



# Human Rights



Proud supporter of  
**MAGNA  
CARTA**  
anniversary celebrations

Dear All

Happy human rights week to one and all!

Please find below our last human rights update of 2014. Please circulate the following news, opportunities and events to your colleagues, students, friends and family.

## Law Society News

### Human Rights Week starts today!

The Law Society is proud to be supporting the week long series of events to celebrate human rights. This week will see a host of events from law firms, NGO's and academics to celebrate human rights. A list of all the events the Law Society is supporting during this week can be found on our website.

Make sure you sign up to these exciting events and support human rights week.

[Human Rights Week](#)

### Solicitor General confirmed as keynote speaker for our annual human rights conference

This years 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.

[Find out more and book](#)

### Sign up now for the International Human Rights Practice series 2015

This course will focus on the latest developments and emerging issues in European and international human rights practice: themes and systems, law and practice. It has been devised as a collaboration between Middlesex University School of Law, Matrix Chambers and The Law Society.

[Find out more](#)

### Slavery in Europe

A joint letter between Amnesty International, the Law Society and 17 others was published in Saturday's Daily Telegraph. The letter refers to figures from the International Labour Organisation estimating that modern slavery is an illicit trade worth at least £96 billion per year, and exploits 21 million people globally.

[Read the letter here](#)

### Dominic Grieve announced as Essay Competition Judge

The winning and second place essay will be chosen by former attorney general Dominic Grieve who will present the awards at the prize giving ceremony on April 16.

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

[More information](#)

### Government rejects House of Lords amendments on judicial review

Solicitors Journal reports that recent amendments made by the House of Lords relating to reform of judicial review in the Criminal

Justice and Courts Bill have been rejected by the government.

Law Society president, Andrew Caplen, is quoted: "This could rule out judicial review for some of the weakest and most vulnerable in society and would make it easier for public bodies to act without regard for the law."

[Read the full article here](#)

## Malaysia

The Law Society has pledged its support to the Malaysian Bar in abolishing a British colonial-era law prohibiting discourse with 'seditious tendency'. The Sedition Act has been used in Malaysia this year to investigate, charge and prosecute more than 20 people, including lawyers and law professors, for expressing dissenting views, a meeting at Chancery Lane heard.

## 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:

### Human Rights Week

[Full list of events here](#)

### Law Society Annual Human Rights Conference

Date: 10 December 2014

Time: 09:30 - 17:00

Location: The Law Society, Chancery Lane, London

[More info](#)

## Opportunities

### Join our team: International policy advisers

The Law Society is recruiting two policy advisers for our international team in London, covering Africa & Middle East and CIS. The roles cover our relations with the countries in these regions, responsible for identifying and developing business opportunities for our members, helping to extend practice rights for solicitors as well as working on joint projects with bars and other stakeholders.

[Apply: International Policy Adviser \(Africa and Middle East\)](#)

[Apply: International Policy Adviser \(CIS\)](#)

Employer: African Prisons Project

Title: Volunteer positions

Location: Kenya and Uganda

The African Prisons Project seeks lawyers and law students interested in spending 3 months in either Kenya or Uganda teaching law to prisoners. APP seeks out change makers - individuals who aspire to do great things but who need support and are fighting to make a difference in the justice system. We are looking for individuals willing to volunteer their time and service to work with prisoners and prison staff in Kenya and Uganda as they pursue law degrees and work to serve the people around them.

[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](#)

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

: [Follow us on Twitter](#)

: [Join us on LinkedIn](#)

Kind regards

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