



# Human Rights



Proud supporter of  
**MAGNA  
CARTA**  
800th anniversary celebrations

Dear All

Please do circulate the following news, opportunities and events to your colleagues, students, friends and family.

## Law Society News

### Annual Essay Competition now open!

Law students, trainee solicitors, pupil barristers and junior lawyers (current, prospective or in-between stages) are invited to enter the Law Society's annual Graham Turnbull essay competition.

This year's essay title is:

*"The roots of many of our basic rights go back to the Magna Carta whose 800th Anniversary is being celebrated in 2015. Given this important legacy, to what extent would proposals to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998 and pull out of the European Convention on Human Rights impact on the protection of human rights in the UK and around the world?"*

The deadline for entries is 13 February 2015 and the winner will receive £500

For more information and eligibility criteria [please click here](#).

### Top legal figures back EU arrest warrant in letter to Daily Telegraph

In a letter to the Editor of the Daily Telegraph, president of the Law Society Andrew Caplen, alongside fellow leading legal figures including Lord Philips of Worth Matravers, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, Lord Blair of Boughton and Professor John Spencer QC, has urged the government not to opt out of the EU arrest warrant (EAW).

[Read the full letter here](#)

### Law Society raises concerns over Malaysian Sedition Act

The Law Society has expressed concern over Malaysia's continuing use of the 1948 Sedition Act. The act, which was made law during the British colonial era, criminalises speech uttered 'to excite disaffection' against the government. The act has been used to intimidate and silence political opponents including lawyers.

[Read More](#)

Please also note that the Law Society will be holding a free event in London on the morning of 25 November entitled 'Rule of law, sedition act and the Walk for Peace and Freedom in Malaysia'. To book your place please [register here](#).

### Human Rights Act

In a letter to The Times, Law Society President Andrew Caplen explains the Society's opposition to the Conservatives' proposed bill of rights.

Andrew Caplen writes:

"Sir, The Conservatives' proposal to scrap the Human Rights Act and replace it with a bill of rights is of deep concern. When the bill of rights was proposed in 2011, the Law Society questioned its necessity and emphasised the need to promote the existing Act, not replace it. The society stands by its initial response.

The Human Rights Act ensures that the rights included in the European Convention on Human Rights are enshrined in UK law.

The convention was established following the Second World War to protect the rights of the people, over the powers of governments. Human rights should never be used as a political tool."

[Times](#) (subscription)

### Human rights should not be used as a political tool

**This is the country that wrote Magna Carta...**

We do not require instructions from judges in Strasbourg." With this rousing expression of national pride, the prime minister delighted the Tory party conference with a promise that a Conservative-majority government would repeal the Human Rights Act

(HRA) and replace it with a British Bill of Rights.

A Conservative document issued subsequently gave further details. The new Bill of Rights would re-enact the Convention rights but with "clarification" and "more precise definition", for example, to prevent foreign nationals from using human rights to resist deportation.

It would remove the UK courts' obligation to "take account" of decisions of the Strasbourg Court when interpreting the Convention and remove the requirement to interpret domestic legislation compatibly with Convention rights. The new Bill would also require UK courts to strike out "trivial" rights cases. Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights would be "advisory", becoming binding only if the UK parliament agreed to them.

The policy is incoherent, unnecessary and anti-libertarian.

Please [click here](#) to read the full article by Stephen Grosz, Chair of the Law Society Human Rights Committee

### Law Society annual human rights conference

The conference will cover a wide range of topics associated with business and human rights including Modern Slavery, trafficking, a treaty on business and human rights, supply chains and accountability as well as lawyers and the responsibility to respect. [Book your place](#)

### Law Society Interventions: International Action Team (IAT)

The Law Society is now recruiting for our International Action Team (IAT) comprising of pro bono lawyers and law students to get involved in the Society's human rights work.

[Find out more](#)

## Events of Interest:

### Law Society Annual Human Rights Conference

Date: 10 December 2014

Time: 09:30 - 17:00

Location: The Law Society, Chancery Lane, London

[More info](#)

### Rule of law, sedition act and the Walk for Peace and Freedom in Malaysia

Date: 25/11/2014

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Location: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1P

**FREE**

[More info](#)

### Human Rights and the Law of Taxation

Date: 08/12/2014

Time: 18:00 - 19:45

Location: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1P

**FREE**

[More info](#)

### Extradition - is the UK a soft touch for the EU and USA?

Date: 13/11/2014

Time: 14:00 - 17:30

Location: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

[More info](#)

### Magna Carta's 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

Organiser: Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Committee

Date: 12 /01/2015

Time: 18:30 - 22:30

Location: Guildhall, City of London

*Speeches by:*

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Foreign Secretary  
HE The Ambassador of the United States of America

Tickets: £250 each or £2,000 for table of 10

Further details/bookings: [MarkGill@magnacarta800th.com](mailto:MarkGill@magnacarta800th.com)

## Seeking Refuge from Afghanistan: Personal and Legal Perspectives

Date: 25/11/2014

Time: 18:00 - 19:30

Location: BPP Law School Red Lion Street Holborn London

[More info](#)

## Other News

### SIHRG Online Guides

SIHRG unveils its comprehensive online Guides to international human rights law. Up to 5 CPD points available for as little as £40 or the price of membership or £25 for Law Society IAT members

For more details please visit SIHRG website: <https://sites.google.com/a/sihrg.org/cpd/>

## Opportunities

Employer: EHRAC, Middlesex University

Title: Case and Project Support Officer

Deadline: 17 /11/2014

Salary: £26,247- £29,247 per annum (inclusive of Outer London weighting)

Location: Hendon Campus

[More info](#)

Employer: The Law Society

Title: International Co-ordinator

Salary: £29,625 per annum

Deadline: 11/11/2014

Location: Chancery Lane, London

[More info](#)

Employer: Freedom from Torture

Title: Director of Policy & Advocacy

Salary: circa £60k

Deadline: 14/11/2014

[More info](#)

Employer: Forest Peoples Programme

Title: Lawyer - Africa with focus on Cameroon

Salary: £32,000-£37,000 subject to qualifications/experience

Deadline: 18/11/2014

Location: Africa

[More info](#)

## Podcasts/webinars:

In conversation with Asma Jahangir on law, gender and religion <http://international.lawsociety.org.uk/node/14267>

International Action Team (IAT)

[Take our training now to become part of the IAT](#)

## Careers Brochure 2014: 'How to become a human rights lawyer'

Please find our brochure for the event [here](#).

**Don't forget to join us on social media:**

 : [Follow us on Twitter](#)

 : [Join us on LinkedIn](#)

Kind regards

Sarah

**Sarah J Smith**

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