



The future of JUSTICE

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A bit about JUSTICE

- Set up in 1957
- Membership organisation
- Tom Sargant through to Anne Owers
- Greatest achievements
 - Miscarriages of justice
 - Institutional change
 - Human Rights Act work

The last ten years

- Very strong human rights focus
- Leading third party intervener in the Supreme Court/House of Lords
- Major research projects on European Arrest Warrants; legal advice in police stations; youth sentencing; surveillance/RIPA; secret evidence; third party interventions
- JSHRN launched in 2006

Strategic review

- Review JUSTICE's position and sustainability
- Found:
 - Need for greater focus on the policy side
 - Work more closely with members
 - Importance of the JSHRN
 - More attention to finance & fundraising
- Confirmed our continued authority & credibility

JUSTICE focusing on justice

- Strategy for 2014-2016
- Launched by Lord Chief Justice on 10 March 2014 *Reshaping Justice*
- Why?
 - Critical time for the justice system
 - Traditional JUSTICE territory
 - No one else covers the whole system

Key messages

- The focus for all of JUSTICE's work is the fair, accessible and efficient operation of the justice system – encompassing administrative, civil (including family) and criminal justice, both outside and within the courts and tribunals – and the human rights of individuals within it.
- JUSTICE is a membership organisation, primarily of the legal profession comprising judges, barristers, solicitors, legal executives, academic lawyers, law students and interested non-lawyers.
- JUSTICE works on an all-party basis seeking to inform debate, frame issues and influence decision makers from across the political spectrum.
- JUSTICE works across the constituent elements of the United Kingdom, including the British Overseas Territories.
- JUSTICE is the UK section of the International Commission of Jurists.

Vision

JUSTICE is an all-party law reform and human rights organisation working to strengthen the justice system – administrative, civil and criminal – in the United Kingdom. Our vision is of fair, accessible and efficient legal processes, in which the individual's rights are protected and which reflect the country's international reputation for upholding and promoting the rule of law.

Mission

- We contribute to achieving this vision in three key ways:
 - Providing evidence-based analysis and proposing practical solutions to law-makers, judges and relevant public servants.
 - Strengthening the law and legal processes by reference to international and comparative best practice, looking across jurisdictions, across types of law and across the legal profession.
 - Using the expertise of our membership to strengthen our understanding of the challenges arising in legal practice and of possible solutions, working with them to execute our vision.

What we do

- We carry out research and analysis to generate, develop and evaluate ideas for law reform. In doing so, we draw on evidence, experience and expertise from the United Kingdom and across the world.
- We intervene in superior domestic and international courts, sharing our research, analysis and arguments with courts to support their work and to promote strong and effective legal judgments.
- We promote a better understanding of the fair administration of justice among political decision-makers and public servants.
- We bring people together to discuss critical issues about the justice system and to provide a thoughtful legal framework to policy debates

Key objectives

1. Research and analysis on the whole system
2. Focus on rights of people within the justice system
3. Third party interventions
4. Projects with working parties of our membership
5. Events – for members and beyond
6. Deepen our work with Westminster/Whitehall
7. Engage the JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network

Membership

- Source of unrestricted income but also authority
- The new strategy seeks to get closer to members:
 - Working parties of the membership
 - Members-only events
 - Prioritising work with members
 - Closer work with corporates

Financial position

- Small staff, a lot of work!
- Appeal in the 1990, purchased building
- Renewed focus on fundraising – Katherine Stanton-Saringer; major donor expert on Fundraising Committee; launch a new Appeal later in the year
- How can the JSHRN help?

JSHRN

- Important initiative; soon to seek funding for a legal officer & paid intern to support
- Propose:
 - updated web presence
 - lecture series
 - paid internships
 - essay competition connected to our work
 - JSHRN blog, with regular posts from interns/staff members/student members
 - Closer working with universities (outside London)
- What else?

What next?

- First working party on *Delivering civil justice in an age of austerity*
 - Can the civil justice system continue to operate as is, given continued cut backs? How to ensure justice for rising numbers of litigants in person? What lessons can be learned from abroad? Or from other parts of our justice system?
 - Reporting April 2015 – see Ruchi!

And...

- Further working parties (mental health/learning difficulty and criminal justice; reform of the administrative justice landscape; possibly Fraud Trials)
- Endless responses to draft legislation/consultations
- Third party interventions – possibly *Belhaj*, *Human Dignity Trust*...
- Invigoration of the JSHRN

Very much welcome

- Ideas for ways to invigorate the JSHRN:
 - What would you like from us?
 - How can you contribute to our work?
- What information might be useful?
- Ideas for future events?
- Ideas for future speakers?