

E – BULLETIN - Issue 1, December 2010

Dates for your diary

- ❖ **HRSJ Seminar Series Jan-July 2011 - Human Rights & Social Justice in an Age of Austerity:** The UK faces a period of public austerity unparalleled in the post-war era. What will it mean for human rights, equality and social justice? [Book now](#) for any or all of the seven seminars.

News and recent activities

- ❖ **HRSJ Annual Report 2008-1010:** recently published and will be available on our [website](#) shortly.
- ❖ **Alasdair MacIntyre:** HRSJ hosted some 200 people at a lecture by Professor MacIntyre on *Intolerance, Censorship and Other Requirements of Rationality* in October. The event was organised jointly with the Centre for Aristotelian Studies in Ethics and Politics. A [podcast](#) is now available on HRSJ website.
- ❖ **HRSJ staff recently participated in the following events:**
 - Prof. Philip Leach was keynote speaker at the *Amnesty International Activism Conference on Enforced Disappearances*, 23 Oct 2010
 - Philip Leach and Karen Bennett were invited to attend the Association of Human Rights Institutes annual conference on *Reforming Human Rights Institutions: Progress and Status* in Iceland in September
 - Karen Bennett and Joanna Evans (Senior Lawyer, EHRAC) were consultants with the International Bar Association to accompany lawyers from Darfur at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
 - Alice Donald was a witness to the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights on 25 November on the Comprehensive Spending Review and human rights.
 - Alice Donald chaired conference *Civil Liberties: Freedom and Fairness in the 21st Century* on 11 November, organised by Inside Government with keynote speaker, Immigration Minister Damian Green.

Research and academic activity

- ❖ **OSCE academic consultancy:** Karen Bennett was an academic consultant from August - November 2010 to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek Kyrgyzstan, teaching on the *2010 Certificate Program in Project Management, Human Rights and Conflict Sensitivity for Central Asia and Afghanistan*. Karen has been invited to teach for the second year of the programme in June 2011.
- ❖ **Nuffield Foundation shortlists two HRSJ proposals in November 2010:**
 - *Democratic legitimacy in human rights implementation: the role of parliaments in the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights* (Philip Leach, Alice Donald)
 - *Choice and control within compulsory mental health treatment in the community* (Alice Donald and Jonathan Watkins in partnership with the Mental Health Foundation)
- ❖ **Bromley Trust invites HRSJ for interview to fund research project:** *Women offenders: domestic violence, coercion and the plea of duress* (Janet Loveless, Karen Bennett, Maddie Coy)

Forthcoming projects

- ❖ **Human rights education for Darfur lawyers:** Soros Foundation/OSI East Africa and the Foreign Office are funding a joint HRSJ-International Bar Association project for *Capacity-building of lawyers and activists from Darfur*. Karen Bennett will design the programme and Philip Leach, Karen Bennett and Joana Evans will lead course sessions for 15 Darfur participants in Geneva during the 16th UN Human Rights Council session in Feb-March 2011.

EHRAC

In September, EHRAC held a successful [training seminar](#) on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) for human rights lawyers from the North Caucasus and an [NGO roundtable](#) on the ECHR in Moscow. In November, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on two EHRAC cases. In the extradition case of *Sultanov v Russia* it held that the applicant's forcible return to Uzbekistan would violate the prohibition on torture (Art 3 ECHR). In *Amuyeva & Others v Russia* the Court found that Russian servicemen illegally killed four Chechen civilians on 7 February 2000, in violation of the right to life (Art 2 ECHR).

HRSJ publications

- ❖ Donald, A. (2010) 'Opinion: A Bill of Rights for the UK? Why the process matters', *European Human Rights Law Review* 5 459-464