

DRAFT

Human Rights Lawyers Association - Young Lawyers Committee  
Draft Event Proposal



**‘Human Rights Under Surveillance’**

**The wide-ranging and rights-oppressive impact of surveillance**

*1 March 2018, 6.30pm to 8.00pm*

*Garden Court Chambers, 57-60 Lincolns Inn Fields WC2A 3JX*

**FREE**

**Blurb**

The HRLA’s Young Lawyers’ Committee is pleased to invite you to an event which will consider the interaction between human rights and surveillance, including practices carried out by government, the police and private companies. In a rights context, surveillance often brings to mind infringements of privacy or of freedom of expression and association. However, the impact of surveillance, carried out by public and private actors, is constantly evolving due to new, improved, and emerging technologies, engaging rights across the human rights spectrum.

**Format**

Chaired panel discussion: each speaker asked to speak about a particular area of interaction between surveillance and human right which they are involved with, for **7 mins each**, moderated by the Chair, and followed by a **25 min** Q&A – open to the floor.

Chair can also speak on any issues or topics not covered, or direct the discussion towards any particular issue that merits discussion.

**Potential topics for discussion:**

**Surveillance, discrimination and social sorting:** issues of inequality and discrimination based on gender, race, socioeconomic indicators and mental health stem from bias inherent in datasets, evidenced in new ‘predictive’ police technology and tools used by private companies, such as insurance.

**Surveillance and the right to a fair trial:** trial by algorithm or machine-learning algorithm, trial by data, predictive algorithms ‘black box’ algorithms meaning there is no right to appeal. Also issues surrounding errors made by algorithms using out of date or incorrect data.

**Surveillance and immigration:** Includes discrimination issues, such as discrimination based on perceived foreign-sounding names or skin colour. However, there is a further critical issue concerning those who are already some of the most vulnerable in our society: many are suffering significantly because they avoid access to vital services such as healthcare, housing, basic financial welfare, or education, because of state surveillance under the ‘hostile environment’.

## DRAFT

**Rights to privacy and freedom of expression:** Due to evolving and emerging technology and elements of society, powerful actors find new ways to intrude into people's private lives, and oppress people into silence. Potential issues include biometrics and biometric recognition capabilities, and online content moderation and prosecutions for online acts or speech.

### Venue

#### **Garden Court Chambers, 57-60 Lincolns Inn Fields WC2A 3JX (Seminar room)**

- Capacity: 70 seated. £200 commercial rate but potentially a better rate for HRLA.
- Accessibility: Garden Court has a wheelchair ramp at the main entrance leading directly into the front reception area, a lift to all floors, and full disabled access to the seminar room. There are also fully-equipped disabled toilets, and induction loops in our reception and dedicated conference rooms. Free parking is available on request.

### Speakers:

#### Chair

- **Silkie Carlo** (Director of Big Brother Watch, the privacy and civil liberties NGO)

#### Panel

- **Matthew Ryder QC** (Barrister with expertise in human rights and surveillance, Matrix Chambers)
- **Dr. Sandra Wachter** (Lawyer and researcher in algorithms and data ethics at the Oxford Internet Institute)
- **Gracie Bradley** (Advocacy and Policy Officer with expertise in immigration and surveillance, Liberty)
- **Daniel Carey** (Solicitor with a background across the human rights spectrum incl. state surveillance, Deighton Pierce Glynn)

#### Other potential panellists

**Michael Etienne** (Trainee Barrister, Matrix)

**Virginia Eubanks** (author of 'Automating Inequality' on how data and surveillance tools profile, police and discriminate)

**Helen Mountfield QC** (Barrister, Matrix Chambers)

### Publicising 'Human Rights Under Surveillance'

- Publicise across HRLA social media (HRLA website, Twitter, Facebook)
- Create a Facebook event
- Event details sent round to HRLA mailing list
- Ask speakers / invited speakers to publicise on personal social media channels
- Contact local universities with details (LSE, UCL, Kings, Queen Marys, City Law School, University of Law, BPP etc, also potentially local colleges and schools)
- Registration for the event via RSVP to [administrator@hrla.org](mailto:administrator@hrla.org) - for indication of numbers.