

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The more things change, the more they stay the same? Socio-economic rights in times of transition

30th April 2015, Ulster Hall, Belfast
9.30 a.m. – 4.15 p.m.

This international conference will examine the conceptual basis for the inclusion of socio-economic rights in transitional justice mechanisms and explore examples of how this has been done using national examples. It will consider the prospects for the future of inclusion of socio-economic issues in post-conflict settings, in particular the liability of corporations for economic and social rights violations and the proposed transformative model of transitional justice.

9.30 am Registration and Coffee

9.55 am Welcome: Dr Deborah Magill, Transitional Justice Institute and the School of Law, Ulster University

10.00 am Introduction: Professor Rory O'Connell, Director, Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University

10.05 am Keynote Address: Mr Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner of Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

10.30am Panel One: Conceptual issues

Chair: **Dr Alice Diver**, Transitional Justice Institute and the School of Law, Ulster University

Dr Clara Sandoval: 'The relevance of socio-economic issues to transitional justice'

Lars Waldorf: 'Less is More: Limiting Transitional Justice's Reach'

Ms Karol Balfe: 'Socio-economic rights in transition: challenges from the civil society perspective'

11.45 am Coffee Break

12.15 pm Panel Two: Experiences of Socio-economic rights in transition

Chair: **Dr Gina Bekker**, Transitional Justice Institute and the School of Law, Ulster University

Ms Catherine Woollard: 'Socio-economic rights and contemporary conflict: implications for policy and practice'

Ms Kate Ward: 'Grassroots initiatives to address socio-economic rights: changing outcomes for the most marginalised'

Professor Vinodh Jaichand: 'Lost in Transition: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission'

1.30 pm Lunch

2.30 pm Panel Three: New directions

Chair: **Dr Khanyisela Moyo**, Transitional Justice Institute and the School of Law, Ulster University

Professor Aoife Nolan: 'Getting the rights right: clarifying common misconceptions about ESR in transitional justice'

Professor Sabine Michalowski: 'Holding corporations to account for violations of socio-economic rights during times of transition'

Professor Paul Gready: 'From Transitional to Transformative Justice'

4.15pm Close: Professor Rory O'Connell, Director, Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University

RSVP Dr Deborah Magill: **d.magill@ulster.ac.uk**

Conference Speakers

Les Allamby is Chief Commissioner of Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and an honorary Professor of the Ulster University. He is a former Director of the Law Centre (NI) and former Chair of an advisory group to the Human Rights Commission on proposals for economic and social rights within a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. He is also a former Chair of the Social Security Standards Committee of Northern Ireland, and was a member of the Legal Services Commission (NI) and the Legal Services Review Group.

Karol Balfe is an adviser for Christian Aid Ireland. She is responsible for guiding programming, providing technical expertise and facilitating organisational learning and research on issues related to governance, peacebuilding and human rights. Her current remit covers seven countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Karol previously worked for Amnesty International managing an economic, social and cultural rights related programme in Ireland and campaigning on human rights issues such as gender based violence, the death penalty and human rights in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territory.

Professor Gready is the Director of the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York and lead researcher on an ESRC funded project on Transformative Justice in Tunisia and Egypt. He is author of *Towards a Theory of Change: Human Rights and Development in the new Millennium* and co-editor of the *Journal of Human Rights Practice*. He is a member of the Board of Child Soldiers International and previously worked for Amnesty International on East and Southern Africa and India.

Professor Jaichand is the Head of the School of Law at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He was the architect of the LL M in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which was launched in September 2009 by the Irish Centre for Human Rights - the first LL M of this description in the world. In August 2013 he was appointed, by the President of South Africa, as a Commissioner to the Law Reform Commission and at the end of 2014 he was appointed on the Technical Advisory Group of the World Bank on the Recognition of Rights in the Land Governance Assessment Framework. He is author of *Restitution of Land Rights* and co-editor of *60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Europe*. Professor Jaichand is also an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

Professor Michalowski is Director of Research in the School of Law at the University of Essex; Director of the Essex Transitional Justice Network; Chair of the Economic Dimensions of Transitional Justice research area within ETJN and a member of the Human Rights Centre. She is author of *Unconstitutional Regimes and the Validity of Sovereign Debt: A Legal Perspective* and editor of *Corporate Accountability in the Context of Transitional Justice*.

Professor Nolan is a Professor of International Human Rights Law at the University of Nottingham where she is academic lead of the Children and Childhood Network. She is also Co-Director of the Economic and Social Rights Unit of the University's Human Rights Law Centre. She has been an expert advisor to a wide range of international and national organisations and bodies working on human rights issues, including a range of UN Special Procedures, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and multiple national human rights institutions, IGOs and NGOs.

Dr Sandoval is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Essex University and the former Director of the Essex Transitional Justice Network. She has been a consultant for the International Criminal Court, UN Women and the OHCHR in the area of reparations and transitional justice. She is a qualified lawyer and engages in human rights litigation, training and capacity building with organisations such as REDRESS and the International Bar Association. She is a member of the Human Rights International Council and the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association. She authored, for the OHCHR, its *Special Issue on Transitional Justice and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 2014 and the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General – Reparations for Conflict Related Sexual Violence, 2014.

Lars Waldorf is Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Applied Human Rights and York Law School. He ran Human Rights Watch's field office in Rwanda from 2002-2004 and reported on genocide trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 2001. Lars has worked as a consultant for the International Center for Transitional Justice, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Front Line Defenders, the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation, and the Austrian Development Agency. He has co-edited three books: *Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights after Mass Violence* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2011); *Localizing Transitional Justice: Interventions and Priorities after Mass Violence* (Stanford University Press, 2010) and *Disarming the Past: Transitional Justice and Ex-Combatants* (SSRC, 2009). He is Guest Editor for a special issue of the *International Journal of Human Rights* on "Legal Empowerment in Transitions" (forthcoming 2015).

Kate Ward is a public policy professional with specialist experience in socio-economic rights and equality. She is currently a policy and research support officer within the Belfast based human rights organisation, Participation and Practice of Rights. PPR puts human rights at the service of vulnerable groups to support them to assert their rights in practical ways and make real social and economic change in their communities. In 2012, PPR's Human Rights Based Approach was recognised by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as an example of good practice in how people can effectively use indicators to claim their rights. Kate was the lead researcher on PPR's work on the nature and extent of religious inequality in social housing. She is also a board member of the Centre for Global Education.

Catherine Woollard is currently the Brussels Director of Independent Diplomat, a non-profit organisation which provides advice to countries at risk of escalating to conflict or returning to conflict. She is the former Executive Director of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, a Brussels-based network of not-for-profit organizations working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. She has also worked as a consultant advising governments on anti-corruption and governance reform.

Transitional Justice Institute and School of Law, Ulster University

Dr Gina Bekker is a Lecturer at the School of Law and Associate Researcher of the Transitional Justice Institute. She was previously a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa on the Economic and Social Rights Project and a Senior Legal Officer on the Refugee Legal Aid Project at the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, Egypt. She has worked as a consultant to both the South African Human Rights Commission and the United Nations Development Project in Egypt.

Dr Alice Diver is a Lecturer at the Transitional Justice Institute and School of Law, Ulster University. Her research interests are the fields of human rights law, adoption law and policy, cultural heritage and property law. She is author of *A Law of Blood-ties: The 'Right' to Access Genetic Ancestry* and has also published widely in the fields of property law and human rights.

Dr Deborah Magill is a Researcher at the Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University where she is currently working on a project examining Economic and Social Rights in Transitional Justice. Her main area of published research focuses on the use by social movement organisations of legal processes to secure socio-economic change.

Dr Khanyisela Moyo is a Lecturer at the Transitional Justice Institute and School of Law, Ulster University. Her main research projects are Gender and Transitional justice in postcolonial Africa and Economic Social and Cultural Rights in Transitional Contexts.

Professor Rory O'Connell is the Director of the Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University. He is co-author of *Applying an International Human Rights Framework to State Budget Allocations* and *Human Rights and Public Finance*. He is on the Executive of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, is a member of the Editorial Board of Minority Rights Now (NICEM) and is the editor of the RightsNI Blog <http://rightsni.org/>. He is also one of the members of the UK team of Bologna Experts.



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