



CAREERS DAY 2020

OCTOBER 24TH 2020



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EVENT PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 24TH 2020

10.00 – 10.10:

REGISTRATION/JOINING

10.10 – 10.20:

WELCOME

10.20 – 11.00:

KEYNOTE SPEECH

"I can't breathe" Why should we have to beg for our rights?
Leslie Thomas QC, Garden Court Chambers

11.00– 11.15:

BREAK

11.15 – 12.15:

PANEL DISCUSSION 1

Junior Human Rights Lawyers - How to get started

Aqsa Hussain, No 5 Chambers
Preetika Mathur, Doughty Street Chambers
Robyn Taylor, Deighton Pierce Glynn
Benson Egwuonwu

12.15 – 12.30:

BREAK

12.30 – 13.30:

PANEL DISCUSSION 2

Human Rights From Different Angles - A conversation with...

Catherine Gaskell, Government Legal Department - Human Rights Team
Sarah Hannett, Matrix Chambers
Farhana Patel, Bindmans LLP

13.30 – 13.45:

BREAK

13.45 – 14.45:

SPEED NETWORKING

The opportunity to network with speakers and other participants

14.45 – 15.00:

BREAK

15.00 – 16.00:

PANEL DISCUSSION 3

Building a Sustainable Career in Human Rights

Kaweh Beheshtizadeh, Fadiga & Co Solicitors

Rachel Francis, One Pump Court/ Claiming Space

Natasha Shotunde, Garden Court Chambers/Black Barristers' Network

Sara Lomri, Public Law Project

16.00 – 16.15:

BREAK

16.15 – 17.15:

PANEL DISCUSSION 4

NGO Lawyering

Tracy Doig, Freedom from Torture

Stewart MacLachlan, Coram Children's Legal Centre

Grey Collier, Liberty

Adam Spray, Bail for Immigration Detainees

Laura Janes, Howard League for Penal Reform

17.15 – 17.30:

GOODBYE AND THANKS

Welcome

Welcome to HRLA's virtual Careers Day in partnership with Doughty Street Chambers. The day will feature panel discussions and speed networking sessions with barristers, solicitors campaigners and NGO lawyers; to provide insight and advice on establishing a career in human rights.

"HRLA believes in the promotion of the rule of law and the guarantee of human rights through law."

HRLA
**Human Rights
Lawyers Association**

About HRLA

The Human Rights Lawyers Association's principal objective is to promote effective legal protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of people in the United Kingdom.

In addition, we aim to develop knowledge and understanding of human rights through research, education and training. We seek to facilitate the effective implementation of human rights within the United Kingdom and to collaborate with other organisations whose objectives align with the Association's.

Membership

HRLA membership is available to all lawyers, legal practitioners, students and those who are interested in human rights law.

HRLA currently has over 2,000 members including, solicitors, barristers, advocates, judges, government lawyers, legal academics, legal executives, in-house lawyers, pupils, trainees and law students.

Executive Committee & YLC

Each year members of the HRLA elect Executive Committee Officers and Young Lawyers Committee Members at the Annual General Meeting. We strongly encourage applicants from ethnic minorities and underprivileged backgrounds.

Bursary

In 2006 the HRLA's Executive Committee established an annual bursary scheme to enable those who do not have the independent financial capacity to undertake internships, work placements, or other unpaid or poorly paid work in human rights. Each year, the HRLA provides a number of grants up to £3,500 from an annual bursary fund, provided there are suitable applicants. For more information on eligibility and how to apply for the 2021 bursary scheme, follow the link [here](#)

Speaker Biographies

ADAM SPRAY

Bail for Immigration Detainees

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

Without meaning to sound clichéd, I was driven by a desire to want to help people less fortunate than myself. I am motivated to continue by the ongoing suffering of those I represent and by government's arrogance in their disregard for the law.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

It is hard to pick one. I have been fortunate enough to represent many individuals whose cases have succeeded and as result of that they have secured refugee status or their liberty or the right to be reunited with their family members. It is always deeply rewarding when our work makes such a direct and significant improvement to a client's life.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

There are many challenges to working in this field. The most obvious is the government's indifference to the wellbeing of migrants through the hostile environment.

Other challenges include the continued slashing of legal aid, the lack of access to justice and increasing scapegoating of lawyers by the government. It is also a challenge to maintain and practice good self-care when working with vulnerable and/or traumatised people.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

While working in private practise I always worked under the supervision of a more senior solicitor. It is difficult to overestimate the significance of a good mentor. Especially at the start of your career, the learning curve is very steep, and stakes are very high. It is invaluable to have someone to support you through this time.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

Not very favourably would be the short answer! The response to the recent spate of migrants crossing the channel gives cause for concern.

There is lack of compassion in the discourse concerning migrants (from the media, government and social media posts) which needs to be pushed back. There are many battles ahead to secure the rights of individuals who our jurisdiction covers.

CATHERINE GASKELL

Government Legal
Department - Human Rights
Team

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

I quickly realised after university and a few years in advertising that I had no motivation to make money for a boss – so the civil service seemed like a good option, and then I heard about the Government Legal Department which seemed even more interesting! One of the best things about being a government lawyer is the variety of work: from drafting statutory instruments, to working on Bills and taking them through Parliament, to being involved in big JRs against the government and advising Ministers on policy. And on all sorts of topics – in my time in the Ministry of Justice I have worked across prisons, youth justice, sentencing, criminal law, and now human rights.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

Human rights comes up in any government lawyer's work, whatever department and team you are in, but in my current role as a senior lawyer in the Human Rights Criminal Law

and Sentencing Team in the Ministry of Justice leading on human rights, I have had an oversight of the difficult and fascinating (and sometimes controversial) human rights questions that arise across all departments – be they domestic or international human rights.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I have been lucky enough to have some great mentors within the Government Legal Department, some of whom have come from outside Government, and I think it is so useful to have someone who can share their experiences and their different approaches.

Liberty

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

I have always been motivated by an ethic of service (ie. helping people). So I started out doing public law as that's an effective tool to create change from a single case that impacts positively on thousands of people. From there a human rights specialism developed organically.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

My proudest achievement is the large number of trainees and solicitors I have trained, supervised and developed, who have become brilliant litigators and high achievers in a whole range of areas. I am so proud of the work of my amazing teams over the past 10 years or more. My own cases are a distant memory!

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

I have been immensely lucky to have been employed in fulfilling jobs my whole career. The moment when you have to decide

whether to remain a 'proper lawyer' or go into management and leadership roles is a really difficult choice, particularly outside private practice

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

Not formally, though I have worked with many more junior lawyers and helped them with career development. I've never had a mentor and I imagine it's becoming more important these days to have that kind of support. We ran a mentoring scheme amongst our panel of counsel at the EHRC and I know mentees found it helpful.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

I think we will move slowly towards a broadly panoply of justiciable rights – particularly towards ESCR, but also environmental rights. It will remain very important for human rights lawyers to have broad interests as rights issues arise in such a range of areas.

KAWEH BEHESHTIZADEH

Fadiga & Co Solicitors

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

As a person of Kurdish ethnicity in Iran, I was deprived of my basic human rights such as studying with my mother tongue. I witnessed many people being detained, persecuted and executed by the authorities because of their political opinion, ethnicity, religion, etc.

In the UK, as a refugee, I also witnessed how asylum seekers and refugees were suffering as a result of the Home Office's hostile environment and bad representation by their legal representatives. I witnessed how refugees were left in limbo and families were separated from each other. I believed that I could assist those vulnerable people by pursuing a career in human rights.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

Winning the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year in the Immigration and Asylum Category in 2017. My achievement was remarkable given how new I was to the profession. I am the only solicitor to have won this prestigious award with just over one year of post-qualification experience.

I was less experienced than all shortlisted candidates for the "Newcomers" category. I was also the only winner who himself was an asylum seeker – I could not speak the English language in November 2004 when I came to the UK. The other two shortlisted candidates were two of the finest lawyers in the country with over 10 years' post-qualification experience. I was also shortlisted for the Human Rights Lawyer of the Year award by the Law Society in the same year.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

I have faced many challenges in my career. I was told by my first employer that I should not see any detained clients because I had an accent. I was not allowed to run any complex cases and I was only given very simple and straightforward cases.

When I identified some potential challenges in my cases, they were taken away from me and passed on to more senior lawyers to deal with them. I have also run some very sad and unfortunate cases in the last 8 years which affected my mental health significantly, and on a few occasions I suffered from depression. It was very difficult to see those violations of human rights and injustices happening in the UK.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I do mentor junior lawyers and volunteers in our firm and support them in different ways, such as allowing them to deal with complex cases. I had a mentor in the past and he was brilliant. I owe him my success in my career as he was very supportive and allowed me to run the most complex cases at the High Court and Court of Appeal when I was a trainee solicitor.

I think mentorship is important in establishing a career in human rights as I benefited from it significantly. I was provided with advice and guidance and I was pushed to achieve the best outcome in my cases.

I believe that my success in the human rights field is mainly because of the support that I received from my mentor.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

Whilst some politicians, especially those in the government, attack human rights at any opportunity they get, the same politicians want their human rights to be respected. The field of human rights is essential in our society and in my view it is moving towards creating a better future for all of us. I am sure in the future it will create more protection for more people, and it makes it much harder for the government to violate human rights in the UK.

LESLIE THOMAS QC

Garden Court Chambers

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

I started off in Corporate Law, and one day my supervisor was representing a large chemical company who had one of its employees killed in an industrial accident. We walked into a settlement negotiations meeting and I saw the widow of the deceased facing a room full of corporate lawyers and I realised I was battling for the wrong team.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

There have been many high points, but recently securing the release of a terminally ill prisoner with only days to live so that he could die with dignity at home with his partner and children. This has to be one of the best moments.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

Dealing with discrimination and racism in the law. I believe many of our laws are implicitly racist or discriminatory and coming

to this understanding and realising that there is little incentive or motivation for change is demoralising.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

Yes, I mentor. About 5-8 people a year. I had a couple of mentors in my career, great lawyers who taught me a lot. I think it is vitally important that established practitioners be prepared to become mentors, that wisdom and experience is passed on to the next generation particularly in Human Rights.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

What this pandemic has highlighted is that in times of crises, human rights become seen as a luxury something that is dispensable. This is scary, because it shows just how fragile they are. Another world problem or war will really test just how strongly we believe in 'our rights'.

NATASHA SHOTUNDE

Garden Court Chambers/
Black Barristers' Network

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

Growing up in a matriarchal family with strong Black women, I have been disgusted and outraged by how women are treated in society. This has led me to become passionate about human rights and eradicating violence against women and girls. I use my skills as a barrister to fight for justice and promote human rights.

I work in cases involving violence against women, where I frequently represent the victims of gender-based abuse. My clients are often vulnerable, frightened and incredibly brave. Many are victims of emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, including rape, and some are at risk, or victims of, FGM and Forced Marriage.

My commitment has led me to undertake a masters whilst practising to increase my knowledge in human rights. It has complimented my work and provided me with the tools to speak on these issues with conviction, both within and outside of the courtroom.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

The highest point has been creating the Black Barristers' Network (BBN) with Mavis Amonoo-Acquah, to provide support for Black barristers, increase our visibility and work on community outreach. The Bar can be a very isolating profession, especially as an ethnic minority and especially as a Black woman. Initially seeing few ethnic minorities, the beginning of my career was particularly challenging. Meeting Mavis and other Black barristers has provided me with life-long friendships and support. Our inaugural event in 2019 was incredible, as many Black barristers of different practice areas and levels of seniority attended, and it was uplifting to see so many of us at the Bar.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

I have had difficult experiences both within the courtroom, from judicial bullying to rude, dismissive and patronising opponents, to outside the courtroom, which have had undertones of racism and sexism. These incidents fuelled the imposter syndrome that I already felt, and encroached on my confidence and self-belief.

However, through gaining experience, support and counselling, I have found the strength to speak about these issues at the Bar. Many organisations, including BBN, are working towards creating change.

As advocates, it is important for us to fight against this by reminding people of the importance of respecting the rights of all human beings.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I have mentored on the Lincoln's Inn Pupillage Foundation Scheme and informally mentored by providing advice and interview practice to aspiring barristers. I have also had the benefit of a mentor during my first few years of practice.

Mentoring is important as it provides people with the tools and confidence to enter and progress within our profession. When sponsorship is included in it (where the mentor assists in providing opportunities for the mentee), it can open doors for people which may have otherwise been closed.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

I am increasingly concerned about the erosion of human rights in favour of nationalism, racism and xenophobia. Looking at the state of global politics today, it feels like society is moving backwards, with people being extremely individualistic and selfish, ignoring the plight of others and fighting to protect their own resources.

PREETIKA MATHUR

Doughty Street Chambers

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

My early life in India and the UK. I lived in India until I was 8 years old. In that time I was strongly impacted by some of the egregious social injustices that I witnessed. After that, coming to the UK and living in places with high racial tensions and inequality. This made me motivated to use law to give voice to those who do not enjoy power and privilege in society as well as to use law to contribute to a more equal society.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

Several high points that I can think of. In India and around the world – includes working on some landmark projects that have shaped global legal norms and discourse. For example, the report in response to the gang rape of a woman on a Delhi bus in 2012. This was lauded around the world. Also working on the Karadzic defence team and at UN Headquarters. High points – many individual cases during my crime pupillage. Including securing acquittals in cases involving youths or vulnerable people. Securing a third six pupillage at Doughty Street Chambers.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

I think the biggest challenges were my perceptions about the bar and what it would be like. This resulted in under confidence in relation to the whole process of applying to and succeeding at the bar.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I do now mentor when I get the chance. I did not have a mentor in the past when studying law or when applying to the bar. I think in retrospect a mentor would have been very helpful as they can provide personalised advice to help their mentee's develop after having gone through the process themselves. I have found my pupil supervisors very helpful and several have filled this role during my pupillage.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

I think there is a very real threat to human rights from multiple sources including funding and legal aid, the executive who do not appreciate the importance of human rights. Also due to the impact

of Covid -19 in many sectors. The field will also change after Brexit.

RACHEL FRANCIS

One Pump Court, Claiming
Space

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

My commitment to access to justice and equality before the law, coupled with my desire to advocate for vulnerable and marginalised people. [What inspires me to continue a career in human rights is] the strength and resilience of clients in the face of extraordinary difficulty; the ability to make a difference for clients; and, the considerable unmet need of vulnerable and marginalised people.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

Meeting strong and brilliant clients on a daily basis.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

Legal aid cuts and restrictions on funding; vicarious trauma, stress and burnout; and, structural inequality, which leaves you fighting for the right to even bring cases for clients.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I have mentored and been mentored. It is incredibly important, as is peer support.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

Things are very unlikely to improve from where they are now. I anticipate continued restriction and curtailment of funding, judicial review, and statutory protection. For example, a renewed effort to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998; stricter immigration laws; continued and entrenched denial of state responsibility for structural racism and inequality.

justice will be exaggerated further by the use of AI. Of course, there will still be incredible people doing good work across the sector helping people in a myriad of ways to assert their rights.

Public Law Project

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

I came to the law because I wanted to help people and do something meaningful with my life.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

I still get a buzz out of litigating and my last big case is usually my favourite.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

It started hard and continued in that vein: I put myself through law school by working full time and studying in the evenings. I was turned down x3 times at interview for paralegal positions from the place I wanted to work before they finally took pity on me. At every stage it felt like the legal profession didn't need me. I was surplus to requirements.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? If so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I'm not sold on mentoring and not sure it doesn't replace a nepotistic world with a world where people succeed through the connections they advertently seek rather than inadvertently develop through birth or social grouping. That said, I do mentor and happy to help non-white candidates with their job applications and career planning. I recruit for PLP and think I'm a bit of a CV ninja and happy to put that to good use if I've got time outside of my day job.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

In 50 years many services will be of course be performed by robots, and law is no different. The question for me is how effective will robots be in assisting individuals accessing fair solutions to their legal problems, if ineffective then whether 'real people' providing services will be retained only for those who can afford it, and whether the injustices in accessing

SARAH HANNETT

Matrix Chambers

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

I have always been interested in inequality and discrimination. I spent my third year of my undergraduate law degree at law school in the United States, where I studied constitutional law. I then undertook a LLM in human rights in Canada. I started my career as an academic, writing on issues of public law, human rights and equality. When I moved to the Bar my earliest human rights cases were in education and community care law, with a focus on equality. More recently my work has focused on equality more widely, particularly sexual orientation and trans issues. I enjoy ensuring that my clients get what they are entitled to. But I also enjoy the more strategic JRs, that are aimed at trying to change a law or policy. In my work for public authorities, I enjoy trying to run cases well, namely fairly, as transparently as possible, and empathetically.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

I intervened for Just for Kids in R (Tigere) v. Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills [2015]

UKSC 57, a case concerning the eligibility for student loans of young people without indefinite leave to remain but who had been resident in the UK for a long period of time. We provided evidence of the catastrophic impact this had on young people who had been in the UK for years, who had studied alongside their British classmates, but who then could not go onto university. We helped to persuade the Supreme Court that the policy breached Article 14 of the ECHR, and the policy was changed. Sometimes the smaller successes are just as important: for example, earlier this year I settled a JR in which our client (a parent of 3 autistic children) was rehoused to suitable housing by the local authority. This was a genuinely life changing settlement.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

The first 5 or so years at the Bar can be very tough. You are expected to undertake work across a wide range of areas that you may have a varying level of familiarity with. Even after this, the workload can be brutal, and it can be extremely difficult to maintain a work/life balance. That gives rise to particular challenges if you have children

STEWART MACLACHLAN

Coram Legal Centre

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

I came from a family of teachers and my mum was an additional support needs teacher. Children's rights were always talked about at home and I maintained this interest throughout school and university. The significance of change in both an individual's case life at a systemic level when rights are realised continues to inspire.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

The first grant of refugee status for a child client probably sticks with me the most. The realisation of the difference it makes and seeing a child develop and thrive without concern around immigration status was clear and really sticks with you.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

Personally, a situation that is relevant to today with Covid-19, qualifying as a solicitor in the midst of the financial crisis. Positions were hard to come by and it felt difficult to see the way ahead in the legal sector. Fortunately it led to a career in child law and human rights.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

Yes – mentorship is important as it can bring vital knowledge, experience and support to those beginning in the sector. Having been mentored, and having mentored, both can get something out of the relationship.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

Depends on whether I am in Scotland or England. In the UK setting – very difficult. Given the current climate, and impact of law, policy and practice of the last 10 years, it is vital that stakeholders fight against cuts and realisation of rights. On a positive note, the increased engagement of youth-led organisations has led to better law, policy and awareness. In Scotland – incorporation of UNCRC and development of 'The Promise' are positive signs.

(although it is worth emphasising that the public law Bar is more flexible than some other areas of law).

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I am about to take my seventh trainee, and I informally mentor almost all of them as well as a few more junior barristers (in Matrix and in other chambers). I formally (via the Matrix mentorship scheme) mentor two Matrix barristers and one BPTC student. I did not have a mentor for my first 8 years of practice, but a silk at Matrix who led me has acted informally as my mentor since I came here (in 2012). I think mentorship is really important. She brought me into big cases, recommended me to solicitors, acted as a sounding board on difficult points in tricky cases, and gave guidance about career development.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

We live in uncertain times and it is likely that this will be a challenging period for human rights lawyers. I see some of the biggest challenges as follow:

- The lack of availability of legal aid: this has led to innovative funding models (e.g. crowdfunding), but these are not without difficulty
- Threats to the rule of law.
- The enhancement of executive authority (particularly during the pandemic).

- Attempts to limit scrutiny by the courts (see, for example, the “independent” review of judicial review”, and the criticism of judges by the executive and the press).
- Repeated suggestions that the Human Rights Act 1998 should be repealed or seriously curtailed.

Freedom from Torture

What made you decide to follow a career in human rights and what inspires you to continue?

I first became interested in the field of human rights growing up in Zimbabwe. When I first became socially aware, Zimbabwe was an active frontline state in the struggle against apartheid South Africa. Growing up in a rural area that is drought-stricken, I also became aware of the differences between my own socio-economic situation and that of people in my surrounding areas. I was therefore conscious of injustice and social inequalities from an early age. In high school, I joined organizations that promoted social development. Through studying international relations at university however, my understanding developed that the root causes of poverty are political and that any attempts to improve the social welfare of people needs to be rights-based.

Meeting and working with inspired and committed activists and defenders across many different fields has been a driving force in inspiring me to continue. Also injustice infuriates me.

What has been the highest point of your career so far?

The highest points of my career have been the direct positive impacts that I (with others) had in the lives of human rights defenders who have been imprisoned or had their lives threatened. The activist(s) in Zimbabwe who had their life saved by implementing the abduction training I had co-devised or the lawyer and editor released from prison in Eswatini after a massive global campaign on their behalf. Working directly with people who have had their rights violated and who speak out and organise and resist continues to be an immense privilege and something that I consider to be a continuing high point of my career.

What challenges have you faced in your career so far?

Experiencing trauma, vicarious trauma and burnout is a constant reality in this field. Learning to manage self-care and a work-life balance has been a challenge and one that requires constant attention and effort.

It is too often ignored in a field where passion is a driving force but something that is vital for sustained engagement.

from basic rights to those that have gained more traction in an increasingly globalised and digital world.

Do you mentor? Have you had a mentor in the past? if so, how important do you think mentorship is in establishing a career in human rights?

I informally mentor volunteers that work with Freedom from Torture. I have not had a formal mentor in the past but have learned so many valuable lessons from colleagues that I have worked with. I think that mentorship can provide invaluable assistance in entering a field that is notoriously difficult to enter and which can be confusing in its breadth and scope.

How do you see the field of human rights changing in the future?

I think that there is a global pushback against human rights concepts that appeared to have been 'won' decades ago. This can be seen in the rise of populist, increasingly authoritarian governments across the globe who are chipping away at human rights protections, often without any opposition from their populations (including in the UK) and the willingness of many individuals to exchange rights for 'security'. As a human rights defending community, we should be wary of complacency and should constantly engage with people on the full spectrum of rights –

EXTERNAL FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Law School Scholarships

Law Schools offer scholarships both for professional and postgraduate courses. The schools below are those which offer scholarships for professional courses:

- BPP University
- University of Law
- College of Law
- Manchester Law School (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Nottingham Law School (Nottingham Trent University)

Inns of Court Scholarships

The Inns of court offer scholarships for the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), Bar Practical Course (BPC) and pupillage:

- Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
- Honourable Society of Inner Temple
- Honourable Society of Lincolns Inn
- Honourable Society of Middle Temple

Law Society Diversity Access Scheme (DAS)

For individuals who don't have the financial means to pay for the LPC, the DAS may be able to assist. It provides awardees with:

- Finance: Funding up to full cost of LPC Course
- Professional Contacts: a professional mentor
- Work experience opportunities:
- Work experience placements

For more information on how to apply follow the link [here](#)

Justice First Fellowship

The Justice Fellowship Scheme was established in 2014 to support the next generation of students committed to public interest and social justice issues who want to pursue a career in social welfare law.

The fellowship is made up of three parts and aims to provide:

1. A two-year fully funded training contract in a selected specialist social welfare law agency
2. Fellows with time and resource during their training period with their host organisation to develop and implement a project that will advance access to justice and potentially provide a future income stream for their host organisation;
3. Additional support, training and opportunities for Fellows over the two-years to gain essential skills and contribute to the wider movement of people committed to access to justice.

For more information on how to apply please follow the link [here](#)

Kalisher Trust awards

The Kalisher Trust awards facilitates opportunities for students who are intending to, or already practising at the Criminal Bar. All applicants must demonstrate “exceptional promise but modest means” and will be judged against the Trust’s criteria for awards.

For more information on how to apply please follow the link [here](#)

Kinderpal Rahal Memorial Trust applications: March-April annually

Following the tragic death of young barrister Inderpal Rahal a charitable trust has been established in her memory, to enable women experiencing financial hardship to further their legal education.

The trust applies to women who are from an immigrant or refugee background and who intend to practise or teach law in the United Kingdom.

Each summer, the Trust makes one, or occasionally two, awards of £2,000 towards undertaking or pursuing Bar or solicitors’ exams, pupillage, solicitors’ training, or other legal placement or research in the UK or abroad. Please email irmt@gclaw.co.uk to obtain an application form.

ORGANISATION DIRECTORY

Advice Services Alliance

Advice Services Alliance is a subsidiary body for independent advice services in the UK. Its members belong to a national network of voluntary organisations providing advice and help on the law.

www.asauk.org.uk

Advocate

Advocate is the Bar's national charity that finds free legal assistance from volunteer barristers.

<https://weareadvocate.org.uk>

Advocates for International Development

Advocates for International Development operates through organised work groups to inspire and enable lawyers to eradicate global poverty through the employment of sustainable development goals. For more information on jobs and internships follow the link below.

<http://www.a4id.org/>

The AIRE Centre

The AIRE Centre is a specialist legal charity which provides advice on individual rights in the European Union. The AIRE Centre uses European Law to protect fundamental rights. Occasionally, the centre provides opportunities for legal caseworker internships. For more information follow the link below.

<https://www.airecentre.org>

Amicus

Amicus is a British charity that provides representation for individuals facing the death penalty in the United States. Amicus aims to provide better access to justice and to raise awareness of abuses to defendants rights. Annually, amicus accepts applications for student reps.

<http://www.amicus-alj.org>

Amnesty International UK

Amnesty International UK is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation. The organisation campaigns for the protection of justice, freedom, truth and dignity. In addition, Amnesty International UK investigates and exposes human rights abuses to create a more just world.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) is an independent charity that exists to challenge immigration detention and provide legal advice to migrants in the United Kingdom. In addition, BID offers volunteer casework opportunities.

<https://www.biduk.org/>

Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC)

The Bar Human Rights Committee is a network for human rights barristers organising legal research, advocacy training and publicity across continents. The network particularly focuses on the protection of the rule of law. BHRC regularly provides volunteer or pro bono opportunities.

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

British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR)

BIHR promotes human rights by influencing human rights tools, public policy and practices that empower individuals and groups to improve their lives and the lives of others.

<https://www.bihhr.org.uk/>

Campaign for Freedom of Information

Campaign for Freedom of Information is an advocacy group that aims to promote and protect the public's rights under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.cfoi.org.uk>

Child Poverty Action Group

Child Poverty Action Group seeks to raise awareness of the causes of child poverty and mechanisms for its eradication and prevention. Child Poverty Action Group intends to facilitate policy changes for family's and children in poverty through the collection and analysis of evidence about welfare change.

<https://cpag.org.uk>

Coalition for the International Criminal Court

The coalition for the ICC is an international network of NGO's advocating for a fair, effective and independent ICC. Internships are available in Summer and Autumn in New York and The Hague.

<http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org>

Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

ALBA is a professional association for barristers in England and Wales practicing in public law. The association works closely with the Bar Council and bar regional circuits to promote access to justice and the concerns of public law practitioners.

<https://adminlaw.org.uk>

Coram Children's Legal Centre (CCLC)

CCLC provides free legal information, representation for young children, young people, their families, carers and professionals. In addition, CCLC is an international consultancy on child law and children rights.

<https://www.coram.org.uk>

Death Penalty Project

The Death Penalty Project uses the law to create change and facilitate a fair justice system where the death penalty is imposed. The organisation provides free legal representation and assistance to individuals facing the death penalty and other vulnerable prisoners.

<https://www.deathpenaltyproject.org>

Discrimination Law Association

Discrimination Law Association seeks to improve the quality of assistance and support available to people who are or maybe facing discrimination.

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

Employment Lawyers Association (ELA)

ELA is a political organisation representing the views of qualified employment lawyers in the United Kingdom, including barristers and solicitors who act for employers and employees. ELA also provides pro bono opportunities for lawyers to help NGO's and social enterprises with their daily needs.

<https://www.elaweb.org.uk>

Equally Ours

Equally Ours is a network of UK organisations committed to equal opportunities, social justice, good community relations and respect for human rights.

<https://www.equallyours.org.uk/>

European Criminal Bar Association

The European Criminal Bar Association is an association of independent specialist defence lawyers who seek to shape legislation with a view to ensure that rights of the defence are enhanced.

<http://www.eucriminallaw.com>

Freedom from Torture

Freedom from Torture is a British Charity that provides specialist psychological therapy to asylum seekers and refugees who are victims of torture and provide training for professionals working with torture survivors. In addition, Freedom from Torture campaign and raise awareness for survivors rights in the UK.

<https://www.freedomfromtorture.org>

Global Rights

Global rights is an international human rights and governance capacity building NGO. Global Rights works to build the capacity of underserved communities in Nigeria and enhance platforms for participatory governance.

<https://www.globalrights.org/ng/>

Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers

Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers is a socialist and legal campaigning organisation in the United Kingdom. The organisation organises monthly lectures on diverse legal topics delivered by practitioners.

<http://www.haldane.org>

Housing Law Practitioners Association

Housing Law Practitioners association is a network of legal practitioners which facilitates the sharing of knowledge and information on housing law. Members of the association commit to social justice by representing the homeless, vulnerable tenants, and other occupants of houses.

<http://www.hlpa.org.uk/cms/>

Howard League for Penal Reform

As the oldest penal reform in the world Howard League is a charity organisation which campaigns for less crimes, safer communities and less people in prison.

<https://howardleague.org>

Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA)

The HRLA is a network of lawyers, legal practitioners and law students in the United Kingdom who are interested in human rights. The association organises and runs an array of lectures on current human rights issues. In addition, an attractive annual bursary scheme is available for students who seek financial assistance to undertake human rights related work placements.

<https://www.hrla.org.uk>

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Human Rights Watch is an international NGO which investigates and reports on the world's biggest human rights abuses. To monitor change HRW meets with governments, United Nations, rebel groups, corporations and others to ensure that policy has been reformed, laws upheld and justice enforced. Occasionally HRW offers internships in a number of thematic areas.

<https://www.hrw.org>

Immigration Law Practitioners Association

Immigration Law Practitioners Association is a professional association which aims to improve representation of lawyers and practitioners in the United Kingdom practising immigration, asylum and national law. ILPA provides training and conducts research and opinions that reflect the experiences of its members.

<https://ilpa.org.uk>

Inquest

Inquest provides support and advice to people concerned about unlawful deaths and the inquest system. Inquest conducts case work on deaths in police and prison custody and where state and corporate accountability are scrutinised. This includes work around the Hillsborough football disaster and the Grenfell Tower fire.

<https://www.inquest.org.uk/>

International commission of jurists

The international commission of jurists is an international NGO which promotes human rights and the rule of law. The commission consists of sixty jurists who represent different legal systems across the globe. The commission occasionally provides unremunerated internship programmes.

<https://www.icj.org>

International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH)

FIDH is an international NGO based in Paris, France. The organisation assists member and partner organisations to address human rights abuses committed by states, armed opposition groups and multinational companies on an international, regional and national level. FIDH occasionally provides opportunities to intern at their Paris and Belgium desk.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/>

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)

JCWI is a British charity that aims to challenge laws and practices which curtail rights and lead to discrimination. The charity provides legal advice to support practitioners on cases concerning immigration and asylum law. In addition, JCWI provides in-house training to ensure that practitioners are up-to-date with the relevant practices and law.

<https://www.jcwi.org.uk>

Justice

Justice is a law reform and human rights organisation which aims to strengthen the justice system in the United Kingdom. Justice seeks to ensure that individual rights are protected and the rule of law is promoted. The organisation provides an annual 'Kalisher Trust' Internship programme, ad hoc volunteering and full time employment.

<https://justice.org.uk/>

Lawworks

Lawworks is a British charitable organisation that connects lawyers with people in need with legal advice. In addition, the organisation provides support for those wanting to establish a pro bono society within their school.

<https://www.lawworks.org.uk/>

Legal Action Group

Legal Action Group provides equal access to justice for all members of society who are socially or economically disadvantaged. The organisation produces publications, journals and frequent legal updates to improve law practice, the administration of justice and legal services.

<https://www.lag.org.uk/>

Liberty

Liberty is an advocacy group and membership organisation which seeks to challenge injustice, defend freedoms and campaign to ensure equality within the United Kingdom. The organisation offers student membership and internships available throughout the year.

<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk>

Medical Justice

Medical Justice promotes basic medical rights for detainees and failed asylum seekers in the United Kingdom. Medical Justice writes medical-legal reports to asylum claims and undertakes research to foster policy change and improve healthcare for detainees. <http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk>

Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC)

MDAC works on the human rights of children and adults with actual or perceived intellectual or psycho-social disabilities. MDAC aims to achieve this by facilitating progressive jurisprudence, instigating law reform and empowering people with disabilities and promoting participatory politics.

<https://www.mdac.org/en>

Prison Reform Trust

The Prison Reform trust aims to ensure that prisons are just, humane and effective. As part of their objective to give prisoners an influence in how policy is formed they established the 'Prisoner Policy Network'. The network consists of current prisoners, ex-prisoners and connected organisations who wish to share their experiences and ideas with policymakers. In addition, Prison Reform Trust offers an annual writing competition.

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

Prisoners' Advice Service (PAS)

PAS provides free legal advice to prisoners in England and Wales. In addition, PAS provides legal volunteer opportunities and a quarterly Prisoners' legal rights bulletin to give updates on key prison law cases.

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

Privacy International

Privacy International is a UK based charity which promotes and protects the rights to privacy. Campaigns include, communication surveillance, counter terrorism, cyber security and social media surveillance.

<https://privacyinternational.org>

Public Law Project

Public Law Project aims to ensure that marginalised groups and individuals have access to public law remedies and to increase public law authority. Opportunities exist for students to undertake research and help organise conferences and events. <https://publiclawproject.org.uk>

Refugee Council

Refugee council provides representation and advice for Refugees and Asylum seekers and associated organisations in United Kingdom. In addition, Refugee Council provides opportunities to volunteer to help ensure refugees are treated fairly and with dignity.

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk>

Refugee Legal Centre

Refugee Legal Centre is an independent national organisation and charity which offers legal advice and representation to asylum seekers and refugees. Refugee Legal Centre seeks to represent their clients individually and collectively through the employment of international and national human rights law and refugee law.

<https://www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk>

Release

Release is a national centre of expertise on drugs and drugs law. The organisation provides free advice and information to the public and professionals on issues relating to drugs. Release offers extensive volunteer and research opportunities based in London.

<https://www.release.org.uk>

Reprieve

Reprieve is an international NGO which litigates on behalf of prisoners on death row across the world. In particular, the organisation represent detainees in Guantanamo Bay helping to secure their safe release.

<https://reprieve.org.uk>

Rights of Women

Rights of women is a UK based charity which aims to provide women with the legal advice and sufficient information needed to understand and use the law and their legal rights.

<https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/>

Statewatch

Statewatch monitors the state, justice and home affairs, security and civil liberties in the European Union. It is comprised of lawyers, academics, journalists, researchers and community activists who contribute to investigative journalism and critical research concerning the development of the EU state and civil liberties. Statewatch provides opportunities to contribute to analysis, news articles and translations.

<https://www.statewatch.org>

Stonewall

Stonewall is a British charity which aims to ensure equal treatment for lesbian, gay, bi and trans people in United Kingdom and abroad. Stonewall seeks to raise awareness to ensure institutions understand and value the rights of LGBT people, campaigning for legal reform in order to ensure the protection of LGBT people's rights.

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk>

Unlock Democracy

Unlock democracy is a British pressure group based in London. The organisation campaigns for democracy by way of a written constitution, elected House of Lords and Citizens' convention.

<https://unlockdemocracy.org.uk>

Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL)

Young Legal Aid Lawyers is a network of lawyers practicing in criminal or civil law who campaign for a sustainable legal aid system. Members of YLAL consist of students, paralegals, trainee solicitors, pupil barristers and qualified junior lawyers based throughout England and Wales. Membership to YLAL is free.

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

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