



## Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in the UK

Where are we now and where do we go from here?

**From 5.30pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Location: The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB**

To mark the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, the Human Rights Lawyers' Association invites you to join the UK's leading women advocates to discuss the fight against gender-based violence in 2018 and onwards. In this special evening of talks, our expert panels will highlight: the current legal and social landscape in relation to violence against women and girls, key developments that have taken place over the past year, subjects that demand greater attention from professionals, and forthcoming changes in the legal sector. Our speakers will address each of these areas by shedding a light onto specific forms of gender-based violence which affect different groups of women, and how to tackle these problems as discrete *and* intersectional issues.

PANEL 1: The evening will begin with an overview of the current state of access to justice for female survivors across the UK, and how the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and consultations for the Domestic Abuse Bill hope to positively impact this. We will then examine forms of gender-based violence which disproportionately affect BAMER communities (i.e. forced marriage, transnational marriage abandonment, so-called honour based violence, trafficking and FGM), and the work being done to counteract such devastating infringements of women and girls' freedoms.

PANEL 2: Following a short break, we will discuss the widespread violence faced by transwomen in the UK and the relative significance of domestic and international equality law. The focus will then turn to violence against women and girls with disabilities and the incredible work being done by activists and services supporting these groups. Our next speakers will explore how gender-based violence impacts women in custody, other breaches of women's human rights by state actors and current legal challenges in these areas. Finally, we look to the future of how the UK's legal and social landscape should change to end violence against women and girls once and for all.

Speakers will have 15 minutes to discuss their areas of expertise, and also have the option of including 5 minutes of Q&As within this allocated period.

We hope you will attend to celebrate with us the achievements and dedication of the women working in this sector, help generate a proactive dialogue amongst legal professionals, and to ultimately advance progress for women and girls' human rights in the UK.

Chair

**5.30pm**

**Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC**

PANEL 1 - Speakers

**5.35pm**

**Estelle du Boulay**

Director, Rights of Women

**5.50pm**

**Pragna Patel**

Director, Southall Black Sisters

**6.05pm**

**Marchu Girma**

Grassroots Director, Women for Refugee Women

**6.20pm**

**Naana Otoo Oyorley MBE**

Executive Director of the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development

**6.35pm**

**Dr Charlotte Proudman**

Barrister, Goldsmith Chambers

**6.50pm**

**BREAK**

PANEL 2 - Speakers

**7.00pm**

**Emily Brothers**

Labour politician and former Programme Head at the Equality and Human Rights Commission

**7.15pm**

**Eleanor Lisney**

Director, Sisters of Frida

**7.30pm**

**Fiona Murphy**

Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers

**7.45pm**

**Dr Kate Paradine**

CEO, Women in Prison

**8.00pm**

**Dawn Butler MP**

Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities

**8.15pm**

**Closing remarks - Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC**

**8.30pm onwards - Drinks and Networking Reception**