

Human Rights, Civil Liberties and Democracy

A conference for **law students, trainee solicitors** and **pupil barristers**

PROGRAMME

09.45 Coffee and Registration

10.00 **Welcome**

Clarissa O'Callaghan, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

10.10 **JUSTICE and human rights – an introduction**

Roger Smith, director of JUSTICE

10.20 **Human rights, civil liberties and democracy**

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC,

chair of JUSTICE Council

Democracy and human rights are sometimes seen as opposed to each other. In truth, they are integrally linked. Respect for, and understanding of, human rights complement, and are key parts of, any functioning democracy.

11.00 **Human rights and counter-terrorism – principles, challenges and resolutions**

Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE

The Human Rights Act came into force less than a year before the events of 9/11. Since then, the response to terrorism has provided a challenge to the fledgling human rights legislation well beyond whatever could have been expected. The consequence has been a dialogue between courts and Parliament. What have been the difficult issues and how have they been resolved?

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 **Workshops based on case studies: fair trial and Article 6 ECHR**

These interactive workshops provide an opportunity to examine key issues in detail. Delegates should choose one workshop – documentation for all three workshops will be included in the delegate pack.

1 **Anonymous witnesses**

Sally Ireland, JUSTICE

The Crown Prosecution Service wants to use an anonymous witness to implicate a defendant in a 'street gang' related murder. In what circumstances (if any) would this be appropriate? What safeguards should be in place?

2 **The European Arrest Warrant**

Jodie Blackstock, JUSTICE

A Bulgarian magistrate has issued a Eurowarrant for the return from the UK of a defendant in relation to alleged fraud. The defendant, a UK national, says he is not guilty and that the case is a vendetta against him by a local mafia chief and he will not get a fair trial. Can he successfully refuse to go?

3 **Secret evidence**

Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE

The Home Secretary imposes a control order but wishes to withhold key evidence from the defendant on the basis that it would endanger national security. What are the relevant principles at stake?

1.00 Sandwich lunch

2.00 **Human rights and the constitution**

Roger Smith, JUSTICE

The Human Rights Act led indirectly to the demise of the ancient role of the Lord Chancellor. It has also caused major debate about the role of the judiciary in holding the executive and Parliament accountable to human rights principles. The Act has become very controversial: the Conservative Party argues for its repeal. How is the constitution changing under the influence of the Human Rights Act?

2.30 **A British bill of rights: good idea or not?**

Bob Grindrod, BVC, Nottingham Law School

Julia Bartholomew, BVC, City University

Connor Johnston, MA conversion course, Sheffield University

Marija Brackovic, GDL, College of Law

Poonam Pattni, GDL, College of Law

Chair: **Wafa Shah**, ex-intern, JUSTICE

Both the government and opposition have argued for a 'British bill of rights' to supplement – or even replace – the Human Rights Act. Would a homegrown bill of rights extend or restrict rights?

3.30 Tea

4.00 **Human rights careers – a panel discussion**

Tom Hickman, Blackstone Chambers

Patrick Doris, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Richard de Friend, College of Law

Roger Smith, JUSTICE

What kind of careers will allow you to develop an interest in human rights? Can you realistically practise human rights within a career at the Bar? In a City firm? In a legal aid practice? As a government lawyer? Anywhere else?

4.45 **Taking the JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network forward**

Hayley Smith, JUSTICE

The network has now held two conferences, a number of training seminars and is in its third year of producing electronic bulletins. What have you thought worthwhile? How might we take the network further? How could we integrate it more within JUSTICE's core work?

5.00 Finish

For further information on this conference please contact JUSTICE

020 7762 6422 or jshrn@justice.org.uk

