



# Freedoms, Rights and Protest

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

**Saturday 19 March 2011**  
**9.45am – 5pm**

**Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer**  
**Northcliffe House entrance, 28 Tudor Street, London EC4Y 0AY**

**£10 (£5 for JUSTICE members)**

Many of the most pressing human rights issues in the UK today surround the rights to freedom of religion, expression and assembly. Free speech and the right to protest are crucial in a democracy; however in recent years there have been a variety of measures introduced that undermine these freedoms. Similarly, while Article 9 ECHR guarantees everyone the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right is not absolute and the issue of religious freedom in the public sphere continues to attract controversy.

This one-day conference gives delegates a unique insight into:

- The key principles underpinning the rights to freedom of religion, expression and assembly
- The ways in which the European Convention on Human Rights has been interpreted in UK courts
- How the law is striking the balance in controversial and contested areas
- Current issues and future developments in policy and practice
- The potential for a career in human rights

Organised by  
**JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network**



JUSTICE

Hosted by  **FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER**

Supported by **The College of Law**  
of England and Wales

## PROGRAMME

9.45 Coffee and Registration

10.00 **Welcome**

10.10 **Lawyers, freedoms, rights and protest**

**Baroness Helena Kennedy QC**, Chair of JUSTICE Council, barrister at Doughty Street Chambers and member of the House of Lords

Lady Kennedy will discuss the role that lawyers play in the defence of freedoms and rights. She has appeared in many of the most serious civil liberties cases of recent times and has written widely about the role of lawyers in defence of the rule of law.

11.00 **Freedom of thought, expression and religion: why these issues are topical**

**Roger Smith OBE**, Director of JUSTICE

This session will give an overview of why the issues approached at this conference are particularly important at the present moment and will link legal developments in terms of legislation and cases with political, social and technological change.

11.30 Coffee Break

11.45 **Breakout sessions**

These interactive sessions will provide an opportunity to study the relevant law in more detail and are particularly focused on the impact the ECHR has had on the rights to freedom of religion, expression and assembly in the UK. Delegates should choose one workshop – documentation for all three workshops will be included in the delegate pack.

### **1. Faith and the law: the impact of Article 9**

**Jodie Blackstock**, Senior Legal Officer at JUSTICE

Article 9 ECHR guarantees everyone the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. However, the right is not absolute and can be limited. This session examines how the courts are interpreting Article 9 and considers the role played by the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion in an increasingly multicultural society.

### **2. Freedom of expression: sticks and stones**

**Dr Eric Metcalfe**, Director of Human Rights Policy at JUSTICE

Article 10 ECHR guarantees everyone the right to freedom of expression. This session will examine the relationship between free speech and other fundamental rights. Are any limits on what can be said and, in particular, when it is lawful to impose restrictions on expression in order to prevent harm or offence to others?

### **3. The right to protest and the criminal law**

**Sally Ireland**, Director of Criminal Justice Policy at JUSTICE

Article 11 ECHR guarantees freedom of assembly and association. This session will concentrate on the relevant ECHR jurisprudence and will examine the domestic legislation and common law powers that interact with Article 11.

1.00 Lunch

1.30 **Human rights at the sharp end**

Three practitioners involved in cutting edge cases talk about the practicalities of litigation in which they have been involved.

### **Freedom of expression: the challenge of WikiLeaks and the internet**

**Mark Stephens**, Partner at Finers Stephens Innocent LLP

Mark is a leading media lawyer and is currently acting for Julian Assange. This session will consider the the issues raised by WikiLeaks and the impact of the internet and new technology on existing law in this area.

2.30 **Rights on the streets: demonstrations and police tactics**

**Louise Christian**, Partner at Christian Khan Solicitors

Louise is a leading civil liberties lawyer and acted in the *Austin and Saxby* case which was a challenge to the policing of protests, in particular, the tactic of 'kettling'. This session will consider the issues that are raised by current police approaches.

**Sarah McSherry**, Partner at Christian Khan Solicitors

Sarah is acting for Alfie Meadows, injured at a demonstration last year. This session will discuss the specific issues raised by that case and other forthcoming judicial reviews.

3.30 Tea

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

**Suzanne Lambert**, One Crown Office Row

**Richard de Friend**, College of Law

**Paul Yates**, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

**Roger Smith**, JUSTICE

Chaired by **Hayley 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? As a government lawyer?

5.00 Finish

For further information on this event please contact JUSTICE on **020 7762 6422** or [jshrn@justice.org.uk](mailto:jshrn@justice.org.uk)



# Freedoms, Rights and Protest 19 March 2011

## 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 (ICJ).

[www.justice.org.uk](http://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.

[www.justice.org.uk/jshrn/home.htm](http://www.justice.org.uk/jshrn/home.htm)

### Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

One of the world's leading international law firms, with more than 2,400 lawyers working across 27 offices in 16 countries.

[www.freshfields.com](http://www.freshfields.com)

### 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](http://www.college-of-law.co.uk)

## Booking form (please complete a separate form for each delegate)

Please book me a place on the *Freedoms, Rights and Protest* conference on Saturday 19 March 2011

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](mailto:jshrn@justice.org.uk) if you are unsure of your membership number or status)
- £26** Combined JUSTICE membership and conference fee (includes JUSTICE annual student/trainee/pupil membership fee of £21)

### 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 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 \_\_\_\_\_

11.45am breakout choice:  Article 9 - Freedom of Religion  
 Article 10 - Freedom of Expression  
 Article 11 - Freedom of Assembly

Any special or dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

Please return your completed form with payment to: **JUSTICE, 59 Carter Lane, London EC4V 5AQ**

Fax: **020 7329 5055**

Email: **[jshrn@justice.org.uk](mailto:jshrn@justice.org.uk)**