



JSHRN Annual Human Rights Conference 2012

Human rights: Struggling to be heard

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

Saturday 24 March 2012, 10am – 4.30pm

The College of Law, 14 Store Street, London WC1E 7DE

This one-day conference will give participants an insight into the role of human rights, and the Human Rights Act (HRA) in particular, in the political and judicial processes which determine the UK's legal framework. It is a unique opportunity to explore the role of human rights standards in the formation of domestic law, policy and practice.

Participants will have access to JUSTICE's core policy team who are engaged daily in working to defend and advance human rights. Delegates will:

- get an insight into the workings of one of the country's leading human rights organisations;
- discuss topical, cutting edge human rights issues; and
- gain a practical understanding of the constitutional role of rights in the UK.

The conference will range from high theory to low practice. It does not require any detailed knowledge of human rights or the HRA though a familiarity with the broad outline of the legislation and major cases will be helpful. This conference is designed to provide an insight into the methods, techniques and tricks of the human rights trade. Together, we'll grapple with the key issues in the UK human rights debate through a practical lens.

This event is organised by the JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network and generously hosted by The College of Law.

The College of Law
of England and Wales



Human rights: Struggling to be heard

24 March 2012 **PROGRAMME**

9.30 Registration

10.00 **Human rights and JUSTICE:
The concerns of an NGO**

Roger Smith OBE, Director, JUSTICE

- The nature of JUSTICE and the history of its engagement with human rights
- The passage of the HRA and JUSTICE's role
- The role of the 'war on terror' and the challenge of torture
- Myths and misconceptions or "lies, damned lies and statistics": The role of politicians and the press
- Rights and the democratic process: The role of the courts, Parliament and the executive
- Protecting rights and liberties: An unfolding state of affairs

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 **Human rights and the UK courts**

Eric Metcalfe, Barrister, Monckton Chambers,
Former Director of Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE

- Litigating human rights
- From *Belmarsh* onward: The challenge of the courts
- Third party interventions: When, how, why
- JUSTICE's HRA interventions from *Brown v Stott* onward
- *Cadder v HM Advocate*: A textbook intervention?
- Future issues and considerations

12.30 Lunch break

A Costa coffee bar will be open at the venue and there is a large choice of eating places in the immediate vicinity.

1.30 **Human rights and the role of Parliament**

Angela Patrick, Director of Human Rights Policy,
JUSTICE

- The HRA: Safeguarding Parliamentary sovereignty
- Prisoners' voting rights: A storm in a teacup or the straw that broke the camel's back?
- The Joint Committee on Human Rights: An effective Parliamentary watchdog?
- Lobbying Parliament: Tips and techniques, tales of success and failure

2.30 Coffee break

3.00 **A masterclass in human rights
myth-busting**

**Roger Smith, Jodie Blackstock,
Angela Patrick**

A key part of JUSTICE's work is distributing accurate information about human rights issues which may be sensationalised in the press. Participants will receive some news stories covering recent human rights issues. In small groups, each assisted by a JUSTICE team member, you will discuss a substantive response and tactics and strategies on how best to 'myth-bust' a particular issue. We will use this work as the basis for a final round-up discussion on the major topical human rights challenges presented during the day.

4.00 Picking up issues from the day

4.30 End



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More information on the organisations involved:

JUSTICE

UK-based charity promoting access to justice, human rights and the rule of law – through research, education, lobbying and interventions in the courts. It is the British section of the International Commission of Jurists. www.justice.org.uk

JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network

Set up in 2006 to support all those studying the law and/or who are interested in human rights.

http://www.justice.org.uk/shrn_home.php

The College of Law

The largest legal training and education establishment in Europe, with centres in Birmingham, Chester, Guildford, London and York. www.college-of-law.co.uk

You can book online at www.justice.org.uk/students_events.php

or use the form below:

Booking form (Please complete a separate form for each delegate)

Please book me a place on the *Human rights: Struggling to be heard* Conference on Saturday 24 March 2012

Please find herewith my payment of:

- £10** Standard fee
- £5** JUSTICE member discount fee. My JUSTICE membership number is _____
(Please contact JUSTICE on 020 7762 6422 or jshrn@justice.org.uk if you are unsure of your membership number or status)
- £30** Combined JUSTICE membership and conference fee (includes JUSTICE annual student/trainee/pupil membership fee of £25)

Payment

- I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to JUSTICE
- Please charge the following card
 - VISA MASTERCARD MAESTRO (UK) SOLO card **(please tick card type)**

Name of cardholder _____

Card Number

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Expiry date __ __ / __ __ Valid from __ __ / __ __ Issue number (Maestro UK only) __ __ Security code __ __ __

About you

I am a student trainee solicitor pupil barrister other (please specify) _____

Name _____

Address* _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

* if you are paying via credit or debit card, this should be the card-holder's address

University, college, firm or chambers _____

Please return your completed form with payment to: **JUSTICE, 59 Carter Lane,
London EC4V 5AQ**
Fax: **020 7329 5055**
Email: jshrn@justice.org.uk

Cancellation policy

Places are transferable – please contact JUSTICE to arrange. In view of the low delegate fee involved, our policy is not to issue refunds.