

Lawyers' Rights
Watch Canada



**BAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

Report of a Feasibility Visit to Cameroon

June 2004

Cameroon Planning Report

1. Background

For a number of years, the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC) has collaborated with colleagues in Africa to deliver legal sector capacity building projects and other training initiatives. These draw primarily upon legal and technical skills provided *pro bono* by members of the UK Bar, but also derive support from other agencies, including the Solicitors' profession in England, the UK Courts and the British legal publishers. A summary of those activities can be found in our 2003 Annual Report or seen at our website – www.barhumanrights.org.uk.

Our most recent African initiative was an extended program of support to the Special Court of Sierra Leone throughout 2003-4, which included specialist training in international, humanitarian and human rights law, together with advocacy training and library resources provision. This was funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Constitutional Affairs, and received additional support from the main UK law publishers, Thomsons (Sweet and Maxwell), Butterworths and the Oxford University Press.

In 2003, we were approached by individual members of the profession in Cameroon who invited us to consider what assistance could be provided to address well documented human rights problems in a jurisdiction where political and legal issues are compounded by duality of language, legal procedure and jurisprudence. We began a dialogue with local contacts, colleagues at the Canadian Bar, and also representatives of the British High Commission and British Council, which culminated in agreement for a feasibility visit in June 2004 by Andrew Hall Q.C. and Jennifer Geen, Project Coordinator of the BHRC. Prior to the visit, we also consulted with the International Bar Association who had recently sent a delegation to Cameroon to advise on the design and implementation of a new Criminal Procedure Code.

The visit was facilitated by British Council, and was undertaken with the cooperation of the Ministry of Justice and other authorities in Cameroon, to whom we owe a significant debt of gratitude. The program of meetings was intensive, informative and extremely constructive. It confirmed that our preliminary ideas as to a program of educational skills training and library support would be hugely welcomed – indeed, that they are desperately needed. We also were able to identify a number of key local collaborators who would work in partnership with us to deliver programs, and to ensure that they were successful and sustainable into the future.

In particular, we were provided with enormous encouragement by the Canadian funding authorities who are extremely active in legal sector reform in the country, and by the British High Commission – both of whom view a UK/Canadian joint venture, delivered by lawyers from both jurisdictions, to be an imaginative and productive solution to the distinctive problems faced by the profession and human rights NGOs locally.

Because of the bilingual and legal duality issues in Cameroon, we propose that our program should be delivered in collaboration with the Montreal based *International Criminal Defence Attorneys Association* (ICDAA) whose members include Bars, professional legal associations, lawyers, legal experts, representatives of NGOs and people interested in international criminal law from around the world.

The BHRC has a strong working relationship with British Council who will provide administrative and logistical support for the duration of the program, and we intend to deliver the programs of work in partnership with the local Bar, Judiciary and legal sector civil society organisations. The beneficiaries of the program will include judges, legal practitioners, human rights activists, academics and members of government.

1.1 It is envisaged that the initial project will be comprised of two major components:

- a) Human Rights Training in the Administration of Justice
- b) Library Resources

A third component, for which we are seeking stage two funding, is advocacy skills training.

1.2 Timing

It is envisaged that teams of trainers will go to Cameroon in January 2005 to implement the Human Rights training. We anticipate delivery of books, materials and computerized library work-stations to precede this, and that we will deliver the Library Resources research training prior to conducting human rights training so that access to relevant books, materials and information sources is available to the delegates. However, the timing is negotiable and crucially dependent upon funding. It may be that we conduct both components of the project simultaneously to reduce costs.

We consider that advocacy skills training is a crucial element of the project and will do much to raise professional standards, and to help in the creation of a program of continuing professional development. It has the very strong support of the professional organizations and of the judiciary. August 2005, when the Courts are in recess, would be the optimum time to deliver such a program. Such projects have been enormously successful in many other African jurisdictions. We recognize, however, that such a program may have a lower funding priority and accordingly we may need to seek separate funding streams to address this, perhaps in a regional collaboration with Sierra Leone or Nigeria.

1.3 Funding

This innovative stage 1 project, initiated by the UK Bar, will involve a partnership between British, Canadian and Cameroonian lawyers. All of the British and

Canadian lawyers will provide their consultancy services *pro bono*, bringing substantial added value to the program. The involvement of the British publishers – following their enormous support in earlier programs – will also add very substantial value to what can be delivered within a low cost project. We have secured additional offers of funding from the *Canadian Cameroon Pro Democracy Fund*, a branch of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

However, gaps exist in relation to the logistics of providing international experts from the UK, which cannot be met from other sources due to technical limits on the disbursements that can be made. Accordingly, we are seeking British funds to cover travel, accommodation, visa and insurance costs in order to facilitate this important joint venture with Commonwealth colleagues. BHRC has conducted the initial planning/feasibility visit with the support of British Council and we will be managing the project. Given our lead role, it is critical that the UK is a significant financial contributor.

1.4 Sustainability

The project aims to strengthen key institutions within the legal and human rights sector in Cameroon by the provision of materials and legal training. These resources will benefit the participants and their organisations beyond the completion of the project and help them achieve organisational sustainability. The provision of legal and training materials, and the emphasis on cascade dissemination of knowledge within organizations, will facilitate widespread and continuing access to law throughout Cameroon.

The establishment of cross-jurisdictional links between lawyers, judges, academics, government officials and human rights organisations and partners in the UK and Canada is vital to our aims. It will allow continuing dialogue between Francophone and Anglophone legal practitioners, as well as direct links with policy makers, in order to promote reform of the judicial system and compliance with international human rights standards.

It is intended that the judiciary, key members of the Ministry of Justice, and politicians will be invited to attend the training sessions to ensure maximum impact on the legal sector and at the highest level.

2. The Principles Behind Our Approach

- (a) To contribute to legal reform by increasing awareness of international human rights legislation and practice, domestic law, and comparative jurisprudence among key individuals in the legal sector – lawyers, judges, justice ministry members, academics, human rights activists.

- (b) To promote dissemination of legal skills, knowledge, and good practice throughout the legal sector in order to promote human rights and strong professional and ethical standards at national, regional and international levels.
- (c) To empower advocates and human rights activists to expand the scope of human rights protections by facilitating communication between members of legal and human rights groups both nationally and internationally.
- (d) To build capacity for legal knowledge, research and networking by providing computerised and library resources that enable access to updated information.
- (e) To engage lawyers and activists into the wider network of lawyers and legal activities being developed across Commonwealth Africa.
- (f) To address the challenges of practicing and harmonising civil, common and customary law as outlined in the Draft Criminal Procedure Code.
- (g) To design our programme so as to harness the expertise of the UK and Canadian Bars on a pro bono basis to address bilingual and jurisprudential issues.

3. Human Rights Training

The Need

- 3.1 The *Batonnier of the Cameroon Bar Association* reported – with some significance - that human rights is no longer a taboo subject in Cameroon. It is openly being discussed amongst political leaders, the heads of police/security in addition to featuring in the press and public discourse on a regular basis. Human Rights institutions are also taking root within even the more politically conservative sectors such as the professions. For example, within the Bar Association there is a Commission on Human Rights that was established six years ago to identify all legal provisions pertaining to human rights and organise seminars on human rights. However, the Commission is inadequately financed and lacks the human resources to function effectively. Moreover, the profession is, to a significant degree, divided on political lines and lacks organizational cohesion. There are complaints, for example, that the Bar Association is not independent and the recent Bar elections were not transparent. Nevertheless, the officials of the Association expressed their commitment to the aims and objectives of our proposed program and offered their support in its delivery. They are anxious to drive up skills and ethical standards within the profession and strongly supportive of initiatives which will achieve these ends, particularly skills workshops and advocacy training to support and strengthen the young Bar.

- 3.2 The *National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms* (NCHRF) has links with more than 100 organisations and reports annually to the head of state. The government appoints members of the NCHRF and only recently have summaries of their reports been made public, following much complaint that – in the absence of public knowledge and discussion of its work – the organization lacked purpose and effectiveness. Its decisions and conclusions are effectively non-binding and accordingly may be ignored by the governmental authorities. There is, as we have indicated, much complaint that its work is largely non-transparent, as a result of which public confidence is low. This adds to a widespread perception that its powers are strictly limited and it is not fully independent. The NCHRF did not convey the current impression of having powers to act vigorously in relation to cases brought to its attention, although its officers expressed the wish to do so.
- 3.3 There is a school for magistrates but no official training institution for lawyers. There have been occasional conferences and seminars, but there is no formal continuing professional development. Nor were we able to detect an effective network between human rights defenders. Young lawyers receive little training or support, and whether they have any skills training following graduation – or none at all – is a lottery. Low professional standards appear to be tolerated and there is widespread reporting of corruption amongst practicing lawyers and also the judiciary. The situation is complicated by the language and procedural mix that prevails. Both the common law and French derived civil codes procedure exist side by side in Cameroon, and there is very little cross-jurisdiction communication between practitioners and magistrates. Cases and rulings are not published and there is a lack of balance between the two legal systems with civil law predominating in eight of the ten provinces. It is acknowledged that the system of international human rights operates essentially as a common law tradition and lawyers from the Anglophone provinces expressed extreme frustration at being “marginalized”.

Against this rather gloomy picture must be set our very positive impression of many of the individual lawyers and judges we met. There is a core of conspicuous talent, ability and dedication within the legal profession – especially the young legal profession – that is yet to be fully exploited to the benefit of Cameroon and its people. Individual lawyers traveled from far and wide, at very short notice, to meet with us in order to talk about their hopes for help with training, and their concerns about the human rights situation in their country. Small but imaginative projects they were undertaking on their own initiative – often at considerable personal expense and risk - were described. It was an impressive, and occasionally humbling, experience for us to witness such commitment. No one could be left with any other but a strong desire to help support and sustain those efforts by any means possible.

- 3.4 The *International Bar Association* (IBA) sent a mission over a year ago to analyse the Draft Criminal Procedure Code which harmonises elements of civil, common and customary law and provides human rights protection and complies with

international and regional standards. The recommendations and conclusions have been largely ignored and at present no legislature exists in place to enact the code. We are informed that even with the synchronisation of the criminal code there will still be problems with rules of evidence.

- 3.5 The inadequacies of the present legal framework and practice adversely affect the entire criminal justice process. Serious abuses by the police begin during the investigation phase and can continue during the prosecution phase. While gross violations such as torture happen mainly at the hands of the investigating officers, i.e. the police, they are made possible only through the apparent willingness of the courts to tolerate such violations. The Courts, by default of intervention, thereby effectively act in complicity with the perpetrators. We saw, for example, evidence of the use of extreme and unlawful violence against unarmed civilians by rogue police units – including the shooting of several victims involved in a peaceful protest, and the setting fire with petrol of another who had been arrested for theft of a bicycle. Lawyers involved in those cases described their complete lack of resources to investigate those cases, and their inability to issue proceedings for compensation to either victim because of the need to lodge substantial – and wholly unrealistic – funds with the court to initiate any action. We were told that confessions obtained in such circumstances – and by the regular use of torture – are routinely accepted in evidence by the Courts under Civil Code procedures. A more robust approach is taken in the common law Courts but here both judges and lawyers are handicapped by the absence of resources properly to investigate and adjudicate on such cases.
- 3.6 During the pre-trial process suspects are often held in unlawful detention in overcrowded prisons, without being granted their most basic procedural rights, thereby becoming easy targets of police violence. Detainees are not informed of their right to communicate with counsel, and are systematically denied access to their family, to a lawyer and to a doctor. Denial of rights to access to a lawyer, relatives and doctors has contributed to prolonged pre-trial investigation, which in turn places the detainee at high risk of human rights violations. There were reports of a lawyer who was assaulted by policemen while he was trying to access his client in prison.
- 3.7 Largely in response to these many grave issues, British Council has developed a *Human Rights in Prisons* project, (Programme d'Amelioration des conditions de Détention et Respect des Droits de l'Homme (PACDET)), funded by the European Development Fund. We met with the program director and lawyers involved in its delivery. It is – to say the very least – an extremely well organized and impressive initiative and one with which BHRC will cooperate while drafting and implementing the training programme. The main objective of PACDET is to improve the conditions of pre-trial detention and the respect of human rights, and to lead towards a situation where human rights are respected in a more rigorous way as a consequence of the improvement of the functioning of the prison and judicial systems. The project outputs include:

- (a) Updating the census on abnormal cases of pre-trial detention
- (b) Dissemination of information on detainees rights
- (c) Access to defence
- (d) Freeing of detainees who should be liberated
- (e) Reducing the duration of pre-trial detention

The PACDET project collaborates with 43 lawyers in Yaoundé and Douala but does not provide training. PACDET is a partnership with the Bar Association and its transparent operations, statistics and regular reports reflect that it is succeeding in shortening the pre-trial detention period and – within the limits of its funding – ensuring that advice and representation is available to detainees who would otherwise be unrepresented and effectively abandoned within the prison system. We should like to support this initiative by providing skills-based training opportunities, and human rights training, to lawyers associated with delivery, as well as assisting with library resources.

The Proposal

- 3.8 BHRC proposes to implement a human rights and legal sector capacity building training project that will address the issues mentioned above. We have yet to determine whether we will hold two separate training seminars, one in French and one in English, or harmonize the two into a one-week bilingual event. This will be dependent upon funding, as well as continuing design work with the Canadian Bar and our local partners.
- 3.9 The program will be an intensive course lasting one week and will take place in Yaoundé and/or Bamenda/Douala. Legal experts and academics with experience in the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda will deliver the program. Assistance will also be sought from local experts in Cameroon. We will offer a course package of core materials including relevant case law and other legal materials, copies of international human rights covenants and practical exercises. It is critical that participants are fully acquainted with all materials prior to the course commencing. Delegates will have attendance monitored, be assessed on their participation and successful completion of the programme will result in the award of a certificate.
- 3.10 The course(s) will be organised for up to 60 participants and will entail a mix of lectures and workshops with a heavy emphasis on practical issues. For example, course attendees will be required to draft written motions citing relevant case law and materials. A fictitious case/indictment could be developed and the various issues pertaining to that case could be considered during the course of the week. It may be possible to organise a series of lectures for the first two days and devote the remaining three to workshops and practical exercises, or to have a morning of

lectures and an afternoon of workshops each day. The course providers can consider such details at a later time.

3.11 A draft programme is attached.

Draft Programme Human Rights Training

1. International Human Rights Law and the Role of the Legal Professions: A General Introduction
2. The Major Universal Human Rights Instruments and the Mechanisms for Their Implementation
3. Sources of International Law: Treaty Law, Customary International Law, International Case Law, and Academic works, with emphasis on where and how to obtain such materials
4. The Compatibility and Challenges of the Harmonisation of the Draft Criminal Code, Ohada and wider African Jurisprudence
5. Independence and Impartiality of Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers—Code of Conduct, Ethics and Professional Standards
6. Human Rights and Arrest, Pre-Trial Detention and Administrative Detention
7. The Right to a Fair Trial: From Investigation to Trial to Final Judgment
8. International Legal Standards for the Protection of Persons Deprived of Their Liberty
9. The use of Non-Custodial measures in the Administration of Justice
10. The Rights of the Child in the Administration of Justice
11. Women's Rights in the Administration of Justice
12. The Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination in the Administration of Justice
13. Other Key Rights: Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion, Opinion, Expression, Association and Assembly
14. The Role of Courts in Protecting Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
15. Protection and Redress for Victims of Crime and Human Rights Violations
16. The African Charter, Commission and Court for Human and Peoples' Rights: Mandate, Procedures, Applications and Appearances before the Court

Assessment and Certification

- 3.12 This training programme will be of a very high standard and we expect that the opportunities provided by it to local practitioners will be fully recognized. The Bar Association has an important part to play in the promotion of the programme and we hope that the course will be oversubscribed.

Outreach Work

- 3.13 In addition to Practitioner Training, the course providers will be available to assist with outreach work including giving a public lecture at the University of Yaoundé one evening and holding a public meeting to address human rights concerns, organised in collaboration with the British Council.

4. Library Resources Project

- 4.1 BHRC, with support from legal publishers, courts, universities and pro bono efforts of legal experts has established a number of computerised legal resource centers throughout Commonwealth Africa. Over 400 lawyers, judges and NGO staff have been trained in the use of digital texts and accessing the Internet for legal research (See Annex 2 for details of past African projects).
- 4.2 The library facilities we observed in the Bar Association, and the offices of NGOs, were seriously lacking in up to date texts and authorities in the common law world. In particular, we observed a lack of common law materials in the modest Bar Association library where there was only a very small section on one bookshelf in comparison with an entire wall of French texts. We are informed that there is a room in a court in Douala and a room in a court in Bamenda where books and computerized workstations could be placed that would give broad access to legal practitioners and human rights researchers and activists.
- 4.3 We have identified a number of civil society organisations that have small library facilities and a couple of computer workstations. They are acutely under-resourced and need updated material accessible to the public.
- 4.4 Objectives include:
- a) To assist in the establishment of library facilities within the Bar Association in Yaoundé and regional chapters, with computer workstations giving networked access to a comprehensive library of digital texts and law reports, and (ideally) with broadband Internet access for legal research.

- b) To provide 5 days of consultant time within the libraries to train potential library users in accessing texts and search facilities and using the Internet to best effect.

The lack of suitable computer labs available for the legal profession makes this initiative particularly attractive to practitioners. Following on from successful past experiences, the best use of our resources and abilities has been:

- a) To provide practitioner advice on library layout and computer requirements.
- b) To work with our publisher, university and legal contacts to obtain free and discounted digital texts and books. We will need to obtain firm commitment from the main UK publishers to supply free copies of their digital materials for Cameroon.
- c) To collaborate with the British Council, or other local non-for-profit organizations, to provide basic computer literacy training and certification for those who wish to enroll for training in the use of a computerised library. CD based self-training is already available at the British Council Library and it may be possible to extend this scheme and advertise it through the Bar Association and their chapter representatives.

In the past, we have provided access to the following digital texts and other materials in addition to specialist books on International Humanitarian and Human Rights and Criminal Law:

Crime Desktop (Archbold, Criminal appeal Reports, Criminal Law Review)
Blackstone's Criminal Practice
Blackstone's Civil Practice
Stroud's Judicial Dictionary
Digest of European Human Rights
All England Law Reports
Weekly Law Reports

Through Internet connection, the machines will also enable research at all of the international resources sites. We have compiled a list of available material and websites that is by no means exhaustive—see Annex 3.

With the assistance of our Canadian colleagues, we also wish to enlarge access to a variety of legal texts and resources in the French language, and pertinent to the Civil Code jurisdiction and practices which prevail in many areas of Cameroon.

The overall aim is to improve significantly the available access by judges, lawyers and other researchers to modern and relevant sources of law, to contribute to the modernization and harmonization of legal procedures and rules in Cameroon by

such access, and to enable resource to be had to international sources of human rights jurisprudence.

4.5 Outreach Work

British Council has three branches in Cameroon: Yaoundé, Douala and Bamenda. We hope to establish dedicated computerised workstations in their offices—each loaded with a collection of digital texts supplied free by the publishers to provide a core collection of legal materials. This will increase the familiarity of a wide body of lawyers and human rights activists with the use of this technology and will contribute to increased communication and networking with the British Council and projects it runs, including the establishment of Legal Aid Clinics and PACDET.

5. **Advocacy Training**

- 5.1 Cameroonians impressed upon us the need for assistance with advocacy training. Although this is beyond our current funding remit, additional support for the legal sector is critical. Current legal training lasts for two years and culminates with a competitive exam. Inadequate human and financial resources within the profession contribute to the challenges of organising seminars and conferences.

The lack of continued professional training – in particular in relation to ethical practice and human rights awareness – is especially acute in a jurisdiction where the inquisitorial regime largely prevails in the prosecution of criminal offences. In such a system, investigating and prosecuting roles are combined and it is possible for one individual investigating magistrate to execute all functions of the entire legal process, combining investigation, the decision to prosecute, determination of guilt and disposal by way of sentence. Even where a separate judicial authority is the tribunal of fact, there is no concept of equality between prosecution and defence lawyers, or a level “playing field” between the State and the defendant. The investigating official is solely responsible for deciding to take the case to a judge and will act as the prosecutor, occupying a status in the proceedings, which is equal to that of the judge. There are no juries or third party interventions and the public view is that of a partnership between the prosecutor and judge in securing the conviction of those whose guilt is presumed by virtue of being charged. In minor cases – and even in more serious prosecutions – there is frequently no right to legal counsel unless private funds are available. This results in a situation in which the majority of detainees are unrepresented, the presumption of innocence does not apply, and the proceedings are – at least to the eye of the common lawyer – wholly unbalanced.

This combination of scarce human and financial resources contributes to a confused, weak and ineffective administration of justice in which the ordinary citizen does not expect his human rights to be protected.

- 5.2 BHRC is willing and determined to offer assistance on a long-term basis. We have provided assistance in advocacy throughout the Commonwealth by means of teams of experienced and senior lawyers who provide consultancy and training pro bono. We are able to deliver intensive 5 or 10-day programmes that are based on practical exercises and normally culminate in a full-scale mock trial conducted in front of a High Court Judge. In some Commonwealth African jurisdictions we have developed rolling programs of training, in collaboration with local Law Faculties, which are to be adopted as a formal requirement of professional training, and have done much to raise professional standards. The courses are designed to meet the particular legal and cultural requirements of the relevant jurisdiction, involve close collaboration with local judges and lawyers, and have strong local ownership.
- 5.3 A draft programme of advocacy training that we implemented in Malawi in 2002 is attached for illustrative purposes. At the basis of the program is a strong emphasis on ethical practice, and the notion of both prosecutors and defenders being the guardians of fair trial standards and basic human rights.

Advocacy Training for Lawyers Course Outline (Malawi)

The course is designed to provide a basic grounding in advocacy for trainees and qualified advocates. The emphasis will be upon skills training with practical exercises as well as tutorials, and the course will culminate in a mock trial in which each delegate will participate. The trial will be presided over by a High Court Judge and advocates will be robed.

There will be full day sessions of lectures and exercises, followed by the trial for which two full days should be allowed. A programme of evening activities will include video and film presentations, together with short after-dinner sessions with invited speakers, including members of the High Court bench, senior members of the profession and other institutions. The course will be presented by experienced and seasoned advocates from the UK Bar with the assistance of the Faculty of Law at Chancellor College.

It is intended that the course will be rigorous and intensive. Delegates will be required to work hard, prepare in detail and apply themselves appropriately so as to obtain the full benefit of the programme. The course will be assessed and result in the award of a certificate for those who successfully complete the programme.

Topics covered in the course will include:-

Duties of an advocate
Pleadings, skeleton arguments and submissions
Practical paperwork exercises

Opening/closing speeches, bail applications and mitigation
Practical Exercises - bail and mitigation.

Examination and cross-examination of witnesses
Demonstration of cross-examination techniques
Examination and cross-examination exercises

Civil proceedings
Trial Planning.
Preparation for trial

At the conclusion of the course there will be a dinner for consultants, delegates with invited guests at which certificates will be presented to those who successfully complete the course to the satisfaction of the trainers.

Notes:

1. Lecture notes are provided for each session. These are designed to flesh out some of the topics covered, although we hope to focus on discussion of areas of difficulty and involve participants in practical demonstrations and exercises as much as possible.

2. Attached are papers for the mock trial, and also some practical exercises. Participants should familiarize themselves fully with these prior to the course. Defence and prosecution roles will be allocated in advance of the Mock Trial.

3. Since an advocate normally conducts the whole of the proceedings, the division of the case into parts is an artificial exercise. It is therefore important that those involved in defending work as a team to achieve a consistency of approach.

4. Those involved in the course have differing levels of experience and practice. We have tried to structure the sessions to give as broad an approach as possible to accommodate this.

MALAWI

25th - 30th August 2002

Schedule

Time	Tutor	Event	Venue
08.00 –08.30		Registration and collection of papers	
08.30-09.00.		Introduction to the Course	
09.00-10.00		Introductory Lecture on Duties of Advocates	
10.00-10.30		Coffee	
10.30-11.30		Lecture on Pleadings, Skeleton Arguments and written submissions	
11.30-12.30		Distribution of practical exercises on pleadings	
12.30-14.0		Lunch	
14.00		Practical written exercises	

19.0	Dinner and presentation on professional conduct and ethics
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Tuesday 27th August

Time	Tutor	Event	Venue
08.00-09.15		Lecture - Pleas in Mitigation and Bail Applications Demonstrations	
09.15-10.30		Lecture – Opening and closing speeches Demonstrations	
10.30-11.0		Coffee	
11.00-12.30		Exercise - Plea/Bail Application Republic of Malawi -v- Hodge Republic of Malawi -v- Ali Khan & Norika Patel	
12.30-14.0		lunch	
14.00-16.0		Exercises – Opening and closing speeches	
19.0		Dinner – and after dinner presentation	

Wednesday 28th August

Time	Tutor	Event	Venue
08.00-09.30		Lecture on examination and cross-examination of witnesses	
09.30-10.30		Demonstration in criminal context.	Emily Lam

10.30-11.00	Coffee
11.00.-12.30 Trials	Demonstration on Examination of Witnesses and Civil
12.30-14.0	lunch
14.00-16.00 examination	Practical exercises – examination in chief and cross
7.0	Dinner and video presentation

Thursday 29th August

Time	Tutor	Event	Venue
08.00-09.30		Lecture – Preparation for Trial and trial planning	
09.30-10.30		Introduction to Mock Trial and trial arrangements.	
10.30-11.0		Coffee	
11.00-12.30		Civil trials – practical exercises	
12.30-14.0		Lunch	
14.00-16.0		Civil trials – practical exercises	
17.00		Dinner	

Friday 30th August

Time	Tutor	Event	Venue
9.00-16.00pm		Mock Trial - Luke Green	
17.00-18.0		Review and feedback session with delegates and consultants	

19.0	Dinner for consultants, guests and delegates.
20.0	Presentation of Certificates.

Acknowledgements.

We are extremely grateful to British Council for providing funding, hosting our visit and facilitating a comprehensive schedule of meetings and discussions. Without this assistance and support our visit would not have been the success it has been. Jenny Scott, Tom Hinton and Emmanuel Ngungoh went to considerable lengths to be supportive, generous and helpful. We thank them for that and very much look forward to continuing collaboration on the various projects we have outlined.

We have also received considerable help from all of those we interviewed and who are listed in Annex 1. Each has made an important contribution to our thinking and planning efforts. Again, we look forward to renewing acquaintances later in the year as the work progresses.

Andrew Hall QC

hallaj@aol.com

Jennifer Geen

bhrc@compuserve.com

**Yaoundé, Cameroon
June 2004.**

Annex 1

List of Contributors

Me. Ebanga Ewodo	Batonnier de l'ordre des avocats au Barreau du Cameroun
Justice Mrs. Lucy Doh Gwanmesia	Technical Advisor No 1, Ministry of Justice
Me. Nouga	Vice-President de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme du Conseil de l'Ordre
Me. Sylvestre Magloire Mben	Representat du Batonnier Pour Le Centre-Sud-Est
Me. Ndjodo Bikoun	Avocat
Vincent de Wilde d'Estamael	Chef de Projet PACDET
Dr. Chemuta Divine Banda	Président/Chairman National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF)
M. Emile Nzalli Fezze	Executive Secretary NCHRF
Peter Essoka	Journalist NCHRF
Simon Awanchiri	Coordonnateur Pro-démocratie, Bureau d'appui á la cooperation canadienne
Nick Baker	Second Secretary, British High Commission
Dr. Hilaire Kanga	Président, Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH)
Me. Jean de Dieu Momo	Avocat, Président, Human Rights Association for the Defense and Protection of Consumers and Environment (APPROCE)
Madeleine Afité	Coordinator of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT)
Sylvanus Binla	ACAT
Maxine Bissay	ACAT

Armand Matna	ACAT
Daniel Moundzego	ACAT
Jean Pierre	ACAT
Anne-Marte Bamal	ACAT
Mme. Aline Djessi Ndine	Magistrate and Président, Cameroonian Association of Female Jurists
Jenny Scott	Director, British Council
Tom Hinton	Deputy Director, British Council
Emmanuel Ngungoh	Project Administrator, British Council
Jean Lucien Ewangué	League of Women and Child Education
Me. Akere T. Muna	Former President, Cameroon Bar Association
Ezekiel Tushaale	Avocat
Eva Kang	Barrister/Solicitor
Me. Oumourou	Barrister/Solicitor
Robert Fon	Barrister/Solicitor
Henry Akum	Barrister/Solicitor
Laure Youssa Pouonkoussou	Avocat, Action for the Rights of Prisoners
Régine Tsadje Youten	Avocat
Me Léopold Hubert Youten	Avocat
Me Julius Tanifum	Barrister/Solicitor, Avocat
Sir Bernard Fonju Fuelancha	Avocat, APPROCE
Fotso Appolinaire	Avocat, APPROCE
Elisabeth Aicha	Avocat, APPROCE

Me. Rose Nwawé	Avocat, APPROCE
Bernard Fotsing Feuwoue	Avocat, APPROCE
Evariste Ngwenyem	Avocat, Association for Peace and Solidarity
Ntaryike Ramzi Divine Jr.	Journalist, The Herald
Joe Dinga Pefok	Journalist, The Post
Me. Geremy Tchindo	Avocat, APPROCE
Julius Tanifum	Barrister/Solicitor
Louise Njoukam	Avocat, APPROCE
Me. Tsadje Tegine	Avocat, African Solidarity
Me. Leopold Youten	Avocat, APPROCE
Mboua Massok	Avocat

Annex 2

BHRC Work in Africa

In recent years, BHRC has had an increasing focus on Commonwealth countries in Africa who share a common law tradition and, in the past, close professional ties. We have conducted missions and delivered a variety of programmes to many countries including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Sudan that have involved capacity-building projects within the legal sectors of individual countries. We work with judges, lawyers, human rights NGOs and the British Council and have built strong relationships of respect and confidence.

Our primary aim has been strengthening and supporting the professions as well as re-enforcing respect for the rule of law and the protection of basic human rights and freedoms. We have provided local judges and lawyers with the skills, resources and motivation they need to be a force for change in their own countries. Respect for the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, high professional and ethical standards, and the enforcement of international human rights standards are all key development issues.

In Africa, inadequate networking within the region results in the lack of a regional system that inhibits consistency and efficiency. It prevents the progress of effective local solutions and strategies. We strongly support the development of regional responses to these issues; encourage the growth of a distinct regional jurisprudence and aim towards the strengthening of African human rights tribunals and commissions.

There would be enormous benefit in addressing these issues in a comprehensive way across all of the African Commonwealth countries. It would enable the development of a regional response, with individual countries sharing experiences and drawing upon sources of comparative and international law and practice from the wider Commonwealth. Peer review by other regional states is likely to prove more acceptable and may lead to wider respect for international human rights norms across the continent.

In order to begin this dialogue, we are seeking funding for a major regional conference to be held to discuss these issues. Delegates would be invited from the legal and human rights sectors of each of the participating countries. The UK Bar and international human rights organisations working in Africa would provide speakers and workshop facilitators. The major themes of the conference will be the ways in which states might be encouraged and enabled to comply with international human rights norms and treaty obligations, and the development of a real agenda for change in respect of key areas of difficulty. The Conference will provide an opportunity for the launch of the Bar Human Rights Committee's CD-Rom of International Human Rights Law, to be published shortly, which is to be distributed free to lawyers and human rights NGOs throughout Africa through their delegate representatives.

Activities

Library Resources for Lawyers

This initiative is currently in its seventh year and has resulted in the establishment of over a hundred computerised library workstations for lawyers in Tanzania, Botswana, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Sierra Leone and Sudan. Over 400 lawyers, judges and NGO staff have been trained in the use of digital texts and accessing the Internet for legal research. In addition, we have created six specialist libraries containing modern comparative law and human rights materials for use by lawyers. The leading UK law publishers have generously supported, and continue to support, this work that has been conducted in partnership with the British Council. A website has been created for one of the leading human rights organisations in Botswana to act as a portal for lawyers working on death penalty and other human rights issues. Lawyers within the region are now being brought into the digital age and are being encouraged to use the equipment to network and as a means of publishing and distributing local law. A regional website for African lawyers is a long-term plan and funding is being sought for this.

We established library resources in Sudan and Sierra Leone in 2003. A feasibility visit to Khartoum was conducted in September 2002 as part of a series of capacity building and human rights reform initiatives by the British Council. Having an English criminal lawyer speaking about human rights standards to a council of 100 Sharia Judges was an unprecedented event. Two volunteers delivered the Library Resources Project in Sudan in February and at the request of the Chief Justice of Sudan, BHRC sent another delegation in October to provide a series of seminars and lectures on commercial law subjects. Both the Chief Justice and the Director of the Institute for Legal Reform have been involved in discussions with BHRC on recent Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) sponsored visits and thus a real breakthrough has been achieved in creating a dialogue between lawyers in both countries. The importance of such work in the context of current difficulties in the Middle East and the Islamic world is enormous.

In Sierra Leone, we have made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL) in Freetown, which has recently begun trials of those bearing the greatest responsibility for genocide and atrocities committed during the civil war. With Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and FCO funding as well as strong support from the publishers, we have established a first rate library of specialist criminal, human rights, and international law texts based at the SCSL which will provide a substantial legacy to the judiciary and legal profession once the Court's mandate ends. Over one metric ton of new and donated law books were shipped as a contribution from the Bar, and we hope that the SC Library will eventually rival that in The Hague. Volunteer trainers have provided specialist technical and research skills training for local lawyers and judges who staff the Special Court, as well as providing seminars and skills training programmes for the wider profession (which was almost wholly destroyed during the conflict). BHRC participated in a week long residential training programme and an intensive advocacy training programme run in partnership with the international NGO No Peace Without Justice and the British Council.

Human Rights CD-Rom

The DCA provided funding for the production of a comprehensive digital library of international humanitarian law on CD for free distribution throughout Africa and the Commonwealth. This will contain all of the international instruments and key authorities from around the world arranged thematically with commentaries from leading UK human rights specialists at the Bar. The publication has now been prepared for production and will be launched in the UK shortly. We are working in partnership with the British Council and Commonwealth lawyers' and judges' organisations that are assisting on distribution. A suitable launch event in Africa is being sought for later in the year. The editorial group of barristers who have created this work provided their time for free and contributing authors and the legal publishers have waived copyright on their materials so that the text can be provided without charge.

Advocacy Training

Criminal practitioners have played a key role in this work over many years in several jurisdictions including China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Russia, Mauritius, and the Caribbean. In more recent years we have extended existing programmes run by the Bar Overseas Advocacy Committee and the Inns to various locations in Africa, and to the UN tribunals established in The Hague (for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia) and in Arusha (for Rwanda). Specialist courses have been provided to lawyers in Tanzania and more recently, Malawi where a rolling programme of twice-yearly residential courses for law students and practising lawyers began in August and is to continue. We collaborate with the judiciary, Bar and academic institutions to deliver these programmes to ensure "local ownership" and to encourage the profession to continue with this in future years as a regular part of professional education. We hope Malawi will be a model for delivery of such programmes in other African countries in the future.

Death Penalty Work

The Criminal Bar has traditionally played a key role in supporting death penalty trial and appellate work in the United States and Caribbean. This has included advisory and amicus work abroad in addition to extensive pro bono representation in capital appeals in the Privy Council. A major new initiative is presently being developed to extend this work to Africa where the problem remains acute and resources are virtually non-existent. BHRC worked with the British Institute for International and Comparative Law and the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies to design programmes of work that attracted substantial European Commission funding. The initiative made possible for the next three years will include an extensive internship programme which will enable young members of the UK Criminal Bar to participate in and support the work of local NGOs in the field of capital trials, appeals and abolition policy work. In addition, we intend to produce and freely distribute a Capital Trials and Appeals Pack that will be in CD format throughout the Commonwealth. This will be a publication of considerable international importance in terms of properly equipping capital trials lawyers to conduct these extremely difficult cases, and enable them to take constitutional and human rights arguments to the relevant international bodies. The Criminal Bar Association has provided two Scholarships in 2002 to enable this work to begin in Malawi and a further 3 to provide the Special Court

in Sierra Leone with much needed support in 2003. We hope to place the first young lawyers in Freetown by the end of the year. We encourage the extension of schemes currently provided by some criminal chambers to provide placements for young African lawyers for them to experience the practice of law here and build on their skills and experience.

UK Bar Conference 2004

BHRC will be hosting a workshop at the UK Bar Conference on 6 November 2004 focusing on Human Rights in Africa to which we have invited human rights defenders from Sudan and Cameroon. The program will consist of talks by each of the speakers outlining their experiences as human rights defenders in Africa. The aim of the workshop is to increase awareness of the African human rights movement and procedures, with the aim of increasing the flow of information between African human rights defenders and the UK.

Topics of particular interest include but are not limited to the following:

- Constraints and Possibilities of the Human Rights Movement
- Human Rights: Popular Rights; All Rights and Claims Against the State in Africa
- Enforcing Human Rights During a Conflict: Genocide, how and why African Conflicts are Overlooked in the West
- The Problem of Poverty in the Fight for Human Rights—Socioeconomic Factors that Influence the Effectiveness of Implementing International Human Rights Standards
- Ethnicity and Democratization: Diversity, Tribalism and Interconnectedness in African Societies
- The Deep Religious Divide (e.g. Sudan or Nigeria) that causes conflict with Human Rights; e.g.: Imposition of Sharia Penalties such as Death by Stoning in Islamic parts of the country.

The visit of African human rights defenders for the Bar Conference 2004 would be combined with a week long visit that would include meetings with NGOs and Government to coordinate and promote the activities of African human rights NGOs and to assist in building their resources, capacities and contacts for more effective work in their areas of operation.

Annex 3

Web Sites for Lawyers

Statutes	http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/acts.htm
Statutory Instruments	http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/stat.htm
House of Lords judgments	http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldjudinf.htm
Other judgments	http://www.courtservice.gov.uk
Times Law Reports	http://www.the-times.co.uk/
Daily Law Notes	http://www.lawreports.co.uk/
Casebase (law reports 1996-)	http://www.casetrack.com/casebase
Lawtel	http://www.lawtel.co.uk/
Sweet & Maxwell	http://www.smlawpub.co.uk/
Butterworths	http://www.butterworths.co.uk/
New Law Online	http://www.newlawonline.com/
Legalease	http://www.icclaw.com/
Lexis-Nexis	http://www.lexis-nexis.com/
FT Law and Tax	http://www.ftlawandtax.com/

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

In the UK the CCTA Government Information Service is the starting point for accessing all government departments and agencies, together with hundreds of related organisations. The principal Law related Departments and Agencies are listed below:-

Crown Prosecution Service http://www.cps.gov.uk/home_page.htm

Stationery Office	http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/
H.M.Treasury	http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
Law Commission	http://www.gtnet.gov.uk/lawcomm/homepage.htm
Legal Aid Board	http://legal-aid.gov.uk
Lord Chancellors Dept	http://www.open.gov.uk/lcd/lcdhome.htm
Official Solicitor	http://www.offsol.demon.co.uk/
Patent Office	http://www.patent.gov.uk/
Parliament	http://www.parliament.uk/

OTHER LEGAL RESOURCES

HUMAN RIGHTS

Many organizations have their own websites, such as the following:

[Amnesty International Online](#)

www.amnesty.org

Daily news updates, reports on specific situations and information on Amnesty campaigns.

[Human Rights Watch](#)

www.hrw.org

Provides international news, publications and updates on HRW activities.

[International Committee of the Red Cross](#)

www.icrc.org

Press releases, operations by country and relief activities all described.

[Statewatch](#)

www.statewatch.org

Monitors the state, civil liberties, justice and home affairs in the UK and European Union. News and features available on the site, which is updated regularly.

[United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

www.ohchr.ch

Provides constant encouragement to the international community and its member States to uphold universally agreed human rights standards through field presences, technical cooperation, regional strategies, national institutions and education.

[International Federation for Human Rights](#)

www.fidh.org

The aim of the FIDH is to obtain effective improvements in the protection of victims, the prevention of Human Rights abuse and the prosecution of those responsible

[International Commission of Jurists](#)

www.icj.org

The ICJ provides legal expertise to ensure that developments in international law adhere to human rights principles and that international standards are implemented at the national level

There are also a number of sites which operate as directories to human rights resources across the world.

[AAAS Science and Human Rights Program](#)

<http://shr.aaas.org/dhr.htm>

Provides links to hundreds of human rights organizations worldwide on the Internet, each with a description. Organized by site name, topical focus and geographical focus. New sites added every few weeks.

[American Society of International Law](#)

www.asil.org/resource/humrts1.htm

Another extremely comprehensive source of international human rights materials.

[Derechos Human Rights](#)

www.derechos.org/

Latin American organization. Arranged by issue, the site gives links to factual pages, NGOs, reports, articles etc.

[European Court of Human Rights](#)

www.echr.coe.int/

Case law, judgments and decisions.

[University of Minnesota Human Rights Library](#)

www1.umn.edu/humanrts

Excellent coverage of international and regional documents and materials, with dedicated search engines available. Also, links to over 2,300 sites organized by type of document, type of organization, region and topic. The library includes a site devoted specifically to [Human rights treaties and other instruments](#) arranged by topic.

[Home Office: Human Rights Unit](#)

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/hract/hramenu.htm

Policy statements, guidance and links.

[Lord Chancellor's Department: Human rights](#)

www.open.gov.uk/lcd/humanrights/humanrft.htm

International conventions and links to courts and tribunals

The text of many international human rights treaties can be found through many of the above sites, or at:

[Council of Europe Treaty Office](#)

<http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/EN/cadreprincipal.htm>

[United Nations International Human Rights Instruments](#)

<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/intlinst.htm>

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

[American Society of International Law – Criminal Law](#)

<http://www.asil.org/resource/crim.htm>

Comprehensive overview of issues and available resources in the field of transnational and international criminal law.

[International Criminal Court](#)

www.un.org/law/icc/inhex.html

The home page of the ICC. For further background information on the Court, the Coalition for an International Criminal Court's home page at <http://www.igc.org/icc/>

[International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda](#)

<http://www.ictt.org>

The ICTR home page, with judgments, transcripts and other legal documents from current and past proceedings.

[International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#)

<http://www.un.org/icty/>

Documents and materials relating to past and present ICTY proceedings.

[Coalition for International Justice](#)

<http://www.igc.apc.org/cij/>

News and background material on the Hague and Rwanda War Crimes Tribunals.

INTERNATIONAL LAW SITES

[ASIL \(American Society of International Law\)](#)

<http://www.asil.org/info.htm>

Comprehensive links to a broad range of international legal resources

[CIA World Factbook – Legal Systems](#)

http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/fields/legal_system.html

Basic summaries of the type of legal system prevailing in all the countries in the world.

[Institute of Advanced Legal Studies: Eagle-I service](#)

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/eihuman.htm>

Links to worldwide human rights resources, arranged alphabetically by topic.

[Internet Law Library: Laws of other nations](#)

<http://lawlib.harveymortensen.com/52.htm>

Alphabetical directory of countries, providing access to country-specific legal information from most parts of the world.

[International Bar Association](#)

www.ibanet.org

The world's largest International Law organisation...education, information, networking and strategy for the world of law.

[United Nations Treaty Collection](#)

<http://untreaty.un.org/>

Details of UN Treaties, including some texts.

[University of Southern California Foreign Materials](#)

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/law-lib/legal/foreign.html>

Links to resources in a number of national jurisdictions.

AFRICA

The Organization of African Unity has a web page at <http://www.oau-oua.org/>. The most comprehensive African internet resources are based in South Africa, and a useful overview can be found at the [Centre for Human Rights – University of Pretoria](#), <http://www.up.ac.za/chr>

[Constitutional Court of South Africa](#)

<http://www.law.wits.ac.za/court/court.htm>

Full-text judgments available from 1995.

[South Africa Government Internet Sites](#)

<http://www.polity.org.za/lists/govsites.html>

Full list of links to departments, local governments, commissions, regulatory bodies etc.

[South Africa Government Online](#)

<http://www.gov.za/>

Good depth of information about all aspects of government: departments, ministers, and local provincial governments.

AUSTRALIA

[Australasian Legal Information Institute \(Austlii\)](#)

<http://www.austlii.edu.au>

Searchable source of cases and legislation for the Australasian continent.

[Australian Commonwealth Government](#)

<http://www.fed.gov.au/>

Government information and services.

[Australian Law on the Internet](#)

<http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/law.html>

Portal to Australian online law resources provided by the National Library of Australia.

[Carrow's Australian Law Links](#)

<http://www.carrow.com/A/linkaust.html>

Selective list of links to key law resources.

CANADA

[Canadian Human Rights Law Centre](#)

<http://www.wwlia.org/ca-hr.htm>

Links to Canadian legislation, agencies and tribunals.

[CLE Legal Links](#)

<http://www.cle.bc.ca/resources/index.htm>

Cases from the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court and statutes. Supplied by the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia.

[Department of Justice of Canada](#)

<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html>

Supports the government in policy making and law reform. Gives information on its programmes and services.

[Canadian Parliament](#)

www.parl.gc.ca/

Proceedings, debates and news of parliamentary proceedings.

[Supreme Court of Canada](#)

<http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scc/en/index.html>

Judgments published in the Supreme Court and reports from 1986.

INDIA

[Indian Parliament](#)

<http://alta.nic.in/intro/p.htm>

Information on parliament and its services.

[Indlaw.com](#)

<http://www.indlaw.com>

Resource base of legal and regulatory issues. Contains news and links to legal resources and legislation.

[Supreme Court of India](#)

<http://supremecourtfindia.nic.in/>

Basic information on the constitution and jurisdiction, rules and judges.

NEW ZEALAND

[Court of Appeal of New Zealand](#)

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/nz/cases/NZCA>

Searchable selection of New Zealand Court of Appeal decisions from 1998.

[New Zealand Government Online](#)

<http://www.govt.nz>

Government information and services.

UNITED STATES

[United States Department of State](#)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/rights/hrpage>

Good source for US documents and policy statements.

[United States Supreme Court](#)

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

Case search facility for the Supreme Court, run by Findlaw.com. (see also

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov> for opinions and orders)

[York University US Law Site](#)

<http://info.library.yorku.ca/depts/law/linksUS.htm>

Links to a vast range of United States legal material.

CHILDREN

[Defence for Children International](http://www.defence-for-children.org/)

<http://www.defence-for-children.org/>

NGO working for the promotion and protection of children's rights.

[United Nations Children's Fund](http://www.unicef.org)

<http://www.unicef.org>

UNICEF is mandated by the UN General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights. Site is a good source of information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related documents.

[United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc.htm)

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc.htm>

Session notes, protocols, press releases etc.

EDUCATION

[Department for Education and Employment](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/>

Overview of the DfEE's role and functions, links to related sites etc.

[University of Minnesota: Education links](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/links/education.html)

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/links/education.html>

List of links to worldwide sites related to education.

FAIR TRIAL

[Legal Services Commission](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/)

<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/>

Public body that administers the Community Legal Service and the Criminal Defence Service. Site has press releases, statutory material, guidance and information on the schemes.

[UK Register of Expert Witnesses](http://www.jspubs.com/)

<http://www.jspubs.com/>

Source of UK-based expert witnesses with free online search facility.

FAMILY LIFE

[Home Office: Government policy around domestic violence](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/cpd/cpsu/domvio198.htm)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/cpd/cpsu/domvio198.htm>

Sets out UK government policy.

[Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority](#)

<http://www.hfea.gov.uk>

Authority responsible for inspecting all UK treatment clinics offering IVF, donor insemination etc. Site contains code of practice, guidelines and directions.

[Human Genetics Advisory Commission](#)

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/hgac>

New government advisory body on how genetics will impact on people and healthcare. Outlines its structure and functions and gives consultation documents and press releases.

[International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission](#)

<http://www.iglhrc.org/>

Organization that works to change institutional structures, educate about human rights violations, assist political asylum claims and disseminate information. Provides fact sheets, press releases, news of events etc.

[Press for Change](#)

www.pfc.org.uk/

UK political lobbying organization campaigning on behalf of transgendered people. Good set of links to guidance and legislation related to employment, gender, health and insurance. Also has news articles, parliamentary proceedings and a web library.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

[Article 19 – The Global Campaign for Free Expression](#)

<http://www.article19.org/>

UK charity that monitors, lobbies and litigates on behalf of freedom of expression.

[Committee to Protect Journalists](#)

<http://www.cpj.org/>

Independent, US-based organization dedicated to the defence of press freedom. Offers good coverage of relevant news articles.

[Cyber-Rights and Cyber-Liberties](#)

<http://www.cyber-rights.org/>

Founded by a researcher at the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at Leeds University, the organization aims to promote free speech and privacy on the Internet. News items, reports, policy issues etc.

[Derechos Human Rights: Freedom of speech](#)

<http://www.derechos.org/human-rights/speech>

Latin American organization. List of links to reports, discussions, NGOs etc, all related to freedom of speech.

[Foundation for Information Policy Research](#)

<http://www.fipr.org/>

Independent UK body that studies the interaction between information technology and society. Covers e-commerce, investigatory powers, interception of communications and more.

[Hatewatch](#)

<http://www.hatewatch.org/>

US web-based organization that monitors hate groups on the Internet. Identifies hate sites by country.

[International Freedom of Expression Exchange](#)

<http://www.ifex.org/>

Group of worldwide organizations joined to campaign for freedom of expression. Weekly communiqué produced with summary of pertinent world news.

[Press Complaints Commission](#)

<http://www.pcc.org.uk>

Contains the commission's code of practice as well as news and adjudications from mid-1996.

[United Nations Special Rapporteur: Freedom of Expression](#)

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/7/b/mfro.htm>

Special Rapporteur for the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Links to related UN documents and press releases.

HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/>

UK social policy research and development charity. Responses to government consultations are provided, as are reports on new findings and details of research in progress.

[United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cescr.htm>

Session notes, press releases etc.

MIGRATION, ASYLUM, EXTRADITION AND DEPORTATION

[Asylumlaw.org](#)

<http://www.asylumlaw.org/>

US-based organization that aims to help lawyers prepare asylum claims worldwide. Provides case support, legal tools and a database of advocates.

[European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)

<http://www.ecre.org/>

Pan-European network of NGOs that help refugees. Publications available online include research papers, policy positions, country reports and press releases.

[Home Office: Immigration and Nationality Directorate](#)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind>

Aims to answer questions from asylum seekers, employers and the tourist industry about asylum, immigration and nationality in the UK.

[International Organization for Migration](#)

<http://www.iom.int/>

Intergovernmental body that seeks to develop understanding of migration issues. Site includes IOM statements and news releases.

[Refworld](#)

<http://www.unhcr.ch/refworld>

Gives access to databases of refugee information. Covers UN official documents, legal, bibliographic and country information. Purports to be the most accurate and up-to-date possible.

[United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#)

<http://www.unhcr.ch/>

News, policy, publications, statistics etc.

[University of Minnesota: Refugee and aid links](#)

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/links/aidlinks.html>

List of links to worldwide sites related to refugees and migration.

LIFE AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

[Death Penalty Information Centre](#)

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org>

Good source for data on US death penalty issues. Updated daily.

[Derechos Human Rights: Death Penalty](#)

<http://www.derechos.org/dp>

Latin American organization. List of links to fact pages, NGOs, abolitionist sites, documents, reports, articles etc, all related to the death penalty.

[European Committee for the Prevention of Torture](#)

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/>

Makes available reports from the Committee's visits to places of detention.

[General Medical Council](#)

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

Medical practice guidance for doctors. Also allows patients to check a doctor's registration.

[Home Office Justice and Victims Unit](#)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/cpd/pvu/pvu.htm>

Government unit responsible for issues relating to procedures in criminal courts and for policies relating to victims of crime. Links to full-text online documents e.g. consultation papers.

[International Victimology Website](#)

<http://www.victimology.nl/>

Netherlands-based source of information about current victimology research, with databases and links to national charities and organizations.

[Physicians for Human Rights](#)

<http://www.phrusa.org/>

US organization of health professionals and scientists that uses medical and forensic sciences to investigate international human rights violations. Site has a news archive and investigation reports on particular issues, e.g. chemical weapons, landmines and refugees.

[Redress](#)

<http://www.redress.org/>

London-based, internationally focused group that helps torture survivors use legal remedies to obtain reparation.

[United Nations Committee Against Torture](#)

<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/6/cat.htm>

Notes on sessions, press releases and so on. See also

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cat/cat-page.html>

[World Health Organization](#)

<http://www.who.int/>

Governance, health topics, reports etc.

[World Organization Against Torture](#)

<http://www.omct.org/>

Helps national human rights organizations fight torture. Site holds details of programmes and appeals.

MENTAL HEALTH

[Mental Health Foundation](#)

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk>

Website of UK charity providing a good source of information on mental health: government reports, news articles and publications. Also has links to related UK national charities and resources.

[MIND](#)

<http://www.mind.org.uk/>

UK mental health charity. Site provides press releases and campaign news.

[World Health Organization – Mental Health](#)

http://www.who.int/mental_health

Information on structure and functions of the WHO's mental health branch. Bulletins and fact sheets also available.

POLICE POWERS

[Home Office: Criminal Justice](#)

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/new_index/crim_jus.htm

Links to online publications about police, prisons, probation, sentencing and courts in the UK.

[National Criminal Intelligence Service](#)

<http://www.ncis.co.uk>

Site contains information on NCIS structure and functions.

[Police Complaints Authority](#)

<http://www.pca.gov.uk>

Links to online reports of investigations into complaints about police malpractice in the UK, and PCA recommendations.

[Police Services](#)

<http://www.police.uk/>

Information on UK police services. See also <http://www.met.police.uk>

PRISONERS

[Criminal Justice System](#)

<http://www.criminal-justice-system.gov.uk/>

Comprises the crime-related work of the Home Office, Lord Chancellor's Department etc. Online publications available and links to relevant government bodies.

[HM Prison Service](#)

<http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/>

General information on the Prison Service: press notices, corporate information, statistics, prison life.

[Home Office: Criminal Justice](#)

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/new_indexes/cim_jus.htm

Links to online publications about police, prisons, probation, sentencing and courts.

[International Centre for Prison Studies](#)

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/rel/icps/home.html>

Part of King's College London. Seeks to assist government and agencies to develop appropriate policies on prisons and the use of imprisonment. Project information given.

[Parole Board](#)

<http://www.paroleboard.gov.uk/>

Makes available release directions for prisoners.

[Penal Lexicon](#)

<http://www.penlex.org.uk/>

Good source of information for issues relating to prisons, criminal justice and penal affairs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Contains prison statistics, case law and legislation, annual reports by regulatory bodies, and information on issues such as health care and young offenders.

[Sentencing Advisory Panel](#)

<http://sentencing-advisory-panel.gov.uk/>

Helps the Court of Appeal frame sentencing guidelines. Links given to advice and press releases.

THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

[International Coalition for Religious Freedom](#)

<http://www.religiousfreedom.com/>

US non-profit organization promoting religious freedom worldwide. Country profiles, reports and links to newspaper articles all available.

[United Nations Special Rapporteur: Religion](#)

<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/7/b/mrei.htm>

Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of religious intolerance. UN documents, press releases and statements.

[University of Minnesota: Religious links](#)

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/links/religion.html>

List of links to worldwide sites relating to religion.

WORKPLACE RIGHTS

[Anti-Slavery](#)

<http://antislavery.org/>

UK organization that monitors slavery, trafficking, forced labour, forced prostitution etc worldwide. Details of current campaigns available.

[Commission for Racial Equality](#)

<http://www.cre.gov.uk/>

UK NGO site that outlines people's rights with regards to discrimination and relevant legislation. Has an up-to-date news archive, which goes back to September 1998. Also sets out the role of the CRE.

[Disabled Rights Commission](#)

<http://www.drc-gb.org/>

Provides information and advice to disabled people, employers and public service providers with the aim of eliminating discrimination. Describes the rights of disabled people and relevant legislation.

[Equal Opportunities Commission](#)

<http://www.eoc.org.uk/>

Body working to end sex discrimination. Site contains legislation, government initiatives and press releases.

[International Labour Organization](#)

<http://www.ilo.org/>

UN specialized agency that formulates international labour standards, employment policy, technical assistance in training and rehabilitation, and so on. Provides good information on topics, standards and programmes.

[United Nations Convention on Freedom of Association](#)

http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/j_ilo87.htm

Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize.

[United Nations: Slavery](#)

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/isslav.htm>

Links to UN Slavery Convention and Protocol.