

Biography

Lauren Chaplin is a current GDL student at City University and a 2018 René Cassin Fellow. She recently completed a Master's with Distinction in Human Rights at University College London, where she edited the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, and wrote her thesis on the role of documentaries and activist filmmaking within Israel-Palestine. After graduating from Cambridge in 2015 with an English degree, Lauren interned as a journalist in Dharamsala, India, covering issues such as Tibetan political persecution. Her words can also be found on Women in Foreign Policy, and include an interview she conducted last year with the HRLA's Chair, Angela Patrick. She volunteers as a McKenzie friend with the National Centre for Domestic Violence, and recently completed training with the Free Representation Unit to appear before social security tribunals on a pro bono basis. When she remembers to, she tweets @_laurencaplin.

Event plan

Topic: 'There's an app for that': how technology can record and rectify human rights abuses

The legal profession is changing, catalysed by the growing capabilities of technology. Large firms are increasingly turning to artificial intelligence and new software to boost productivity and expand their offerings. But they're not the only ones. Apps and digital recording devices have become increasingly important in the world of human rights activism, with initiatives like the International Bar Association's 'eyewitness' allowing those on the ground to record legally verifiable evidence, admissible in international courts. What technological aids are out there? Are they having an impact? How will the human rights law tech sector develop in future? This event will draw together technology experts and human rights practitioners to explore this shifting landscape and make recommendations and predictions for the future.

Possible venues:

- City law firms willing to donate space on a pro bono basis, especially those with in-house law tech incubators, such as Allen & Overy and Mischon de Reya
- YouTube offices in London King's Cross
- Google HQ London, specifically their Campus space (<https://www.campus.co/london/en>)

Format: Brief speeches, followed by a panel discussion and interactive networking

a. Introduction outlining what new human rights technologies are now available

b. Talks. Each speaker then has 10 minutes to present their application or technological initiative, ideally opening with a video demonstration of how it works. Their talks should cover:

- What motivated them or their organisation to create the app/initiative
- What the app/initiative does
- What its impact has been so far
- What they hope it can achieve in future

c. Panel discussion, chaired by a HRLA committee member. Although this list is not exhaustive, issues to cover could include:

- Difficulties with raising the profile of human rights law-tech, so activists are aware of it
- Potential security/cyberthreat concerns – are there guarantees the apps can't be hacked?
- How receptive law courts are to evidence gathered by new technologies

- How to narrow the gap between the world of technology and human rights campaigning, and promote ethically motivated coding and app development
- Most social justice focused apps either record human rights abuses, provide automated legal information, or help with crowdfunding legal problems. How could the work these apps do be coordinated? Do you see any harmonised human rights tech-platform appearing in the future?
- End with a discussion about the biggest human rights issues of the present – what are they and how could technology help mitigate them, or bring them to light?

d. Conclusion and networking. Tables set up outside with iPads/laptops where attendees can meet the app developers and try out their technologies

Possible speakers (would require 3-4):

- Josh Browder, Stanford student and creator of [DoNotPay](#). The app began by challenging parking fines, but has now expanded to help asylum seekers in the UK fill out asylum support forms. It also helps with homelessness issues, and delivers HIV legal advice.
- A speaker from [eyeWitness](#), the app which seeks to empower human rights defenders with a method to capture verifiable video footage, admissible in a court of law. Their Media team can be reached at media@eyewitnessproject.org.
- Morgan Hargrave, Technology Fellow at the Ford Foundation, formerly at WITNESS, where he was involved with apps such as [mobil-eyes](#), which facilitates the livestream of civic events in the hope of fostering empathy and turning viewers into active citizens.
- Rory Byrne and/or Holly Kilroy, co-founders of [Security First](#). They have developed Umbrella, an app which brings together tools and advice on personal safety and secure travel for human rights defenders in the field.
- [Ithaca](#), an app which provides support to refugees. The start-up is housed in Allen & Overly's FUSE facility, a tech incubator. Contact details for FUSE listed here: <http://www.allenoverly.com/advanceddelivery/fuse/Pages/default.aspx>
- Oren Yakobovich, CEO of Videre, a charity focused on securing and verifying footage of human rights abuses. An expert on using technology to expose human rights abuses, he formerly created the 'Shooting Back' project at B'Tselem, an Israeli charity which trained West Bank citizens to use cameras in their fight for justice.