



The Law Society
of England and Wales

How to Get a Career in Human Rights 2 June 2014

In association with:
Human Rights Lawyers Association



human rights lawyers association



How to Get a Career in Human Rights

2 June 2014

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The Law Society's International Action Team

The Law Society's International Action Team (IAT) is a network of pro bono lawyers and law students who assist with the Society's human rights work. The Law Society has trained over 1,000 members for the IAT.

The IAT assists the Law Society with international human rights work, mainly in relation to supporting lawyers who are at risk of intimidation, harassment or violence around the world, but also in opposing wider breaches of the rule of law.

The aim is to provide international human rights opportunities for all, regardless of your level of qualification or previous human rights experience, if any.

The Law Society's human rights aims:

- Assist solicitors/future solicitors in better understanding and responding to the impact of human rights in their practice area and their daily work
- To create opportunities for solicitors/future solicitors to be involved in human rights whether that's on a pro bono basis or whether for their career development
- And fundamentally to promote and protect the legal profession as a guardian of human rights. Lawyers have a key role to play in the administration of justice and it is often a cynical ploy by states to influence court cases and the administration of justice by attacking lawyers

Interventions

Members of the IAT are involved in researching or drafting interventions. A dedicated group of researchers monitor for violations, investigate them and alert the network. One volunteer drafts a letter that will be signed by the President of the Law Society on behalf of the profession.

The Law Society writes interventions to governments and responsible authorities:

- in support of lawyers whose human rights have been violated;
- opposing restrictions on the freedom and independence of the legal profession;
- challenging threats to the independence of the judiciary and the proper administration of justice; and
- opposing systemic or gross violations of the rule of law.

To join the IAT, you will first have to attend our intervention training. To receive notification of the next training session, volunteering/job opportunities, other events and Law Society human rights news, please contact sarah.j.smith@lawsociety.org.uk.

Follow the Law Society's human rights work on social media:

 twitter: <http://twitter.com/LSHumanRights>

 LinkedIn Group: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/-j5w2ij-gjmv38bj-47/vgh/3769243/>



About the Human Rights Lawyers' Association

The HRLA's principal objective is to promote, protect and develop effective legal protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the UK legal framework and system of government.

The HRLA is a forum for those involved in the law and legal professions to discuss human rights issues. It facilitates the sharing of knowledge and ideas about human rights law and fosters the exchange of views between specialists from different areas of expertise and the wider legal community.

The HRLA aims to further research, education and training in all areas of human rights law; it collaborates with organisations whose objectives are similar to those of the HRLA; it supports students in their human rights work in the UK and abroad; it organises critical and constructive seminars, lectures, workshops and debates about topical human rights issues.

The HRLA seeks to respond quickly to any developments that affect human rights law in the UK. This may be a judgment of the House of Lords or the European Court of Human Rights, or evolving Government policy. The events based on these developments are free, or subsidized, for HRLA members and strive to create a forum for interactive discussion and debate.

Past events include: *The HRLA 2013 Judicial Review Competition, We Shall Not Be Moved: Balancing the right to protest with the rights and freedoms of others, Human Rights and Cyberspace, Dinner in Honour of Sir Nicholas Bratza, A Consideration of the Family migration Changes and Article 8- Where do we go from here? Time to Stop Twittering On...Is it possible to strike a balance between the right to free speech and the regulation of social media?*

For upcoming events see www.hrla.org.uk/events

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people

Preamble, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

The Human Rights Lawyers' Association Bursary Scheme

The Human Rights Lawyers' Association recognises that those without independent financial backing are sometimes unable to take up internships, work placements and other either unpaid or poorly paid work in human rights law. They may miss out on these opportunities and be disadvantaged when applying for jobs within the human rights field as a result.

To assist people in this position, in 2006 the HRLA established a bursary scheme to assist law students, either those currently studying (undergraduate degree, postgraduate studies or LPC/BVC/Law Conversion Course) or those who have recently graduated, in undertaking such work. Each year the HRLA provides around 5 awards (short listed from over 100 applicants) of approximately £1000. The bursary money is used to enable the successful applicants to undertake work related to human rights law that they would otherwise be unable to afford to do. That work need not take place in the United Kingdom, but it must be relevant to human rights law in the United Kingdom.

Each year the HRLA will provide around 5 awards from a maximum annual bursary fund of around £6,000, provided there are suitable applicants. A single award will not normally total more than £1,000.

In recent years recipients of the bursary award have worked in human rights organisations all over the world, including:

- The Mental Disability Advocacy Centre in Budapest, Hungary
- Medical Justice in London, UK
- The India Centre for Human Rights in Law in Mumbai, India
- The AIRE Centre in London, UK
- Human Rights Watch in Washington DC, USA
- The Death Penalty Project in Kingston, Jamaica
- Bail for Immigration Detainees in London, UK
- Defence for Children International in Geneva, Switzerland
- The South African Human Rights Commission in Cape Town, South Africa
- JUSTICE in London, UK
- The Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg
- The Forced Marriage Unit in London, UK
- The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People in Belfast, Northern Ireland
- The Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town, South Africa

Please see the bursary section of the website for the detailed policy document and application form, and for reports from previous bursary recipients. If you have any questions about the scheme, please, in the first instance, consult the policy document, which should answer all your questions.

<http://www.hrla.org.uk/Bursary.php>

Applications for the 2014 scheme are now closed but please check the website for details of the 2015 scheme.

Bill Bowring

Academia

Professor Bowring is Professor of Law at Birkbeck College, University of London where he teaches Human Rights, Public International Law and Minority Rights. He previously taught at the University of East London, Essex University, the University of North London, and London Metropolitan University. He is also a practising barrister specialising in human rights, representing applicants against Russia, Georgia and Latvia, at the European Court of Human Rights, and is founder and Chair of the International Steering Committee of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC). He has more than 90 publications, including *The Degradation of the International Legal Order? The Rehabilitation of Law and the Possibility of Politics* (Routledge, 2008). His *Law Rights and Ideology in Russia: Landmarks in the Destiny of a Great Power* was published in April 2013, also from Routledge. He advises the Council of Europe, EU, OSCE and UN on human rights and minority rights. He was a founding member of the Bar Human Rights Committee, and is currently a member of its Executive Committee. He is also a Trustee of the Redress Trust (Reparation for Torture Survivors), is International Secretary of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, and President of the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights (ELDH). He has been working regularly in Russia since 1983, and speaks Russian.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

Nuala Mole, Philip Leach, Karinna Moskalenko, Kirill Koroteev, Anna Stavitskaya, Yelena Liptser, Irina Khrunova, Daria Trenina

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

In 1986 when I was surcharged £105,000 and costs by Margaret Thatcher for “wilful misconduct”, was faced with a second surcharge, and explored with Sally Dollé whether to take a case to Strasbourg; then in 1988 when I was asked to go on a mission to Israel and Palestine. I then became active in Kurdish Human Rights Project, took many cases to Strasbourg, and started teaching human rights to undergraduates at UEL, both in 1992

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

In 1976 to 1985 I was a volunteer at Brixton Advice Centre; worked pro bono for KHRP; and still do so for EHRAC

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Founding EHRAC in 2002-3

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Losing *Zhdanoka v Latvia* in the Grand Chamber (Judge Rozakis who led the dissent described the majority judgment as “dubious and obscure”)

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Whether the UK will leave the ECHR system

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Linguistic rights under the European Languages Charter (ECRML)

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I am Founder and Chair of EHRAC since 2003, Trustee of Redress since 1993, and Trustee of Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights since 2012

9. *What is your dream job?*

The one I have now

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Two days ago

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Ed Bates *The Evolution of the ECHR*

Jamie Burton

Doughty Street Chambers

Jamie Burton is a public lawyer with expertise in judicial review and human rights. His main areas of practise are human rights, social and clinical care, housing, social security, criminal justice and planning/environmental law. He acted in several of the cases which challenged the central government cuts to public services pursuant to the Equality Act 2010.

In addition to his public law work Jamie is also very experienced in private law claims (both in the county and the high court) in contract, actions against the police, landlord and tenant and leaseholder disputes.

Jamie's work is often conducted on an emergency basis - he accepts instructions at short notice and has extensive experience of making urgent applications for injunctive relief.

In 2009 Jamie spent six months working on welfare and environmental issues in India. He was involved in a group action concerning the largest anti-poverty scheme in the world ("the Right to Food campaign") and assisted in various claims relating to environmental damage caused by mining in south India.

Jamie is also Chair of "Just Fair", the only domestic human rights charity that seeks exclusively to advance the fulfilment and better recognition of economic, social and cultural rights in the UK.

For many years Jamie has presented seminars and given lectures on human rights law and judicial review and is an experienced public speaker. He has written on human rights, public and housing law.

Professor Sara Chandler

Academia

Sara is Visiting Professor of Clinical Legal Education at London South Bank University, working in the Legal Advice Clinic where student volunteers provide free legal advice.

Sara worked at North Lewisham Law Centre from 1982 to 1992, and at Plumstead Law Centre from 1998 to 2003. She was Vice Chair of Law Centres Federation from 2000 to 2002.

Sara has experience in training international pro bono lawyers, and has a particular interest in Uganda, Zambia and Nigeria where she has worked with local Law Societies, Law Schools, NGO's and others in establishing networks of legal aid providers, and pro bono schemes.

She is an active member of the Global Alliance for Justice Education and the Clinical Legal Education Organisation (UK) and participates in the Public Interest Lawyers network, the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education, and Association of Law Teachers. Her special interest is in the teaching of ethics.

She completed 15 years in Law Centres, 5 years in legal aid firms and 9 years at the College of Law before joining London South Bank University. Before becoming a lawyer, Sara worked with refugees from Chile for over 6 years as a bi-lingual social worker, she speaks Spanish fluently.

Sara is Past President of South London Law Society and Past President of the City of Westminster & Holborn Law Society. She is a member of the Law Society's Council, representing solicitors in the voluntary sector, and is Chair of the Law Society's Human Rights Committee. She is President of the Human Rights Commission for the Federation of European Bar Associations, and Chair of the Colombia Caravana UK Lawyers Group, a charity which supports human rights lawyers at risk in Colombia, with an international network of lawyers in 15 jurisdictions.

Sara has extensive experience in human rights advocacy and in equality and diversity issues.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

The most inspiring human rights practitioners are those who carry on despite threats to their lives, and to the lives of their colleagues, when they have already mourned the loss of their colleagues. Over 400 human rights lawyers have been killed in Colombia since 1990, and human rights defenders receive death threats from well organised para-military groups who terrorise with impunity. No effort is made to investigate or prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I worked with refugees from Chile in the 1970's as part of my political commitment to the rule of law, access to justice and respect for human rights and met many fine people who had

suffered torture as political prisoners. As a postgraduate research student I had done field work in Chile in 1971-72 and had seen first hand the enthusiasm, hope and optimism of ordinary people as life began to change for the better. When Pinochet seized power in a military coup in 1973 this was the moment when I knew I had to fight for human rights for the rest of my life. In the 1980's I worked as a social security tribunal representative for 10 years and realised that people have to fight to enforce their most basic human rights like food on the table. In the 1990's I qualified as a solicitor and became a housing (landlord & tenant) specialist, using the law to help homeless people, and to stop people losing their homes because of poverty.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Yes, when I started working with refugees I was a volunteer. Later I went on placement to a Law Centre and found working there really reaches people who are denied basic human rights. It is very important that law students take up every opportunity they get to do voluntary work and go on placement. My route was through working as a volunteer in Law Centres. The first Law Centre I worked in (1980) was in Deptford, South London, and I was on placement for 3 months (Housing : Landlord & Tenant). The second was for 6 months (Social Security and Debt).

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

I participated as a signatory to the 60th Anniversary document which commemorated the signing in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris (December 2008). It was an honour to meet one of the original signatories at the event, a lawyer who still practices in Paris in his 90's.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

The deaths of Chilean refugees (friends) who returned to Chile in the 1970's and 1980's, and the deaths of Colombian lawyers over the last few years, including a law student who volunteered as a human rights defender who was killed in December 2010. The UK lawyers who are members of the Colombia Caravana met this student when in Colombia undertaking investigation into the situation of human rights lawyers, it is so hard to believe he is dead.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Employers who oppose the repeal of the Default Retirement Age legislation are lobbying the Government to delay the implementation (scheduled for 6th April 2011). Employers who only count the cost of employing and fail to recognise the value of employing older people for their wealth of experience are shortsighted. Early retirement is sometimes the death knell for people who have been rejected by society. Consideration by Government of older people's human rights is vital. A society is judged by how it treats it's most vulnerable and marginalised people.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

The right to a fair trial because as lawyers it is a right that we must uphold daily and can do so.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Peace Brigades International who support human rights lawyers at risk in Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, Nepal and Indonesia by providing volunteers to accompany these lawyers

everywhere in their daily work. PBI has launched a solidarity campaign called Lawyers at Risk which recruits lawyers to support the work of human rights lawyers at risk.

9. *What is your dream job?*

U N Special Rapporteur on Human Rights

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Never

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Poverty First Hand - Poor people speak for themselves by Peter Beresford, David Green, Ruth Lister and Kirsty Woodard for Child Poverty Action Group (1999) The book has a quote from The UN Development Programme 1997: "Poor people must organise for collective action to influence the circumstances and decisions affecting their lives. To advance their interests, their voices must be heard in the corridors of power" Fifteen years later this comment is still much needed and should be heeded.

Samantha Ede

Ministry of Justice

Samantha is a lawyer in the human rights team at the Ministry of Justice, which is part of the Treasury Solicitor's Department. Samantha trained in private practice at Russell-Cooke solicitors, doing commercial property, criminal and family law. She joined the Government Legal Service on qualification. Samantha started in one of the litigation teams dealing with civil claims brought against the Home Office (now the Ministry of Justice) by prisoners and prison officers, including human rights claims and inquest work. She then moved to the Home Office where she advised on sex offender policy, lap dancing, drugs and police misconduct, followed by a spell advising on asylum policy in one of the immigration teams. Prior to her current job, she has been working in the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Adviser to the Government and, as such, human rights issues are often crossing his desk. He also has a specific role scrutinising the human rights implications of Bills before they are introduced into Parliament.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

As a government lawyer, that probably has to be James Eadie QC. But I also greatly admire those who put their lives on the line to help uphold human rights around the world.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I'm not sure it started out as a particularly conscious choice but it's a critical part of Government Legal Service work and is one of the aspects of the job I find most interesting as high profile human rights litigation is one of the areas where you get to see the interface between politics, the media and the law.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Yes, although not specifically in relation to human rights work. I did some voluntary work at a Legal Advice Centre in Wandsworth and did some vacation placements with solicitors' firms and barristers' chambers when I was still deciding which part of the legal profession I wanted to enter. These tended to tell me what I didn't, rather than what I did, want to do but were certainly essential to ensuring I made informed choices about my career.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Visiting Strasbourg with the Attorney General and working on the Attorney General's reference to the Court of Appeal on whole life orders where the court decided that whole life orders could continue to be imposed despite the Strasbourg judgment in *Vinter v UK*.

5. What has been the low-point?

Examining sanitation facilities at a prison on the Isle of Wight to order to determine whether conditions amounted to a violation of the ECHR.

6. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

I'm particularly interested in the debate about what human rights law in the UK will look like after the next election, mainly because it's my team who will be doing the legal work to implement any future Government's policies.

7. What is your favourite human right?

Article 3 seems to have been an important cornerstone of my career.

8. Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?

No.

9. What is your dream job?

The one I'm doing.

10. When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?

At University. Although I was up until midnight in Luxembourg the other week, helping to prepare our submissions to the ECJ on whether the EU Accession Agreement (paving the way for the EU to become a party to the ECHR) is compatible with the EU Treaties.

11. What was the last book you read?

Malcolm Gladwell's 'Outliers'.

Alison Ewart

DLA Piper

Alison Ewart is a Pro Bono Senior Associate at DLA Piper. In this role, Alison helps coordinate the UK Pro Bono Programme, which provides free legal advice to charities and disadvantaged individuals. Alison has advised on discrimination matters, children's rights and the human rights responsibilities of businesses. Prior to joining DLA Piper, Alison worked at the Australian Human Rights Commission as Associate to the President.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

I think that legal aid lawyers are very inspiring. Each day they work with distressed individuals who are vulnerable to all kinds of human rights breaches. Despite an increasingly difficult environment, the legal aid lawyers I know are skilled, dedicated and compassionate.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

For as long as I can remember. My parents taught me and my siblings the importance of social justice from a young age and I think this had a big impact on me.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

Yes! Absolutely. Such experience is invaluable to get an idea of what interests you.

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far

Helping to research and draft an intervention in a prominent case concerning refugees and asylum seekers which was heard before the Australian High Court.

5. What has been the low-point?

Nothing in particular springs to mind - although I'm sure there have been several!

6. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

I find the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in my home country of Australia, appalling. This is an issue (one of many) that is particularly concerning to me.

7. What is your favourite human right?

Although not a standalone human right, I very much like the theme of dignity that is weaved through many human rights instruments. To me, this one word captures so much of the essence of the human rights agenda.

8. Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?

I am particularly drawn to children's rights organisations - not just because children can be particularly vulnerable to breaches of their human rights but because empowering children to know about their rights and the rights of others I think can have an incredibly profound and positive impact on the protection and promotion of human rights.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Any job that is challenging, stimulating, fulfilling and fun.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

It is not uncommon to do very long hours in my job. But I have not, as yet, had to pull an all-nighter. The last time was probably when I was studying at University.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

A Tale of Two Cities

Jonathan Exten – Wright

DLA Piper

Jonathan Exten-Wright is a partner in DLA Piper's employment team, and is a member of the Law Society's International Action Team, and Business and Human Rights Advisory Group. He recently co-authored a review of alleged human rights abuses in a country in the Middle East.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

The myriad courageous and under-reported defenders of human rights activists. And Mark Darcy.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

Not a career as such; being brought up on Luke 12:48.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

No - rather many voluntary activities

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far

My first contribution to the Law Society's IAT, and co-authoring a recent report on migrant workers.

5. What has been the low-point?

Nem com!

6. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

Perhaps inevitably the rights of migrant workers.

7. What is your favourite human right?

An impossible choice

8. Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?

I have renewed respect for Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch

9. *What is your dream job?*

Given who could read this, obviously my current one

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

work wise some time ago; home wise with my little girl very recently!

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Letters from the Trenches - A Soldier of the Great War

Alison Gerry

Doughty Street Chambers

Alison Gerry specialises in prison law, mental health, actions against the police, inquests and related public law. Alison has particular expertise in international human rights law, and the European Convention on Human Rights. She has conducted human rights training on behalf of the Council of Europe, in Albania, Turkey and in Serbia, and for the British Council and for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Alison's notable cases include the House of Lords case of *Van Colle and another v Chief Constable of the Hertfordshire Police (Secretary of State for the Home Department and others intervening)* [2008] 3 WLR 593 in which she was junior counsel for the NGO interveners. The joined cases concerned claims in negligence and breaches of Article 2 where the police were alleged to have failed to protect the lives of the victims of crimes. She has also appeared as junior counsel in the Privy Council in *Atain Takitota v. The (1) Attorney General, (2) The Director of Immigration (3) Minister of National Security*, Appeal No 71 of 2007, where she represented a Petitioner who had been unlawfully detained for over 8 years in prison in the Bahamas.

Alison was junior counsel in the successful group litigation claim against the Home office concerning the treatment of opiate dependant prisoners, in which the Home Office conceded liability in negligence, breach of human rights and assault. Alison was also junior counsel in a group litigation claim being brought by nearly 30,000 claimants in the Ivory Coast for personal injuries following the dumping of toxic waste at various sites in Abijan, Ivory Coast.

Alison has also appeared in the Privy Council in death penalty cases, including in *Boyce & Joseph v R* (2005) 1 AC 400 (challenge to the mandatory death penalty in Barbados) and successfully before the Inter American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica. She is also now advising African lawyers who are bringing similar challenges to the death penalty in Malawi, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia.

Before joining Doughty Street, Alison Gerry was the Human Rights Adviser to the Consular Directorate at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. She is the Chair of the Human Rights Lawyers Association.

In July 2007 Alison was awarded the LAPG Young legal aid barrister of the year award and in December 2006 she was also short listed for the Peter Duffy Award (formerly the Young Human Rights Lawyer of the Year Award). She was nominated for "her tenacity and dedication to grassroots human rights issues", and "for her work in representing vulnerable people and for her battles on behalf of the families of prisoners and mental health patients who have died in detention".

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

Edward Fitzgerald QC and Philippa Kaufmann QC

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

When I decided to go to university to study for a degree in law I knew I wanted to specialise in human rights and that's why I chose to apply to go to Essex University as it had a world renowned human rights department. When and why I decided I cannot recall.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I did one internship at JUSTICE in the summer of my second year at university.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Going to the Inter American Court of Human Rights to argue against the mandatory death penalty in Barbados - we succeeded despite the earlier House of Lords decision in the case when a divided House of Lords narrowly found against the striking down of the mandatory death penalty.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

The above House of Lords decision (Boyce and Joseph v. The Queen)

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The one that I consider to be the most important currently is whether we stay signed up to the ECHR and retain the HRA.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Probably the right to free elections and democratic government, without which I don't think any human rights can be properly protected and enjoyed.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

The ones I have worked most closely with are JUSTICE, Liberty and Inquest. I was sad to hear that Interrights are to close down. I think they are all struggling with funding in the current climate which is worrying.

9. *What is your dream job?*

England cricket captain (all rounder), followed by being a cricket commentator.

10. When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?

Not something I have ever been able to do - I need my sleep!

11. What was the last book you read?

I keep starting books and not managing to finish them - I don't manage to read very often and so there are big gaps between times, during which I forget what I had previously read, and so have to re-read the same pages. Eventually I give up and start a new book...and the same thing happens. The last book I started was Saul Bellow *The Adventures of Augie March*. Don't ask me what it's about.

Nikolaus Grubeck

Doughty Street Chambers

Nikolaus Grubeck is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers. He has a wide-ranging public and private law practice, with a particular focus on human rights issues and matters relating to armed conflict. He is a former judicial assistant to Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury.

Before coming to the bar, Nikolaus worked for the United Nations in Afghanistan and the Sudan. He has also undertaken a range of consultancy and academic assignments in countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Russia (Chechnya).

Some of his recent and current work includes:

- Successful judicial review claim stopping the handover of British-captured detainees to the Afghan security and intelligence services because of a real risk of torture and mistreatment.
- Various tort claims regarding the mistreatment and unlawful detention of individuals in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- A challenge concerning DFID's compliance with its conditionality policy in the context of UK aid to Ethiopia, which has been linked to serious human rights abuses.
- An ECtHR claim on the compatibility of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 with Article 8 of the ECHR.
- A judicial review regarding the procedural requirements in allocating vulnerable children to youth detention facilities under LASPO 2012.
- Challenging the legality of British involvement in the compilation and operation of a 'kill list' in Afghanistan.
- Advisory work on the sanctions regimes against Iran and Zimbabwe.
- Advising the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on the design and implementation of a Civilian Casualties Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2036 (2012) and 2093 (2013).
- Training Libyan judges and prosecutors on international humanitarian law.
- Death penalty cases in Singapore, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

The local practitioners in countries where being involved in human rights work means risking life and limb. Unlike internationals, even if things go wrong they may well not be able to get out. It's a long list but people like those treating rape victims in Eastern Congo, documenting mass graves in Afghanistan or campaigning for women's rights in Saudi Arabia all feature.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

No specific moment, it just happened this way.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Not really. Although after my LLM, I got a Harvard Henigson Human Rights Fellowship, which funded a year of HR work in the field. That was really helpful.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

I think I'm a bit too junior to answer that question.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Having friends and colleagues killed.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

A lot of my current cases involve issues of jurisdiction and the scope of human rights obligations abroad. I am also very interested in matters relating to detention, responsibility for the actions of proxy forces, and sanctions issues.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Not being killed or tortured seems rather important.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

It's not human rights per se but the Red Cross does terrific work on the ground. I also give to the Howard League and assist a number of great local NGOs and individuals that I have worked with.

9. *What is your dream job?*

I really enjoy what I am doing at the moment. Let's see how things go.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

They do happen...

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Technically, a very dry legal textbook. But for novels, I just finished 2666 by Bolano.

Tim Jewell

Ministry of Justice

Tim Jewell is an employed Barrister and Senior Civil Servant. He leads the Information and Human Rights team in the Legal Directorate of the Ministry of Justice, part of the Treasury Solicitor's Department. He previously led the Criminal Law team at MoJ, with responsibility for large parts of the substantive and procedural criminal law, and has held a variety of posts in other departments. His team is responsible for legal services (including legislation and litigation) in relation to all domestic, European and international aspects of MoJ's rights work, including the Human Rights Act, EU Accession to the ECHR, Strasbourg court reform, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and various other international agreements, as well as domestic and European data protection and related matters. Before joining the Government Legal Service, Tim practised for a while at the self-employed Bar, primarily in planning and environment work, and from 1991 to 1999 was a Senior Lecturer and the Director of the Centre for Environmental Law in the School of Law at the University of Southampton.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

Anyone who is committed, prepared, and critical, and who works well in a team. The same as any other practitioner, in fact!

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I don't think I ever had the choice. Rights work is integral to everything GLS (in fact, very many) lawyers do - one set of letters through the stick of rock. So it's featured in everything I've done, with varying intensity. In terms of day to day impact, it was the coming into force while I was at the self-employed Bar of the Human Rights Act which was the most profound sign of things to come.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

I've a varied background, and have done a range of placements in both private and public sectors. These are important choices: lack of information or insight makes them precarious.

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

5. What has been the low-point?

I try to think more about what went well, or not, and how to try to improve for next time. Advising on the rights aspects of the implementation of the Leveson report was extraordinary, though, as was retrospective criminalisation of genocide. So too has been work on key cases here and in Strasbourg on the relationship between the ECtHR and domestic courts. Seeing letters in the papers about things I've been working on, rather less so...

6. Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?

We're spoiled for choice: judicial dialogue and the role of inter- and supra-national courts; EU Fundamental Rights; EU Accession to the ECHR; the future shape of information rights. There are many others.

7. What is your favourite human right?

Seems to me they're each as important as the next. It all depends on context.

8. Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?

The UK Environmental Law Association, of which I was a trustee and have been a member for longer than I like to think about.

9. What is your dream job?

I can't imagine doing a mainstream legal job outside the GLS. It's a huge privilege to work as a civil servant and lawyer at the heart of government: intellectually and professionally demanding, fast-moving, incredibly varied, and personally rewarding.

10. When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?

We have many intense days in the Government Legal Service; all-nighters are mercifully rare. The closest recently was preparing for responses to oral questions from an expert UN committee in Geneva during the periodic assessment of UK compliance with the UN Convention Against Torture.

11. What was the last book you read?

Between far too much lightweight crime fiction, Alan Paterson's new book on the work of the Supreme Court: Final Judgment.

Matthew Jury

McCue & Partners

Matthew undertook his law degree (LLB) at the University of Southampton and his postgraduate degree (LLM) at Trinity College Dublin.

Matthew is licensed to practise as a Solicitor as well as an attorney in New York. He is an expert in counter-terrorism litigation, domestic and international human rights law, and public international law. He is the Managing Partner of McCue & Partners LLP.

Matthew currently assists in the representation of hundreds of victims of terrorism worldwide in a number of groundbreaking civil prosecutions against the perpetrators, supporters and financiers of global terrorism.

He has been involved in the representation of a number of individuals detained overseas in circumstances absent of due process and/or in breach of international standards of detention. While in the US, Matthew worked in a dual role as a lawyer and as an investigator and has particular expertise in the application of international law in the context of US state lethal injection protocols and the execution of the mentally ill.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

The human rights practitioners I have found to be most inspiring are those that I worked for and alongside during my time spent in the US assisting on Death Row appeals. It is a low-paid career that receives little to no positive recognition from the community in which these people live and practice. They do it only because it the right thing to do and it has to be done. It is as simple as that. Their moral compass is straight. These are the two most important reasons to choose a career in human rights.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

There was no one defining moment. I always knew that wanted a career grounded in some form of public service. This was reinforced by the fact that, during the course of my legal studies, commercial law held no interest for me. The combination of these two factors made my decision to follow a career in human rights almost pre-determined. For me, there was no other choice. I had legal qualifications skills and I felt that it was my responsibility to use them for the public benefit.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

Yes. I undertook a six month internship assisting on Death Row appeals under the administration of Reprieve. This was carried out the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center (VCRRC) in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

There have been a number of high points. My work directly contributing to the preservation of the lives of a number of Death Row inmates have included some of them. Here in the UK, the highest point for me was securing a judgment against the RIRA for 1.6 million on behalf of the families of the victims of the bombing of Omagh, Northern Ireland, by the Real IRA in August 1998.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

The execution of a number of Death Row inmates on whose cases I assisted on.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

I am interested in the current Government's moves to amend existing legislation to restrict the ability of the public to bring private criminal prosecutions against foreign state officials who commit crimes against humanity. Traditional human rights mechanisms, such as the ECHR, are but one way to enforce human rights standards. I am interested in private justice via the civil and criminal courts to enforce these rights also. These are forums where I believe real change can be effected and I believe the government should not restrict our access to them.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

The right to life. Surely there is nothing more important and it is from this that every other right flows.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

No. There are too many to choose from.

9. *What is your dream job?*

I'm doing it.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Thankfully I have managed to avoid all nighters for a long time now. Most of our cases are slow burners and if I have to pull an all-nighter to meet a deadline then I am disappointed in myself for not having been more organised.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

The Meaning of Hitler by Sebastian Haffner

Alastair Logan

Retired Solicitor

I am a retired solicitor who practised as a sole practitioner on the high street for 35 years and then as a Consultant for 6 years. My work encompassed the usual mix of work in a general practice but I specialised in family law and human rights. My work in human rights included over 100 applications to the ECHR to remedy denials of human rights to prisoners; many applications for Judicial Review, miscarriages of justice cases and pro bono work for domestic violence charities, CAB and for those denied legal aid. I trained as a mediator in the US in 1965. I acted for the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven. I am now an Adviser with the CAB and do pro bono work for LawWorks and Life After Law. I sit on the Law Society's Human Rights Committee and the Committee of the Solicitors' International Human Rights Group.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

There are so many. I have great respect for Clive Stafford-Smith, James McCloskey of Centurion Ministries, Gareth Peirce and Public Law Solicitors.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I was offered a Legal Aid certificate to act for one of the Guildford Four in 1974. I ended up acting for all four of them and for all of the Maguire Seven.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

No, just the hard school of endeavouring to right miscarriages of justice and giving prisoners access to human rights.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

The release of the Guildford Four and the acquittal of the Maguire Seven.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Losing the first appeal in the Guildford Four case.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

How can the concept of human rights, which has become so ingrained in the framework of many states' power, be used to challenge, change and limit that power?

How can state abuses of human rights be effectively challenged?

How does one change cultural perceptions that deny women and children basic human rights?

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Human Rights Watch.

9. *What is your dream job?*

To continue to make a relevant contribution to ensuring respect for human rights.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Before I retired from practice in 2010.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

The Litvinenko File by Martin Sixsmith.

Cris McCurley

Ben Hoare Bell

Cris is Partner in charge of the International Family Law department at Ben Hoare Bell. She is a member of UNWomenUK, and an active member of the UN/CEDAW shadow report writing group. She wrote the CEDAW shadow report chapters on Legal Aid and Access to Justice, and gave evidence to the UK CEDAW enquiry in Geneva last July. Her areas of work include working with victims of Trafficking, child, international Child abduction , Forced Marriage, and Honour Violence and has worked all over South Asia and South East Asia on various Human Right Projects in the field of VAWG . She is an active campaigner on Human Rights and access to justice. She is co- chair of the BME women's VAW network.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

Hina Jilani and Ashma Jahangir: two sisters from Lahore in Pakistan who, against all the odds, started a women's law practice in Lahore . They have done amazing work for womens rights and human rights in Pakistan, and both have served as president of the Pakistani Human Rights association. Hina is one of the 'Elders' an international group of elder statesmen and women, who numbered Nelson Mandela, Graca Machal and Jimmy Carter in their group, who meet to advise the UN about world human rights issues. They have both served as UN CEDAW commissioners. They have risked their lives to overthrow the oppression of women in Pakistan and beyond.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I come from a coal mining family. My parents were socialists and human rights were in their blood. My dad was very involved in the NUM. I think the miner's strike and the Orgreve trial was hugely influential to me.

Working with BME women whilst doing research on injunctions – see below – in the early '80sm there was little recognition of Forced marriage or Honour violence . working with women who were standing up to their whole community – at risk to themselves in order to make a difference, was also very influential

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Prior to finishing my law Finals, I was employed for a year by LAPG to research the effectiveness of VAW injunctions. This was straight out of University, and meeting passionate people working on the front line of Human rights work was completely inspiring. I was so lucky to fall into that opportunity. It shaped the rest of my life.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far*

Speaking at the UN about legal aid cuts and the damage to access to justice and Human Rights in July 2013.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

LASPO. Realising that the current Government does not respect the UN, and plans to scrap the human Rights act.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Legal aid and access to justice for all , FGM and Honour violence....and trafficking: my main areas of work.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

has to be the right to a fair trial: Equality before the law. If a society truly has that, then everything else can be challenged.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Rights of women, Public Law Project, IKROW, IMKAAN, BME women's VAW network, CEDAW national shadow report wringing group

9. *What is your dream job?*

Some day to do more work with the UN – maybe a CEDAW commissioner.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Last week

11. *What was the last book you read?*

'When the hills ask for your blood ' – a firsthand account of the genocide in Rwanda

Angela Patrick

Director of Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE

Angela Patrick is a qualified barrister (2003 call), educated at Durham and Cambridge Universities. Before joining JUSTICE, from 2006 - 2011, she was assistant legal adviser to the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights. In this role, she advised on a broad range of human rights issues, from the compatibility of the treatment of detainees with the UN Convention against Torture to respecting the right to privacy in the operation of the national DNA database.

Following pupillage at Matrix, Angela practised from Hailsham Chambers. She has held academic posts at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and at University College London. She acts as an expert for the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, training parliamentarians in emerging democracies and their staff on international human rights standards and the rule of law. Angela has published and lectured widely and is a contributing author to Sweet and Maxwell's *Human Rights Practice*.

JUSTICE is an all-party law reform organisation working on access to justice, human rights and the rule of law. It is the UK section of the International Commission of Jurists. For more information about JUSTICE, see www.justice.org.uk or follow @justicehq.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

It's a close-call between the human rights defenders working on cases in countries where abuse is rife and their work is both life-saving and life endangering and anyone still working in a law centre or a citizens advice bureau. However, if you get a chance to see Albie Sachs speak, go.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

A thoroughly unhelpful career guidance computer once told me that I should be an "artist" or a "judge".

After deciding I wasn't going to be the next Tracey Emin, I thought that something practical with an income was a good idea. Law was the sensible choice. It seemed to have something to do with social justice and changing unfair "stuff". A fair few years down the line, I'm glad to know that it does (sometimes).

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

No. I was hard-up and nervous about debt while studying, so I worked most summers and evenings. I tried to do paid work in the field, for example, doing research for solicitors working on human rights cases. However, there was also a fair share of waitressing, dry-cleaning kilts (a long story) and call centres.

I regret doing no voluntary internships, which would have been far more interesting, rewarding and valuable to society, but I only took pro-bono and voluntary work once I had an income. The latest project I've been working on is an International Bar Association programme on the rule of law and human rights for parliaments in developing countries. It's

been an amazing opportunity to meet and work with human rights campaigners across the world and learn about challenges that we don't see in the UK. It has been an inspiring learning experience.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

Either helping persuade a particularly resistant Conservative member of the House of Lords that the Human Rights Act 1998 was a "good thing" he should champion OR convincing legal colleagues at the Ugandan Parliament that asking their Government to justify why legislation complies with their constitution and international human rights standards was a proper job for the legislative branch.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Failing to persuade the same group of Ugandan parliamentary lawyers to recognise that the international human rights framework was key to the debate on their Anti-Homosexuality Bill...

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The politicisation of the debate on the protection of human rights in the UK under the Coalition Government – both at home and away – is both interesting and worrying.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

From someone who has always liked to talk too much, freedom of expression must be up there. Without it, for example, you can't take to the streets to complain that your neighbour has been wrongly arrested and savagely beaten for being a religion/colour/sexuality (delete as you like) that the majority object to.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

JUSTICE does an excellent job working on access to justice, the rule of law and human rights, and student membership is excellent value...

On a global scale, Plan is currently running an inspirational campaign to keep girls in developing countries in education.

9. *What is your dream job?*

I've only been here for six months, but I think that my new role at JUSTICE has the perfect combination of public interest litigation and public policy work to out-match all of the other jobs out there. I feel very privileged to be part of our team.

(I'm not going to be turning my bed into an installation anytime soon...)

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

I'd love to say I'm too organised to have ever done anything as silly as work all night, but that would be a lie. Working all night is bad for your health, unproductive and incompatible with a happy home life.

Thankfully, the last time I saw the sunrise in front of my PC was a few years ago. I was juggling two projects for the JCHR which were time sensitive: producing draft reports on the Government's proposed reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities and on the Coroners and Justice Bill (which dealt with restrictions to the National DNA Database, to address the judgment in *Marper*, reform of the Coronial system, and a host of other challenging procedural and substantive reforms to the criminal law). Both were subject to strict parliamentary timetables, both were important and there weren't enough hours in the day.

11. What was the last book you read?

For the law geeks (of which I am one), I am currently re-reading Lord Bingham's *Rule of Law*. For the rest of you, I have just finished *Starlight* by Stella Gibbons (who wrote *Cold Comfort Farm*), which, set in 50s post-war London, incorporates an amusing and unusual combination of pacifism and exorcism.

Astrid Perry

Leigh Day & Co

Astrid currently assists Martyn Day on a claim brought by the Bodo community in the Niger Delta against Shell Petroleum Development Company for the environmental damage caused by two large oil spills. She also assisted on the claim brought by the Mau Mau veterans against the UK government for the torture suffered at the hands of the British in the lead-up to Kenyan independence.

Astrid trained as a solicitor at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer before joining Leigh Day on qualification. Prior to her training contract, Astrid worked as a paralegal at Birnberg Peirce & Partners working on cases challenging the state's arbitrary use of anti-terrorism legislation post-9/11. She also worked as a paralegal at Bindmans LLP both in the criminal and public law departments.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

Gareth Peirce – for her legal brilliance, determination and commitment. And of course my boss, Martyn Day – for taking on cases others might not and maintaining a great sense of humour!

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I read Nelson Mandela's autobiography *A Long Walk to Freedom* when I was 15 – it made me realise the importance of fighting for what you believe in and that people have the power to bring about change. It took me 6 years following that realisation to make it to university to study law following a stint in the music industry.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I did a couple of weeks work experience here and there when I was a student and then did lots of voluntary work during my training contract, including a three-month secondment to the Tower Hamlets Law Centre.

What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far

Returning to a remote village in a West-African country to update clients on the progress of their case against a mining company wielding (and abusing) a lot of power in the region. In a speech at the end of the meeting the chief of the village told me that bringing the action against the company had given the community a sense of empowerment and had brought the realisation that the mistreatment that they had suffered need not be a way of life for them to be endured. At that moment I fully appreciated why I do the job that I do.

4. *What has been the low-point?*

Each time I read something said by Chris Grayling about the legal profession or his plans for it.

5. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Access to justice in light of all the recent changes.

6. *What is your favourite human right?*

None – they are just all so great!

7. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

There are two particularly brilliant local organisations I work with in West Africa. Both are cash strapped and hounded by the authorities but thanks to the commitment and talent of their staff they manage to expose local human rights abuses and provide support to those who need it.

8. *What is your dream job?*

The one I am doing!

9. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Never at work!

10. *What was the last book you read?*

Flat Earth News by Nick Davies. An absolutely terrifying book about the state of the press that everybody must read.

Phil Shiner

Public Interest Lawyers

Dr Phil Shiner leads the team at Public Interest Lawyers. He is a lawyer with an outstanding national and international reputation for his work on issues concerning international and human rights law. Phil has practised as a solicitor in the UK since 1981.

Phil has acted in some of the most important judicial review cases and constitutionally significant human rights test cases to be brought in his areas of expertise, including *Al-Skeini v UK*, *Al-Jedda v UK*, *Rose Gentle v Prime Minister*, *Gurung and Mohammed*, *Pascoe, Mortell*, and *Al-Sweady v Secretary of State for Defence*.

He represents the families of the deceased as well as the survivors of the notorious “Battle of Danny Boy” in the Al-Sweady Public Inquiry and represented the family of Baha Mousa and the survivors of the fateful incident in which Baha Mousa was killed in the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry. The report of the Inquiry Chair, Sir William Gage, was released on 8 September 2011.

Phil and his team of lawyers are currently acting for over 150 former detainees who allege that they or their family members were unlawfully detained, ill-treated, or killed by UK Forces in Iraq. Recently a complaint to the International Criminal Court by Public Interest Lawyers in conjunction with the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights has led to the Office for the Prosecutor announcing a preliminary examination into the liability of British military officials for the torture of detainees in Iraq.

Liberty/Justice Human Rights Lawyer of the year 2004 for his work on Iraq and the Law Society’s Solicitor of the Year 2007 and recently awarded the International Lawyer of the Year at the Birmingham Law Society Legal Awards 2014, Phil has an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Kent (July 2012) and is a Vice-President of the Haldane Society. He has written extensively on international and human rights law, and has spoken at many conferences around the world on issues arising through PIL’s work and is the co-editor of “The Iraq War and International Law” (with Williams, A) Hart Publications, 2008.

Martha Spurrier

Doughty Street Chambers

Martha is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers where she specialises in public law, inquests and actions against the police. Prior to joining Doughty Street Martha was in-house counsel at Mind and the Public Law Project and she was a judicial assistant at the Court of Appeal in 2012. Martha is a contributing editor of "Rights and Freedoms" (Halsbury's Laws: 2013) and the assistant editor of the European Human Rights Law Review. She was a founder member of the Mental Health in Detention Action Group and is a trustee of the Centre for the Study of Emotion and Law, as well as sitting on the executive committee of the Human Rights Lawyers' Association.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

All those whose human rights work puts them at risk.

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

I don't think there was a defining moment, but probably an accumulation of several moments including working at my local prison and seeing the importance of human rights in protecting prisoners, understanding that human rights could be a powerful tool to force the state to take action to protect victims of domestic abuse and, in the absence of any religion, thinking that the human rights framework was a pretty good value system.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

Yes - I worked for the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre in Budapest for a couple of months, funded by a Human Rights Lawyers' Association bursary. I also volunteered for Liberty's human rights advice line and for Rights of Women.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?*

I think I'm too junior to say that I've had a human rights career, but the high points of my work are the same as any other lawyer's: using my skills to stand up for people and persuading a judge or jury that they need to do the same.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Watching the dismantling of our legal aid system and wondering how human rights will be enforced in the absence of access to justice.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The role of human rights in securing access to justice.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

I think if there really was no discrimination at all, we'd live in a much more human rights compliant world, so Article 14.

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Yes, the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, Liberty, Medical Justice and the Howard League for Penal Reform.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Sometimes it's being a barrister at Doughty Street, sometimes it's whatever the opposite of being a barrister at Doughty Street is.

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

I do sometimes stay up working until the small hours, but I really try not to and I could not possibly stay awake all night, let alone work at the same time.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

"Blankets" by Craig Thompson

Sir Keir Starmer KCB QC

Doughty Street Chambers

After studying law at Leeds University (LLB) and Oxford University (BCL), Keir Starmer was called to the Bar in 1987 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2002. He practised from Doughty Street Chambers since its inception in 1990 and was appointed Head of Chambers in 2007. His main areas of practice were human rights, international law, judicial review and criminal law. He has conducted cases at the highest level and all over the world in those fields.

He was named as QC of the Year in the field of human rights and public law in 2007 by the Chambers & Partners directory and in 2005 he won the Bar Council's Sydney Elland Goldsmith award for his outstanding contribution to pro bono work in challenging the death penalty throughout the Caribbean and also in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi.

He also wrote several leading textbooks, including the Three Pillars of Liberty : Political Rights and Freedoms in the UK (1996), European Human Rights Law (1999), Criminal Justice, Police Powers and Human Rights (2001) and the Human Rights Manual and Sourcebook for Africa (2005).

From 2003-2008, Keir Starmer was the human rights advisor to the Policing Board in Northern Ireland. In that capacity he worked with the Policing Board to ensure that the Police Service of Northern Ireland fully complied with its obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998.

He was Director of Public Prosecutions and Head of the Crown Prosecution Service from 2008-2013.

As DPP, Keir was responsible for all criminal prosecutions in England and Wales. Among the complex and sensitive cases arising during his term of office were the cases about assisted suicide leading to the DPP's guidelines on Assisted Suicide which were issued in February 2010; the various cases in which members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords were charged with criminal offences; the successful retrial in the Stephen Lawrence case; and several so-called street grooming cases.

Keir also tackled difficult policy issues by publishing publicly facing guidelines on matters such as Violence against Woman and Girls, journalists, social media and Child Sexual Abuse.

Keir was a member of the Sentencing Guidelines Council from 2008-2010; and a member of the Sentencing Council from 2010-2013.

Keir is an Honorary Fellow at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford University and holds honorary doctorate degrees from Leeds University and Essex University.

Keir has huge experience advising at governmental, corporate and private client levels on all criminal law, corporate compliance and international law matters. He is currently engaged on cases from the US, Croatia, Italy, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Northern Ireland.

Adam Wagner

One Crown Office Row

Adam practises in human rights, public law and general civil law. He is a founding editor of the UK Human Rights Blog and is ranked as a 'leading junior' for civil liberties and human rights in Chambers and Partners. He is on the Attorney General's 'C' panel of counsel to the Crown. He was longlisted for the 2011 Orwell Prize for his legal blogging and regularly writes for The Guardian, New Statesman and the Times on human rights law, as well as commenting regularly on BBC TV and radio.

Adam acts in Judicial Review and human rights claims for defendants and claimants, focussing on immigration/asylum law, prison law, mental health and unlawful detention cases. He is currently acting on behalf of a Grime rapper in a human rights challenge to a gang injunction and for a number of high-profile prisoners in human rights challenges to their custodial progression.

Adam is regularly instructed in Public Inquiries. He is currently acting for most of the Army witnesses in the Al-Sweady Public Inquiry. He represented most of the Army witnesses in the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry and was junior counsel for the Department of Health in the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry.

Before joining Chambers, Adam graduated from St Anne's College, Oxford with a first class degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and received an MA in International Relations from Columbia University. He also worked as the Chair of a national youth organisation.

1. *Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?*

All the usual suspects!

2. *When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?*

When I studied in the United States – they have a quite different attitude to law there. There is a much stronger sense (certainly outside of the profession) of the importance of administrative and constitutional law as a check on Executive power and a positive force in society.

3. *Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?*

I volunteered for the Liberty Advice Line for a year, FRU for two years and for the Public Law Project for three months. I also worked in a number of human rights organisations in Israel.

4. *What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far*

Probably the Baha Mousa Inquiry.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

Being an advocate involves a life of high and low points (known as “winning” and “losing”!) but recently I was involved in a series of immigration detention hunger strike cases which have been difficult.

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

Legal aid funding for public interest cases.

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

Article 10

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

Not formally. The UKHRB is an NGO! Of sorts.

9. *What is your dream job?*

Probably what I'm doing

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

At university.

11. *What was the last book you read?*

The Dark Tower II by Stephen King [please insert worthy book if you are disappointed by that answer]

Nick Williams

Legal Counsel, Amnesty International

Current role

I am a solicitor and Legal Counsel at Amnesty International (at Amnesty's International Secretariat based in London). Our team provides in-house legal support to our global operations on a range of areas including litigation, governance, intellectual property, privacy, defamation, compliance and supporting Amnesty's international operations and membership work.

Previous roles:

Save the Children UK: Deputy Legal Adviser (2008-2009)

Hogan Lovells: training contract then associate in litigation team. Worked on international commercial disputes; gained higher rights of audience (2003-2007)

Education

Masters in Human Rights at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (2007-2008)

Postgraduate Diploma in Law, Nottingham Law School (2001- 2003)

BA (joint hon) Russian and German languages, University of Leeds (1996-2001)

Volunteer work / memberships

Volunteer work/ internships (2007-8) with the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (London), Global Witness (London) and OHCHR (Geneva)

Member of Human Rights Lawyers Association and Amnesty International

Trustee of The Peel Institute, London.

1. Which human rights practitioners do you find most inspiring?

I find all sorts of people inspiring, but incredibly inspiring are those whose work as human rights practitioners puts them (and their families or friends) at serious personal risk, for example the lawyers who work for the Russian human rights group Memorial.

2. When did you decide to follow a career in human rights? Was there one defining moment?

I have always been interested in human rights issues, but a defining moment was a visit to Burma/Myanmar while a law student. I met some members of the political opposition movement whose ongoing work demonstrated required huge bravery and personal sacrifice.

3. Did you do any internships or voluntary placements on your route into human rights work?

Yes, I did placements at Global Witness (London), European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (London), and an internship at OHCHR (Geneva)

4. What has been the high-point of your human rights career so far?

There are a lot of high-points; I recently worked on a report into migrant workers in Qatar which was fascinating and which got a lot of traction due to the World Cup there.

5. *What has been the low-point?*

No real low points so far working in NGO sector, quite a few previous low points in corporate law career (working one Christmas day afternoon on a commercial arbitration submission is one example)

6. *Is there a current human rights debate that you are particularly interested in?*

The debate regarding human rights and surveillance, which was ignited last year with the Snowden allegations

7. *What is your favourite human right?*

The right to liberty and security of the person

8. *Do you support the work of a particular human rights NGO?*

I've been a long time supporter of Amnesty International (and still a member!)

9. *What is your dream job?*

I am really enjoying my current job

10. *When was the last time that you pulled an all-nighter?*

Not since my days in corporate law (7 years ago now)

11. *What was the last book you read?*

Bob Dylan: Chronicles Volume 1

Human Rights Organisations

Access to Justice Alliance

The campaign for civil legal aid: the AJA fights for civil litigants to enjoy the same access to representation as criminal defendants by protecting, reviewing and publicising the need for such funding. Activities include demonstrations, debates, marches and government lobbying.

www.accesstojusticealliance.org.uk

Advice Services Alliance

The umbrella body for independent advice services in the UK. Its members are national networks of voluntary organisations providing advice and help on the law.

www.asauk.org.uk

Advocates for International Development

Lawyers with an international conscience. Poverty and inequality are the order of the day, and organised action is the response. Comprehensive network of ways to involve yourself, including campaigns for Millennium Development Goals. Focused towards practitioners, A4ID operates through organised work groups.

www.a4id.org

AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe)

Advises individuals on the punch that European Human Rights law can pack. Their support spans the micro (case by case guidance, provided you aren't trying to skewer the Little Guy) to the macro (expert materials for those organising conferences etc).

www.airecentre.org

Amicus

Works on death penalty cases in the US. Offers internship opportunities as well as case-work volunteer positions and publishes *Amicus Journal*, covering death penalty issues worldwide.

www.amicus-alj.org

Amnesty UK

The old favourite. Justice, freedom, fairness and truth. Universal values. Often quoted, often given short shrift in the real world. Amnesty organise truly international campaigns

championing human rights wherever they are trampled upon. Current causes include abolishing the death penalty, ending internet repression, the China situation and violence against women worldwide. Extensive volunteering opportunities.

www.amnesty.org.uk

Bail for Immigration Detainees

This charity adopts a two-prong approach to protect individuals detained as asylum seekers. First, campaigning in the political sphere to amend human rights provisions for detainees and requiring more robust protection mechanisms. Secondly, recruiting volunteers to handle detainees' applications to end their detention. Volunteers recruited in London, Oxford and the South East.

www.biduk.org.uk

Bar Human Rights Committee

Network for human rights-concerned barristers, organising legal research, advocacy training and publicity in Africa, America, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Russia. Particular focus on protection of the rule of law and the people upholding it.

<http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk>

Bar Pro Bono Unit

Barristers have social consciences too. They established an organisation to prove it. Volunteer a minimum of three days of time and expertise per year and bridge the gaping gulf between private funding and the legal aid purse. Short registration process, then an apparently unlimited licence to make law work for people, by working for free.

<http://www.barprobono.org.uk/>

British Institute of Human Rights

BIHR seek to bring human rights to life by producing and shaping human rights tools, public policy and practices that empower people to improve their own lives and the lives of others. They focus on working with the voluntary and third sectors, as well as lobbying government, running research projects and promoting human rights awareness. BIHR offer many internship and volunteering opportunities.

www.birhr.org.uk

British Irish Rights Watch

BIRW aims to monitor, support and publicise the people and groups affected by conflict in Ireland. No affiliations with politics, religion or community. Activities include seminars,

publications, *ad hoc* consultation for lawyers, third party interventions and attending public inquiries. Formidable body of work, recognised via the Beacon Prize for Northern Ireland 2007.

<http://www.birw.org/>

Campaign Against Criminalising Communities

Opposing laws based upon a pretext of counter-terrorism, campaigning for such laws to be repealed and defending the right to dissent.

www.campacc.org.uk

Campaign for Freedom of Information

The rubber stamp of secrecy is the enemy, statutory right is the weapon and sustained campaigning is the bread and butter of this group. Sign up for email updates and prove that millions of voices are louder than singular action.

www.cfoi.org.uk

Centre for Capital Punishment Studies

Project based at the University of Westminster. Chiefly aimed at researching the death penalty. Based on the notion that statistics speak louder than assertion, CCPS aims to co-ordinate NGOs, civil society and the state through research and publication. Attractive internship programme to places including Jamaica, Malawi and Uganda.

www.wmin.ac.uk/law/

Child Poverty Action Group

Does what it says on the tin; a major force for social and economic justice in the UK. For lawyers, it is a major publisher of leading reference books, particularly on welfare rights, and it provides both telephone advice and training courses to welfare rights advisors.

www.cpag.org.uk

Coalition for the International Criminal Court

Network of NGOs supporting the ICC, via a Universal Ratification Campaign and general work to keep constituent states informed and alive to the workings of the Court. Internships available in Summer and Autumn in New York and The Hague.

<http://www.colombiancaravana.org.uk/>

Colombian Caravana UK Lawyers Group

A group of international lawyers that monitor the human rights abuses faced by legal

professionals in Colombia. The organisation is committed to supporting human rights lawyers at risk through awareness raising and educational activities as well as observation missions to Colombia to report on the situation impacting the legal community. Members of the group have undertaken international legal observation missions to Colombia in 2008, 2010 and 2012 as part of a commitment by the International Caravana of Lawyers to continue to monitor the human rights abuses faced by legal professionals in Colombia.

www.iccnw.org

Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)

Interesting, varied and up-to-date lectures offered in the Temple in London. Worthwhile speakers, usually free attendance and no need to be a fully fledged lawyer to participate. Advance registration required for some events, but turning up early is usually the best guarantee.

www.adminlaw.org.uk

1 Crown Office Row's Human Rights Update website

Barristers' chambers **1 Crown Office Row** runs a website providing details of developments in human rights law, and articles on topical matters.

www.1cor.com/humanrights

Death Penalty Project

Campaigns focus upon the Caribbean and Africa with palpable results: 500 lives saved since 1992. Two pronged approach to legal intervention, via helping individual prisoners and strategic litigation on the public law stage. Plus the research, information dissemination and publication.

www.deathpenaltyproject.org

Discrimination Law Association

Membership available to anyone who cares about preventing discrimination. Activities concentrate on conferences, publications. Particularly useful 'Responses' section setting out the DLA position on legislative instruments impacting on discrimination law.

www.discriminationlaw.org.uk

Doughty Street Chambers *Human Rights Bulletin*

A periodic publication summarising important UK and European human rights cases.

Subscribe at - www.doughtystreet.co.uk/members/join/

Employment Lawyers Association

Extensive roster of events with comprehensive topics without the usual London-centric locations. Essential for employment law practitioners. Membership heftily discounted for golden-hearted people working in the voluntary sector.

www.elaweb.org.uk

Equality and Diversity Forum

Networking organisation bringing together previously disparate groups. Core issues include age, disability, gender, race, religious and sexual orientation discrimination, all set against a broader human rights backdrop. Consistently active with e-bulletins and frequent online news of previous and future events. Formidable body of publications. Notables include the long term Human Rights and Justice Seminars at London Metropolitan University.

www.edf.org.uk

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Ensures the Human Rights Act couples bark with bite. Where once the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Commission for Racial Equality, and the Disability Rights Commission paved the way for human rights monitoring in the UK, the EHRC now treads. Aimed at ensuring protection and publication for individuals' right to participate fully and equally, this non-departmental government body is responsible for its own public funding but politically independent.

www.equalityhumanrights.com

European Criminal Bar Association

Aimed at monitoring the European Union influence on national criminal justice matters, the ECBA encourages defence lawyers to contribute, share information and make public submissions on prospective legislation. Current projects involve the European Arrest Warrant, Cross Border Financial Crime and the death penalty in China.

www.ecba.org/cms

Free Representation Unit

FRU - touchstone for the aspiring law student. Undertake the training course, grasp employment or social security law and help litigants (who would otherwise be flying solo) navigate the system. Personal support from qualified case workers. Hugely rewarding.

www.freerepresentationunit.org.uk

Global Rights

Based at a grass roots level of local activism via field offices in Asia, Africa, Latin America,

Europe and the United States, Global Rights includes volunteers as staff, fellows and interns.

www.globalrights.org/site

Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers

Monthly lectures on diverse and on-the-pulse topics, delivered by in-the-know practitioners, plus a great publication, Socialist Lawyer.

www.haldane.org/

Housing Law Practitioners Association

Heavily involved in responding to legislative proposals for housing law, the social justice aspect of housing needs no drum roll. Essential for practitioners representing homeless and vulnerable tenants, HLPFA facilitates information sharing between members in addition to campaigning.

www.hlpa.org.uk/

Howard League for Penal Reform

Current campaigns include 'Community Sentences Cut Crime', 'Real Work in Prison' and the obvious 'Prison Overcrowding'. Independent and pro-active, the Howard League offers one internship each year and has extensive support for students interested in establishing a society at their university come September.

www.howardleague.org/

Human Rights Lawyers Association

Excellent, constant stream of lectures on contemporary human rights issues. Bursary scheme for students seeking funding of related placements and helpful vacancies links to fellow organisations. Events are free or heavily subsidised for members, students are welcome and interaction is encouraged. Free student membership.

www.hrla.org.uk/

Human Rights Watch

Defending human rights on a country-by-country basis, the sheer breadth of the organisation's influence is awe-inspiring. Extensive employment and internship opportunities for the human rights devotee.

www.hrw.org/

Immigration Law Practitioners Association

Dedicated to co-ordinating immigration law specialists through training, a robust body of publications and political updates of Government briefings. Boasts a list of immigration related job vacancies for those wanting to jump from the volunteering to the professional boat.

www.ilpa.org.uk

Innocence Network UK

Students helping prisoners overturn wrongful convictions.

www.innocencenetwork.org.uk

INQUEST

Provides support and advice to people concerned about contentious deaths and navigating the inquest system. Targeted both towards lawyers and bereaved families. Tri-annual in house magazine supplements individual campaigns.

www.inquest.org.uk

INTERIGHTS - the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights

Strategic litigation – focusing upon areas of human rights law (on a global stage) where there is most potential for development or protection. This work is bolstered by publishing and disseminating legal information to anyone in need. Amazingly comprehensive news review, covering hoards of global human rights cases.

www.interights.org

International Commission of Jurists

Sixty eminent jurists represent different legal systems of the globe, dedicated to advancing human rights via the rule of law. Prides itself on impartiality and objectivity and has a strong international slant (five regional projects). Unfunded internships programme with rolling deadline.

www.icj.org

International Federation of Human Rights (Fédération Internationale des ligues des Droits de l'Homme)

Multi-lingual website, advocating four statutory priorities: assisting victims of human rights abuses, mobilising member states participation, supporting local NGOs and raising awareness. A notable thematic priority is prioritising human rights in the fight against

terrorism.

www.fidh.org

International Lawyers Project

Aims to link willing skills of solicitors and barrister and the huge need for *pro bono* human rights advice and representation. Operates via a centralised database onto which interested individuals sign up, then await a request for their help (reasonable expenses are reimbursed). Dual international and local emphasis.

www.internationallawyersproject.org

Joint Council for the Welfare of Refugees

Aims to combat racism and discrimination in asylum and immigration cases by providing support and advice to practitioners with Legal Service Commission contracts. Does not offer representation directly to applicants. Publishes reasoned responses to legislative initiatives and organises training courses and one-off seminars.

www.jcwi.org.uk

JUSTICE

Possibly the most lawyerly of the UK's campaigning human rights organisations. A law reform-motivated group focusing on criminal justice matters, privacy, asylum and discrimination. Aims to see that the Human Rights Act is worth more than the paper its written on. Get involved via an annual intern programme, *ad hoc* volunteering or full-time employment.

www.justice.org.uk

Law Centres Federation

Central support body for all *pro bono* Law Centres, offering representation to society's most disadvantaged. Offers support and advice to those brave enough to attempt opening a centre in their own community. Affiliated to the LawWorks project, now run by the Solicitors Pro Bono Group – see below.

www.lawcentres.org.uk

Lawworks

Solicitors working for free. Yes, really. Includes support for those wanting to establish a *pro bono* society within their law school (and compete for a spot in the prestigious Law School Pro Bono Awards prize-giving), training courses, and volunteering (for practitioners and

students). Regional and London projects.

www.lawworks.org.uk

Legal Action Group

Never lagging behind, promoting equal access to justice to those who need it most. Extensive publications and a very wide ambit (crime, housing, mental health and more), an excellent journal and frequent specialist legal updates. Register your interest for free updates, or join for £30 per year.

www.lag.org.uk

Legalalternatives

Looking for a legal internship? Want it to exactly fit your interests and abilities? Search the Legalalternatives database, gather a wealth of organisation specific information and read feedback from people who have personal first hand experience of the options listed.

www.legalalternatives.co.uk

Liberty

Including the Liberty Guide to Human Rights (www.yourrights.org.uk). Omnipresent, tirelessly campaigning organisation aiming to keep civil liberties a practical aspect of modern living, chiefly by influencing government. Student membership from just £1 per month.

<http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/>

Medical Justice

Seeks basic medical rights for detainees and failed asylum seekers in the UK; publishes a worrying list of case studies in which rights have been denied to individuals. Research projects allow the Foundation to make submissions to the UN. The Habeas Corpus Project aims to challenge the legality of indefinite detention through applications to the High Court, fertile grounds for reform.

www.medicaljustice.org.uk

Mental Disability Advocacy Centre

Working on the human rights of children and adults with actual or perceived intellectual or psycho-social disabilities. A European Central Asian focus. Volunteering opportunities in its Budapest office.

www.mdac.info/

Mental Health Lawyers Association

www.mhla.co.uk/

National Critical Lawyers Group

www.nclg.org.uk/

NO2ID

This single-issue group aims to curb government's pre-occupation with recording and monitoring its citizens' movements and activities. Sign up for free updates, make the No 2 ID pledge and hope no more liberties are taken.

www.nclg.org.uk/

Oxford Pro Bono Publico

More than just a proof reading organisation: the OPBP supports those preparing submission documents for a wide variety of purposes. Volunteers must be affiliated with the University of Oxford and can expect to work closely with high profile NGOs and be exposed to world class academics.

www.law.ox.ac.uk/opbp

Prison Reform Trust

Aims to ensure prisons are just, humane and effective. Provides critical comment on prospective prison reform and criminal justice issues. Become a friend of Prison Reform Trust to receive their Magazine prisonReport and enjoy discounts on specialist publications.

www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk

Prisoners' Advice Service

Provides practical advice (free and confidential) to prisoners in England and Wales, aiming to ensure they are treated according to Prison Regulations. Direct opportunities to volunteer as an advisor or support worker.

www.prisonersadvice.org.uk/

Privacy International

Fights to protect the fragile right to privacy, usually the first casualty in the surveillance state. Based in London, with offices in Washington DC. Campaigns include border security, anti-terrorism measures, policy laundering and identity cards.

www.privacyinternational.org/

Public Law Project

PLP aims to increase public authority accountability by providing legal advice directly to people affected. Opportunities for specialist practitioners to volunteer on the telephone advice line and students in administrative or legal research capacities.

www.publiclawproject.org.uk/

Refugee Council

One stop shop for refugees' needs – through four regional offices, the Council offers representation and advice to those arriving in the UK with no support network and facing legal proceedings in order to stay. Over 300 volunteers cover everything from football coaching to serving lunch and teaching English.

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Legal Centre

A national organisation and charity offering legal advice and representation to asylum seekers and refugees.

www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk/

Release

Drugs, the law and human rights: Release aims to guide those affected by drug use through the mire. Offers both a Legal helpline and Legal Outreach project in London. The innovative Bust Card reminding drug users of their legal rights.

www.release.org.uk/

Reprieve

Internationally campaigning for prisoners denied justice by various governments through litigation investigation and public education. Excellently regarded US Internships allows law students to work directly on death row projects. Wealth of experience with Guantanamo Bay detainees.

www.reprieve.org.uk/

Rethinking Crime and Punishment

Prison has never been a hotter agenda topic – this strategic initiative of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to implement findings about how effective our punishment system is. Follow the Project's progress by reading reports online.

www.rethinking.org.uk/

Rights International

Fights for protection of the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Campaign methods include a Brief Bank, with downloadable model human rights appeal templates, research guide and on going publications programme. Boasts the Frank C Newham Internship programme and Law School consortium, allowing educational establishments to be directly involved.

www.rightsinternational.org/

Rights of Women

Maintains a popular telephone helpline advising the public and publishes information sheets on every legal issue impacting on women's lives specifically. Sports the two hallmarks of a support charity: free and confidential, and is currently recruiting legally qualified volunteers.

www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Solicitors' International Human Rights Group

Supporting human rights protections by herding solicitors into a hive of voluntary activity. A massive twelve separate working groups, including the death penalty and human trafficking. Online forum for members and free entry to compelling monthly speaker event, covering up-to-the-minute legal issues.

<http://sites.google.com/a/sihrg.org/solicitors-international-human-rights-group/Home>

Social Security Law Practitioners Association

Organises meetings and other happenings for lawyers and specialist advisers working in the social security law field.

www.sslpa.org.uk/

Statewatch

Keeps an eye on the State whilst it keeps an eye on us. Dedicated to maintaining civil liberties and democratic standards in Europe, by campaigning and publicity. Services include a database of 24,000 articles whilst current projects relate to CIA rendition, border wars and asylum crimes.

www.statewatch.org/

Stonewall

Well known organisation that aims to ensure equal treatment for lesbian and gay people, by raising awareness, campaigning against/for legal reform and providing Diversity Champions to over 300 organisations. And counting.

www.stonewall.org.uk/

Unlock Democracy

What once was Charter 88, now different label on the same constitutionally concerned tin. Aims to put the people power back into democracy, through campaigning for a written constitution, elected House of Lords and Citizens' Convention (direct democracy).

www.unlockdemocracy.org.uk/

Young Legal Aid Lawyers

But you don't have to be young - just committed to legal aid and either a student or of no more than ten years' qualification or call. Membership's free.

www.younglegalaidlawyers.org