

Human Rights Symposium: Realising economic, social and cultural rights in the UK



The Law Society

21 - 22 October 2011, The Law Society
12 CPD hours

Conference partners



Why attend?

There is a pressing need to discuss and develop UK approaches to economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights because, while these rights impose binding legal obligations under international law, they are not currently considered part of the political 'mainstream', nor are they applied as principal standards for public policy in the UK.

Furthermore, major political and economic changes have recently taken place, including the emergency June budget and October spending review, which causes us to re-evaluate notions of the public good, the welfare state and minimum living standards. However, even before the 'austerity changes', the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in both their 2002 and 2009 Concluding Observations, raised concerns that the UK is failing to adequately secure these rights.

To address these matters, the Law Society has organised this conference in partnership with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Centre (University of Essex) (HRC), and Just Fair on the topic of 'Fairness, justice and human rights: Realising economic, social and cultural rights in the UK'.

Conference Programme

Day One - Friday, 21 October 2011

- 08.45 - 09.10 Registration
- 09.10 - 09.20 Official Welcome: Fairness, justice and human rights
Lucy Scott-Moncrieff (Vice president, The Law Society of England and Wales)
- 09.20 - 09.45 Keynote: What are human rights, where do they come from, and how are they relevant to the UK?
Speaker: Professor Francesca Klug OBE (Director, Human Rights Futures Project, LSE)
- 09.45 - 11.00 Plenary Session: Budget cuts, fairness and rights - realising human rights in an age of austerity
- 11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 - 11.30 Keynote: A Just and Fair Britain: where do we go from here?
Speaker: Andy Slaughter MP (Labour MP and Shadow Justice Minister) (TBC)
- 11.30 - 12.45 Plenary session: How do we protect economic, social and cultural rights and should we secure them in a British Bill of Rights?
- 12.45 - 13.00 Keynote: Securing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
Speaker: Baroness Walmsley (Patron, CRAE, co-Chair Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Policy Committee on Education, Families and Young People, and sponsor of the 2009 ROCK Children's Rights Bill)
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch and testimony
Participants: Testifiers from the Poverty Truth Commission (Scotland)
- 14.00 - 14.30 Keynote: Inequality in the UK - causes, effects and solutions
Speaker: Professor Emeritus Richard Wilkinson (Director, Equality Trust and author of The Spirit Level)
- 14.30 - 15.45 **Breakout Workshop A - How can we use them? ESC rights strategies**
(Knowledge and skill focused workshops)
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|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| A1. ESC rights in Parliament | A2. Community empowerment, The 'Big Society' and human rights | A3. Campaigning, advocacy and influencing | A4. Public perceptions, the media and human rights |
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- 15.45 - 16.15 Closing Keynote: ESC Rights in the UK: The Path Ahead
Speaker: Professor Geraldine Van Bueren (Commissioner, Equality and Human Rights Commission) (TBC)
- 16.15 - 18.15 Drinks reception and 'testimony sessions'
An opportunity for people to meet, build relationships and witness a series of the Poverty Truth Commission testimonies from people living at the sharp end of poverty in Glasgow, Scotland.

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Day Two - Saturday, 22 October 2011

- 09.30 - 10.00 Registration
- 10.00 - 10.20 **Keynote: Freedom and bread - securing dignity through ESC rights**
Speaker: *Justice Albie Sachs (former Justice of the South African Constitutional Court)*
- 10.20 - 10.40 **Keynote: The Colombian Constitutional Court and Economic, Social and Cultural rights**
Speaker: *Chief Justice Juan Carlos Henao Pérez (President, Constitutional Court of Colombia)*
- 10.40 - 11.45 **Plenary session: What can the UK learn from the rest of the world?**
- 11.45 - 12.00 Coffee break
- 12.00 - 12.15 **Keynote: ESC rights and poverty in the UK**
Speaker: *Kate Green MP (Labour MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty, member of the Work and Pensions Committee)*
- 12.15 - 13.30 **Breakout Workshop B: How can we use them? ESC rights strategies**
(knowledge and skill focused workshops)
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| B1. International systems: parallel reporting and action planning | B2. Nothing about us without us is for us! The story of the Poverty Truth Commission | B3. Budgetary analysis: examining taxation and spending | B4. Litigating human rights |
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- 13.45 - 14.45 **Lunch and testimony**
Participants: *Testifiers from the Poverty Truth Commission (Scotland)*
- 14.30 - 15.45 **Breakout Workshop C: 'Most-at-risk' rights**
(knowledge and skill focused workshops)
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| C1. Inequalities in health? The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health | C2. Homelessness and inadequate housing: The right to housing | C3. The right to decent work | C4. The right to social security |
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- 15.45 - 17.00 **Breakout Workshops D: 'Most-at-risk' groups**
(knowledge and skill focused workshops)
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| D1. Children: child rights, poverty and the educational attainment gap | D2. Older people: pensioner poverty | D3. Asylum seekers and refugees: displaced, detained, destitute? | D4. Disabled people: discriminatory provision of health care, housing and education? |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
- 17.00 - 17.15 **Closing Keynote: Justice and fairness through human rights - realising ESC rights in the UK**
Speaker: *Jamie Burton (Chair, Just Fair and Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers)*

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For enquiries please telephone 020 7316 5700 or email seminars@lawsociety.org.uk.

Please note: bookings for this event **cannot** be taken on the phone

To book and pay

Online

To register for this event online, please go to www.lawsociety.org.uk/events. Select the event you want to attend and click on the 'register now' tab. We recommend you pay online by credit/debit card to guarantee your place at this event immediately. If you choose to pay by cheque, please send payment, with your booking details attached, within 10 days of making the booking. Your booking is not guaranteed until we have received payment. If we do not receive your payment within 10 days of your online booking, your place may be released without notice.

By post

To register, please complete the form below in CAPITAL LETTERS and return it with a cheque made payable to **The Law Society** to: Law Society Operations Admin, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL, DX 56 Lon/Chancery Ln

Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Position: _____ Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

DX: _____ Email: _____

Breakout session preferences. (Please give your first and second choice options)

A1	<input type="checkbox"/>	B1	<input type="checkbox"/>	C1	<input type="checkbox"/>	D1	<input type="checkbox"/>
A2	<input type="checkbox"/>	B2	<input type="checkbox"/>	C2	<input type="checkbox"/>	D2	<input type="checkbox"/>
A3	<input type="checkbox"/>	B3	<input type="checkbox"/>	C3	<input type="checkbox"/>	D3	<input type="checkbox"/>
A4	<input type="checkbox"/>	B4	<input type="checkbox"/>	C4	<input type="checkbox"/>	D4	<input type="checkbox"/>

Registration fee

	Day 1	Day 2	Both days		
Private sector organisations, Government departments and agencies and local authorities	£85	£65	£140	No. of Delegates	<input type="text"/>
Third sector organisations and academics	£65	£50	£102	No. of Delegates	<input type="text"/>
Concessions for students, trainees and pupils (concessions capped to 50 places)	£25	£20	£38.25	No. of Delegates	<input type="text"/>
				Total payment	£ <input type="text"/>

Joining instructions will be sent by email one week before the event (*All prices are inclusive of VAT*).

Access, dietary or other requirements

Please advise if you have any additional requirements: _____

Terms and Conditions

1. Event documentation will be distributed on the day.
2. The Law Society reserves the right to amend or cancel this event. Should the event be cancelled a full refund of the registration fee will be made. The Law Society can accept no further liability if the event is cancelled, including no liability for any expenses incurred as a result of cancellation.
3. If you have any special dietary requirements you must give us written notice at least 10 working days before the event and a supplement may be payable.
4. Full payment is required unless you give written notice of cancellation at least 28 working days before the event, in which case you will be refunded the registration fee less an administration charge of 20%.
5. No refunds given for cancellations that occur within two weeks of the event date.
6. You may substitute a colleague without charge, provided you confirm their full name in writing before the day of the event.
7. The delegate and the firm/organisation are jointly and severally liable for payment of the fees due.
8. The Law Society can accept no liability for any loss suffered by any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material delivered during or in connection with the event.
9. Acceptance by the Law Society of your booking will give rise to a legally binding contract between us on these terms and conditions.

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