



Welcome to the UCLSHRP Alumni Newsletter!

Welcome to the first edition of the UCLSHRP Alumni Newsletter, a new biannual update to keep you informed about the Programme's activities, and to help you stay in touch with other alumni.

John Galsworthy said 'the beginnings and endings of all human undertakings are untidy' – hopefully this won't be too bad; but I welcome your comments on how the newsletter might be improved, so please drop me an email at alumni@uclshrp.com and share your thoughts.

The newsletter is just one part of a broader Alumni scheme which will provide benefits including priority booking for ticketed UCLSHRP events, Bulletin emails, discounts on the UCL Human Rights Review and more. If you would like to opt out of the scheme, please send an email to the above address.



ECHR Mooters

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Another Year, Another Constitutional Reform!

A message from the Interim Executive –

As part of the current Interim Executive Officers' mandate, it was considered vital for the future of the Programme that the Constitution be amended to correct obstructions that were experienced during the last attempt to hold an election and to formalise the relationship with the Institute for Human Rights. For example, the requirement of 28 days of membership before voting eligibility, and restrictive criteria for running for a position, coupled with the lack of current member activism, led to a paralysis of the programme whereby the constitution needed to be temporarily amended to hold an election. However, this was impossible given the lack of a quorum to legitimise such amendments.

The Institute for Human Rights stepped in to appoint an Interim Executive and agreed some 'terms of reference' in order to redefine the relationship between the Programme and the Institute and avoid such a situation arising again. These 'terms of reference' need incorporating into the Constitution but cannot simply be transposed into the current Constitution without some amendment to its clauses. Therefore, the Interim Executive Officers have called for a Constitutional Reform Committee to consider changes to the Constitution. This committee is formed of the Programme's Executive Officers, initiative coordinators and initiative participants. It is

the desire of the Executive that this take place as transparently as possible. To this end, the committee is calling for proposals to be discussed in the weekly meetings from any interested party.

It is considered that this unfortunate turn of events has presented an opportunity to reform the Constitution to facilitate widening participation in the Programme and to establish a more stable relationship between the Programme and the Institute for the long term. The Executive has successfully negotiated a sustainable funding stream from the Institute and is currently in the process of further integrating and formalising this important relationship, the specific details of which will be expressed in our new Constitution. The committee is due to finish the redrafting in time for a new executive to take over in March 2011. If you would like more information, please contact president@uclshrp.com.

Where Are They Now?



Former
Grassroots co-ordinator)

"In 2009/2010 I was a Grassroots coordinator for UCLSHRP while doing my masters in Human Rights. The Grassroots initiative gave me the opportunity to put my newfound knowledge into practice by teaching children about human rights. Spreading awareness of human rights is the first step in ensuring that they are respected, so by encouraging young people to think about their rights I felt that we were making a difference. This experience put me in a position to work on a workshop for the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, as part of their Youth Producing Change programme. It has been inspiring to work with creative young people who want to engage with human rights issues, and to be in a position to help them make their voices heard. I am currently doing the Graduate Diploma in Law, whilst working on the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. Next year I will be starting the Bar course and seeking to attain pupillage in a civil liberties set, or a position in an NGO working on human rights issues."



Grass Roots

equality and non-discrimination laws

The UCLSHRP Grassroots programme is making steady progress towards teaching children human rights. All of our volunteers have now completed child protection training, and we are waiting for the last of the CRB checks to come back so that we can go into schools. In the meantime we are in contact with several schools in the Camden area to arrange dates, which looks very promising. We plan to begin teaching in March.

Intervention Action Team (IAT)

IAT continues its collaboration with the Law Society of England and Wales. We have recently undertaken a new project on their behalf which aims to produce submissions to the United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review. The UPR is a forum where countries are regularly examined on their human rights records. We are still in the research process, but we're hoping to help out with the drafting as well as dissemination of the materials as well.

Equal Rights Trust (ERT)

The Equal Rights Trust volunteer team from the SHRP completed their research in September 2010 on

and compliance in Germany, Italy, South Africa and Turkey. We are now waiting for the Equal Rights Trust to collate, polish up and ultimately publish the research.

Moots

The first round of the UCL ECHR Moot Competition was held on 20 January 2011. The moot problem, titled *P. Evert v UFK*, played off on the recent *Mosley v UK* case and concerned the appropriate balance between Articles 8 and 10 of the ECHR. The field of contestants was whittled down from 17 to 10. The semi-final round will be held in early March, and the final will be held in Strasbourg on 8 April.

Careers

The appointment of a new Careers Officer heralds the arrival of a longed-for alternative to the City-oriented careers programme provided by the Law Faculty.

The hope for next year is to have a more formal and substantial careers programme with two events a term, advertised generally and hopefully also in the Freshers booklet, an invaluable advertising resource. These plans are still at their most embryonic although the hope is that

Alumni Newsletter chats to project co-ordinators about their initiatives.

an appropriate framework can be put in place over the summer in order to facilitate this.

Alumni

Well, I would be dismayed indeed if you'd reached this point in the *Alumni Newsletter* without noticing the birth of UCLSHRP's most recent project, the Alumni scheme. The plan is for a newsletter to be released twice a year, in October and March, to allow ex-members of the Programme to keep in touch, and eventually create a network of individuals with a common interest in human rights.

Website

With the formalisation of the SHRP's relationship with the Institute, plans are underway to migrate the SHRP website to the UCL domain. This is expected yield several benefits, most importantly the prestige that the university name and ac.uk URL will bring. The SHRP's current and future Board will retain access privilege and the university and faculty's involvement over the website's content will be minimal. The existing website will be kept as a redirect site.



The Moot's Loose About This Hoose...

The UCLSHRP ECHR Moot the European Court of Human Rights.

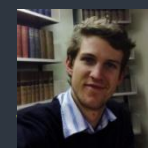
Competition Semi-Finals were held on 4 March in the Faculty of Law, Bentham House. We had the honour to welcome several distinguished guests as judges, including Lord Kerr of Tonaghmore, a United Kingdom Supreme Court Justice, Mr. S. Olleson, Ms H. Mountfield and Ms J Kinghan. Once again, the moot problem was a topical and stimulating scenario, regarding the "Nostos Islanders" and their *nostos* (i.e. right to return) to their Islands. The case reflected aspects of the Chagos Islanders application, currently pending before

The arguments made by mooters addressed both the jurisdiction as well as part of the merits of the case. In specific the scope of the European Convention on Human Rights under Article 1, its interplay with Article 56 and the applicability of Articles 3, 8 and Article 1 of Protocol 1 were brought into question. Adjusting themselves to the ECHR mooted style, judges nonetheless posed a series of insightful and straightforward questions. After the two simultaneous rounds ended,

judges and mooters were invited to a wine reception where Lord Kerr gave an insight into, among other things, his experiences at the Bar. On the basis of their individual scores, four mooters (Joseph Markus, Sarah Walker, Martin Samuel Reynolds and Azusa Kikuma) advanced to the Finals, which will be held in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on 8 April.

Check our website for updates about the Moot Grand Final!

Where are they now?



Worth (former President)

Jonny has recently co-founded an NGO with Qudsi Rasheed (also formerly of UCLSHRP), John Packer and Jamie Burton. Just Fair (www.just-fair.co.uk) works to protect economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in the UK by advocating on behalf of the economically vulnerable and socially excluded, and working with activists, journalists, academics, law and policy makers and service providers to promote and enhance ESCR protection in the UK. Just Fair publicises perceived rights violations and seeks to raise awareness among the general public.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As exam season looms and the academic year yawns and thinks about drawing to a close, so too our events calendar is winding down, but keep an eye on the events page of the website which also posts links to happenings beyond the realm of the Gower St microcosm. And to ensure we end on a high note, there will be Alumni reunion drinks on Saturday 9 April, 8pm, at Guanabara, Parker St/Drury Lane (www.guanabara.co.uk/).

Surf's Up!

Human rights on the internet.

Top video

HumanRightsDefender, 'Human Right #28: "A Free and Fair World"' on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/user/HumanRightsDefender#p/u/3/grTgeyscCd4>

Top resource

The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre provides hourly updates on companies' human rights impact (positive as well as negative) worldwide.
<http://www.business-humanrights.org/Home>



Top programme

The Listening Post on Al Jazeera English looks past the mainstream media to get to the heart of news stories; after all, what's the point of a free press if it doesn't give you the whole story?
<http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/listeningpost/>
 Free podcasts are also available on iTunes.

And of course, you can find us at www.uclshrp.com or [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/uclshrp), just search 'UCL Student Human Rights Programme' on the facebook homepage.
 Coming soon to Twitter.



The interim executive

President: Brian Cheung

V-P: Napoleon Xanthus

Secretary: Chelsea Martin

Treasurer: Andrew Eaton

ERI: Sarah Walker

Careers Officer: Nick Wood

Recent Events

• Round Table Discussion

On 20 October 2010, UCLSHRP organised a round table discussion on "Internet & E-Rights: Challenges and Perspectives". The event sought to present some of the major legal issues that are raised through the ongoing evolution of Internet applications. 'Search engines responsibilities', 'private data', 'social networking' and 'net neutrality' are just some of topics that were discussed by a number of distinguished experts: Andrew Murray, Reader in Law, LSE; Dr Daithí Mac Síthigh, Lecturer, University of East Anglia; Stratis Camatsos, Member of New York Bar and Solicitor of England and Wales; Emily B. Laidlaw, PhD Candidate, Department of Law, LSE. The panel was chaired by Ben Allgrove, Partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP. Following the presentations the audience was also offered the opportunity to address further questions and deepen the ongoing discussion.

• UCL Human Rights Review Launch

The Human Rights Review held its annual Symposium on 1 December last year. The topic for debate was 'Immunity from Prosecution: Necessity or Excuse?'. We were honoured to have our Patron, Baroness Hale of Richmond, chair the distinguished panel, which also comprised Professor Colin Warbrick, a lecturer in international criminal and human rights law, Mark Stephens, senior partner of Finers Stephens Innocent LLP, and Paul Harris SC, barrister at Doughty Street Chambers. We then had the pleasure of their company at the reception where the discussions ranged from Wikileaks to the Pope's legal immunity.

• 'In The Land Of The Free' Film Screening and Q&A With Robert King

Lecture theatre 1 in the Cruciform Building on Gower St was packed to the rafters to hear this extraordinary man speak about his experience of living on death row in Louisiana, spending 29 years in solitary confinement for a murder he didn't commit. An excellent follow up to last year's screening of 'In Prison My Whole Life' and a fantastic boost for the Programme's profile in and around UCL.

• Careers Event

On 22 March UCLSHRP hosted a series of speakers from chambers, law firms and NGO's for a presentation about CV building for careers in human rights. The event was an excellent and informative introduction in how to get a job in the human rights sector and marks the beginning of new program of right related career events. If you think you have something to offer the program, our careers officer Nick would love to hear from you (careers@uclshrp.com).



Alumni officer: Fiona Whiteside

Contact: alumni@uclshrp.com

to be removed from our mailing list, please email alumni@uclshrp.com