

LIBERTY/JUSTICE Human Rights Awards 2000

JUSTICE and Liberty presented their first joint human rights awards at a ceremony in December 2000 at the Law Society.

The winners were Amjad Malik (Peter Duffy Young Human Rights Lawyer of the Year), Keir Starmer (Human Rights Lawyer of the Year) and the Campaign for Freedom of Information (Human Rights Award).

Lord Bingham of Cornhill gave an opening address. The judges noted the exceptional quality and range of work by a strong field of nominees.

The Peter Duffy Award for Young Human Rights Lawyer of the Year is a new award, commemorating the life and achievements of one of the UK's most dedicated human rights lawyers, Peter Duffy QC. Peter was particularly supportive of younger lawyers, both through his lecturing and by advancing the careers of younger juniors, bringing them in on important cases. He gave freely of his time and skills and an important part of his human rights work at the Bar, in litigation and through advice, was done pro bono for organisations such as Liberty and JUSTICE.

Amjad Malik, the winner of this award, is a solicitor at Oldham Citizens Advice Bureau. Amjad won the award for his diligent casework in representing the rights of Asian women who were under threat of deportation.

The Human Rights Lawyer of the Year award is made to an individual for his or her commitment and contribution to the development of human rights and better and fairer administration of justice; for persistent and diligent work coming to fruition in the year; and for work done over and above professional commitments.

This year Keir Starmer, of Doughty Street Chambers, won the award for his work in making the principles of the Human Rights Act widely accessible to non-specialists, and for his extensive pro bono work, which included the Caribbean death row cases.

The Human Rights Award is made to an organisation or to a non-legal individual. It is given for an outstanding demonstration of commitment to protecting and promoting human rights; for support to individuals or groups who would otherwise have been denied access to justice or would have found it more difficult to obtain; for a major contribution to increasing awareness and understanding of human rights issues; and for international work to protect and promote human rights in England and Wales.

The Campaign for Freedom of Information won the 2000 Human Rights Award for their thorough and sustained work in campaigning for a Freedom of Information Act, and in seeking to make the resulting Act stronger and more wide-ranging.

The awards were organised in association with the **Law Society Gazette**, with additional from the General Council of the Bar and the Institute of Legal Executives.

The judges were: Sir Nicolas Bratza QC; Lord Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice; Jonathan Hirst QC; Michael Napier; Baroness Prashar; Evlynn Gilvarry of the **Law Society Gazette**; John Wadham of Liberty; and Anne Owers of JUSTICE.

19/07/2001

Gillian Roberts

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