

### Research and academic activity

- HRSJ [research report](#) on *Equality, human rights and religion or belief in England and Wales* will be submitted in November. It was commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and explores, among other issues, conflicting interests relating to religion or belief and the accommodation of religious difference in the public sphere.

### New research projects

- An 18-month [project](#) on *Democratic Legitimacy in Human Rights Implementation: the role of Parliaments in the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights* (Nuffield Foundation) will assess to what extent, and by what means, parliaments are involved in implementing judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.
- HRSJ was successful in another competitive tender for the Equality and Human Rights Commission – *A Review of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights* and their impact on the UK. This is topical given the renewed attacks on the Human Rights Act; the ongoing Commission on a Bill of Rights and the fact that the UK takes the Chair of the Council of Europe next month. The research will be done jointly with Jane Gordon, who is Senior Lawyer with the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre.

### News and recent activities

In October, HRSJ Director Philip Leach was invited as a guest speaker at a special seminar on [Strasbourg and the UK: Dialogue or Conflict?](#) held by the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law in collaboration with the Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association. The seminar tackled an issue which is set to become even more prominent when the UK assumes control of the Council of Europe in November.

In a [letter to the Guardian](#), Philip Leach called on the UK government to be open about its plans to reform the European Court of Human Rights. He warned that the unwillingness of the previous and present government to comply with the Court on the question of prisoner voting rights encourages similar non-compliance by other states

In September, Philip Leach was invited to deliver a paper on *The European Court and the effects of its case law: execution of judgments; repetitive cases; supervision of the execution of judgments* at an expert seminar held at the University of Leuven, Brussels.

Karen Bennett secured a Nordic Mobility Scholarship for participating at the Association of Human Rights Institutes [12th Annual meeting in Venice](#), focusing on *The Role of the EU in UN reform, human rights partnerships and progress toward a 'World Court'* and issues related to human rights and development.

Alice Donald has begun a project with Mersey Care NHS Trust to develop an evaluation tool to assess the impact of the Department of Health's Human Rights in Healthcare programme.

Karen Bennett and Alice Donald taught this summer on the FSSH MA short course/module *Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Active Citizenship*.

Upon completion of the [Darfur Human Rights Training Project](#) in Geneva this spring, HRSJ and the International Bar Association arranged with the Open Society Institute for East Africa to use the unspent funds of the project to support one member of the Darfur Bar Association to participate in an English language programme in Uganda.

### Events and publications

HRSJ's seminar series on *Human rights and social justice in an age of austerity* concluded in July 2011. Across the series, around 350 scholars, students, policy makers, practitioners and civil society actors debated with panels of distinguished speakers about this critical issue of our times. Audio/video and speaker transcripts are available [here](#).

Philip Leach (2011) *Taking a Case to the European Court of Human Rights*, Third Edition, [Oxford University Press](#)

Alice Donald and Elizabeth Mottershaw (2011) 'Limits and achievements of the HRA from the socio-economic point of view: the HRA and Poverty', N. Kang-Riou et al (eds), *Confronting the Human Rights Act, Contemporary themes and perspectives*, [Routledge](#)