



NEWSLETTER

October 2019

Welcome

It is a great pleasure to introduce this newsletter, detailing the work undertaken within the Human Rights Centre (HRC) over the course of the last year. This issue has proved difficult to compile and curate due to the volume of cutting-edge work being carried out by students, members and fellows on enduring and emerging human rights issues. Indeed, these pages are just a snapshot of the human rights activity currently happening at Essex. Our work continues to be focused on connecting theory to practice at the international, national and local level and ensuring that our research makes a difference in the 'real' world. The pages that follow are full of examples of students' and colleagues' leadership, influencing policy and practice, setting agendas and partnering with a wide range of organisations across the world to fill gaps in human rights law and protection and to ensure that existing standards are implemented and operationalised.

This year, the Centre has continued to expand through an increased programme of work with partners within East Anglia. This follows our decision three years ago to make work in our own region a strategic priority for the Centre. The Centre has also expanded through the establishment of our new Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub. We have also just launched our new podcast series, RIGHTSCAST, with a range of interviews and conversations with leading human rights scholars and practitioners.

In the last year, we have welcomed many new members to the Centre from different disciplines as well as our new Senior Research Officer, Dr Katya Alkhateeb.

We would like to thank everyone who has given their time to the Centre in the last year, particularly external speakers who so generously come to Essex to speak to us about their work, contributors to our blog and new podcast series, and our project partners and donors.

We already have an exciting events programme secured for the year, which we will be sharing with you shortly. We look forward to working with you in the next year!

Professor Lorna McGregor
Director, Human Rights Centre
On behalf of the Human Rights Centre team

In this issue

- Highlights from HRC Hubs, Networks and Projects
- Highlights from the HRC Clinic
- Student Events and Activities
- HRC Events
- Fellows in Focus
- Member in Focus
- Alumni Focus
- Latest Publications from Members, Fellows & Alumni

News from the HRC's Hubs, Networks and Projects

Launch of the Armed Conflict and Acute Crisis Hub

The **Essex Armed Conflict and Acute Crisis Hub** was launched in February 2019. Led by HRC member Professor Noam Lubell, the Hub brings together researchers and external partners working in the field of armed conflict and acute crisis. It aims to foster development and multidisciplinary collaboration on humanitarian concerns and to continue to maximise the practical impact of Essex's work in this area. The Hub's expertise crosses disciplinary boundaries and includes experts in international law (the law of armed conflict, international refugee law, and international criminal law), social work, media studies, history of conflict, and more.

Projects underway include **Investigating Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict: Law, Policy, and Good Practice**. The **Investigations Guidelines** were formally launched online on 16 September in a series of events around the world. The Guidelines draw on common elements found in international law, domestic law and policy, and are informed by State practice. They provide clarity on a number of issues of the investigative process, including the circumstances in which investigations should be triggered, the different forms investigations may take depending on the nature of an incident, and the principles and standards applicable during the investigation process. The 16 guidelines are each accompanied by a commentary, which provides clarification on the scope of each guideline and gives further indication on how each could be implemented in practice. With research based at the University of Essex by HRC member Claire Simmons, the project is led by Professor Lubell with our partner the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and was joined in 2017 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as partners to the project. For more information, please contact the Hub [here](#).

In July 2019, The Essex Armed Conflict held a two-day workshop on **Gender Perspectives on Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Responses: A Dialogue on the Sahel Region, the Horn of Africa and North Africa**. HRC members, Dr Carla Ferstman and Dr Emily Jones, organised an expert workshop at the School of Law and the HRC, in association with the Essex Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub. The meeting brought together academics and practitioners working on gender, peace and security in the countries and regions of focus. The participants analysed the challenges associated with the women, peace and security and counter-terrorism frameworks, from a feminist perspective. They primarily considered the ways in which the international and regional frameworks represent diverse perspectives and views and how they can better do so. The meeting provided an opportunity to share experiences and practices, to develop common understandings and to map out how global feminist scholarly and activist communities can constructively engage with these debates. The next phases of the work will extend and deepen these collaborations, which are vital to address such complex and multidisciplinary issues.



Gender Perspectives on Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Responses workshop on the first day



Professor Wayne Martin in a workshop

The Essex Autonomy Project

Researchers associated with the Essex Autonomy Project, led by Professor Wayne Martin, have reached the half-way point on a five-year project as part of the Wellcome-Funded **Mental Health and Justice** Project. The EAP workstream is conducting research on the concept of "patient insight" (on patients' awareness of their own medical condition). This research will ultimately provide the basis for guidelines for clinical and legal professionals who are involved in gathering, reporting and adjudicating evidence of patient insight.

The Autonomy Project team continues to deliver human rights training to frontline care workers around the country and around the world. Professor Martin, Director of the Project, has recently been appointed to the Judicial College, where he has been training Court of Protection judges in the interpretation and application of key human rights provisions of The Mental Capacity Act (2005). In the last year the team has delivered training to social workers in Essex, Sussex, the West Midlands, Northumbria and Greater London, and to psychiatrists in NHS Sussex and NHS Wales, and worked with partners in France, Germany, Peru, Canada, Israel, South Africa, India, and Zambia.

From 11-13 July 2019, the 8th Annual Autonomy Project held its Summer School at the Wivenhoe House Hotel. Delegates included lawyers, psychiatrists, service users, activists and researchers from, inter alia, England, Wales, France, the Czech Republic, and Peru.

Looking ahead, members of the research team will be providing research support to the upcoming Scott Review of the Mental Health Act (Scotland). This follows the contributions made by members of the team to the recent Wessely Review of the Mental Health Act in England and Wales. As these two reviews make clear, issues about human rights and mental health care are increasingly drawing the attention of policy makers. The EAP team has also contributed to an international network of experts and activists who are seeking to develop new strategies and practices for ensuring inclusive access to contractual relationships along with robust protection for human rights.

Essex Business and Human Rights Project (EBHR)

Essex Business and Human Rights Project (EBHR), led by Professor Sheldon Leader, addresses the demands of human rights impact on businesses. In April 2019, Dr Tara Van Ho, Dr Chiara Macchi and Luis Felipe Yanés published a report on the business and human rights responsibilities of institutional investors when investing in businesses operating in occupied territories. The report, commissioned by the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees and Norwegian People's Aid, focuses on how the Norwegian state pension fund (also known as the Norwegian Oil Fund) has addressed the human rights impacts caused or contributed to by non-Palestinian companies operating in Area C of the West Bank.

In May and June 2019, Dr Van Ho and Dr Anil Yilmaz Vastardis submitted two Rule 15 letters to the UK Supreme Court in the case of *Okpabi and others v Royal Dutch Shell Plc* and another [2018] EWCA Civ 191, supporting the application of the Plaintiffs to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal. The letters were signed by leading academics and practitioners specialising in business and human rights. The case concerns a mass tort claim by 40,000 Nigerian farmers and fishermen against Royal Dutch Shell and its Nigerian subsidiary SPDC arising from the pollution caused by oil leaks from the company's pipelines. The letters argued that the Court of Appeal's interpretation of the question of duty of care within corporate groups was incompatible with the established tort law principles on negligence. In July 2019, the Supreme Court granted permission to appeal the Court of Appeal's judgment.

Dr Van Ho also wrote a letter, together with Dr Cathal Doyle from Middlesex, to ICANN, the international organisation in charge of internet domain names. The letter sought to inform ICANN of relevant international human rights law, namely the rights of indigenous peoples and the responsibilities of businesses, that should have informed its decision in a petition by the Amazon corporation to receive exclusive rights to the top-level domain name 'amazon'.

Since June 2018, EBHR leads the **UK Business and Human Rights' Scholars Network**, a multi-disciplinary academic network, which brings together scholars interested in all areas of business and human rights from any discipline. The goal of the Network is to create space and opportunities for scholars researching, teaching and working in this area to establish links, discuss ideas, and develop inter or multi-disciplinary research. The second workshop of the Network was held in London in March 2019 and co-organized with **The British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL)** and the University of Greenwich. Members presented their research works in progress, followed by a book panel open to public discussing Grietje Baars' upcoming book: *The Corporation, Law and Capitalism*.

On 12-13 September 2019, EBHR hosted the **Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association** and the **Teaching Business and Human Rights Forum**, two of the world's leading academic organisations in the field. Over two days, approximately 40 scholars shared their working papers and discuss their teaching strategies.

The Essex Transitional Justice Network (ETJN) celebrates its 10th anniversary

In July 2019, the ETJN, led by Professors Sabine Michalowski and Clara Sandoval, marked its 10th anniversary with the **Annual Lecture** delivered by Professor Fabian Salvioli, UN Special Rapporteur for the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence on "Transitional Justice and Human Rights: Reflections on a complex relationship".

ETJN Members have also been busy pursuing research and impact in their areas of expertise. Key to the Network's current research/impact agenda are the areas of accountability of third party actors in Colombia for the role they played in the commission of mass atrocities, as well as reparations for victims of gross human rights violations and serious violations of humanitarian law. Both co-directors of the Network, Professors Michalowski and Sandoval have been doing key work in this area.

In September 2019, Professor Fabian Salvioli presented his first **report** to the Human Rights Council on Domestic Reparation Programmes: Lessons Learned. Professor Sandoval was an expert consultant to support the writing process of this report given her research and knowledge in this area.

ETJN would also like to extend a warm welcome to Professor Lars Waldorf who joins the School of Law, HRC and the ETJN this September. Professor Waldorf is a prominent transitional justice academic with whom the Network has had a very close relationship since before its creation.



Prof. Salvioli, Prof. Michalowski and Prof. Sandoval during the ETJN Annual Lecture 2019

HRBDT: Advancing Human Rights in the Age of AI and the Digital Society

The ESRC **Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project (HRBDT)** led by Professor Lorna McGregor identifies the challenges and opportunities for human rights posed by big data and emerging technologies, including AI, and makes proposals for governance and regulatory responses. In the last year, HRBDT has issued a number of key publications. These include, **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: Putting Human Rights at the Heart of the Design, Development and Deployment of Artificial Intelligence** authored by Lorna McGregor, Vivian Ng and Ahmed Shaheed with contributions from a range of team members. This publication demonstrates the potential for all human rights to be affected by the use of big data and AI and makes the case for a human rights-based approach and was discussed during a side event HRBDT organised with the Universal Rights Groups and key states at the **Human Rights Council during its 40th session**. This argument is further developed in Professor McGregor, Dr Daragh Murray and Vivian Ng's article, **'International Human Rights Law as a Framework for Algorithmic Accountability'**, published in the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*. In July 2019, the Project published the first independently funded academic report into the use of live facial recognition technology by a UK police force. The report, authored by Professor Pete Fussey and Dr Daragh Murray, raises concerns about the Metropolitan Police's procedures, practices and human rights compliance during the trials. In the Project's work on health and AI, Dr Carmel Williams and Professor Paul Hunt published an article in the *Journal of Human Rights Practice* on **'Using Big Data to Demonstrate Indivisibility of Rights and Promote Cross-Sectoral Responses to the Sustainable Development Goals'**. In the Project's work on developing new approaches to human rights and humanitarian work using computational techniques, Grigorous Kalliatakis, Shoaib Ehsan, Ales Leonardis, Maria Fasli and Klaus McDonald Maier published an article in *IEEE Access* on **'Exploring Object-Centric and Scene-Centric CNN Features and Their Complementarity for Human Rights Violations Recognition in Images'** which explores how potential abuses of human rights of displaced people could be inferred from images. A range of other publications issued in the last year are available on HRBDT's website and all are open access.

HRBDT has also made a range of policy submissions within the UK and internationally, such as to **the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Consultation on the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation** and **the UN Secretary-General High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation**. HRBDT also ran a number of expert workshops including on the need for a human rights based approach to the use of open source data for human rights investigations with the University of California, Berkeley School of Law; on a right to human decision-making with Hebrew University; and on consent in the digital age and jointly organising a consultation on non-state non-judicial grievance mechanisms in the digital age with the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Tunisia. This is in addition to a number of keynote and panel presentations throughout the world. HRBDT has also launched a new postgraduate module on AI and Human Rights, which will begin this academic year.



Led by Professor Geoff Gilbert, HRBDT also hosted a symposium of the **Global Protection Cluster** at Essex on 'The use of data to promote age, gender and diversity mainstreaming'. The **Global Protection Cluster** is the UN body responsible for protecting conflict-driven internally displaced persons. At present, there are about 130 million persons of concern to the UN (43m IDPs) who are caught up in conflicts in places such as Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and Ukraine. Necessarily, the relevant humanitarian actors are trying to bring some order to those situations and this symposium sought to ensure that no-one's needs go unmet due to issues around age, gender and diversity. The aim of the Symposium was to bring together experts in protection and in information management from humanitarian situations across the world, government, international organisations and academics for an exploration about what is and is not possible for humanitarian agencies to do in promoting AGDM through data: to challenge all these actors to do more and better, but to set realistic expectations of what can be achieved. It followed on a long association between the GPC and the HRBDT Project that has sought to ensure that the academic research has an impact in some of the world's most acute crises

Launch of the International Guidelines in Human Rights and Drug Policy (HRDP)



Alongside the **International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy (HRDP)**, hosted by the HRC and led by **Julie Hannah**, a coalition of United Nations Member States, United Nations entities and leading human rights experts launched a landmark set of international legal standards to transform and reshape global responses to the world drug problem in March 2019. Co-sponsored by the WHO, the UNAIDS, and UNDP, the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy introduce a comprehensive catalogue of human rights standards.

More than a dozen Essex academics and visiting scholars contributed to the development of the Guidelines, an initiative that was led from Essex by HRDP Director, Julie Hannah. The Guidelines have already been cited in national jurisprudence and in a range of United Nations, civil society, and academic publications, including a recent Supreme Court decision in Colombia.

The Human Rights Law Implementation Project (HRLIP)

On 14 June 2019, the Human Rights Law Implementation Project (HRLIP) co-sponsored an international conference in London at Travers Smith, with the HRC at the University of Essex, the Human Rights Law Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol, the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law on 'Current Issues and Common Challenges for the Protection of Human Rights in Europe, Africa and the Americas'. All HRLIP investigators, including Professor Rachel Murray, Professor Philip Leach, Professor Clara Sandoval, Dr Alice Donald and Anne Katrin Speck shared some of their major findings on the role of supranational human rights bodies in triggering, cajoling and monitoring implementation by States of their decisions at the domestic level. The HRLIP will be publishing a Special Issue of the *Journal of Human Rights Practice* (Oxford University Press) later in 2019, with the major findings of their three-year ESRC funded project.

The HRC and HRLIP are very pleased to share the news that Anne-Katrin Speck, a former LLM student at Essex, and senior researcher at the HRLIP, became co-director of the European Implementation Network in September 2018.

Human Rights in East Anglia Outreach

A strategic priority for the Centre is to increase the HRC's work within East Anglia to ensure that we are not only a leading international human rights centre but also heaving within the local community. In the last year we have been able to intensify this work through engagement with local communities. The Centre's engagement with promoting human rights in the East Anglia region is based upon establishing effective relationships with a number of local governmental and non-governmental bodies and organisations. The HRC provides a powerful expertise resource, which aims to provide support to various ongoing and prospective human rights-based campaigns and initiatives.

One highlight of the East Anglia outreach project includes the strong connections that the Centre formed with a number of local community groups based in Jaywick and Clacton. Following on from the support both the HRC and the HRC Clinic gave to the official **visit** of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights to Jaywick in November 2018, the HRC initiated and co-organised a follow-up local community **event** held in Jaywick on 2 July. Other contributors included Unite Community, the Jaywick Happy Club, Just Fair and the Essex Law Clinic. The event addressed the many ways in which the systemic human rights challenges identified in the Special Rapporteur's UK country report can begin to be effectively challenged with the support of the HRC. The HRC has several distinct plans for developing collaborative work in Jaywick and Clacton in the coming year and beyond. Other elements of the HRC's local outreach project include the establishment of a collaborative relationship with Colchester Borough Council, which will enable the local authority to develop a more distinctly human rights-based approach to specific areas of its work and responsibilities. The Centre also contributed to the Colchester Pride event in late June 2019 in an attempt to underline the human rights-based dimensions of the rights and entitlements of the LGBTQ community.

The HRC East Anglia Outreach Project is currently being led by the HRC's Co-Deputy director, Dr Andrew Fagan with the support of several members, including the School of Law's Jude Bueno de Mesquita and Lucy Davies in the Essex Law Clinic.



News from the Human Rights Centre Clinic

On 25 February 2019, the Essex Law and **Human Rights Clinic** marked its 10th anniversary. Honorary guests included Christina Blacklaws, President of the Law Society of England and Wales and Dr Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Co-Deputy Director of the HRC. The Director of the Human Rights Clinic, Dr Palacios Zuloaga emphasised how the HRC Clinic is not only making change and impacting lives here today but is also helping to shape those that will lead the human rights movement tomorrow.

On 15 July 2019, the Clinic celebrated graduation with current and former members of the HRC Clinic in the Secret Garden at the Colchester campus and graduating members were able to speak to current students about life beyond the University and to give them useful tips on employability in the human rights field.



Dr Patricia Palacios Zuloaga and Dr Tara Van Ho celebrating graduation with the HRC clinic current and former clinic students

The HRC Clinic has successfully completed another year in its efforts to support its partners' advocacy around the world. During this academic year, it produced in-depth research reports for Amnesty International, the Centre for Justice and Accountability, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the International Commission of Jurists, NoBox Transitions Foundation along with the Philippine Commission on Human Rights and the University of the Philippines, and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. In addition, the Clinic's Digital Verification Unit has completed several impactful investigations and has continued to work hard on advocacy for death row prisoners with Reprieve. This year the HRC Clinic was also able to begin implementing new ad-hoc short-term projects that respond to urgent requests for assistance from partners in the field. So far the Clinic has assisted in the writing of a report on dual-national detainees in Iran and **supported** the visit of Professor Philip Alston, the UN special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights to the Essex town of Jaywick. The Clinic is also working with UNAIDS on a study of amicus briefs and is assisting a member of the Council of Europe Expert Council on NGO Law in the preparation of a report on the criminalisation of NGO activity in Council of Europe states.

Building on the success of these efforts to expand its work across different fields and areas of human rights practice, the Clinic plans to continue to work in as many different ways as possible to transfer its expertise to the field of human rights and to offer training and work experience to human rights students at Essex. Clinic Director Dr Patricia Palacios Zuloaga is currently constructing the portfolio of projects that the Clinic will offer to students during the 2019-2020 academic year and will publicise its offering in September. For more information, please see the Clinic [website](#).

Digital Verification Unit (DVU) takes on new projects with external partners

The HRC Clinic Digital Verification Unit, led by Dr Daragh Murray, Dr Katya Alkhateeb and Sam Dubberley conducts open source investigations into suspected violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The DVU's principal partner is Amnesty International and through Amnesty International, the Unit partners with the University of Pretoria, the University of California Berkeley, the University of Toronto, the University of Cambridge and Hong Kong University to conduct large-scale investigations. This collaboration played a key role in relation to Amnesty International and Airwar's landmark investigation into civilian casualties arising as a result of the US-led coalition's campaign to retake Raqqa from the Islamic State. This was arguably the most comprehensive independent investigation into civilian deaths in modern armed conflict ever conducted.

The Unit also entered into partnership with two UN investigative bodies, conducting research to support their mandate. The Unit also partnered with the Centre for Climate Crime Analysis (CCCA) to conduct an investigation into the human rights and environmental impact associated with the Cerro de Pasco mine in Peru. Their work contributed to a report prepared by CCCA and submitted to the Norwegian Council on Ethics of the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global. In CCCA's report a causal nexus between the human and environmental contamination in Cerro de Pasco and the local operator's mining activities was established, and a request was made that the Pension fund divest from these operations. Members of the Unit also participated in the **Amnesty International Digital Verification Corps Summit in Hong Kong** in June 2019.



Student Trips to Geneva and Kosovo

Each year the HRC organises two **study trips** to Geneva and Kosovo, which provide students with invaluable opportunities to engage with human rights professionals, organisations, and institutions, and offer an insight into the practical application of human rights.

The Geneva trip was from 12 to 15 March 2019. One of the HRC students, Murad Rustambayli said, "I genuinely enjoyed both experiences and wouldn't hesitate to re-join the trips if I had chance again. Geneva was crucial since it was a wonderful chance to closely observe, among others, the procedures of Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Committee and to get insights on the reporting and feedback dynamics in two separate machinery bodies."



The Kosovo trip was from 18 to 23 June 2019. Carla Boulos said of the trip, "The Kosovo study visit was instrumental in my learning experience; it has given me hope that my country Syria will be fine again".



HRC students at Ombudsman office, Kosovo



"This is our Kosovo trip. One trip, 30 people & 23 nationalities - this is Essex HRC is about" says Thamisa Gonzalez De Oliveira, current LLM student

Human Rights in Asia conference

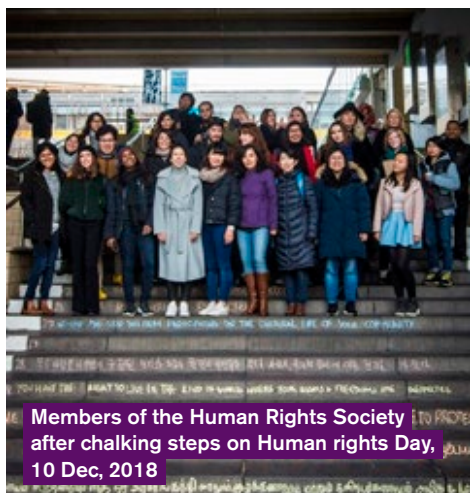
Each year, a team of LLM and MA students decides on a timely topic and organises a conference on "Human Rights in Asia" with the support and supervision of HRC fellow, Dr Sanae Fujita. The 11th Human Rights in Asia Conference was held on 23 March 2019 under the theme: "Shadow behind the Light: Economic Development and Human Rights". This year's keynote speakers were Professor Rhona Smith, the UN Special Rapporteur on Cambodia, Professor Javaid Rehman, the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran, and Dr Ahmed Shaheed, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. For more information, please see the final [report](#).



Dr Sanae Fujita and HRC organising student group of the Human Rights in Asia Conference

Human Rights Week 2018

Each year, members of the **Human Rights Society** and HRC chalk the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights onto the steps between Squares 3 and 4 at the Colchester Campus. This year, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Declaration, the group also chalked Red Lion Yard in Colchester on Monday, 10 December.



Members of the Human Rights Society after chalking steps on Human rights Day, 10 Dec, 2018



End of Year Party

The End of Year Party is an annual celebration to mark the end of the academic year at the HRC. Carrying on the tradition, Lyn Rodley (Professor Sir Nigel Rodley's widow) kindly hosted the party for all those connected to the HRC. The event was held on 17 June 2019.



HRC students and staff in the End of Year Party carrying on the tradition at Sir Nigel Rodley's and Lynn Rodley's house

Events at the centre during the 2018/2019 academic year



Dr Gabriela Echeverria

As always, the Centre hosted many leading human rights scholars and practitioners throughout the year. In addition to the weekly speaker series, expert meetings and conferences organised by the Centre's hubs, networks, projects, Clinic and student-led activities, key events included:

The Long Haul Film Premiere

On 12 February, the HRC hosted the **premiere** of **The Long Haul: pressure, persuasion, patience'**

The documentary was produced by **Human Rights in the Picture**. Inspired by the life the late

Professor Sir Nigel Rodley—one of the principal architects of the modern human rights framework—the documentary addresses the current backlash on human rights and how best to respond.

At the premiere, Dr Gabriela Echeverria, the Executive Producer of The Long Haul and who's PhD was supervised by Sir Nigel said that "the film was a tribute to someone who had a huge impact on her life professionally and at a personal level." Dr Echeverria writes the following piece in honour of Sir Rodley.

"I never really went into this work expecting to have overnight results [...] It's a long haul. One has to recognize it's a long haul, not pretend that you can get instant results." Professor Sir Nigel Rodley, Geneva 2017

The struggle for human rights has always been an uphill battle. However, the current attacks on the rule of law, international human rights, and democratic institutions ask for joint and urgent action. The aim of The Long Haul is to spark debate on the current backlash, inspire people to act and respond, and through screenings and debates help create the needed space to think, reflect and strategize on the future of human rights.

Sir Nigel's remarkable life story is an inspiration to stand up against wrongdoing and to continue fighting for equality and justice. His lifelong determination was to preserve and protect the legacy of the Nuremberg trials by combating human rights violations and abuse of state power. Nigel's journey as the son of a WWII Jewish German refugee in the UK, as a jurist, as an activist, as a human rights law professor, as a UN expert, illustrates the development of the modern human rights system. At the same time, his family history is a reminder of the tragedies that gave birth to the modern human rights regime and what could happen if we fail to honour these basic rights.

Quickly after starting to work in this project, it became clear it was impossible to make a movie about Nigel's life and legacy without addressing today's backlash on human rights. More than 25 international experts were interviewed, including friends and colleagues of Nigel, who expressed their views on the current situation; the attacks on fundamental human rights standards; and the strategies for the future. It was important therefore to create a tool that could contribute to the political and legal debate on this topic.

As a former PhD student of Nigel, participating in this initiative was a unique experience. I was able to honour someone who had a huge impact in my life professionally and at a personal level. It was a way to thank my supervisor and my mentor. It has also been an opportunity to elaborate over today's human rights challenges and the viable strategies to protect them.



Honouring Emeritus Professor Françoise Hampson

On 8 March 2019, the HRC in collaboration with Essex Law School held a **conference** in honour of Emeritus Professor Françoise Hampson in the Hexagon Gallery in Colchester. It brought together a distinguished group of human rights and humanitarian law panellists, who worked closely with Professor Hampson through the years and considered her a mentor, advisor, and friend (the full programme is available [here](#)).

The panels discussed key topics that covered much of Professor Hampson's significant impact on international law. These included her vision for the operationalisation of public international law including through her work on the UN Sub-Committee on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, her ground-breaking litigation before the European Commission and the European Court of Human Rights, her impact on key issues in the law of armed conflict, and her perspective on the future of human rights.

In addition to the impressive academic discussions on offer were a great number of personal anecdotes, which went to the heart of all those who know Professor Hampson. During the closing session, a live band played Françoise's favourite songs—a befitting end to a day that celebrated a distinguished career and echoed a commitment to the future of human rights throughout the world.

"Françoise is the only person I know who simultaneously: a. perfectly masters IHL and Human Rights Law; b. keeps the two separate without denying interactions; c. suggests in both branches and when it comes to their interaction realistic solutions; and d. is able to speak to both epistemic communities without antagonizing any of them. All this combined with a kind personality and genuine commitment to human beings, both students and persons affected by armed conflict and human rights violations."

Professor Marco Sassòli, Director of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and the Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists



Current Issues in Armed Conflict CIAC:

On the 27 June 2019, the HRC, the Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub and the Essex Transitional Justice Network co-organized with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the 3rd edition of the Conference on Current Issues in Armed Conflict (CIAC). Around 75 participants (students, scholars, diplomats, as well as representatives of international organizations and NGOs) discussed contemporary and topical legal issues related to armed conflict.

The event provided a unique opportunity for discussion, analysis and debate in order to ensure the continued relevance of academia's contribution to the various branches of international law applicable to armed conflicts.



Human Rights Summer School 2019

The HRC Research Methods Summer School an annual five-day Summer School, was held from 1-5 July 2019. The summer school covered core methods and skills needed to carry out human rights research for academic scholarship, bids for large research projects and reports for NGOs, governments and international organisations.



The Paradox of Creative Constraints

On the 7th of September 2019, Shohini Chaudhry, a member of the HRC, curated a symposium titled “**The Paradox of Creative Constraints**” at The Mosaic Rooms in London. It was a day of film screenings and panel discussions with filmmakers, funders and programmers, exploring the limits on free expression and creative solutions in contemporary cinema from the Middle East.

Honouring Professor Sheldon Leader:

On 14 of September 2019, the HRC in collaboration with the Essex School of Law held a conference in honour of Professor Leader in the Lakeview Room, Silberrad Centre. The conference celebrated Professor Leader's contributions by using his work as a means to explore some of the most pressing and enduring challenges confronting legal theory, labour law and business and human rights. The workshop began with reflections on Sheldon's philosophical arguments over the nature of rights before moving on to consider his impact on labour law. After two sessions on economic actors and business and human rights, a panel of practitioners explained how Sheldon influenced their work. It was revealed how deeply Sheldon's work had influenced the development of the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**, currently the most authoritative statement on international law's approach to the balance of rights and responsibilities and when businesses negatively impact human rights. Andrea Shemberg, now the Chair of the Steering Group of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, recounted how Sheldon had worked with her when she was an intern at Amnesty International to address the impact stabilisation clauses had on international law. When Andrea moved to working with then UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, John Ruggie, she took the lessons of her partnership with Sheldon with her. Those lessons and Sheldon's insight are now codified in two of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Andrea also credited the respect Sheldon showed her, and the value of their partnership, with launching her career in what was then an under-developed field.

The conference brought together a distinguished group of human rights and human rights in business panellists, who had worked closely with Professor Leader through the years and considered him a mentor, advisor, and friend. Along with Andrea Shemberg, speakers included Professor Pascal Lokiec, Professor Albert Weale, Halton Cheadle, Vinerian Professor Hugh Collins, Professor Antoine Lyon-Caen, Chiara Macchi, Professor Danny Bradlow, Youseph Farah, Professor Michael Addo, Professor Doug Cassel, Rasmiya Kazimova and Charles Abrahams.

Members in focus

In addition to the policy and practical work done by the Hubs, Networks, Projects and Clinics, many of the HRC's members engage in practice.

The HRC is proud to **announce** the **shortlisting** of Professor Lorna Woods and Dr. Daragh Murray for the national **Times Higher Education (THE)** Awards for their impact work.

Professor Lorna Woods, has been shortlisted with Will Perrin for Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Together, they developed **a legal framework to protect internet users**.

Professor Woods was also cited by the Science and Technology Committee for the evidence she provided for the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, Impact of social media and screen-use on young people's health, 31 January 2019. Online at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmsctech/822/82202.htm>

Social Media Services, House of Lords, Question for Short Debate, 12 November 2018. Professor Woods, asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara, was cited in columns 1766 and 1774, referred to as the author of the version of the concept. Online at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-11-12/debates/DF630121-FFEF-49D5-B812-3ABBE43371FA/SocialMediaServices>

The second shortlisting, for International Collaboration of the Year, recognises the work of **Essex Digital Verification Unit (DVU)**, led by **Dr Daragh Murray** and based at the **HRC Clinic**. Essex DVU joined five other global universities to help deliver a ground-breaking report by **Amnesty International**.

Liz Fisher-Frank has also been appointed to the Law Society's Family Law Committee, in recognition of her family law expertise.

Highlights from this year, include the work of Dr Ahmed Shaheed



Dr Ahmed Shaheed UN Special Rapporteur on the on freedom of religion or belief

Dr Ahmed Shaheed, Senior Lecturer in the School of Law and Co-Deputy Director of the HRC, was reappointed by UN Human Rights Council at its 40th session in March 2019, for a further term of three years as United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. His thematic reports to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly has focused on advancing the implementation of human

rights and on the overlaps between freedom of religion or belief and other rights, such as freedom of expression and gender equality. In the academic year 2018-19, he convened consultations in nine countries on the phenomenon of antisemitism for his report to the General Assembly this October. He has also conducted several workshops on the intersection of freedom of religion or belief and gender equality for a report to the Human Rights Council for March 2020. His engagement with States has had good impact as in the revival of the stalled 'Istanbul Process' on implementing Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 on addressing incitement to violence and discrimination. He has partnered with Human Rights Clinic on several projects related to his UN work. Beyond his UN mandate, he has worked with the Convention against Torture Initiative to increase ratifications of UNCAT. In 2016, he successfully petitioned the UN Human Rights Committee to prevent the Maldives from resuming executions ending a 60-year moratorium, and he proceeded to win the particular case on its merits at the HRC Committee in 2018.

Fellows in focus

HRC fellows in focus for this issue are Charles Garraway, Mervat Rishmawi and Graham Dossett.

Charles Garraway served for thirty years as a legal officer in the British Army Legal Services, initially as a criminal prosecutor but latterly as an adviser in the law of armed conflict and operational law. He worked for the British Red Cross from 2007 to 2011 and now works as an independent consultant. He was appointed a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2002 and received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Essex in 2012.

In 2018 Charles Garraway was appointed as a member of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen and continues to be a member for the year 2019. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/36/31 established the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen (GEE) in 2017. Its mandate was, inter alia, to "carry out a comprehensive examination of all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights and other appropriate and applicable fields of international law committed by all parties to the conflict since September 2014, including possible gender dimensions of such violations".

The Mandate of the Group was renewed for a further year on 28 September 2018 and a further Report is to be submitted to the High Commissioner who will report to the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council in September 2019.



Mervat Rishmawi



Mervat Rishmawi

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights

Mervat Rishmawi, HRC Fellow, authored a resource manual in Arabic on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, together with three booklets on role of parliaments, civil society, and trade unions, in the

Sustainable Development Agenda. The resource manual and booklets are part of the project "Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Civil Society Agenda", implemented by the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND). They elaborate various aspects of the Agenda and SDGs, and show the link between the human rights framework and obligations under international law on the one hand, and the 2030 Agenda, on the other. The project demonstrates in practical ways the essential need to understand the 2030 Agenda from human rights approach. A follow-up practical guide and series of trainings are planned, once funding is secured, to show how engagement with human rights mechanisms can strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Rishmawi's interest in the link between the 2030 Agenda and human rights has also led to co-authoring the blog "Torture prevention is an essential part of the sustainable development agenda", published by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT). She will be authoring a number of other similar blogs examining the link between other human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

■ **Graham Dossett** is a retired Superintendent of Police and an independent advisor in the field of policing and human rights. He has just accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Advisory Council of **Developing International Guidelines on Investigative Interviewing and Associated Safeguards**

When completed, this will close a significant gap in the existing raft of non-treaty instruments that apply to the work of police and security officials (and similar bodies) that strive to reduce the opportunity for the use of torture or inappropriate force.

The present project is being undertaken as a collaborative effort jointly by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the Anti-Torture Initiative (ATI) under the auspices of the American University Washington College of Law's Centre for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, with the ATI taking the lead as the principal convener of the process.

The role of the Advisory Council, a body that will comprise about thirty experts, will be to play a consultative role to that of the Steering Committee and to oversee the work of the specialist Drafting Groups as the work is undertaken.



Graham Dossett

Alumnus in focus



Dr Koldo Casla

Dr **Koldo Casla** is Research Associate at Newcastle University and Policy Director of Just Fair, a human rights NGO that monitors and campaigns for economic and social rights in the UK.

Koldo facilitated a number of meetings with the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Professor

Philip Alston, in London and Newcastle during the latter's country mission to the UK in November 2018. Just Fair organised an open mic event in Newham, East London, where people with direct experience of poverty shared their testimonies and opinions with Professor Alston (video).

In a recent contribution to the Huffington Post, Koldo summarised the campaign against poverty in the following terms:

We need a radical change to establish the sort of society we want to become. The past decade (and earlier) has seen community resilience, wellbeing and social rights undermined by austerity policies and welfare cuts. This small state programme, antithetical to the vision of Beveridge and others, has remade British society and denied many the chance to thrive. As observed by Professor Alston: 'austerity could easily have spared the poor, if the political will had existed to do so'. His report is an opportunity to establish our own new vision and to renew our commitments to real equality and social rights for all. Others did it before in the direst of circumstances. We can do it again! (Koldo Casla, **Huffington Post May 2019**).

Together with six other academics and practitioners, Dr Casla recently co-drafted and presented the first ever draft Bill on Economic and Social Rights ever written in the UK.

He holds a PhD in European and International Studies from King's College London (2017), a Fulbright MA in International Studies from the University of Denver (2011), an MA in Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex (2009), and a Law Degree from the University of the Basque Country, Spain (2008).

Between 2011 and 2013, Dr Casla was the Chief of Staff of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Basque Country ("Ararteko"). He has worked as a research consultant for Amnesty International on the rights to health, education and housing in Spain.

Dr Casla's recent book is **Politics of International Human Rights Law Promotion in Western Europe: Order versus Justice** (Routledge, 2019)

HRC members, fellows, and alumni recent publications and impact activities

1. Alejandro Anaya-Muñoz, 'Bringing Willingness Back in: State Capacities and the Human Rights Compliance Deficit in Mexico,' (2019) 41 *Human Rights Quarterly*
2. Andrew Fagan, 'The Gentrification of Human Rights,' (2019) 41 *Human Rights Quarterly*
3. Aoife Duffy, 'Torture and Human Rights in Northern Ireland: Interrogation in Depth,' (Focus, 2019)
4. Ashley Deeks, Noam Lubell, and Daragh Murray, 'Machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the use of force by States,' (2019) *Journal of National Security Law and Policy*
5. Carla Ferstman, *Contemporary Human Rights Challenges: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its Continuing Relevance*, (Routledge, 2018). See link here to Routledge featured author interview about the publication: <https://www.routledge.com/informalaw/posts/featured-author-carla-ferstman>
6. Carla Ferstman, 'Reparations for Mass Torts involving the United Nations: Misguided Exceptionalism in Peacekeeping Operations,' (2019) 16 (1) *International Organizations Law Review*
7. Carla Ferstman, and Meryll Lawry-White, 'Participation, Reparation and Redress: Draft Article 12 of the ILC's Draft Articles on Crimes Against Humanity at the Intersection of International Criminal Law and Human Rights Law,' (2018) 16 (4) *Journal of International Criminal Justice*
8. Carla Ferstman, 'The right to reparation for victims of armed conflict,' In: *The Grey Zone: Civilian Protection Between Human Rights and the Laws of War*, eds. Lattimer, M. and Sands, P., (Hart, 2019)
9. Carla Ferstman, 'Reparation for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the (Post) Conflict Context: The Need to Address Abuses by Peacekeepers and Humanitarian Aid Workers,' in *Reparations for Victims of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity: Systems in Place and Systems in the Making*, (2nd edition, Brill, forthcoming 2019)
10. Charilaos Nikolaidis, 'Unravelling the Knot of Equality and Privacy in the European Court of Human Rights and the US Supreme Court: From Isonomia to Isotimia,' (2019) 18 *Human Rights Law Review*
11. Conor Foley, ed., *In Spite of You: Bolsonaro and the New Brazilian Resistance* (Or Book, 2019)
12. Daragh Murray and Pete Fussey, 'Bulk Surveillance in the Digital Age: Rethinking the Human Rights Law Approach to Bulk Monitoring of Communications Data,' (2019) 52 *Israel Law Review*
13. Francoise J. Hampson is a Commissioner in the **Commission of Enquiry on Burundi**. The third report of the Commission was available on the 4th of September 2019.
14. Francoise J. Hampson, 'Law of War/Law of Armed Conflict/ International Humanitarian Law' in *Conceptual and Contextual Perspectives on the Modern Law of Treaties*, eds Michael J. Bowman and Dino Kritsiotis, (CUP, 2018), pp.538-577
15. Geoff Gilbert and Anna Magdalena Rüsç, 'International Refugee and Migration Law', in *International Law*, ed. Evans, (5th ed., OUP, 2018), pp. 811-39
16. Geoff Gilbert, and Anna Magdalena Rüsç, 'Rule of Law and UN Interoperability,' 30 *International Journal of Refugee Law* 31-70 (2018)
17. Geoff Gilbert, 'Indicators for the Global Compact on Refugees' (2019) 30 *International Journal of Refugee Law* 635-39
18. Geoff Gilbert, 'Not Bound but Committed: Operationalizing the Global Compact on Refugees,' (2019) *International Migration*
19. Geoff Gilbert, 'Political participation of refugees in their country of nationality,' UNHCR Research Paper Series, November 2018 (12800 words)
20. Geoff Gilbert, UNHCR Individual Contribution, **Comment on Draft 1 GCR, The International Law of Voluntary Repatriation**, 19 Apr 2018
16. Geoff Gilbert, UNHCR Individual Contribution, Regarding **Draft 1: Squaring the Circle - A Non-Binding Document with Commitments**, 27 Mar 2018
17. Ian Neary, 'Dōwa Policy Projects as unfinished human rights business' in *Civil and Political Rights in Japan*, ed. Saul J Takahashi, (Routledge, 2019) pp 84-96
18. Ian Neary, 'From the (end of) Dōwa Policies to (the start of) an Anti-discrimination Policy?' December (2019) *Japan Forum*
19. James L. Cavallaro, Claret Vargas, Clara Sandoval, Bernard Duhaime, *Doctrine, Practice and Advocacy in the Inter-American Human Rights System*, (Oxford, 2019)
20. Lorna McGregor, Daragh Murray, and Vivian Ng, 'International Human Rights Law as a Framework for Algorithmic Accountability,' (2019) 68 *International & Comparative Law Quarterly*
21. Lorna McGregor, Rachel Murray, and Shirley Shipman, 'Should National Human Rights Institutions Institutionalize Dispute Resolution?' (2019) 41 *Human Rights Quarterly*
22. Lorna McGregor, '**Accountability for Governance Choices in Artificial Intelligence: Afterword to Eyal Benvenisti's Foreword**,' *European Journal of International Law*. 29 (4), 1079-1085
23. Lorna Wood, and Carmen Draghici, 'Killing Journalists is Not Media Regulation: Private Rights, Collective Wrongs and the Impact of Impunity,' *Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems* (2019) 28
24. Lorna McGregor, 'Are New Technologies an Aid to Reputation as a Disciplinarian?' *AJIL Unbound* (2019)
25. Pete Fussey and Daragh Murray, Independent Report on the London Metropolitan Police's Trial of Live Facial Recognition Technology, July 2019
26. Peter L. Patrick, Monika S. Schmid, and Karin Zwaan, eds., *Language Analysis for the Determination of Origin*, (Springer, 2019)
27. Sanja Bahun, 'Beyond Good and Evil? Popular songs, mathemes and bus rides (art and transition in the region of the former Yugoslavia),' 2019 *Media, War & Conflict*
28. **Sanae Fujita**, a fellow of the HRC, completed her Japan mission, which was held on the 17th May to the 22nd June 2019. She conducted her lectures and talks tour in Japan giving 22 lectures at 15 universities, 2 classes at 1 high school, 6 public events and 1 radio program.
29. Wayne Martin and Sándor Gurbai, 'Surveying the Geneva Impasse: Coercive Care and Human Rights,' *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* (2019) 46