

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

DRAFT PROGRAMME
(as of 9 May 2008)

Human Rights: Interpretation and Implementation

**An Alumni Conference on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the
Human Rights Centre, University of Essex**

4-6 July 2008, University of Essex, UK

Venue: Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, University of Essex

FRIDAY, 4 JULY

08:30 - 11:30 Arrivals and Registration

Opening Session

11:30 - 12:00 Opening ceremony

Welcome remarks by

Professor Colin Riordan

Vice-Chancellor, University of Essex.

Professor Nigel South

Pro-VC Chair, Human Rights Centre Management Committee.

12:00 - 13:00 Plenary Session I: "Reflections: The Human Rights Centre - Past, Present and Future"

Over the last twenty-five years the Centre has had a number of directors. With their different backgrounds and fields of expertise they have helped make the Essex multidisciplinary human rights programme known throughout the world. This session offers an opportunity to bring them together to reflect on the past but also on the challenge of keeping the Centre as one of the top human rights academic institutions in the world.

Chair: **Lord Phillips of Sudbury OBE**, President, Citizenship Foundation.

Directors

Professor Malcolm Shaw, QC, Sir Robert Jennings Professor of International Law, University of Leicester - (1982-1989)

Professor Kevin Boyle - (1989-1998; 1999-2001; 2006-2007)

Professor Geoff Gilbert - (1998-1999)

Professor Paul Hunt - (2001-2003)

Dr. Todd Landman - (2003-2005)

Professor Jane Wright - (2005-2006)

Professor John Packer (LLM 1987) - (2007-Present)

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch [Buffet in Hall]

Afternoon Session

- 14: 30 - 17:30** **High-Level Panel on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**
“Where Are We Now? Developments in the International Protection of Human Rights”
- The 25th Anniversary Programme happily coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This high-level panel offers an opportunity to take stock on the goal of universal protection of all human rights from the perspectives of different international bodies and regions.
- Moderator: Sir Nigel Rodley**, Chair, Human Rights Centre and Member, UN Human Rights Committee.
- Participants:**
Mr. Bacre Ndiaye,
 Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR),
 Director of Human Rights Council and Treaties Division.
Mr. Thomas Hammarberg (tbc)
 Council of Europe, Commissioner for Human Rights.
Amb. Knut Vollebaek (tbc)
 Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), High Commissioner on National Minorities.
Professor Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro
 Inter- American Commission on Human Rights, Member.
Dr. Fatsah Ouguergouz
 African Court of Human and Peoples’ Rights, Judge.
Ms. Leila Zerrougui
 Chair Committee of Experts on the drafting of the revised Arab Charter on Human Rights of 2004.
- 16:00-16:30** **Tea/Coffee break, followed by questions / comments from the floor**
- 18:00 - 19:00** **Performance: *Rash* Jenni Wolfson (MA, 1994) (tbc)**
- 19:00 - 21:00** **Reception followed by BBQ, Wivenhoe House**
- 21:00** **Entertainment and Bar**

SATURDAY, 5 JULY

Morning session

08:00 – 09:30 **Breakfast**
Several Venues

09:30 – 10:30 **Plenary Session II: "A career in human rights: accident or design?"**

Is 'human rights' a professional career? Was it ever? Ian Martin former Secretary General Amnesty International, pioneer of OHCHR human rights field presences and currently SRSG Nepal will offer his thoughts on these questions.

Chair: **Professor Kevin Boyle**, HRC, Department of Law, University of Essex.

Speaker: **Mr. Ian Martin**, Special Representative of the Secretary General, UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), Fellow of the Human Rights Centre.

10:30 – 11:00 **Tea/Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Graduates Working Sessions (parallel)**

Working Session I-A: "Democracy Human Rights and the Rule of Law"

The essential relationship between democratic systems of government, the rule of law and enjoyment of rights is now widely recognised. The Human Rights Centre's Democratic Audit project has focused on the role of civil and political rights for effective accountable democratic systems. Graduates have worked on the ground on many aspects of these relationships, for example in OSCE election monitoring or in rule of law and human rights monitoring and training within UN field missions.

Chair: **Professor David Beetham**, Professor Emeritus, University of Leeds, and Associate Director, UK Democratic Audit, Fellow Human Rights Centre. (tbc)

Working Session I-B: "Human Rights and Conflict"

Human rights are at risk in situations of conflict in all regions. Terrorism and counter-terrorism have also brought new challenges to human rights and highlighted the importance both of International Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law as well as Human Rights Law. This working session aims at bringing together Essex graduates with experience at the

ICRC, OHCHR, OSCE, whether at headquarters or in field missions in order to talk about their experience in areas such as conflict prevention and conflict resolution, human rights monitoring, peacekeeping and peace building.

Chair: **Professor Françoise Hampson**, HRC, Department of Law.

Working Session I-C: “Women and Human Rights”

Will the relocation of CEDAW to Geneva help reverse the neglect of women’s rights in the UN system? At national level the central issues remain the fight for equality and political and civic participation. These and other developments and trends in women’s rights protection will be discussed in this session.

Chair: **Deirdre Fottrell**, HRC, Department of Law.

Working Session I-D: “Human Rights and Development”

Linking human rights, poverty, and development in research, teaching and training has been a major theme of the Essex programme. Essex pioneered teaching on the right to development and rights based approaches to development in the UK. Graduates have worked at the UN, in governmental agencies and in the field bringing human rights expertise into development discourse and policies. But has such ‘mainstreaming’ worked? Do human rights people really understand development?

Chair: **Dr. Fabian Freyenhagen**, HRC, Department of Philosophy.

12:30- 13:30 Lunch

Afternoon session

13:30 - 15:00 Graduates Working Sessions (parallel) *contd...*

Working Session II-A: “Economic and Social Rights”

Essex pioneered the study of what was once a neglected field – economic and social and cultural rights. At the UN, regional and national level Essex graduates have made significant contributions to deepening the understanding of these rights as well as strengthening their implementation. There is a Right to Health Unit at Essex and a number of renowned NGOs were created by alumni, such as COHRE, & FIAN. Can the proposed

complaints protocol to ICESCR change the status and acceptance of these rights and freedoms?

Chair: **Professor Paul Hunt**, HRC, Department of Law. Head Right to Health Unit Human Rights Centre. UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health (2002-2008)

Working Session II-B: “Human Rights Litigation”

The Human Rights Centre and many graduates have contributed to significant strategic litigation in regional courts, the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission and Court, the African Commission as well as at the national level in many countries. Graduates have also developed careers working within international courts, ICC, ICTY, and the ad hoc courts, Bosnian Herzegovina and Cambodia Tribunal. The Centre has distilled its experience in training programmes and preparation and dissemination of manuals for police, prosecutors and judges. This session will focus on the future of international and national human rights litigation.

Chair: **Clara Sandoval**, HRC, Department of Law (MA 2001)

Working Session II-C: “Refugees, Citizenship and Migration”

In a globalised and increasingly unequal world, these subjects are set to become even more central to the study and practice of human rights protection. This session will discuss these themes and the growing problem of prejudice and discrimination towards non citizens and the obstacles facing asylum seekers and IDPs in seeking protection.

Chair: **Dr. Yasemin Soysal**, HRC, Department of Sociology

Working Session II-D: “Human Rights Education and Training”

The Human Rights Centre from its earliest beginnings has contributed to human rights education within the UK, Europe and internationally. Nevertheless the subject of human rights promotion remains neglected and under resourced. This session will explore current thinking in the sixtieth year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on human rights education.

Chair: **Dr. Todd Landman**, HRC, Department of Government

15:00 – 15:30

Tea/Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00

Graduates Working Sessions (parallel) contd...**Working Session III-A: “Business and Human Rights”**

The question of the human rights accountability of private enterprises has become more pressing. Over the last five years the Centre has developed research and teaching in this field. Along with Amnesty International and other NGOs, it has intervened on issues of human rights and international trade. What experience have Essex graduates had with consequences of unethical business? What experience have they had in mainstreaming human rights and environmental concerns into business policies?

Chair: **Professor Sheldon Leader**, HRC, Department of Law

Working Session III-B: “Children’s Rights”

(Session held in conjunction with the Children’s Legal Centre)

Human rights and children has been a subject for study, research and practice at Essex for many years. The Children’s Legal Centre has developed a leading national and international protection and training role. Many graduates have worked in CLC and in other NGOs as well as IGOs defending children’s rights.

Chair: **Professor Carolyn Hamilton**, Founder and Director,
Children’s Legal Centre.

Working Session III-C: “NGOs & NHRI’s (North and South)”

Over the last 25 years the growth of human rights NGOs, both international and national, has been one heartening development. Over the last decade the spread of NHRIs in all regions has been a further positive development. This session will discuss the likely future developments for both NHRIs and NGOs and their co operation – north and south.

Chair: tbd

Working Session III-D: “Minorities and Indigenous Peoples”

The 1992 Declaration on Minorities rights and the 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples all represent major steps forward. Nevertheless denial of minority rights and the exclusion of indigenous peoples are central concerns for the twenty-first century. This session will discuss new ideas and possibilities for advancing protection.

Chair: **Dr. Colin Samson**, Senior Lecturer, HRC, Department of Sociology (tbc)

17:00 - 18:00

Plenary Session III: Establishment of HRC Alumni Association - Meeting and Elections

The HRC needs an official Alumni Association. The 25th Anniversary is an ideal time to create one. For such an international programme with graduates all over the world, an Association is a crucial communication tool, essential to maintain friendships and develop new professional relationships. It can also help disseminate information about the Centre's activities for example through a periodic newsletter. This session will consider a draft constitution defining the goals and structure of the Association, and elect an executive committee.

Co-Chairs: Clara Sandoval (MA 2001)
 Claire Morclette (LLM 2005)

Late Bar and Entertainment

SUNDAY, 6 JULY

08:00 – 10:00 **Breakfast**
Several Venues

10:00 – 11:00 **Plenary Session IV: “The Inter-Disciplinary Study of Human Rights and Its Evolution”**

Essex pioneered an interdisciplinary human rights programme at masters level. But developing teaching and research in an inter- disciplinary manner is difficult both in theory and practice. A substantial number of graduates over the twenty five years have chosen academic careers. This session explores the challenges of inter disciplinary approaches

Chair: **Professor Michael Freeman**, Deputy Director HRC (1989- 1999), Director of the MA in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights (1991-2002)

Speakers: **Dr. Sigrun Skogly**, Professor of Law, University of Lancaster (LLM 1988)
Professor Pierre Bosset, Department of Law, Université du Québec à Montréal (LLM 1984)
Dr. Fateh Azzam, Director of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies (FMRS), the American University in Cairo (LLM 1993) (tbc)
Dr. Başak Çalı, Lecturer in Human Rights, University College London, (MA 1998)
Suzannah Linton, Associate Professor , Law Department, University of Hong Kong (LLM 1998)
Holly Cullen, Department of Law, University of Durham (LLM 1991)

11:00 – 12:00 **Organisational Meetings (parallel)**

Activities for the HRC Alumni Association

Chair: President of Alumni Association

Presenter: **Clara Sandoval**, Lecturer of Law

Blue-Sky for the HRC - The Next 25 Years

Chair: **Dr. Andrew Fagan**, Deputy Director, HRC

Presenter: **Professor John Packer**, Director, HRC

Fund-raising for HRC

Chair: tbc

Presenter: tbc

12:00 **Lunch (and Good-byes)**