



University of Essex

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Contents

Welcome from our Interim Director	3
People	4
Education	5
Events	8
Highlights from HRC Projects	12
Human Rights Centre Short Courses	20
Human Rights Centre Blog and RightsCast	21
Selected human rights appointments, books and funding successes of HRC Members	21

Join the conversation



/EssexHRC



@EssexHumanRightsCentre



/company/essexhrc/



@EssexHRC



@EssexHRC

Welcome from our Interim Director



In 2024, the University of Essex celebrated its sixtieth anniversary, under the strapline 'where change happens'. Since its establishment over forty years ago, the Human Rights Centre (HRC) has played and continues to be an integral part of this changemaking history with our HRC academic Members and Fellows driving forwards the human rights agenda at the international, national and local levels. They have played an equally vital role in defending the human rights of individuals and communities across the world, whether through litigation, research, submitting reports to international or national monitoring bodies, working with local activists, and under their appointments to UN and other international human rights monitoring bodies. Our Essex alumni – numbering over 3,000, are also an equally important part of the human rights story and have played central roles in human rights activism, oversight, research and teaching across the world.

In this annual report for 2023-24, we provide highlights of our education, research, partnerships and practice activities over the past twelve months. The Human Rights Centre is administratively based within the Essex Law School, however our 130+ Human Rights Centre Members are drawn from 11 departments across the University of Essex, and this interdisciplinary ethos pervades all of our activities over this past year, including the research and partnerships undertaken by Human Rights

Centre Projects; our Human Rights Speaker Series, Blogs and our podcast RightsCast; conferences including our landmark 40th Anniversary Conference held in July 2023; external grants awarded to support research and practice; and the rich scholarly contributions of HRC Members, some of which you can read about in this report. The Human Rights Centre is managed by a small core team, and at times the full breadth and depth of activity under the auspices of the Human Rights Centre or carried out by HRC Members is hard to grasp. This report provides necessary insights into the extraordinary breadth, depth and dynamism of human rights at Essex, highlighting why Essex remains a globally leading centre for human rights research, teaching and practice, 40 years after its establishment.

In April 2024, Dr Andrew Fagan stepped down from his position as HRC Director, a post which he had held successfully since 2019, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew for his many achievements and tireless work during this time. A huge highlight for all of us was his convening of the Human Rights Centre's 40th Anniversary Conference in July 2023. I am delighted to announce that Professor Carla Ferstman will take up the post of HRC Director in October 2024. Carla brings with her significant experience in the academic sector as well as in human rights practice, with her successful career also spanning senior roles in civil society and international organisations. Her appointment is wonderful news for the HRC.

Judith Bueno de Mesquita, July 2024

Core Team

2023-24

- [Judith Bueno de Mesquita](#) (Interim Director until September 2024)
- Dr [Antonio Coco](#) (Deputy Director for Education)
- Dr [Katya Al Khateeb](#) (Senior Research Officer)

2024-25

- Professor [Carla Ferstman](#) (Director, from October 2024)
- Dr [Antonio Coco](#) (Deputy Director for Education)
- Dr [Patricia Palacios Zuloaga](#) (Deputy Director for Research)
- Dr [Katya Al Khateeb](#) (Senior Research Officer)

HRC Members

The Human Rights Centre has more than 130 [Members](#) who are academic staff across 11 academic departments.

HRC Visiting Fellows

We are also delighted to have a long history of [Visiting Fellows](#) and other honorary associates, currently the following experts held honorary titles with the HRC.

Visiting Fellows

- Daniela Baro (Independent expert on the rights of the child)
- Federico Borello (Independent expert on transitional justice, protection of civilians, human rights, and conflict resolution)
- Iain Byrne (Policy Adviser on economic, social and cultural rights, Amnesty International)
- Sam Dubberley (Managing Director of the Digital Investigations Lab, Human Rights Watch)
- Charles Garraway (Independent expert on

- law and conflict)
- Dr Sanae Fujita (Independent human rights expert on Japan)
- Elizabeth Griffin (Independent human rights and leadership expert)
- Dr Haim Ibrahim (Lecturer in Laws, University College London)
- Dr Steven Malby (Deputy Head of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Human Rights Department)
- Rebecca Schleifer (Independent expert on human rights and drug policy)
- Dr Claire Simmons (Senior Lecturer, Sandhurst Military Academy)
- Alberto Vasquez Encalada (Senior Advisor, Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP) and the President of Sociedad y Discapacidad – SODIS)

Visiting Professor

- Professor Kate Gilmore (former Deputy UN High Commissioner for Human Rights).

Advisory Board

In 2023, the Human Rights Centre established an advisory board, which is comprised of some of our members across the University of Essex, and provides interdisciplinary guidance on strategic decisions.

Our advisory board members are, at present:

- Dr Caroline Bald (School of Health and Social Care),
- Professor Peter Bloom (Essex Business School),
- Dr Koldo Casla (Law),
- Professor Neli Demireva (Sociology and Criminology),
- Dr Matthew Gillett (Law),
- Professor Paul Hunt (Law),
- Professor Wayne Martin (Philosophy),
- Professor Sabine Michalowski (Law).

Education

Academic Programmes

The Essex Human Rights Centre and the Essex Law School offer a comprehensive range of [postgraduate courses](#) designed to equip students with advanced knowledge and skills in various areas of human rights. In the academic year 2023-24, four LLM programmes were available: **International Human Rights Law**, **International Humanitarian Law**, **International Human Rights and Economic Law**, and **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**. Additionally, the Centre continued to offer its flagship interdisciplinary **MA in Theory and Practice of Human Rights**, which features four distinct pathways for students to choose from. This year, 11 students enrolled in the MA programme. In total, there were 57 students enrolled in postgraduate programmes, with 54 opting for full-time study and 3 for part-time study.

The Essex Human Rights Centre is also committed to contributing to several undergraduate programmes with a human rights component, namely the **LLB Law with Human Rights**, the **BA History with Human Rights**, the **BA Sociology with Human Rights**, the **BA Philosophy with Human Rights**, the **BA Journalism with Human Rights**, and the **BA Global Studies with Human Rights**. In total, 38 students were enrolled in these undergraduate programmes in 2023-24, highlighting the broad appeal of human rights at the undergraduate level.

The Centre has also focused on improving **student employability** through various initiatives. For instance, on 1st May 2024, the Centre's Co-Deputy Director Dr **Antonio Coco** chaired a panel of distinguished human rights professionals with past or present affiliation to the Centre, comprising **Meghna Abraham**, who spoken on her work in the NGO sector; Dr **Matthew Gillett**, who spoke on his experience at international criminal courts; Professor **Sandra Liebenberg**, who spoke on her experience in overseeing development and implementation of international human rights law; and Dr **Steven Malby** who spoke on his experience working at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The event, well-attended by MA and LLM students, provided valuable insights into human rights career paths. This event was complemented by employability events organised

under the auspices of different modules taught as a part of our postgraduate programmes and by the



Employability panel: post panel drinks and photos.

Essex Law School employability team, as well as by other opportunities where students develop career-building skills, including those under the auspices of the **Human Rights Centre Clinic** and the [Pictet](#) competition. Building on this success, the Centre is currently developing a series of employability events that will run during the upcoming academic year to equip our students with exceptional practical knowledge and skills as they embark on their human rights careers.

Human Rights Centre Clinic

The Human Rights Centre Clinic aims to put the intellectual and research resources of the University of Essex in the hands of international advocacy for the protection of human rights. Human rights clinics can play a significant role as transnational actors engaging in global advocacy efforts to hold states and other actors accountable. Human rights clinics can make a definitive contribution to the development of international law through monitoring and the promotion of ideas and legal standards, merging advocacy and academic rigour.

Every year, between 25 and 30 postgraduate students are part of our Human Rights Centre Clinic, in which they take a taught module on transferable skills that future human rights practitioners will need in their careers, and in human rights research projects in partnership with human rights organisations. Our reports, produced under these partnerships, have shaped government policy and NGO advocacy on human rights around the world, and inform the practice and general understanding of international organisations. For example, as part of the **Arbitrary Detention Redress Unit (ADRU)**, one of the projects of the Human Rights Centre Clinic, students have been contributing research that formed the basis of thematic reports of the **UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**, for example, on detention pursuant to disinformation laws, in the context of COVID-19, and of environmental human rights defenders. Over the course of two academic years, the ADRU team has assisted the UN Working Group on 16 individual cases concerning human rights defenders and other persons arbitrarily detained around the world. Several detainees have already been released following these UN decisions. The students also have additional training and practice opportunities, for example, in February 2024, we had a wonderful training session on “**vicarious trauma in human rights practice**” with **Sam Dubberley**, Managing Director of the Digital Investigations Lab at **Human Rights Watch** and a Fellow of the Human Rights Centre.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our past and present partners, without whom Essex Human Rights Centre Clinic simply could not operate. We also want to congratulate our brilliant students for their outstanding work.

The [projects of 2023-24](#) were:

- Criminalisation of asylum seekers in the UK, with **Citizens UK**.
- Energy transition, health and gender: Mapping the legal framework and potential policy solutions, with **Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**
- Environmental crimes as war crimes in the context of the Colombian armed conflict, with the **Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia**
- International monitoring of the right to adequate housing, with **The Shift**
- Actualising a rights-based economy through synergies from alternative economic models, with the **Center for Economic and Social Rights**
- Arbitrary Detention Redress Unit, with the **UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**
- Restricting the civil society space of NGOs helping refugees and other migrants in Europe, with **Professor Carla Ferstman**

You can find more details about the projects, as well as links and reports from previous years, on the [report of activities of the Human Rights Centre Clinic](#).

The Clinic has also planned its [projects for 2024-25](#), dealing with business and human rights, environmental rights in Kenya, indigenous rights in Canada, workers’ rights in the Caribbean, reparations for victims of human rights abuses, and arbitrary detention again. The Clinic will partner with **Amnesty International**, **Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action**, **Global Survivors Fund**, **The Innu Nation and Survival International**, **Globalising and Organising (WIEGO)** and the **International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF)**, and the **UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**.



Last class of the Human Rights Centre Clinic in March 2024.



Visit to the UN headquarters in Geneva of the Arbitrary Detention Redress Unit team in April 2024.

Doctoral Affiliates Network

The HRC's Doctoral Affiliates Network brings together almost 40 Essex PhD students from different departments whose research tackles various aspects of human rights. The community, which is run by and for our Doctoral Affiliates with support from the HRC, was revived this academic year and now tries to meet at least once a term. In autumn, we had a networking event where students got to know each other in person. In spring, we organised a time management workshop with the help and support of Jessica Dawson from Essex's Organisational Development team. At the final event of this year, titled 'How to Publish your PhD' (chaired by Ebba Lekvall), Essex alumnus Niclas Rautenberg, Routledge publisher for Politics and International Studies Andrew Taylor, and Senior Editor of the Routledge Series in Human Rights Professor Mark Gibney shared with our community some valuable tips on how to turn PhD research into a book. The meeting drew together almost 20 students from not only Essex but also our Doctoral Circle partnering human rights centres at the Universities of Antwerp, Cambridge, London School of Economics and Oslo.

Doctoral Circle Workshop

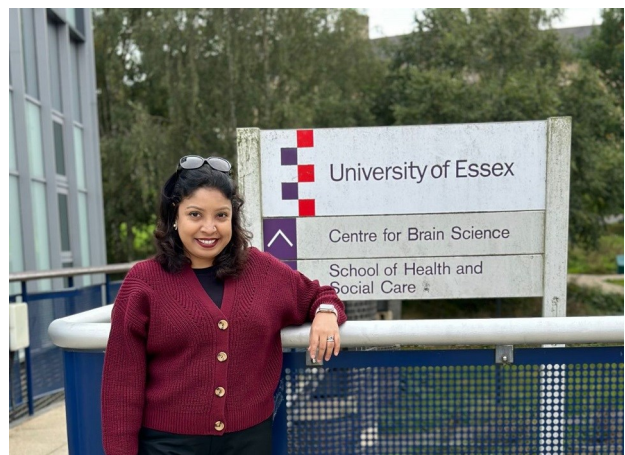
The Human Rights Centre is part of a Doctoral Circle with human rights centres at the Universities of Cambridge, Antwerp, Oslo, and the London School of Economics. We held our annual Doctoral Circle event on 13 May 2024, with fourteen PhD students from these institutions presenting and receiving constructive feedback on their doctoral research and making new contacts. The event, which was also attended by academics from these institutions who provided feedback on all papers, was truly interdisciplinary, with research from fields including philosophy, law, theatre studies, and politics, on themes including movement and displacement, new rights, corporate human rights responsibilities, extra-territorial obligations and gender and identity.

Human Rights Centre Welcomes Two Doctoral Scholars

In October 2023, two Human Rights Centre Doctoral Scholars started their PhDs at the University of Essex, thanks to scholarship funding from the University of Essex.



Anastasiia Korableva (Department of Philosophical, Historical and Interdisciplinary Studies (PHAIS) and Human Rights Centre), is conducting doctoral research on text in street art as a form of social and political protest in Russia. Her provisional title of the research is A War of Words: Text-Based Street Art as a Practice of Resistance in Russia.



Kamrun Koly (School of Health and Social Care and Human Rights Centre), a medical doctor, is pursuing intradisciplinary research on exploring the human rights violations and mental health among people affected by neglected tropical disease.

Events

HRC Annual Lecture and Human Rights Week Celebration Programmes

The Human Rights Centre annually commemorates **International Human Rights Day** (10 December) with a [week](#) of special events and activities bringing together our human rights community on the Essex University campus. Human Rights Week 2023, held from 4 to 8 December, featured an extraordinary line-up of lectures, seminars, films, and traditions celebrating and exploring vital human rights issues.



During the Annual Lecture presented by Kate Gilmore.

The 7th Annual Human Rights [Lecture](#), the flagship event was delivered by HRC Visiting Professor **Kate Gilmore**, former UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (2015-2019), who delivered a critical reflection titled **"75 Years in the Rights to be Human?"**, assessing the UDHR's impacts and shortcomings over the past 75 years. The lecture urged states to respect human dignity, raised tough questions about the current state of human rights globally, and called for a "re-idealist" stocktaking of the UDHR's purpose. [Watch here](#).



Other highlights included the **"Bringing Economic and Social Rights Home to the UK"** [webinar](#) (6 December) and a [screening](#) of the film 'No' about Chile's movement against Pinochet's dictatorship (7 December by [ETJN](#)).



The week culminated with the [Chalking of the Steps](#) on 8 December, our world-famous annual tradition where Human Rights Society members chalk articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in multiple languages onto the steps between Squares 3 & 4, symbolizing the vulnerability and impermanence of human rights that must be continually reaffirmed and protected.



After Students and Staff Chalked the Steps

Shining a Light on Asia: Student-led Human Rights Conference

Since 2009, our students have organised an annual Human Rights in Asia Conference without fail. Directed by HRC Fellow, Dr **Sanae Fujita**, the conference illuminates a succession of human rights issues in the world's most populous region. This year's online [conference](#), held on 16 March, brought together internationally recognised speakers to explore the theme "**Connecting the Dots of Colonial Legacies to Modern Injustices**". [Watch here](#).

perspectives, including on [hate speech prosecution](#), [protecting human rights defenders](#), [migrant and asylum rights](#), [culture wars and social cohesion](#), [economic and social rights in the UK](#), [land and environment defenders in Kenya](#), and [empowering women in the digital age](#).



Engaging with Key Issues: HRC Speaker Series

The HRC's long-running Speakers Series programme engages our interdisciplinary community of staff and students with a range of highly topical and important themes, issues, and debates, delivered either online or in person by global experts in human rights research and practice. This year's programme, which was well attended by both students and staff, covered a wide array of human rights issues with presenting scholars and activists showcasing multidisciplinary



Our projects also organised several external speakers and panels as part of the Speaker Series, including:

- Armed Conflict & Crisis Hub: [Starvation and Siege in Armed Conflict](#) This panel even with speakers **Mark Lattimer** (Ceasefire), **Professor Francoise Hampson** (Essex Law School) and Professor **Faten Ghosh** (Department of Government) focused on contexts including Gaza, Sudan, Yemen and Syria to explore interdisciplinary perspectives on starvation and siege from law, government and the NGO sector.
- Essex Business and Human Rights Project: [The Expanding Scope and Regulation of Business and Human Rights](#). We welcomed Professor **Robert McCorquodale**, a member of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights and Emeritus Professor at the University of Nottingham, who explored how climate change and environmental damage, as well as new sectors such as financial institutions, are included in the scope of business and human rights regulation.
- Health, Human Rights and Social Justice Cluster: [Dignity and Indignity in the South African Toilet Wars](#). We welcomed Professor **Susan Marks**, London School of Economics, who presented her ongoing research on sanitation inequalities in South Africa, activism and litigation to address this, and the place of dignity within this struggle as a fundamental human rights principle.
- Our own Dr **Francis Rees** also launched her [Child Influencer Project](#) - Ireland and the UK.
- Visit our [YouTube](#) for more in-person and online talks.

Celebrating 40 Years of Impact: HRC's Anniversary [Conference](#)

On 7-8 July 2023, the Human Rights Centre marked its 40th Anniversary hosting an international conference on the theme "**Pushing Back and Moving Forwards: What Future for the Global Human Rights Project?**" The two-day event brought together a diverse group of human rights academics and practitioners from around the world, most of them drawn from our 3000+ alumni as well as current staff and students, to engage in critical discussions about the future of human rights. The conference opened with remarks from University of

Essex Vice-Chancellor, Professor **Anthony Forster**, followed by a reflective journey through the HRC's past, present, and future by HRC Director, Dr **Andrew Fagan**. **Iain Byrne**, an HRC alumnus, human rights lawyer, and Amnesty International's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Policy Coordinator, delivered the keynote [speech](#), "**Reasons to be Optimistic: Why the Human Rights Project is Far from Over.**" Watch more panels [here](#).

Complementing the conference, to commemorate the HRC's rich history and impact, a series of [blog posts](#) highlighted the remarkable achievements of alumni, such as [Brian Griffey](#) and [Professor Pierre Bosset](#), who was part of the first cohort of students to study the LLM in International Human Rights Law at Essex in 1982.

Book Launches for Human Rights Centre Members

The HRC held two joint book launches, celebrating the publication of six of the human rights-themed books by HRC members and fellows that were published this year:

- [Consent: Gender, Power and Subjectivity](#) edited by Professor **Róisín Ryan-Flood** and Dr **Laurie James-Hawkins**
- [State Responsibility for 'Modern Slavery' in Human Rights Law: A Right Not to Be Trafficked](#) by Dr **Marija Jovanovic**
- [The Future of Social Care: From Problem to Rights-Based Sustainable Solution](#) by Professor **Peter Beresford** and **Colin Slasberg**
- [The Regulation of Intelligence Activities under International Law](#) by Dr **Sophie Duroy**
- [Prohibited Force: The Meaning of 'Use of Force' in International Law](#) by Dr **Erin Pobjie**
- [Military Investigations in Armed Conflict: Independence and Impartiality](#) by Dr **Claire Simmons**



(L-R) Authors Drs Erin Pobjie, Sophie Duroy and Claire Simmons following their joint book launch.

British Academy and Wellcome Trust Conference 'The Realisation of Human Rights in Societies Beyond Growth'

On 30 April-1 May, the Human Rights Centre hosted a **British Academy and Wellcome Trust Conference** organised by **Judith Bueno de Mesquita**, Dr **Claiton Fyock** (Essex Law School) and Dr **Birsha Ohdedar** (SOAS) on '[The Realisation of Human Rights in Societies Beyond Growth](#).' This was the first international conference to look at the relationship of human rights with economic growth, as well as in the context of postgrowth proposals such as Doughnut Economics, Ecological Swaraj, Buen Vivir and Degrowth. Our keynote panel brought together four leading scholars on the theme: **Kate Raworth** (author of Doughnut Economics) spoke about the relationship of human rights and Doughnut Economics; Professor **Olivier de Schutter** (UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights) focused on the relationship of growth, poverty and human rights; Professor **Annalisa Savaresi** (Stirling University) spoke on recent climate change litigation at the European Court of Human Rights and its implications for States; and Professor **Jules Pretty** (University of Essex) spoke about his research on the low carbon good life. With a total of [seven panels and 24 speakers](#), 55 participants joined in person with a further 70 joining online.

HRC Film Screenings

The Human Rights Centre hosted a series of film screenings this year. The line-up included [Stealing a Nation](#), a documentary exposing the forced relocation of Chagos Islands inhabitants; [13th](#), an in-depth examination of racial inequality in the U.S. prison system; and [Portrait of a Lady on Fire](#), a captivating masterpiece celebrating women's strength and resilience to commemorate International Women's Day. Our conflict hub screened [For Sama](#), documenting life in Aleppo during the Syrian conflict; and the ETJN screened [My Neighbor, My Killer](#), in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, exploring the complexity of how to achieve post-conflict justice and coexistence. These screenings aimed to raise awareness, develop engagement in discussions on human rights issues, and bring our community together.



'The Realisation of Human Rights in Societies Beyond Growth'

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Academic Network UK (ESRAN-UKI) and Ireland biannual workshop

In February 2024, the Human Rights Centre hosted the 24th Biannual Workshop of [ESRAN-UKI](#). The workshops provide a critical opportunity for scholars working on economic, social and cultural rights in universities across the UK and Ireland to share research, receive constructive feedback and network. With around 20 participants coming from 11 universities, papers addressed topics including climate change mitigation, taxation, the right to food, the right to health of migrants, benefits sanctions, and poverty as a ground of inequality.

Highlights from HRC Projects

The Essex Armed Conflict and Crisis Hub

On 26 October 2023, the Conflict and Crisis Hub, in collaboration with the **Geneva Academy**, organised their [Annual Conference on Current Issues in Armed Conflict](#) (CIAC). This online event provided a platform for debate and discussion on a wide range of topics, including international humanitarian law, refugee law, criminal law, and transitional justice, while offering early career researchers the opportunity to present their work and receive feedback from established international experts. Stay tuned for the 2024 conference announcement.

Cumulative Civilian Harm in War, a three-year research project funded by the ESRC (UK) and SBE (US) which commenced in November 2023, seeks to reduce civilian harm in war by addressing a legal blind-spot which fails to account for the cumulative impact of military action. International humanitarian law regulates individual military operations which could lead to disproportionate casualties but does not adequately consider the cumulative impact of multiple attacks and war as a whole. This gap in the law means that law fails to account for both the totality of civilian casualties over time as well as emergent effects of military operations such as infrastructure collapse, socio-economic decline, and societal trauma. The goal of the project is to develop a robust legal and policy framework to assess and reduce cumulative civilian harm. In order to do so, we will set up a database of relevant State practice, conduct interviews with military and political decision-makers and civil society and international organisations, and analyse public opinion and attitudes of civilians, both in war-affected regions and in countries that conduct military operations. The project is led from Essex with Professor **Noam Lubell** as Principal Investigator and **Franziska Fluhr** as Project Coordinator and Researcher, and our Project Partners are at **Oxford University**, the **Israel Democracy Institute**, and **Georgetown University**.

Essex Autonomy Project (EAP)

EAP is a research and public policy initiative directed by Professor **Wayne Martin** (Philosophy). A principal focus of the project is the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Activities in 2023-2024 have included:

- **Advance Planning for Future Disablement:** EAP is supporting an initiative of the **European Law Initiative** to draft a model European statute governing advance planning for future disablement. A central aim of this initiative is to produce a model statute that is UNCRPD-compliant. There is just under two years to run on this project.
- **National Mental Capacity Forum:** EAP is supporting the National Mental Capacity Forum (a joint initiative of the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health and Social Care) to provide free webinars for frontline professionals who apply the Mental Capacity Act. Many of the issues dealt with in these webinars pertain to international human rights standards, for example under Art 5 ECHR. So far, registration for each webinar has exceeded 1,000.
- **Support for MIND in the appeal of the ST case:** EAP has been providing research support to MIND (the mental health charity and advocacy organisation) in their appeal of the Court of Protection ruling in the 2023 ST case, and thereby in their attempt to overturn the MM Dicta (a 2007 precedent from the High Court). A ruling in the case is expected in the Summer of 2024.
- Our PhD student, **Peter Tsoukkas**, is working on De-Institutionalisation, and on training-design for support workers in small scale group homes in supporting the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly with reference to Art 19 UNCRPD.
- **Recognition of the Will:** A key element in being recognised as having legal capacity is to be recognised as having a will in a matter. This requirement has often functioned to exclude persons with disabilities from equal recognition before the law, as required under Art 12 UNCRPD. In collaboration with international partners, the Autonomy Project is undertaking a re-examination of what we call volitional practices — practices in which a person's will is discerned and attested to.

International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy

The International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy (HRDP) focuses on developing and applying research to promote a human rights-based approach to drug policy. It encourages governments and international organisation to fulfil their obligations to respect and protect the human rights of the many different constituencies of people whose lives are impacted by drugs.

HRDP Director, **Julie Hannah** (Essex Law School), has continued to drive forward with the implementation and operationalisation of the [International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy](#) in Sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana and Latin America. Here are some recent highlights:

HRDP co-hosted the [Fourth Regional Dialogue](#) on the Implementation of the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa in 6-7 December 2022. Partners included the **United Nations Development Programme** and the **OHCHR**. This was followed by a **National Dialogue in Ghana**, organised by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Narcotics Control Commission of Ghana in partnership with ICHRDP, UNAIDS, OHCHR and IDPC**. Following these dialogues, HRDP co-produced an implementation report [Regional Spotlight on Human Rights and Drug Policy: Sub-Saharan Africa](#) setting out the thematic results of extensive preparatory work undertaken for the dialogue.

During 2023, HRDP published its milestone report [Influencing Rights-based Drug Policy Reform: The International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy in Action](#), detailing four years of Guidelines implementation, engaging stakeholders across more than 25 countries in Asia, the Americas, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, the European Union. In November 2023, HRDP also published a version of the [Guidelines with Commentary](#), providing expert analysis of the reasoning and interpretation of the Guidelines based on existing international human rights

jurisprudence.

In July 2023, **Julie Hannah**, HRDP Senior Fellow Rebecca Schleifer, and HRDP Co-Director, Dr **Damon Barrett**, developed an interactive website tool '**Alternatives to Detention: A human rights assessment tool**'. The tool provides users with a snapshot of the applicable Guidelines which direct States away from sentencing and detention in relation to criminal drug offences and considers alternative pathways to reduce the risk of incarceration or avoid the criminal legal system altogether. The tool will be available on <https://www.humanrights-drugpolicy.org/> once the website redesign has been completed.

Following a recent grant by the Open Society Foundations to promote the implementation of the International Guidelines in Latin America, HRDP has worked with its project partner in Colombia, **Dejusticia**, to develop a range of implementation activities in the country. Importantly, in Autumn 2023, after advocacy and submissions to the Colombian government, the Guidelines were referenced in and cited as the foundation for implementation of Colombia's new 10-year national drug strategy. This is the first time any country has ever developed a national drug policy that centres a human rights framework.

On 28-29 November 2023, HRDP, alongside the **Federal government of Brazil**, launched the Guidelines in Brazil at a public event promoting the government's Housing First initiative. The event featured ministerial, civil society, and expert discussions around how international human rights standards can shape implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Housing First initiative. The Guidelines were introduced as a critical tool to support reflection on challenges and to assist with rights-based implementation. Julie Hannah also led a **workshop with the Ministry of Justice** on how to implement the Guidelines as the framework for their new national action plan on drugs.



National Dialogue on the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy in Ghana, 12-13 December 2022

The background of the page features a large, vertical maroon banner on the right side with the University of Essex logo and a large white '50' celebrating its anniversary. To the left, a modern building with a grid-like facade is visible. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular area.

The Essex Business & Human Rights Project

The Essex Business and Human Rights (EBHR) Project fosters research and brings the results of that research to bear on practical problems, working on national and international issues and collaborating with partners across the world.

Key highlights of the 2023-24 year were:

In November 2023, Drs **Tara Van Ho** and **Jessica Lawrence** and Professors **Sabine Michalowski** and **Clara Sandoval** attended the **12 Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights** representing the EBHR and Essex Law School. In addition to hosting an event for Essex alumni, Dr Van Ho and Professors Michalowski and Sandoval spoke at side events focusing on issues arising from business operations in conflict-affected areas (see more information [here](#)).

In Spring 2024, **Tara Van Ho**, **Tom Flynn** and **Jessica Lawrence** were contracted by the EU-Japan Domestic Advisory Group, a civil society body created under the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, to draft a report and conduct a training session for the members of the DAG. The report, entitled “**A Scoping Study to Provide an Overview of Human Rights and Environmental Rights Legislation and its Impact on Business,**” examined the impact of the EU’s new mandatory environmental and human rights due diligence processes (including the Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, and the Regulation on Forced Labour) on trade relations between EU and Japan, and on business partnerships between Japanese and EU operators.



Freedom of Religion or Belief and Equality Unit



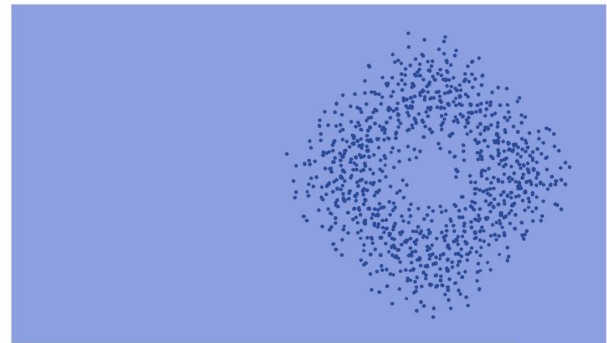
Universität
Zürich

Centre for Human Rights

The Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and Equality Unit focuses on the intersections between religious freedom and other human rights, especially freedom of expression and the right to equality and non-discrimination. It engages international experts, faith-based actors and civil society stakeholders from the United Kingdom and beyond in promoting literacy in freedom of religion or belief and in capacity-building of human rights defenders to promote and monitor the implementation of international standards on religious freedom. Its current work focuses on promoting various UN operational frameworks such as the Faith for Rights Initiative, the Istanbul Process and the Rabat Action Plan. It also carries out numerous activities to increase the impact of the UN reports that it had developed for the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur between 2016 and 2022.

In 2023/24, in collaboration with the **Humanists International** and the **Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief**, the Unit contributed to training parliamentarians in South and Southeast Asia on the implementation of the Rabat Action Plan on combating incitement to hatred and discrimination. Further, the Unit effectively lobbied various government actors to include the standards and principles articulated in the Rabat Action Plan in the various drafts that preceded Human Rights Council resolution 53/1 of July 2023.

In addition, during the year, the Unit carried out numerous activities to disseminate international standards and strategies on combating all forms of hate. In October, the Director of the Unit participated in the **World Uyghur Congress** in Tokyo to speak on advocacy strategies to mobilise UN human rights mechanisms. Since January, the Unit has been collaborating with the **International Resource for Impact and Storytelling** to support the work of various storytellers, journalists and community actors working to achieve impact through narrative shifts, including co-sponsoring a meeting in Munich ahead of the Munich Security Conference 2024. In March, members of the Unit briefed the **International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief's** annual meeting in Geneva, highlighting ways to revitalise the Istanbul Process to promote societal resilience against hate. A similar briefing was provided to participants of the conference on Islamophobia jointly convened by the Council of Europe and the EU Commission in March in Strasbourg.



«Cyberspace – A Dangerous Place for Religious Minorities?»

Prof. Ahmed Shaheed, University of Essex

Tuesday, 16 April 2024, 18:15-19:45

UZH, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich - Room: KOL-F-104

UZH-F Ringvorlesung | This event is part of the interdisciplinary lecture series "Digital Religion(s) – Digital Theology(ies)"

In April 2024, the Director of the Unit provided the keynote address at an event organised **University of Zurich** on the theme "**Cyberspace – A Dangerous Place for Religious Minorities?**" under their Digital Religions project. In May, the Unit supported the launch of the **South Asia State of Minorities annual report** issued by the **South Asia Collective**, including providing a foreword to the report. They also attended a **Wilton Park Conference** convened by the **US State Department and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office** in May 2024 to develop strategies to combat religious hate.

In September 2023, the Unit secured top-up funding of US\$350,000 for its current project on countering Islamophobia to extend the two-year project that began in February 2023 with \$400,000 to a third year.

The Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project

The Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project (HRBDT) continues to make contributions to overarching AI regulation. In June 2023, HRBDT together with the **Permanent Mission of Greece** convened a briefing to heads of missions and human rights experts from delegations in Geneva that were engaging on human rights issues related to emerging technologies. Professors **Lorna McGregor** and **Ahmed Shaheed** provided a review of the successful efforts that had been made since 2014 in engaging with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms as well as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in strengthening protections for human rights in the digital age. Participants in the meeting also included the Chairperson of the Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee and Rapporteur of the study on Neurotechnology and Human Rights. Professor **Lorna McGregor** also spoke at a meeting on **AI governance at Wilton Park** and has been participating in UK stakeholder consultations on the **Global Digital Compact**.

In the area of border governance, **Lorna McGregor** and **Petra Molnar** co-authored a report, "**Digital Border Governance: a Human Rights Based Approach**", as part of a joint project between the University of Essex and **OHCHR**. The team are currently working on implementation of the report recommendations. Professors **Klaus McDonald-Maer** (CSEE), **Pete Fussey** (Sociology), and **Geoff Gilbert** (Law) are also working with the **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees** to review how emerging technologies are being used in the context of border management and moving from the specific to general policy concerns. The interdisciplinary approach is crucial to ensure all aspects of governments' deployment of such technologies is addressed.

In the area of law enforcement, Professor **Pete Fussey** was one of the drafters of a new "**UN Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests**", leading the work on human rights standards for law enforcement uses of technology at protests. The UK House of Lords debated these technology-focused aspects of the Model Protocol on 25 April 2024. Following the publication of her book, **Detention and its Alternatives under International Law**, which critiques the insufficient attention paid to electronic monitoring by international human rights law despite its potential to constitute an alternative form of detention and result in manifold human rights harm, Professor **Lorna McGregor** is partnering



with **Penal Reform International** to develop ways to strengthen human rights protection in this area. This work began with the convening of an **expert meeting on the human rights implications of electronic monitoring** bringing together academics, representatives from **national probation agencies**, the **Confederation of European Probation (CEP)**, the **Council of Europe**, the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, and **civil society groups**. She has also presented her research at the **6th World Congress of the International Corrections & Prisons Association** and made submissions to **OHCHR** for a report that will be presented to the General Assembly this year.

In 2023, HRBDT together with the **UN Office on the Prevention of Genocide** jointly developed a **Policy Guide for Social Media** to support the **UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate**. The Policy Guide was issued by the UNOGP on 5 July 2023. The Guide was based on three roundtable consultations convened jointly by the UNOGP and HRBDT between 2020 and 2022 to discuss the implementation of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech in the online space. The roundtables engaged tech and social media companies on their role and responsibility to address online hate speech in line with international human rights standards and norms, and with the view to building partnerships for the implementation of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. The roundtable discussions, held under Chatham House Rules, also included the United Nations Working Group on Hate Speech members, civil society experts and practitioners. Professors **Lorna McGregor** and **Ahmed Shaheed** continue to work on the follow up to this Guide.

Human Rights Local

The Human Rights Local project seeks to identify opportunities to make human rights locally relevant. The project shows that human rights are closely linked to everyday life, and we do this by establishing effective relationships with local and community groups, local authorities and other stakeholders. We aim to channel a positive vision of rights for the local community, one that is empowering, protective, enabling and problem-solving through research, partnerships, advice and support. Over the past year, key highlights have included the following:

- **ATD Fourth World UK and Human Rights Local** collaborated to publish a report "[Poverty, Child Protection, and the Right to Protection and Assistance to the Family in England](#)" (June 2023). Based on in-depth research, the report emphasises the urgent need for substantial changes to England's child protection system in order to eradicate toxic cultures that negatively impact low-income families. It also provides implementable suggestions to national and local authorities.
- **Lyle Barker** participated at an **ATD Fourth World's Conference** on a poverty-free future for children, held in Paris in November 2023. See our [blog](#) on the event.
- Our report "[Deflation of Rights Amidst the Cost-of-Living Crisis in England: Submission to the European Committee of Social Rights](#)" (June 2024) was submitted to the European Committee on Social Rights in response to its [call for evidence](#) on the cost-of-living crisis. It examines the impact of the crisis on socio-economic rights within the context of England's social security and public transport systems. By highlighting the challenges faced by groups at greater risk of harm, disadvantage and discrimination due to rising costs and service cutbacks, the report contributes to the ongoing dialogue on socio-economic rights and inequalities.

Essex Transitional Justice Network (ETJN)

In the year 2022-2023, one of the highlights was the **ETJN Annual Lecture on Colombian Jurisdiction for Peace: Building Trust through Justice**, presented by Professor **Camilo Sanchez** of the University of Virginia, US. Another highlight was the "**Agree to Disagree Workshop**", held under the umbrella of the ETJN and funded by ESRC/IAA, which explored the complexities of dealing with conflicting narratives in peacebuilding and

transitional justice efforts in post-conflict or conflicted societies. Participants included peacebuilding and transitional justice practitioners, journalists, human rights investigators, and academics. The workshop discussed issues such as defining conflict, tensions between grand narratives and counter-narratives, and the ethical challenges of navigating contentious narratives. It also highlighted the importance of creating safe spaces for intergroup dialogue, the value of grassroots initiatives, and the need to listen to small stories in order to better understand and address conflicting narratives. Overall, the workshop shed light on the intricate challenges and potential solutions in addressing conflicting narratives in post-conflict settings.

In 2023-24, the ETJN hosted its [Annual Lecture](#) on 10 May 2024, delivered by Professor **Clara Sandoval**, a founding member of ETJN and Director of Programmes at the **Global Survivors Fund**. In her lecture titled "**Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice of Reparation in Conflict Settings**," Professor Sandoval explored ways to ensure effective implementation of reparation in conflict settings to transform the lives of victims, their families, and communities, and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of delivering reparations in complex contexts. The ETJN also organised two film screenings. In the autumn term, we showed the film "**No**", about the 1988 referendum in Chile that brought an end to the Pinochet dictatorship. The film was followed by discussion led by Dr **Koldo Casla**. In spring term, we organised a screening of the documentary "**My Neighbor, My Killer**" to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Rwanda Genocide. The film was followed by a discussion with Professor **Lars Waldorf**. The ETJN has also continued its support for the peace process in Colombia in close collaboration with colleagues at the Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace. Publications with legal analysis and recommendations can be found on the [ETJN's website](#).



Professor Clara Sandoval presenting the 2024 ETJN Annual Lecture

Digital Verification Unit (DVU)

Since its establishment in 2016, the Essex Human Rights Centre has served as the home for the DVU, with **Amnesty International** as its primary partner. The DVU's mission is to enhance global investigations into human rights violations through the application of open-source research methodologies, grounded in transformative advancements in digital communications technology, notably the ubiquitous use of social media platforms and smartphones. This paradigm shift empowers victims and witnesses of human rights abuses to document and disseminate their experiences globally, thereby enriching broader human rights documentation efforts and fostering mechanisms for accountability. The DVU is one of several university-based Human Rights Investigations Units, and collaborates with esteemed academic partners worldwide, including **Cambridge University, the University of Berkeley, la Universidad Iberoamericana, the University of Pretoria, and the Hertie School.**

Students who volunteer to take part in the DVU receive training in techniques to authenticate user-generated content, including videos and photos shared across social media platforms and messaging services. Equipped with these skills, they delve into investigating and cataloging potential human rights infringements and acts of warfare. In 2023-24, our 24-strong DVU cohort, comprising students from various courses of studies, undertook the following activities:

Training

The DVU offers students at Essex a distinctive opportunity to receive comprehensive training in open-source investigations (OSINT), facilitated by Amnesty International's Digital Verification Corps. Taking place in October 2023, [the training](#) involved hands-on activities designed to enhance their proficiency in conducting digital investigations into human rights violations using open-source techniques.

"The training weekend was a fulfilling and insightful experience. It was an exciting opportunity to learn new skills that we otherwise would not be exposed to." - Lucie

Annual Digital Verification Corps Summit, Berlin

The annual DVC Summit, which brings together university-based Human Rights Investigations Units, offers the DVU leadership, including students who contribute to its organization, an additional avenue for skill enhancement. In September 2023,

it took place in Berlin. The Essex DVU team benefitted from training from experts at the Crisis Evidence Lab focused on advanced open-search techniques and data analysis methodologies. Topics covered included weapon analysis, explosive tracking, and methods for identifying deep fakes. More information about the training weekend can be found on our [blog post](#).

Projects

In 2023 to 2024, the DVU undertook three open-source investigations under the guidance of Amnesty International:

1. Speech crimes during armed conflict: The DVU investigated open-source content showing language which instigates crime under international law (in particular incitement to genocide) in connection of the latest war taking place in Israel-Gaza.

2. Ethnic cleansing / forcible transfer: The DVU verified open-source content showing that the Israel deportation of the population in the West Bank was a coordinated action aimed at forcing people to leave their homes and country and at ensuring they do not return which amounts to ethnic cleansing.

3. Attacks on Journalists: In the first semester, the DVU reviewed open-source content showing the documentation of violations by law enforcement officers involving journalists who were reporting the protests between 2020 and 2023. The research covered several countries including: Spain, Tunisia, Kenya, Sudan and more. The research was conducted in collaboration with the DVC teams at the **Hertie School** and **Cambridge University**.

The DVU contributed to a [Communication](#) under Article 15 to the **Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**. The Communication sets out excerpts from videos, posts, and other social media sources to support allegation that six prominent Russian media figures have committed the Crime Against Humanity of Persecution against Ukrainians in the form of hate speech. Further, working with partner institutions, the DVU provided input to the publication '[Evaluating Digital Open Source Imagery: A Guide for Judges and Fact-Finders](#)' which was launched in 2024.



From 4 - 17 September 2022, a team from the University of Essex Digital Verification Unit (DVU) participated in the Digital Verification Corps (DVC) Summit organised by Amnesty International and Hertie School of Governance in Berlin



University of Essex DVU team, January 2024

Human Rights Centre Short Courses

Human Rights Summer School

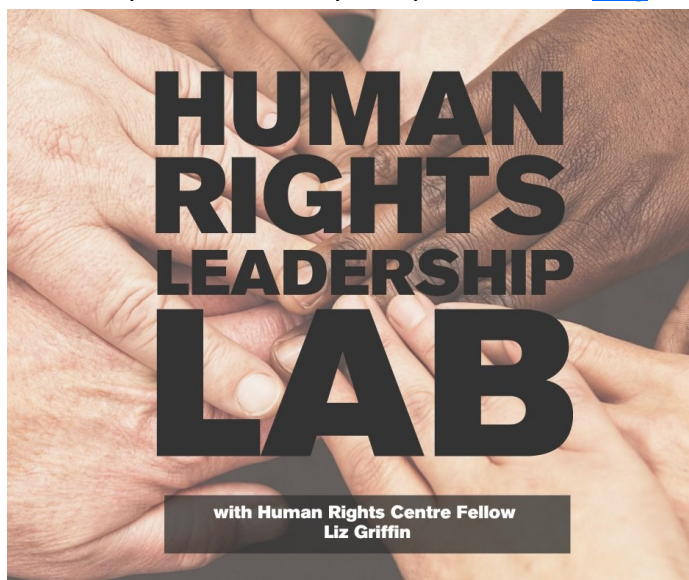
The HRC's [Human Rights Summer School](#) was held this year on 10-21 June 2024, welcoming 42 excellent participants from all over the world to learn from an interdisciplinary faculty of globally renowned academics and practitioners. Held annually online, the Summer School covers a wide range of topics related to professional practice in human rights, including human rights research methods, advocacy and campaigning strategies, and aspects of professional development. The programme also includes sessions that address growing challenges human rights professionals face and highlights opportunities to overcome them. Overseen by the Summer School Director Professor **Ahmed Shaheed**, the curriculum is designed to build the capacity of both mid-career human rights professionals and postgraduate students to be successful human rights defenders and researchers. This year, our Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Professor **Kate Gilmore** (former Deputy UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), on 'Countering Hate Speech', followed by a panel discussion on social cohesion and the media with Professor **Eric Heinze** (Queen Mary, University of London) and **Milica Pesic** (Executive Director Media Diversity Institute).



Human Rights Leadership Lab

The HRC's [Human Rights Leadership Lab](#) ran for its third and fourth time in October 2023 and April 2024 respectively. Directed and taught online by HRC Visiting Fellow Dr **Liz Griffin**, the Lab is a practical professional development course, focusing on acquiring concrete tools and skills to

practice human rights values-based leadership, within a supportive and reflective learning space. The course supports participants to take their leadership ability, skills and presence to the next level. With numbers capped at 11 for each course, the Leadership Lab has been sold out each time it has run and received excellent feedback, and we are delighted that it will be running again in October 2024 and April 2025. For a reflection on the Leadership Lab from one participant, see our [blog](#).



International Law in Armed Conflict

In August 2023, the Human Rights Centre delivered its first short course on the topic of 'International Law and Conflict.' The Course was directed and led by Dr **Conor Foley**, with a contribution from Professor **Carla Ferstman**, with 21 participants.

On 3-6 September 2024, the Human Rights Centre and the Crisis and Armed Conflict Hub will be running an updated in person course 'International Law in Armed Conflict,' taught by leading experts and practitioners Professors **Noam Lubell**, **Carla Ferstman** and **Geoff Gilbert** from Essex Law School, and HRC Fellow Dr **Claire Simmons**, Senior Lecturer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.



Human Rights Centre Blog and RightsCast

The Human Rights Centre [Blog](#) seeks to publish posts relating to the theory and practice of human rights, looking at both contemporary events and longstanding issues in times of peace, instability, and in conflict and post-conflict settings. Our goal is to present a blog that provides interesting commentary of relevance to practitioners, students, academics, and those interested in human rights. This year, we have had a very active blog, with 21 contributions from our Members, Fellows, Students and Alumni. A particular focus of the blog this year has been on the Israel-Palestine Conflict, which the following blogs addressed: [How 'enlightened' are we](#) (Dr Andrew Fagan); [Making the case for human rights in Palestine](#) (Saleh Jihazi); [The Gaza Crisis, like all crises, is never far from home](#) (Carla Ferstman); [AN ODE TO "LAW, NOT WAR": Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip \(South Africa v. Israel\)](#) (Carla Ferstman); [The war on Gaza and the future of human rights in the Middle East](#) (Passent Moussa); [HRC Director's statement concerning terrible events in Israel and Gaza](#) (Andrew Fagan). Blogs have also embraced topics including migration and refugee rights; history and human rights; the environment; tax justice; poverty and economic, social and cultural rights.



This year, we have also reinvigorated the HRC podcast series [RightsCast](#), with four new episodes on the arts and human rights (with Dr **Gavin Grindon**, **Anastasiia Korabljova**, and Professor **Lars Waldorf**); AI and human rights - just good friends or hostile forces (with Dr **Antonio Coco**, Dr **Giulia Gentile** and Dr **Zhenbin Zuo**); the future of human rights in conversation with Professor Paul Hunt; and on defending human rights in dark times (with Liberty UK's **Sam Grant** and Essex sociologist and HRC member, Dr **Anna Di Ronco**).

Selected human rights appointments, books and funding successes of HRC Members

Appointments

- **Judith Bueno de Mesquita** was appointed as a Member of the WHO Guideline Development Group on Pandemic Influenza Public Health and Social Measures
- Dr **Aoife Duffy** was appointed a member of the International Expert Panel on Impunity & the Northern Ireland Conflict, convened by the Norwegian Center for Human Rights at the request of the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) and the Pat Finucane Centre (PFC). The panel was tasked with providing an authoritative independent assessment of the extent to which there has been state impunity for human rights violations during the Northern Ireland conflict. The panel's report, [Bitter Legacy: State Impunity in the Northern Ireland Conflict](#), was published in April 2024, when it was launched at three events in Belfast, Dublin and London
- Dr **Giulia Gentile** was appointed [Research Co-Director](#) on AI at DICOPO in January 2024; and in May 2024 she was appointed as a Member of the UNESCO Consultation Committee on the Guidelines for AI in the justice systems
- Professor **Matthew Gillett** was [appointed](#) Rapporteur Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in 2024, having been a member of the group since 2022
- Professor **Anuj Kapilashrami** was appointed in January 2024 as Co-Chair of the Gender & Rights Advisory Panel of the Human Reproduction Programme/Department of Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), at the World Health Organisation
- Professor **Andrew Le Sueur** is working with the Jersey Law Commission to evaluate the impacts of the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000, which incorporated the ECHR into this small island nation.
<https://www.jerseylawcommission.org.ie/>
- Dr **Erin Pobjie** was appointed as Co-Rapporteur of the [International Law Association's Committee on the Use of Force: Military Assistance on Request](#), and as a Fellow of the [United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research \(UNIDIR\)](#) in Geneva. Dr Pobjie also serves as Co-Convener of the [European Society of International Law's Interest Group on Peace and Security](#).
- Professor **Ahmed Shaheed** is serving on the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights [Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief](#) for a three-year term (2022-25).

Books

The following are some of the books authored by HRC Members and published in 2023-24.

- Peter Beresford and Colin Slasberg, [The Future of Social Care: From Problem to Rights-Based Sustainable Solution](#) (Edward Elgar, 2023)
- Peter Bloom, [Authoritarian Capitalism in the Age of Globalization](#) (Edward Elgar, 2nd edition, 2023)
- Sophie Duroy, [The Regulation of Intelligence Activities under International Law](#) (Edward Elgar, 2023)
- Carla Ferstman, [Conceptualising Arbitrary Detention](#) (Bristol University Press, 2024)
- Matteo Bonelli, Mariolina Eliantonio and Giulia Gentile, [Article 47 of the EU Charter and Effective Judicial Protection: The National Courts' Perspectives](#), Vol 2 (Hart, 2023)
- Marina Jovanvic, [State Responsibility for 'Modern Slavery' in Human Rights Law: A Right Not to Be Trafficked](#) (OUP, 2023)
- Lorna McGregor, [Detention and its alternatives under international law](#) (OUP, 2023)
- Erin Pobjie, [Prohibited Force: The Meaning of 'Use of Force' in International Law](#) (CUP, 2024)
- Laurie James-Hawkins and Róisín Ryan-Flood (eds.), [Consent: Gender, Power and Subjectivity](#) (Routledge, 2023) - Cover pictured below,



Funding for human rights-related projects awarded to HRC Members

In addition to the research funding received by HRC projects, a number of HRC members received funding to further their research on human rights themes. This includes:

- **Judith Bueno de Mesquita** (Principal Investigator), and Professors **Karen Hulme** and **Rekha Rao-Nicholson** (Co-Investigators) were awarded £500,000 by **ESRC** for a project **"Reimagining Food Systems for Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Social Justice"**. The funding supports their participation in a three-year interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers from more than ten countries, including Canada, Germany, India, Norway, South Africa, the United States, Australia, Vanuatu, Morocco, and led by the **University of Manitoba**
- **Judith Bueno de Mesquita** (Principal Investigator), Dr **Claiton Fyock** (Co-Investigator) and Dr **Birsha Ohdedar** (SOAS, Co-Investigator) were awarded £12,000 from the **British Academy and Wellcome Trust** to run a Conference on the topic of **"The Realisation of Human Rights in Societies Beyond Growth"**
- Dr **Giulia Gentile** was appointed Co-Principal Investigator for the **EU Horizon** project **EXPRESS2** in March 2024
- Dr **Erin Pobjie** was awarded a £150,000 **British Academy Global Innovation Fellowship** (Technology and International Affairs) in March 2024, in partnership with the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). She was also awarded £10,000 from **Research England's Policy Support Fund** for her project, **Use of Force and the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space**, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- Dr **Stephen Turner** is Principal Investigator in the **Sustainable Transitions – Leverhulme Doctoral Training Programme**, an award that was announced in Nov 2023. This award of up to £2.2m will fund 18 interdisciplinary scholarships at the University over a period of 8 years.