

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

Protecting rights, safeguarding justice: the Human Rights Act 1998

A conference for students, trainee solicitors and pupil barristers

The University of Law, 14 Store St, London WC1E 7DE
Saturday 19 March 2016

As the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor commit to a consultation on repeal of the Human Rights Act 1998, we brace for one of the most important legal and political debates of recent times.

JUSTICE is committed to ensuring that human rights are respected by each of the institutions of Government in the UK; and protected by our justice system. Since 1998, the Human Rights Act has given all of us the right to challenge law, policy and practice which breaches individual rights and our courts the ability to provide a remedy when public bodies fall short.

Join us to discuss the highs and lows during the Act's decade-long operation, reflect on the success stories that don't make the front pages and consider the future of human rights protection in UK law.

This one-day conference will give law students, trainee solicitors and pupil barristers a unique opportunity to come together to explore the impact of the Human Rights Act on the protection of individual rights in the UK.

Meet with the JUSTICE team and leading practitioners in their fields to discuss the role the Act plays in protecting individual rights in our justice system, the impact of proposals for repeal and the future of human rights practice.

As a delegate, you will:

- discuss topical, cutting edge human rights issues with leading practitioners
- gain a greater practical understanding of the role of rights protection in key areas of legal practice within the UK
- gain a unique insight into the workings of one of the country's leading law reform organisations
- network with other students interested or working in human rights across the UK
- meet the JUSTICE team and explore the crucial human rights debate for 2016

Protecting rights, safeguarding justice: the Human Rights Act 1998

19 March 2016 **PROGRAMME**

9.30 *Registration*

10.00 *Welcome - **Angela Patrick**, Director of Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE*

10.15 **Why human rights – and the Human Rights Act – are worth fighting for.**

The Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP

Dominic Grieve QC MP, a former Attorney General, Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee and Vice-Chair of JUSTICE, shares his unique experience of the role of human rights in parliamentary scrutiny, in government decision-making and in litigation.

Dominic will reflect on his career, on the importance of the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights for good government, for the protection of individual rights and for the rule of law.

Questions & Answers

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.15 **Morning Breakout Sessions**
(Choose one of the following three sessions)

1. The Human Rights Act and the Criminal Justice System

Paul Clark,
Barrister, Garden Court Chambers

From the right to a lawyer in the police station to the ability of victims to question failings in the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes, the Human Rights Act has had a significant impact on our criminal justice system.

Join the discussion on the impact of key cases from the last decade.

2. Immigration, asylum and the Human Rights Act

Jean-Benoit Louveaux,
Head of Administrative Justice, JUSTICE

“Is it really all about cats?”

An interactive exploration of the Human Rights Act in the immigration and asylum context, why it is being repealed and what the effect of that might be.

3. Rights in the community: the Human Rights Act and public law

Angela Patrick,
Director of Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE

From security and counter-terrorism, from community care to legal aid, the role of the Human Rights Act 1998 in public law challenges has been profound.

Join us to explore some of the key legal developments of the last decade.

12.30 *Lunch*

13.15 **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**
(Repeat of morning breakouts)

14.30 *Tea*

14.45 **Human rights in practice Q & A**

Daniel Carey, Associate, Deighton Pierce Glynn
Ella Davies, Associate, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Sophie Earnshaw, Child Poverty Action Group
Hetti Jackson-Stops, Government Legal Department
Samuel Jacobs, Doughty Street Chambers

Ruchi Parekh, Cornerstone Chambers (Chair)

This session gives delegates a chance to quiz a panel of practitioners about building a career in the law with human rights at its heart. Our panel come from a range of backgrounds and areas of practice and are at different stages in their careers. Get your questions ready.

15.30 **JUSTICE and Liberty: Protecting rights, safeguarding justice: the Human Rights Act 1998**

Shami Chakrabarti, Director, Liberty in conversation with **Andrea Coomber**, Director, JUSTICE

As two of the country's longest standing legal organisations, both Liberty and JUSTICE continue to work hard to secure the protection of individual rights and civil liberties in all that they do. Shami joins Andrea to reflect on over a decade of hard work on the frontline.

Questions & Answers

16.30 *Close and thanks*

Andrea Coomber, Director, JUSTICE