reading organisation: the OPBP supports those preparing submission documents for a wide variety of purposes. Volunteers must be affiliated with the University of Oxford and can expect to work closely with high profile NGOs and be exposed to world class academics.

www.law.ox.ac.uk/opbp

Prison Reform Trust

Aims to ensure prisons are just, humane and effective. Provides critical comment on prospective prison reform and criminal justice issues. Become a friend of Prison Reform Trust to receive their Magazine prisonReport and enjoy discounts on specialist publications.

www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk

Prisoners' Advice Service

Provides practical advice (free and confidential) to prisoners in England and Wales, aiming to ensure they are treated



according to Prison Regulations. Direct opportunities to volunteer as an advisor or support worker.

www.prisonersadvice.org.uk/

Privacy International

Fights to protect the fragile right to privacy, usually the first casualty in the surveillance state. Based in London, with offices in Washington DC. Campaigns include border security, anti-terrorism measures, policy laundering and identity cards.

www.privacyinternational.org/

Public Law Project

PLP aims to increase public authority accountability by providing legal advice directly to people affected. Opportunities for specialist practitioners to volunteer on the telephone advice line and students in administrative or legal research capacities.

www.publiclawproject.org.uk/

Refugee Council

One stop shop for refugees' needs – through four regional offices, the Council offers representation and advice to those arriving in the UK with no support network and facing legal proceedings in order to stay. Over 300 volunteers cover everything from football coaching to serving lunch and teaching English.

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Legal Centre

A national organisation and charity offering legal advice and representation to asylum seekers and refugees.

www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk/

Release

Drugs, the law and human rights: Release aims to guide those affected by drug use through the mire. Offers both a Legal helpline and Legal Outreach project in London. The innovative Bust Card reminding drug users of their legal rights.

www.release.org.uk/

Reprieve

Internationally campaigning for prisoners denied justice by various governments through litigation investigation and public education. Excellently regarded US Internships allows law students to work directly on death row projects. Wealth of experience with Guantanamo Bay detainees.

www.reprieve.org.uk/

Rethinking Crime and Punishment

Prison has never been a hotter agenda topic – this strategic initiative of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to implement findings about how effective our punishment system is. Follow the Project's progress by reading reports online.

www.rethinking.org.uk/

Rights International

Fights for protection of the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Campaign methods include a Brief Bank, with downloadable model human rights appeal templates, research guide and on going publications programme. Boasts the Frank C Newham Internship programme and Law School consortium, allowing educational establishments to be directly involved.

www.rightsinternational.org/



Rights of Women

Maintains a popular telephone helpline advising the public and publishes information sheets on every legal issue impacting on women's lives specifically. Sports the two hallmarks of a support charity: free and confidential, and is currently recruiting legally qualified volunteers.

www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Solicitors' International Human Rights Group

Supporting human rights protections by herding solicitors into a hive of voluntary activity. A massive twelve separate working groups, including the death penalty and human trafficking. Online forum for members and free entry to compelling monthly speaker event, covering up-to-the-minute legal issues.

<http://sites.google.com/a/sihrg.org/solicitors-international-human-rights-group/Home>

Social Security Law Practitioners Association

Organises meetings and other happenings for lawyers and specialist advisers working in the social security law field.

www.sslpa.org.uk/

Statewatch

Keeps an eye on the State whilst it keeps an eye on us. Dedicated to maintaining civil liberties and democratic standards in Europe, by campaigning and publicity. Services include a database of 24,000 articles whilst current projects relate to CIA rendition, border wars and asylum crimes.

www.statewatch.org/

Stonewall

Well known organisation that aims to ensure equal treatment for lesbian and gay people, by raising awareness, campaigning against/for legal reform and providing Diversity Champions to over 300 organisations. And counting.

www.stonewall.org.uk/

Unlock Democracy

What once was Charter 88, now different label on the same constitutionally concerned tin. Aims to put the people power back into democracy, through campaigning for a written constitution, elected House of Lords and Citizens' Convention (direct democracy).

www.unlockdemocracy.org.uk/

Young Legal Aid Lawyers

But you don't have to be young - just committed to legal aid and either a student or of no more than ten years' qualification or call. Membership's free.

www.younglegalaidlawyers.org