



HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Today's issues for tomorrow's lawyers

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

Saturday 8 March 2008

10am – 5pm

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Northcliffe House entrance, 28 Tudor Street, London EC4Y 0AY

£10 (£5 to JUSTICE members)

Human rights have become an established part of the legal landscape. Human rights principles inform policy making at all levels. Human rights arguments are now common in hearings from the magistrates court to the House of Lords and beyond.

In short, human rights law is no longer a marginal minority interest – no budding lawyer can afford to be ignorant of the law and practice in this area.

This one-day conference gives the lawyers of tomorrow a unique insight into:

- The current state of human rights law in the UK
- The key areas of argument and debate
- The potential for a career in human rights law
- Likely future developments in policy and practice

Organised by
JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network



JUSTICE

Hosted by  **FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER**

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PROGRAMME

09.45 Coffee and Registration

10.00 **Welcome**

Geoff Nicholas, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

10.10 **JUSTICE and human rights – an introduction**

Suzanne Lambert, One Crown Office Row Chambers and JUSTICE Council

10.30 **The Human Rights Act: where we are now**

Keir Starmer QC, Doughty Street Chambers and JUSTICE Council

- The structure of the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) and the European Convention on Human Rights
- Interpretation of legislation and declarations of incompatibility
- What is a public authority?
- An overview of the impact of the HRA on
 - civil liberties
 - public services
 - the judiciary
- The big legal issues to be resolved

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 **Breakout sessions**

These sessions will provide an opportunity for more detailed and interactive discussion of contemporary political issues where human rights play a crucial role. Delegates should choose one morning and one afternoon breakout session – documentation for all sessions will be included in the delegate pack.

1 Freedom of Expression

Dr Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE

This session will examine the relationship between free expression, democracy and other fundamental rights.

- Why is freedom of expression important?
- Are there any limits on what can be said and, if so, what are they?
- In particular, is it lawful to impose restrictions on expression in order to prevent offence to others?

2 Torture

Roger Smith, JUSTICE

Torture and ill-treatment has become a major issue of the post 9/11 world. A major international debate rages over the use of US techniques such as 'waterboarding' and treatment in places of detention such as Guantanamo Bay. The UK's acceptance of human rights standards has been relevant to its response on issues such as:

- the definition of torture and ill-treatment
- possible complicity with rendition by the US
- the return of foreign nationals to countries known to practice torture
- duties to provide support for asylum-seekers, even those whose claims have failed
- the provenance of evidence

1.00 Sandwich lunch

2.00 **Breakout groups**

3 Freedom of Religion

Dr Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE

An issue at the cutting edge of public policy and the development of human rights law in 21st century Britain.

- What role does the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion play in an increasingly multicultural society such as the UK?
- How does the right impact on the demands of those of differing religious beliefs and those of none?

4 The Iraq war

Phil Shiner, Public Interest Lawyers

The human rights issues behind one of the most controversial policy decisions in the past 50 years.

- Was the Iraq war 'legal'?
- To what extent does the HRA provide a measure of accountability for the actions of British forces in Iraq?
- What duties does the HRA require of those using force in the name of the UK government?

3.00 Tea

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

Alexandra Marks, Linklaters and JUSTICE Council, **Jemima Stratford**, Brick Court Chambers and JUSTICE Council, **Patrick Doris**, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, **Lawrence Horner**, College of Law
Chaired by **Roger Smith**, JUSTICE

- What are the job opportunities for students and trainees who wish to practice human rights?
- Are there possibilities in 'City' practices?
- What are the opportunities at the Bar?
- Are there posts in non-governmental organisations?
- Where else might a lawyer use a knowledge of human rights?

4.00 **Human rights: the next decade**

Roger Smith, JUSTICE

Stephen Grosz, Bindman & Partners and JUSTICE Council

Professor Francesca Klug OBE, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, London School of Economics and Equality and Human Rights Commission

This final discussion will open up a debate about likely developments in human rights over the next decade.

- Will there be a political backlash?
- How will the courts develop their approach?
- What will be the issues and developments of importance?

5.00 Finish

For further information on this conference please contact JUSTICE

020 7762 6422 or jshr@justice.org.uk





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More information on the organisations involved:

JUSTICE is a 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

JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network

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

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 26 offices in 15 countries.

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

The Guardian

Founded in 1821, the Guardian is a national newspaper renowned for its editorial and political independence.

www.guardian.co.uk

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

Please book me a place on the *Human Rights Law* conference on Saturday 8 March 2008

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)
- £25** Combined JUSTICE membership and conference fee (includes JUSTICE annual student/trainee/pupil membership fee of £20)

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About you

I am a law student trainee solicitor pupil barrister

Name _____

Address* _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

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

College, firm or chambers _____

Breakout session choices: Morning _____ Afternoon _____

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**