

Quick overview of the SHRP

As the name suggests, the SHRP is a human rights organisation run primarily by students. Our focus is academic — we are mainly concerned with creating a culture of human rights through raising awareness, instigating debate and inspiring action. We are not an activist organisation that campaigns for specific rights.

Why do we exist?

The SHRP was founded in 2007 by a group of students who found surprising the lack of avenues for the contemplation of human rights issues. It was founded to fight apathy within the student community — let's admit that as students, we can be more concerned with having fun and getting good grades than with human rights. In a time when human societies are struggling to find the proper balance between security and liberties, it is all the more important that there is a healthy awareness and debate about human rights. The SHRP aims to foster this debate in UCL and beyond.

The Programme was even featured in the Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/feb/24/students-human-rights>).

What do we do?

Our Programme has a variety of initiatives that range from the purely academic to the more hands-on. It's unlikely that you won't be able to find something that suits you. These initiatives have a large degree of autonomy but report to the SHRP's elected executive through the initiative leaders. The initiative leaders and the executive form the SHRP board.

Our initiatives include:

- An annual European Court of Human Rights moot competition. Our members organise this competition and write the problems. The final is judged in Strasbourg by real ECHR judges.
- The UCL Human Rights Review, an annually published academic journal which is edited by initiative members and peer-reviewed by UCL academics. It has the honour of having Baroness Hale of Richmond as its patron, and is the first and only student-edited academic journal on human rights in the UK.
- An International Action Team, which assists the Law Society of England and Wales by researching and informing about human rights violations all over the world.
- The Bulletin, a newsletter that informs about and analyses human rights news and cases. It is currently only published on our website, but we are hoping to continue publishing it in paper form in future.
- A voluntary initiative called Grassroots, in which members talk to school children about human rights and attempt to initiate awareness from a young age.

You can also help out by joining our events, sponsorship or website teams.

Our events team organises events such as lectures, debates and film screenings. They are in charge of the logistics and administration of these events.

The sponsorship team reaches out to potential sponsors such as law firms, chambers and human rights organisations to secure funding for our Programme.

The website team plays a very important role in the SHRP because the website is often the first port of call that anyone interested in the Programme makes. The team has both technical management duties as well as some editorial functions.

For more information on any of these initiatives, talk to us or visit our website, uclshrp.com.

How can you help?

If you've heard enough and would like to join us and help out, here are several ways you can do that:

1. Become a member and join an initiative, or two. Write down your name on our list and state the initiative you're interested in. Come talk to us if you're unsure. There is a small membership fee of £3, which helps to support our expenses. It also helps to deter people from frivolously joining up and then not contributing. Don't worry, we will only impose the fee after a trial period.
2. If you're not keen on becoming a member, or can't commit, you can contribute in other ways, including writing on the Exchange on an ad hoc basis. The Exchange is the SHRP's human rights blog and is hosted on our website. Whenever an idea for an article about human rights pops up in your head, write it out and submit it to us! If it's coherent and relevant, we'll probably publish it.
3. You can also support us by attending our events, which include lectures, roundtable discussions and film screenings. If you're into mooting, you may even want to give our ECHR moot competition a go!
4. Talk about us, and about human rights. Word of mouth goes a long way in publicising something, and what better way to create a culture of human rights than to discuss those rights? It will also help us grow and achieve bigger and greater goals.
5. If you have doubts about joining us, or about anything, just come have a chat with us after this presentation, and we'll try to see how you can contribute!