

*The 12th Annual Human Rights in Asia Conference*

*Tuesday 7 July & Thursday 9 July 2020*

# Human Rights in Asia: Human Trafficking

Final Report - 19/08/2020

The 12th Annual  
**Human  
Rights  
In Asia  
Conference  
2020**  
Human Trafficking

7th and 9th July 2020  
University of Essex  
Colchester Campus

¥

10 human icons

   
@EssexHRinAsia

The poster features a red and black color scheme. The background is a silhouette of the Asian continent on a black field, with the text overlaid in white and red. At the bottom, there is a red Yen symbol (¥) and ten white human icons arranged in two rows of five. Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are located in the bottom left corner, along with the handle @EssexHRinAsia.

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgement.....	3
I. Background.....	4
II. The Conference Programme.....	5
III. Conference Summary .....	6
IV. Biographies of the Speakers .....	13
V. Human Rights in Asia Conference Student Committee.....	16

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA CONFERENCE 2020 HUMAN TRAFFICKING



## **Acknowledgement**

Each of the student participants would like to express their gratitude to every member of staff at the University of Essex who gave up their time to help contribute to this conference. While this was a student-led project, the guidance, support and assistance that was offered by many willing members of staff is what made this conference possible.

In particular we would like to take this opportunity to thank; Matthew Capes and Catherine Freeman for their logistical support and much needed coaching to ensure the smooth running of the conference; Dr Marija Jovanovic for her participation and interest in moderating one of our panels; Dr Andrew Fagan for his introductory remarks and input; and finally Dr Sanae Fujita for introducing us to, and guidance throughout, this worthwhile and rewarding project.

We would also like to thank each of the external speakers that gave up their time to contribute to the conference. Thank you for sticking with us throughout the pandemic and finding the time to take part once it was rescheduled. Your expertise and inputs are greatly appreciated, and we owe this conference to your participation. So, thank you; Professor Parosha Chandran; Sarah Mount; Hannah Bondi; Veerawit Tianchainan; Giang Nguyen; and Shovita Dhakal Adhikari.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude towards one another. This has been a turbulent year by any standards and yet we found the patience to work on this project throughout the entire academic year. While COVID-19 led to our in-person conference, due to be held in March 2020, being cancelled, the resilience and enthusiasm of the team facilitated an online format for the conference that allowed for the attendance of over 200 interested participants. We are grateful to one another for the opportunity to create something so worthwhile and the chance to develop lasting relationships in the process.

## **Background**

Since its first year in 2009, this student-led event has been used to mitigate the significant gap in our curriculum around the context of human rights in Asia. With the support and supervision of Human Rights Centre fellow, Dr Sanae Fujita, every year experts from the region are invited to share their research and experiences on timely issues such as: regional human rights mechanisms, development and human rights in Asia, natural disasters and human rights, human rights in Myanmar and human rights in South Asia.

This year's focus on human trafficking and its importance within the Asian context was largely inspired by the story of 39 Vietnamese individuals who were found dead in a lorry in Essex. The bodies were found in October, at the start of our academic course, which facilitated a larger conversation on the need for greater exposure on the issue of human trafficking as it relates to Asia. Pooling our internal experience and contacts, we began researching the topic and identifying key speakers to take part in our conference, which was originally scheduled for March 2020. Both the topic of human trafficking and geographic scale of Asia provided a multitude of avenues to pursue, so we decided to pursue a mixture of speakers that could provide insight across a range of mediums, whether: legal, academic, media or from an advocacy standpoint.

The conference offers participants an excellent opportunity to meet and network with fellow students, researchers, and human rights professionals interested in human rights issues in Asia, a geographical area traditionally overlooked in human rights discourse. This year, COVID-19 led to the cancelling of the conference almost exactly a week prior to its planned occurrence. Fortunately, owing to both internal and external support for the project we were able to facilitate a rescheduled, online format for the conference, which instead took place in July 2020.

## The Conference Programme

### Event 1 – International and regional perspectives

**Tuesday 7 July, 13:00-14:30 (BST) (starting at 12:00 UTC and 14:00 CEST)**

**Opening remarks from:**

Dr Andrew Fagan, Director of Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

Dr. Sanae Fujita, Fellow, School of Law – Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

**Moderated by:**

Dr Marija Jovanovic, Lecturer, School of Law and Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

**Speakers:**

Professor Parosha Chandran, Human Rights Barrister and Professor of Practice in Modern Slavery Law, King's College London

Sarah Mount, Freedom Fund

**Followed by Q&A**

### Event 2 – National Perspectives with a focus on Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal and India

**Thursday 9 July – 12:00-13:30 (BST) (starting at 11:00 UTC & 13:00 CEST)**

**Moderated by:**

Anila Baskar and Alana Meier, Student Coordinators for the Human Rights in Asia Conference

**Speakers:**

Hannah Bondi, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Veerawit Tianchainan, The Freedom Story

Giang Nguyen, News Editor, BBC Vietnamese World Service

Shovita Dhakal Adhikari, University of Bournemouth

**Followed by Q&A**

## Conference Summary

### *Opening remarks, Tuesday 7 July*

#### **Dr. Andrew Fagan, Director of Human Rights Centre, University of Essex**



Dr. Fagan began by stating how delighted he was to take part in this student-led Conference and warmly welcomed everyone that had taken the time to attend the conference as either listeners or as panellists. He explained that although the conference was previously scheduled to take place in March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it had to be postponed and revamped as a two part series. He also stressed the importance of the annual conference, which has focused on a key human rights concern every year.

Dr. Fagan then ended his welcome speech by praising the organisers of this year's Conference.

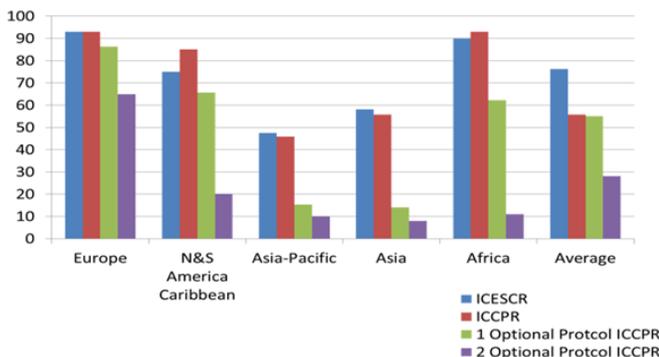
#### **Dr. Sanae Fujita, Fellow, Essex School of Law-Human Rights Center.**

Dr. Fujita provided an introduction to the conference and welcomed all the participants, guest speakers, and organizers. Dr. Fujita explained the conference changed its setting to online conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while previous year's conferences were held on-campus, and also expressed her appreciation to lots of alumni for attending the conference virtually from around the world.



She went on to explain how the idea to have a conference on human rights in Asia was first raised by eight students in 2008. There was no module covering human rights issues in the region, and the desire to learn more was the beginning of this student-led conference. Since then, she has been an advisor and has supported the event within a supervisory role. She highlighted how despite containing a significantly large population in comparison to Europe, the ratification of UN human rights conventions are very low, especially the optional protocols.

### Ratification



Source: COE-CAS research paper by Tetsuya Ouchi (2007)

Finally, she directed the focus to this year's topic of human trafficking. In this regard, a message from a former student of the University of Essex now working as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery was shared.

**Speakers: Tuesday 7 July**

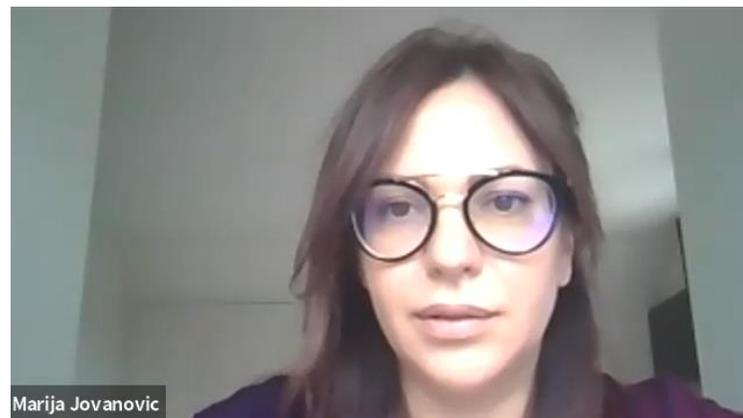
**Professor Parosha Chandran, Human Rights Barrister and Professor of Practice in Modern Slavery Law, King's College London**



Professor Parosha Chandran thanked Marija for the introduction and congratulated the University of Essex for its world leading reputation. She started her discussion by explaining the landmark *R v L and others* case in 2013, which she brought to the European Court of Human Rights. The case successfully changed the United Kingdom's law and policy, establishing that the non-punishment principle extends to those who are forced to commit drug offences such as cannabis cultivation.

She went on to discuss several aspects related to human trafficking. First, she gave an explanation of the issue of orphanage trafficking, which involves children being recruited from vulnerable families to be placed in institutions for the purpose of exploitation. Orphanage trafficking typically involves the false construction of a child's identity as an orphan, which is often achieved through falsifying documents. Once in the orphanage, children are often kept in poor conditions, malnourished and without proper healthcare or schooling. She pointed out that orphanage trafficking is a new form of exploitation and has nothing to do with non-punishment provision and insisted that sufficient legal framework should be established to tackle this issue.

She then explained about corporate criminal liability. One problem which continues to affect Asia as much as Africa is the use of recruitment agencies to recruit individuals who travel to foreign countries under the pretence of having secured a legitimate job. Upon arrival, they are suddenly taken captive without freedom or opportunity to return. Professor Chandran explained how she had worked to criminalise the actual holding of a person in slavery or servitude or requiring them to perform forced labour in UK law. She



She further insisted that corporations which engaged in trafficking should be prosecuted for their crimes and receive deterrent sentences. Professor Chandran concluded her presentation by highlighting the needs to fill the legislation gaps in terms of modern slavery and trafficking. She went on to emphasize that we need to keep an eye on these issues.



## Sarah Mount, Freedom Fund



Sarah started by introducing the Freedom Fund and their work on combating modern forms of slavery, including; human trafficking, forced labour, child labour, domestic servitude, organ trafficking and growing forms, such as child marriage. Freedom Fund work to address modern slavery throughout the world, they are an international NGO who work in geographical hotspots with particularly bad problems to create a tipping-point, where the most change can be made over a 5-10 year period. They work with civil society organisations and partners on the ground as

their primary methodology. They operate in 6 countries and have 9 projects.

There are diverse approaches that can be taken in approaching modern forms of slavery. A sectoral approach is used to ensure there is decent work within certain sectors and make sure the standards of work in specific sectors is adequate; and eliminate forced labour and human trafficking in these areas. There is another approach focusing on community resilience within geographical locations, across certain districts or states that work on improving attitudes and lowering the prevalence of bonded labour. Another approach is the prevention approach, aiming to help people before they migrate for work and help them identify possible traps or pitfalls that may end up in forced labour or human trafficking. This is used to avoid trafficking or forced marriage by helping identify warning signs.

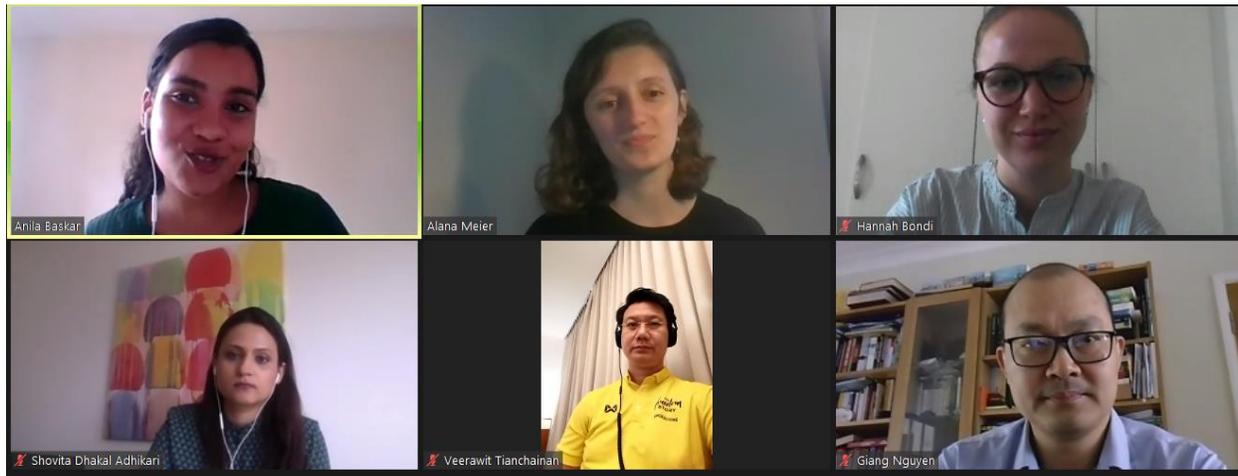
There are cross-cutting models that can be used, some organisations focus on a 'justice model', obtaining access to justice for victims. Another model is a labour approach, and the third is a development model - which is a bit more holistic, looking at underlying larger problems that prompt these issues in the first place. Freedom fund tries to engage all 3 models. They use the justice model, but it is not the only model, because it is important to create a deterrent effect and follow up strategic litigation.

In Thailand Freedom Fund is working to help improve the fishing and seafood industry, they worked hard to get Thailand to ratify the ILO Conventions and still want them to ratify two more conventions. Currently workers are currently unable to form their own unions, it is important to get Thailand to ratify the relevant convention allowing workers the ability to form their own unions. Also they have used UN Conventions and Committees when relevant, their partners will soon be submitting a shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination on Racial Discrimination. Also making a submission to the UPR and lobbying particular country governments to make recommendations to Thailand, while additionally speaking to the relevant Special Rapporteurs. Domestic Law is also obviously very important, for example in India they work on giving workers information on the relevant laws that are available to protect them.



They also have projects in global supply chains, not just the country creating the product where there needs to be change, but also the companies which are importing the goods, based in the Global North, that also have to be closely regulated by the law. They have a lot of power and seek prices within countries and outsource to remove responsibility, exacerbating bad conditions because they are pushing for cheaper and cheaper products and they have a lot of power. There are also a number of laws that work to regulate and create transparencies for these companies and promote due diligence.

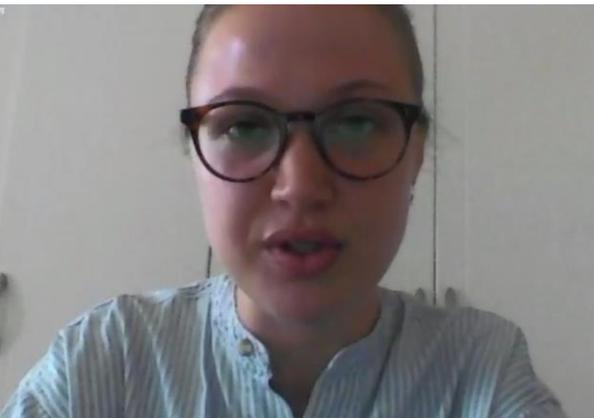
There are also regional frameworks that can be used, but they are not really used too often by the Freedom Fund. ASEAN is there but it is something they do not really engage with, but something they would look at engaging with further.



### **Speakers: Thursday 9 July**

#### **Hannah Bondi, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)**

CHRI's upcoming report analyses commonwealth governments responses to different facets of modern slavery and human trafficking, using 5 milestones. The first milestone looks at survivors of human trafficking; the second looks at criminal justice mechanisms and how they function; the third looks at coordination on national and regional level; the fourth looks at risk factors; and the fifth and final milestone looks how supply chains, and how the risks within supply chains, are being handled by governments. Systematic inequality is a common factor across all regions that puts particular groups at risk of human trafficking and exploitation. Another key issue is data gaps, robust data collection is vital to conducting research into human trafficking in order to adequately combat it. Finally protection is limited for certain groups, specifically migrant and informal workers.



Identification and support for survivors is currently inadequate across all 8 of the commonwealth countries. Most countries do not have clear guidelines to identify victims of human trafficking, though there are reporting mechanisms available. Despite campaigns to raise awareness, no country has seen an increase in reports of cases in human trafficking. Support for victims and survivors is also unfortunately generally inadequate across the region too. In regards to criminal justice, the available criminal justice mechanisms that are currently available are inadequate. All countries criminalise forced labour and human trafficking, bar the Maldives. The strength and implementation of national legislation varies in each country. An area for key improvement is access to justice for victims and survivors. The third milestone of coordination found that national coordination mechanisms across the region are weak, with cross-border collaboration being particularly crucial in fighting human trafficking. In regards to addressing risk factors, there is a requirement for laws that marginalise certain groups to be reformed and development and action against corrupt officials. All countries are making efforts to prevent exploitation through awareness campaigns. There are weak social protections across the region which

is a major driver of exploitation. The fifth milestone of supply chains is the area that requires the most amount of improvement. No countries have implemented laws or policies to combat forced labour within supply chains or businesses. This is likely to worsen as countries seek to restart economic growth after the COVID-19 crisis.

If you are interested in Hannah's work, the CHRI's latest report covering all of the above, and their recommendations on how to improve each of the milestones, is available here:

CHRI and the Minderoo Foundation's report, *Eradicating Modern Slavery: An Assessment of Commonwealth Government Progress on Achieving SDG Target 8.7*

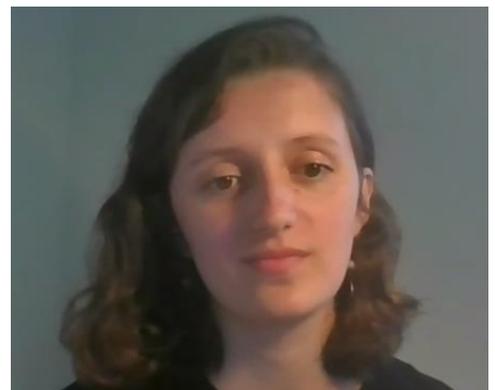
<https://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publication/eradicating-modern-slavery-an-assessment-of-commonwealth-government-progress-on-achieving-sdg-target-87>

### **Veerawit Tianchainan, The Freedom Story**



Veerawit is working with an organisation named Freedom Story. His organisation aims to prevent human trafficking along the Thailand-Myanmar Border. The Freedom Story started their work in Thailand 20 years ago, founded by individuals from the US. Those founders realised that trafficked persons often lacked adequate education, so they intended to provide education and scholarship to children and expand the working areas into three programs. First, the strategic program identified girls who are at risk of being trafficked. For example, one of the trafficked victims passed away because of HIV, so the Freedom story worked together with her family, and they found that the family sent their children to brokers to earn money. Now 150 children have graduated from the school, with some becoming lawyers, teachers, and more. Freedom Story try to push them to dream more for their life.

After ten years, there were no victims reported in their original district, so they expanded their work to another district and Nan province. The preventative program is thus considered as the Freedom Story's human rights program which educates students to develop their ambitions and prevent them from traffickers. The Freedom Story conducted training to children and other vulnerable populations. When COVID-19 started, the number of online exploitations started increasing, so they try to educate parents and state to prevent it. They extended their work into migrant workers in Thailand along the border and have taken on further focus on labour exploitation, for both documented and undocumented labourers.



The Freedom Story develop a sustainable livelihood, providing victims and parents with links to businesses so that they can increase their income. They have seen that programs help people to eradicate human trafficking at the root cause, and they also support children to reeducate other children to see and hope more for their life. So, these preventative measures are essential.

There are successful cases in preventative programs, but they do not separate their preventative program from prosecution and remedy, which they have now extended from Thais to include migrant workers - as the number of migrant workers who are trafficked by brokers is increasing every year.



**Giang Nguyen, News Editor, BBC Vietnamese World Service**



At first, it was thought that the victims of the Essex lorry trafficking deaths were Chinese, then maybe a mix of Chinese and Vietnamese. However, the victims families started to contact the BBC and it became apparent the victims were Vietnamese. When the BBC checked the background, they found two of them posted something on Facebook, so they decided at that time to not inform the police first but check their background.

A story of Pham Tha My and Nguyen Dinh Loung (two victims of Essex lorry deaths)

The map showed routes and how they travelled from Vietnam to France, then the Netherlands, Belgium, and the UK. For one of the victims, she said that she lost her job in Japan, then tried to find another job because she knew from brokers that there are jobs available in Europe. So, her family gathered money and sent her to the UK. For another victim, he lived in Paris for 3 years and spent half the year in Ukraine, he had two brothers working in Taiwan as well to have a better life. 25 people came from the same village, they tried to send journalists to the village but their visa application was rejected by the Vietnamese government. This is probably due to corruption, as notably they issued an illegal passport to non-Vietnamese people and the government did not want to see bad news about Vietnam. However, the UK government put pressure on the Vietnamese government to help the UK officials identify the victims. So, when the BBC reported this news, they needed to balance between the images of the government and the truth of the victim's family.



**.Story of Pham Tra My and Nguyen Dinh Luong**



The previously trafficked person appeared on the BBC and talked about how they were prohibited by the Vietnamese government not to practice the religion in Vietnam. Most of the Vietnamese trafficked



here work in nail bars in the UK, and this is considered as an illegal job as they were illegally recruited people from Vietnam and brought them to the UK. They found that there is a huge network to help human traffickers along the European countries, especially Berlin, where there is a group Vietnamese who lack the opportunity to earn money waiting for broker's help sending them to the UK.

### Shovita Dhakal Adhikari, University of Bournemouth



Shovita's work focuses on international standards and how they can be applied in lived and local realities and calls for an intersectional approach to looking at the issue of human trafficking and addressing key vulnerabilities. In the dominant trafficking narrative children are viewed as vulnerable on the basis of their age, along the range of 0-18. This binary viewpoint tends to marginalise other intersecting categories such as gender, religion, caste and other social identities that play a role in creating vulnerability. Scholars have argued that the universal application of the international CRC framework has provided problems when being applied in localised

environments. Is it too Western centric? How do we apply it in the local context? There needs to be a discussion on the relative nature of childhood. Although it is necessary to recognise the legal definition of child human trafficking, it cannot be applied in all situations. Child human trafficking manifests in many different ways, in multiple contexts and is effected by numerous intersecting social identities. Shovita gives the example that, even within Nepal, the idea and reality of childhood changes in different contexts.

The development from childhood to adulthood at the point of turning 18 is really dependent on the context and community as opposed to being objective. This is why an intersectional approach is necessary, using the idea of intersectionality that first appeared within the work of feminist scholars such as Kimberlé Crenshaw. Intersectionality has made it commonplace to analyse the different ways people are affected by overlapping identities and categories. Nepal is one of the oldest states and non-colonial countries in Asia and is highly dependent on agriculture. COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities to certain groups within the State. There are multiple children's rights violations in certain regions of Nepal, for example with the right to health. A large number of children do not attend

school and 1.6 million between the ages 5-7 are in child labour, and children in institutional care is a growing trend in Nepal.

A recent report by the NHRC estimates that there were 25000 citizens trafficked in 2018, with 5000 of those being children. There has also been a rise in human trafficking within the borders of Nepal, and an increase in those put into forced labour. There are two types of vulnerability that affect someone's risk factor, including individual factors and structural factors. Nepal follows the prevention, protection and prosecution policy, and the sub-section at the implementation level is, rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation. Child trafficking in Nepal is a systematic problem rooted in complex issues related to violations of children's rights, with overlapping vulnerability factors posed by individual vulnerabilities and structural vulnerabilities.



### 2. SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATIONS OF NEPAL

- The Federal Republic of Nepal is one of the oldest states and the only non-colonial country in South Asia (Malik et al., 2009)
- 30 million population, 83 percent live in rural areas
- Children under 18 comprise almost 50 percent of Nepal's population and children (below 16 years of age) comprised 39 percent of the total population (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011).
- ....
- Health
- Although compulsory not all children do not attend schools
- Birth registration in Nepal.
- Children's labour forms part of the family support for their subsistence.
- Traditional practices such as child marriage, child labour including *Kamaiya* (bounded labour) and *Chaupadi pratha*
- Children in institutional care
- Natural disaster further exacerbated children's wellbeing and safety (O'Leary and Squire 2012; Save the Children 2006).
- COVID- 19 pandemic and children vulnerabilities

## **Speaker Biographies**

### ***Professor Parosha Chandran***

Professor Parosha Chandran is a human rights barrister based at One Pump Court chambers in London and a world-leading expert on the law relating to human trafficking, including for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). With over 22 years of practice at the Bar she is recognised as a leader in her fields, having set numerous legal trafficking precedents through her court cases and advisory work, including in the criminal, non-punishment, civil, asylum, slavery and public law fields.

She has contributed to key international legal guidance on trafficking for the UNODC (Issue Paper & Guidance Note on Abuse of a Position of Vulnerability, 2012; Issue Paper on Consent, 2014; Case Law Digest on Evidential Issues in Trafficking Cases, 2017; Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations, 2018; Model Law on Trafficking against Persons, revised 2018-2019; UNODC Trafficking in Persons in the Context of Armed Conflict, 2019), for the OSCE (Policy and Legislative Recommendations on the Non-Punishment Provision, 2013) and for the Council of Europe (HELP e-learning course on Combatting Trafficking, 2018). She has provided judicial and prosecutor training on human trafficking for the Council of Europe and the OSCE and has provided training for Commonwealth Parliamentarians on behalf of the British Parliament. She has advised on the domestic laws of numerous States. In the UK context this includes the introduction of the free-standing criminal offences of slavery, forced labour and servitude in 2009, on key provisions of the Scottish and Northern Ireland trafficking legislation and on the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

She has received many honours for her work including the 'Barrister of the Year' award in 2008 (Law Society of England and Wales' Excellence Awards) and the 'Trafficking in Persons Hero Award 2015' from the then-US Secretary of State John Kerry, when she was marked out by the Obama administration for having developed the rule of law on trafficking in the UK and abroad and for her 'unparalleled achievements in providing legal services to survivors of modern slavery'. She is the Senior Legal Advisor to the British Parliament's CPA-UK Modern Slavery Project, which supports Commonwealth States to improve their legislative responses to trafficking & modern slavery. She is the General Editor of the leading UK trafficking textbook, "Human Trafficking Handbook: Recognising Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery in the UK" (LexisNexis, 2011). In September 2018 she received the distinction of being appointed the first Professor of Practice in Modern Slavery Law, at King's College London, where she now teaches her own LLM course. She continues to practice at the Bar and retains her advisory roles.

### ***Sarah Mount***

Sarah joined the Freedom Fund in March 2018 as Senior Program Officer for Freedom Fund's Thailand and Ethiopia hotspots. Sarah has over ten years' experience in human rights and legal project management in Asia, Africa and Australia. Most recently, Sarah worked at Anti-Slavery International as the Asia Program Manager. In this role, Sarah worked in partnership with local civil society organisations on projects focused on addressing forced labour and promoting safe migration of migrant construction, agricultural and domestic workers.

Sarah has also lived and worked in India and in Australia, working both in human rights and indigenous land rights. She is a qualified Australian solicitor and holds a Bachelor's degree in Law (Honours) and Arts from Monash University Australia as well as a Master's in Public and International Law (Honours) from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

## ***Hannah Bondi***

Hannah Bondi is Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) London's SDG 8.7 Programme Officer, working on strategy development, network-building and programme implementation. She is also currently pursuing a MSc in Countering Organised Crime and Terrorism at University College London. Previously, she worked as a researcher with Justice and Care, focusing on emerging human trafficking trends as well as detailed country analysis of human trafficking in Asia. She also interned with Women for Refugee Women and the European Network of Migrant Women, primarily working on communications and event management.

## ***Veerawit Tianchainan***

Veerawit Tianchainan is Executive Director of The Freedom Story, Thailand. He is a human rights advocate with over 20 years of experience working in various roles in Thailand. He has worked on the international stage with the UN High Commission for Refugees, as Country Director of the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, and Founder and Executive Director of Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation. He has been appointed in various commissions and subcommittees of Thai government agencies related to human rights, refugees and statelessness. He was appointed as an Expert on Human Rights by the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand. He also served on the regional and national advisory board of networks, focusing on migration and human rights as well as alliances on child's rights and counter trafficking in persons. He has worked as CSOs' focal points in UN reporting mechanisms i.e. Universal Periodic Review. He has been invited by Thai government agencies, United Nations and Global Compact Network Thailand to speak as a resource person on issues related to Business and Human Rights for officials of state agencies, State-Owned Enterprises and business sector in Bangkok and regional fora.

## ***Giang Nguyen***

Born in Vietnam in 1972 during American bombardment, Giang Nguyen lived through the Sino-Vietnamese border conflict (1979-89) and joined the BBC in 1999 after years of studying in Central Europe and reporting for Radio France International in Paris. Awarded BBC Hero in 2004 for creativity and team leadership, he transformed BBC Vietnamese radio programme into a successful news site. He oversaw the coverage of 30th anniversary of the Berlin Wall and the democratic change and suppression of free media in Eastern Europe today, as well as the Taiwan election (2020) on [bbcvietnamese.com](http://bbcvietnamese.com).

A regular contributor to BBC News and other World Service's outputs on Asian current affairs, he was the lead commentator for BBC World TV, Radio 4's Today programme, Radio Foyle (Northern Ireland) in the UK as well as TV 2 Denmark about the death of 39 Vietnamese migrants in Essex when the story broke in 2019. In July 2014 he launched BBC Thai on Facebook and led the Thai team in London and Bangkok until it was re-established by the BBC as a fully multimedia- and online service in 2017. A senior editor in Asia Region of the World Service he managed the expansion of BBC Chinese in Hong Kong (2015), restructured the YouTube offer for BBC Vietnamese (2016-17), and was leading on establishing BBC Korean team in Seoul and London (Mar 2017).

Giang Nguyen has a Masters in legal science at Warsaw University, Poland (1996) where he also acted as a vice-president of the Foreign Students Association (1991-94), before taking up an Open Society scholarship for postgraduate studies at Polish Academy of Sciences (1995-99). His academic achievements included paper at the Sixth Euro-Viet International Conference in Hamburg (2008),

presentations and public lectures at the Association for Asian Studies' conference in San Diego (2013), the Global Dimensions Programme, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE- 2018), Vietnam Studies Symposium in Porto (2019).

A fellow at Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University (2010) he published a research paper about media freedom and religious social network, envisaging the power of biased and partisan media platforms long before the era of fake news. Holding a Masters in of media and communications at Goldsmiths College, University of London he has been working closely with BBC Academy to share experience and insights in news industry with visiting journalists from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia...Shovita Dhakal Adhikari, University of Bournemouth

### ***Dr Shovita Dhakal Adhikari***

Dr Shovita Dhakal Adhikari is a Lecturer in Criminology and Joint Programme Lead for BA Sociology and Criminology Programme at Bournemouth University. Shovita completed her doctoral studies in sociology from the University of Essex. Her PhD considered on the impact of national and international responses to child trafficking in Nepal. Shovita's research interests are in gender in conflict and natural disaster, migration, trafficking and modern day slavery, border policing, informal sector and wellbeing, child protection and children's rights in global south.

### ***Dr Andrew Fagan***

Dr Andrew Fagan has been teaching human rights at Essex since 1998 in the Department of Philosophy, the School of Law and the Human Rights Centre. They have occupied several positions within the Human Rights Centre, including; Deputy Director, Research Director, Director of Academic Studies and is currently Co-Director of Postgraduate Studies (Human Rights) within the School of Law. They have extensive multi-disciplinary teaching experience and interests, spanning the theory and practice of human rights. Their research focuses upon the normative, political and cultural challenges to human rights. They are particularly interested in the contributions which radical philosophies and politics can make to defending human rights against multiple challenges. They have taught and lectured upon human rights across the world; including, Central Asia, East Asia, Europe, South East Asia and North and South America.

### ***Dr Sanae Fujita***

Dr Sanae Fujita is a fellow of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex and has been a supervisor for the annual student-led Human Rights in Asia conference since its establishment in 2009. Her research closely engaged with Asian Development Bank and published 'The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Human Rights: Developing Standards of Transparency, Participation and Accountability' (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013). Since 2013, she has played a crucial role in raising international awareness of human rights in Japan and has been leading a project by assisting the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.

## Human Rights in Asia Conference Student Committee

### **Student Coordinators**

Alana Meier, Anila Baskar, Amita Dhiman, Hassan Akhtar, Jasmin Andrews, Mariko Otake, Monika Thangavelu, Nichapa Chanwisitkul, Patrick Lawrance, Phattranit Yaodam, Rasheedat Olarinoye, Ryoko Arakawa, Wannapong Yodmuang.

### **Supervisor**

Dr. Sanae Fujita





(Photos credit to Dr. Sanae Fujita, University of Essex)