

## **Human Rights in Practice: an introduction**

*Human rights bring law alive. They are both intellectually fascinating and politically vibrant. Human rights have been a source of very practical help to millions of people around the world and, domestically, the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) must have helped thousands. The HRA, probably the most important piece of legislation in the UK in the last decade, directly shapes the government's response in fields such as counter-terrorism, the conduct of armed force, asylum policy and the provision of social services. No wonder that the future and implications of the HRA remain at the heart of political and legal debate.*

*This free conference is for students with little or no previous knowledge of the field. You do not even have to be a law student. And, if you are, don't worry if you have not studied the topic yet. Let us set the scene by showing you how the law that you will study works in practice. How do lawyers use human rights in practice? How does JUSTICE use human rights in its lobbying and court interventions?*

*In just one morning, we will provide a concentrated overview of the Human Rights Act, the European Convention on Human Rights, the history of human rights as a whole – all in the context of how these are used in practice. We will give you the grounding to take your studies further and we will show you why this is one subject in your degree or law conversion course which is not dry and academic but very, very practical.*

*We will give you a lot of information. We will provide background materials and pointers on how you can get up to date with human rights debates at the political and legal cutting edge.*

*But, more than that, we want to communicate the excitement, benefit and possibilities of using human rights in practical cases to protect vulnerable people.*

*Shaheen Rahman is a barrister at One Crown Office Row who acts as a special advocate in control order cases. She is a council member of JUSTICE. Dr Eric Metcalfe is JUSTICE's human rights director and is responsible for its human rights policy and third party interventions. Roger Smith OBE is JUSTICE's director, an honorary professor at Kent University and a visiting professor at London South Bank University.*

**To book your place at the conference email [jshrn@justice.org.uk](mailto:jshrn@justice.org.uk)**

## Saturday 15 November 2008

BPP Law School  
68-70 Red Lion Street  
London  
WC1R 4NY

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|---------|--|
| 9.30am  | Registration   |
| 10.00am | Welcome and introduction<br>Shaheen Rahman <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose of the day</li><li>• Introduction to JUSTICE and its human rights work</li><li>• JUSTICE's student human rights network</li></ul>   |
| 10.10am | Human rights and the Human Rights Act 1998<br>An overview<br>Eric Metcalfe <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• History and philosophy</li><li>• The European Convention on Human Rights</li><li>• The role of the European Court of Human Rights</li><li>• The structure of the Human Rights Act 1998</li><li>• The approach of the courts</li></ul> |
| 10.40am | Current issues of policy<br>Roger Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bills of rights and the government's <i>Governance of Britain</i> agenda</li><li>• David Cameron's plans</li><li>• The role of the European Union</li><li>• Fair trial rights in the EU</li></ul>  |
| 11.10   | Coffee   |
| 11.30   | Human rights in practice<br>Shaheen Rahman <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The role of special advocates</li><li>• How the Human Rights Act is used in practice</li><li>• The importance of human rights in such matters as professional disciplinary hearings</li></ul>   |
| 12 noon | The Human Rights Act and the public interest;<br>JUSTICE's major third party interventions<br>Eric Metcalfe <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JUSTICE's major cases</li><li>• How you organise a third party intervention</li><li>• Successes and failures</li></ul>   |
| 12.30pm | Questions, answers and discussion<br>Shaheen Rahman, Eric Metcalfe and Roger Smith   |
| 1pm     | Ends   |