Annual Report 2013-2014
Global Perspectives on Human Rights
Global reach of the Oxford Human Rights Hub blog

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Message from the Dean
The Oxford Human Rights Hub lives up to its name, bringing together contributions from the theory and practice of human rights within the University, and also making new connections among people around the world.

As of July 2014 the OxHRH Blog has published 550 posts written by more than 250 different contributors, of whom are situated outside the UK. Our global reach includes contributions from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Pakistan, India, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil, New Zealand and Australia as well as Jamaica, Belgium and Hong Kong.

We have had contributions from senior lawyers, professors and judges, as well as from young professionals and academics at the beginning of their careers.

The Blog has rapidly become a free and open platform, where multiple expert voices can participate and collaborate, with a special focus on giving a voice to those who would otherwise be isolated and under-resourced. We have collected a rich and dynamic pool of common resources, which can be drawn on for capacity-building, for collaborative research and for public interest litigation.

In April 2014, we produced our first print anthology of Blog posts, ‘Global Perspectives on Human Rights,’ edited by Laura Hilly and Claire Overman. The collection collates the best of the OxHRH Blog’s posts from its first eighteen months in operation, and is already proving to be a valuable tool for educators, researchers and practitioners.

Our work on the Blog has now been recognised with an Oxford University Faculty of Law ‘OxTalent’ Award, which will ensure that the Blog continues to remain an important global resource.

We have hosted three international conferences to date: ‘Elusive Equalities’ in 2012, the ‘Harvard-Oxford Conference on Gender Equality’ in 2013 and ‘Women and Poverty: A Human Rights Approach’ which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2014. We have more information about the Rwanda conference on page 10 of this report. We are looking forward to the publication of two major new initiatives in the following year: peer-reviewed publications from these events.

The papers from ‘Elusive Equalities’ will feature in the International Journal of Law in Context later this year; and we are collecting the papers from our Rwanda conference for a guest edition of the African Journal of International and Comparative Law. We are also planning to publish working papers from that conference on our website and will soon be premiering the Rwandan conference video.

Our seminar series continues to attract speakers of the highest calibre, with one of the highlights being the joint conversation on judicial identities between Canadian Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella and Justice Suzanne Baer from the German Federal Constitutional Court. You can read more about this event on pages 12 and 14. This lecture was generously funded by the Bipsybancho Marchioness of Winchester Lectureship. We are planning a follow up seminar in November of this year.

One of our central missions has always been to make best use of information technology to build communities of expertise and to encourage communication and knowledge exchange without having to incur the cost of travelling. In particular, we have capitalised on new technology to bring human rights resources to audiences who may have limited access to more traditional media. Our new and dynamic website, designed by One List, was launched in April 2014. It is now fully integrated on a thematic basis, making it easy to follow through contributions on similar issues.

We feature new Blogs on a daily basis as well as news and events and podcasts of our seminar series. In June 2014, the OxHRH Blog was awarded an OxTalent Award for ‘use of technology for outreach and engagement.’

I am thrilled by the progress of the OxHRH this past year, and I look forward to seeing further developments in the year to come. I would like to thank Professor Timothy Endicot, the Dean of the Oxford University Faculty of Law for his ongoing support, as well as all our contributors for their tireless energy and creativity. Special thanks go to the Oxford Human Rights Hub team: Managing Editor Laura Hilly, Communications Manager Claire Ovremain, and Research Co-ordinator Meghan Campbell, whose energy, vision and enthusiasm have helped shape the OxHRH into what it is now. Special thanks also to Zoe Davis-Heaney, our Administrator, for her warmth and efficiency. To our staff Blog editors Rachel Wechsler and Chintan Chandrachud, and our volunteer regional correspondents, for all their hard work. We are immensely appreciative of the ongoing pro bono support from South African brand-based communication agency, GuatlanDougal, which has contributed measurably to the attractiveness of our design and to our communicative capacities. A warm thank you also to Hart Publishing whose generous support has made this year’s report possible.

Sandy Fredman
Director, OxHRH
Rhodes Professor of the Laws of the British Commonwealth and the USA

Message from the Director
The Oxford Human Rights Hub has come a long way since its inception in 2012. In its second year of operation, the OxHRH has rapidly established itself as an energetic, fast-developing community, and now a leading global forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience between human rights academics, policy-makers and practitioners.

This past year has marked an extraordinary growth in our international presence, assisted in particular by our network of regional correspondents based across the world, who source contributions on the region’s human rights developments. We have structured our annual report this year to showcase this broad regional spread – with six sections of this report dedicated to news on OxHRH activities from the 2013/14 academic year that engage with particular human rights issues in North America and the Caribbean, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and Oceania.

We also have a section of this report dedicated to international human rights law issues. This reflects the close working relationships that we continue to foster with experts working at the supranational level, in particular UN Special Rapporteurs who work on key issues of human rights law.

You can see from the infographic and statistics set out on pages 2 and 5 how far our network has developed.

• We now have over 3600 followers on Twitter, over 2600 followers on Facebook, and an international mailing list of close to 1000 members.

In 2014, we are now poised to take our next step: thanks to a grant from the Oxford University Knowledge Exchange, in the coming year we will be hosting parallel and virtual events on the important current topics of human rights. We are also aiming to draw on the rich resources of the Blog to develop online forums, bringing together Blog contributors on similar topics to facilitate further collaboration.

Our new website has also enabled us to integrate the work of our two sister organisations, Oxford Pro Bono Publico and Oxford Legal Assistance, whose activities and projects providing practical support are now showcased on the website. In a major new initiative, we have established a research resource for Southern African judges, in collaboration with the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit of the University of Cape Town. Our first set of interns has already left for Namibia, where they will be interning in the relevant courts.

The OxHRH was also proud to support OIPRF in hosting its first major symposium on public interest law this year, which included panels with barristers and solicitors working in legal aid in the UK as well as leading public interest lawyers from South Africa and elsewhere in the world. Many congratulations to the OIPRF committee and to Laura Hilly for organizing such a successful symposium. The insights from this day as to the state of legal aid in the UK have led us to begin to work on proposals for a more comprehensive approach to clinical legal work in Oxford. You can read more about the symposium, and the OxHRH’s coverage of legal aid in the UK, on page 11.

I hope we can continue to develop the OxHRH blog with even more contributions on similar issues.

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Overview

Our Mission
The Oxford Human Rights Hub (OxHRH) aims to bring together academics, practitioners and policy-makers from across the globe to advance the understanding and protection of human rights and equality. Through the vigorous exchange of ideas and resources, we strive to facilitate a better understanding of human rights principles, to develop new approaches to policy, and to influence the development of human rights law and practice.

Who we are
The OxHRH is based in the University of Oxford Faculty of Law and was launched in 2012 with funding from the Oxford Higher Studies Fund. Oxford academics, research students and visiting academics form the core of our network, while our reach extends to over 40 countries through our growing network of human rights academics, practitioners and policy-makers.

What we do
The OxHRH facilitates the exchange of ideas and resources through six primary channels:
• The OxHRH website: Our website provides a portal for human rights activities and research at Oxford University, as well as providing access to human rights resources and publications.
• The OxHRH Blog: Our Blog provides a space for human rights academics, lawyers and policy-makers from across the globe to share and discuss recent human rights developments.
• Social media: The OxHRH is on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Flickr. Join our growing online community and contribute to the conversation.
• Newsletter: Our newsletter contains a roundup of OxHRH news and events as well as featuring news from our wider network.
• Seminars: Our termly seminar series focuses on issues at the intersection between human rights theory and practice.
• Conferences: Our international conferences facilitate deeper engagement between human rights lawyers across the globe on key human rights issues.

3600+ followers gained
550+ blog posts

Blog posts per topic
**Staff and Directors**

**Director**  
Professor Sandra Fredman

Sandra Fredman is the Rhodes Professor of the Laws of the British Commonwealth and the USA at Oxford University. She is Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Cape Town and a fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford. She was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2005 and was made an Honorary Queen’s Counsel in 2012. She has written and published widely on anti-discrimination law, human rights law and labour law, with a specific focus on gender and socio-economic rights.

**Associate Director**  
Associate-Professor Liora Lazarus

Liora Lazarus is an Associate Professor in Law, Member of the Centre for Criminological Research, and Fellow of St. Anne’s College, Oxford. Her primary research interests are in comparative human rights, security and human rights, comparative theory and comparative criminal justice.

**Associate Director**  
Associate-Professor Nazila Ghana

Nazila Ghana is Associate Professor in International Human Rights Law at the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford and has a fellowship at Kellogg College, Oxford. She serves on the OSCE Advisory Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Universal Rights Group and has carried out research funded by the ESCR, AHRC and Qatar Foundation.

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Cathryn Costello is Andrew W. Mellon Associate Professor in International Human Rights and Refugee Law, at the Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford, with a fellowship at St. Antony’s College. Her research focuses on the human and labour rights of migrants and refugees in EU, regional and international law. She has assisted several NGOs in the immigration and asylum fields, and has undertaken research projects for the European Parliament, the Council of European Parliamentary Assembly and the UNCHR.

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**Managing Editor**  
Laura Hilly

Laura Hilly is a DPhil candidate in Law at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on gender diversity in the judiciary. She is the Managing Editor of the Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog, the former Chair of Oxford Pro Bono Publico, and teaches on the Oxford European Human Rights Law course.

**Editor and Communications Manager**  
Claire Overman

Claire Overman is a barrister based in London. She completed her BA and BCL at the University of Oxford and the Université de Paris. She will be commencing pupillage in 2015.

**Administrator**  
Zoe Davis-Heaney

Zoe Davis-Heaney is responsible for overall non-academic administration of the OxHRH, including financial and personnel management, research administration and general administration.

**Research Coordinator**  
Meghan Campbell

Meghan Campbell is a DPhil candidate in Law at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on women’s poverty. She is a stipendiary lecturer at New College, Oxford. She is also the graduate representative on the Oxford Legal Assistance Committee.

**Editor**  
Rachel Wechsler

Rachel Wechsler is a first-year DPhil student in Criminology at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on human trafficking.

**Editor**  
Chintan Chandrachud

Chintan Chandrachud is pursuing a PhD in Law at the University of Cambridge on the Judge Evan Lewis-Thomas Scholarship. His research focuses on judicial review in India and the UK.
Outreach

Awards and Funding
The 2013/14 year has been a successful one for the OxHRH, with awards and funding helping to secure our position as a global forum for human rights.

In June 2014, the work of the OxHRH was formally recognised at the Oxford IT Services OxTalent Awards. The OxHRH Blog was the winning entry in the category “use of technology for outreach and engagement.”

In the same month, the OxHRH was also successful in applying for a funding grant from the British Academy. The grant, which will last for five years, will be invested into the OxHRH Blog, ensuring that it continues to bring readers the latest human rights developments across the world.

In July 2014, the OxHRH received funding from the University of Oxford’s Knowledge Exchange and Impact team. This grant will be used to develop the OxHRH webinar series in the coming year.

Social Media
The OxHRH remains active on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Flickr. Posts, news and events are published daily. There is also a monthly newsletter, which features a selection of Blog posts, as well as news, publications and events. Sign up to our mailing list to join our global discussion on human rights.

OxHRH in the Media
The OxHRH has featured in several videos this year. OxHRH Associate Director, Liora Lazarus, featured in a short film looking at the 2013 Stern Review of how rape complaints are handled by public authorities in England and Wales. Dr Lazarus also participated in a BBC radio programme, commenting on the decision on whole life sentences in the UK in R v McLoughlin. Members of the OxHRH team also featured in a video, produced by Rhodes House. The video looks at the work of OPBP and OxHRH, and its links with the Rhodes Trust. To mark the Rhodes House’s 110th anniversary this year, members of the team also spoke at its anniversary event.

The OxHRH Website
The OxHRH website (oxhrh.law.ox.ac.uk) has undergone a radical transformation since last year. The home page now features a sophisticated design, with dedicated pages for Blog posts, events, news, pro bono projects and publications. Details of the OxHRH, OPBP and CLA teams can also be found. The ‘about us’ section hosts details of the OxHRH, OPBP and CLA teams.

The site also links to our social media networks – a real-time Twitter and Facebook feed is installed on our homepage, and our events page features an embedded Flickr feed showcasing our most recent speakers.

We have also expanded our foreign language posts over the past year. Our site now features Spanish, French and Portuguese posts, in order to better reach our global audience.

Special thanks go to One Ltd, who designed the new OxHRH website, and to Gullan & Gullan, who provide ongoing website support.

OxHRH 2014 Anthology: “Global Perspectives on Human Rights”
In April 2014, the OxHRH published its first annual anthology, entitled “Global Perspectives on Human Rights.” The anthology collated the best of the OxHRH Blog’s posts from June 2012 to December 2013, organised thematically into twelve chapters, each focusing on a different aspect of human rights law.

The anthology was well-received, forming part of university reading lists and being used as a source of human rights information for those who may be unable to access traditional media. It can be freely accessed online, and hard copies are also available for purchase. If you would like to purchase a hard copy please contact us at oxfordhumanrightshub.law.ox.ac.uk

To view our anthology online, please visit http://issuu.com/oxhrh/anthology

OxHRH Feedback Survey
In March 2014, the OxHRH ran its first feedback survey, designed to find out about how members viewed its website, social media presence, events and Blog. Feedback was received from participants in 26 different countries.

96.6% of respondents were happy with the frequency of Blog posts, and 95.5% were satisfied with their quality. 91% of respondents were satisfied with the length of Blog posts. There were also many suggestions for further coverage, including more on indigenous rights, corporate social responsibility, and religion and human rights.

71.8% of respondents follow the OxHRH on social media, and 83.4% would be interested in OxHRH seminars and conferences via live streaming and webinars. These are developments which the OxHRH has planned for the coming year.

OxHRH Book Competitions
The OxHRH has collaborated with various publishers, has run several successful book giveaways this year. In May 2014, with Ruth Killick Publicity, the OxHRH ran a giveaway of Glenn Greenwald’s “No Place to Hide.” In partnership with Hart Publishing, the OxHRH has run various other competitions, including a summer short essay competition on the theme of finance and human rights.

In particular, the OxHRH is grateful for the support of Hart Publishing, which provides regular publications for use in competitions and giveaways. Hart Publishing also provides annual sponsorship to the OxHRH.
Rwanda Conference 2014

In April 2014, the OxHRH hosted a major global conference on women and poverty in Kigali, Rwanda. This conference brought together a network of leading actors in various disciplines, working in poverty, gender equality and human rights.

It was hosted in partnership with the Oxford Martin School’s Human Rights for Future Generations Programme, the University of Cape Town, the University of Rwanda, and with the support of Chief Justice of Rwanda, Sam Rugege. The opening speech was delivered by the First Lady of Rwanda, Her Excellency Mrs Jeanette Kagame. The OxHRH was also delighted to have Dean Timothy Endicott with us in Rwanda.

Speakers included Dr Jeri Kligman (World Bank), Prof Chris Mayna Peter (International Law Commission), Dr Juliana Masanbo (University of Dar es Salaam), Prof Francois Lund (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Dr Sindiso Mini Weeks (UCT), Prof John C Mubangizi (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Professor Sandra Fredman (Oxford University), Dr Usta Kaitesi (University of Dar es Salaam), Justice Kate O’Regan (retired justice of the South African Constitutional Court), Justice Sam Rugege (Chief Justice, Rwanda), Olivier de Schutter (Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food) and Tabeth Masengu (UCT). We were particularly honoured to have the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Hon. Gasinzigwa Oda, participate in the conference.

The conference was a great success, and it is anticipated that this will be the first of many international conferences hosted by the OxHRH. Laura Hilly, Jaakko Kuosmanen and Meghan Campbell are currently editing a special edition of the African Journal of International and Comparative Law that draws upon papers delivered at the conference. The special edition is due out in early 2015.

OPBP – Oxford Pro Bono Publico is the Oxford Law Faculty’s graduate pro bono wing. It provides high-quality international and comparative law research on a pro bono basis, and provides opportunities and funds for students to undertake public interest internships. OPBP has also, in conjunction with the OxHRH, organised seminars and events on public interest law.

Most recently, in May 2014, the OxHRH supported OPBP in hosting a public interest law symposium, entitled “Public Interest Lawyering in the Twenty-First Century.” Speakers included Justice Abella, of the Supreme Court of Canada; Helen Mountfield QC, Matrix Chambers; Polly Glynn, Doughton Frame Glynn Solicitors; Jonathan Cooper OBE, Doughty Street Chambers; Sarah Septon, Grahamstown Regional Director, Legal Resources Centre, South Africa; Brad Broomac, General Secretary of Equal Education, South Africa; Meghna Abraham, Head of Special Projects, Amnesty International; and Jo Ranshaw, Partner, Turpin & Miller LLP.

OLA – Oxford Legal Assistance (OLA) is a student pro bono programme run by the University of Oxford Law Faculty. It runs three pro bono schemes – the Turpin and Miller legal advice clinic, the Citizens Advice Bureau project and Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID).

The Turpin and Miller scheme allows Oxford undergraduate students to offer legal assistance to the firm’s asylum and immigration clients. The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) scheme is currently in development, and next year will involve student volunteers working directly with CAB’s own volunteers to assist with clients’ cases. OLA’s work with BID allowed student volunteers to provide information to detainees on how to make a bail application, and assistance in making their applications.

The OLA Public Law moot took place earlier this year, with great success, with the grand final being judged by the Rt Hon Sir Stephen Sedley.

Joint Seminar Series

In Michaelmas term 2013, the OxHRH partnered with the Martin School’s Human Rights for Future Generations programme to host a seminar series. Speakers included Ben Emmerson QC and Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, UN Special Rapporteurs. In Hilary term 2014, the OxHRH and the Refugee Studies Centre co-hosted a seminar series entitled “Human Rights, Asylum and Refugee Protection: Exploring the Confluences, Constraints and Contradictions.” Speakers included barristers S Chehban and Jason Poljooy, and academics Ana Alverti (University of Warwick), Jean-François Durieux (RSC & Graduate Institute, Geneva) Gregor Noll (University of Lund) and Anne Hammerstad (University of Kent).

Gullan & Gullan

This year, OxHRH has teamed up with South African-based brand communications agency Gullan & Gullan, who have supported our work on a pro bono basis. Their team has brought energy and vibrancy to the OxHRH’s promotional materials – they have been the creative talent behind this year’s and last year’s report, our anthology, our website and our newsletter. In May 2013, Sandy Fredman paid a visit to Gullan & Gullan’s offices in Johannesburg to thank the entire team for their generosity and hard work.

Partnerships
North America and the Caribbean

Regional Correspondents

Alecia Johns is the OxHRH Correspondent for the Caribbean.

On the Blog

Many major developments in human rights law in the USA and Canada have been covered by the Blog this year. In the USA, posts have covered the striking down of the Defense of Marriage Act in US v Windsor, and most recently the US Supreme Court ruling in Hobby Lobby that religious employers could refuse to provide contraception in their health insurance plans. The OxHRH’s coverage of LGBTI developments in the USA was widely received, with author Karl Laird receiving a mention in SCOTUSBlog. Most recently, Professor Carol S. Steiker of Harvard Law School has commented on a case in which a California District Judge declared the death penalty unconstitutional.

Canadian posts have also covered a wide range of topics. There has been coverage of two major Supreme Court decisions — in the field of privacy law (R v Spencer), and sex worker rights (Canada (Attorney General) v Bedford).

Speakers

In January 2014, Professor Nancy Fraser, Loeb Professor of Philosophy and Politics at the New School for Social Research, gave a talk entitled “Behind Marx’s ‘Hidden Abode’: Towards an Expanded Conception of Capitalism.” In May 2014, the OxHRH was pleased to welcome Justice Rosie Abella, of the Supreme Court of Canada, Justice Abella, along with Justice Susanne Baer of the German Federal Constitutional Court, spoke at a series of lectures funded by the Bapsybanoo Marchioness of Winchester Lecturership. In the first seminar, entitled “A Judicial Conversation on Identities and Judging,” the Judges discussed the role that gender identity plays among the judiciary. They also led a seminar looking at equality law developments in their respective jurisdictions.

Events

In November 2013, the OxHRH hosted a film screening of Academy Award shortlisted film, “The Response,” a courtroom drama based on the actual transcripts of the Guantanamo Bay military trials. The film’s director, Sig Libowitz, was at the screening for a question and answer session after the film.

OPBP Reports

OPBP prepared a report consolidating international human rights law on the right to privacy, to support a submission for the adoption of the revised general comment under the ICCPR, for the American Civil Liberties Union.

South America

Regional Correspondents

Thiago Amparo is the OxHRH Correspondent for Brazil. Ignacio de Casas is the OxHRH Correspondent for Latin America.

On the Blog

The OxHRH Blog has greatly expanded its coverage of jurisdictions in South America this year. The Blog is now able to publish posts in Spanish and, most recently, Portuguese. This is in no small part thanks to the sterling efforts of our Regional Correspondents Ignacio de Casas and Thiago Amparo.

Posts have covered developments at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, with coverage of the right to protest, and the right of consultation of indigenous peoples. There has also been coverage of Brazil’s racial quota laws, and the uprisings in Venezuela in February and March 2014. Oscar Vilhena Vieira, Dean of the School of Law of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, has looked at developments in Brazil’s education law.

Conferences and Workshops

In March 2014, Sandy Friedman visited Escola de Direito de São Paulo in Brazil where she presented at the launch of a new book, “Transformative Constitutionalism: Comparing the Apex Courts of Brazil, India and South Africa,” in which she contributed a chapter on gender and transformation in the South African Constitutional Court. This was an important opportunity to facilitate links with our colleagues in Brazil. It was published by the University of Pretoria and edited by Professor Oscar Vilhena Vieira, Professor Upendra Baxi, and Franz Viljoen.

The OxHRH is also preparing for its forthcoming conference, Gender, Race and Poverty: Addressing Multiple Identities Through Law, which will take place in November 2014 in São Paulo, Brazil. This conference will be held in partnership with Escola de Direito de São Paulo and the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. The aim is to bring together researchers from different parts of the world to share their insights on the role of law in addressing some of the most challenging aspects of discrimination: those involving the intersection between gender, race and poverty.

Speakers

In December 2013, Dr Espejo Yaksic, UNICEF consultant in Latin America and Director of Research at the University of Chile, presented on children’s rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This event was co-hosted with Kellogg College and OPBP.
Regional Correspondents
Adélaïde Remiche is the OxHRH Correspondent for Western Europe.

On the Blog
The OxHRH has extensively covered the impact of legal aid cuts in the UK. Posts from eminent barristers such as Helen Mountfield QC, Michael Fordham QC, Dinah Rose QC and others have addressed this important issue.

Other important developments in UK law have also been the subject of OxHRH Blog posts. These include regulation of the wearing of the niqab in court, the implementation of the Flexible Working Regulations 2014 and the "right to die" decision handed down by the UK Supreme Court. There have also been numerous posts covering high-profile judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, including Winter v UK (life sentences), SAS v France (the burqa ban), Cyprus v Turkey (damages following armed conflict), RMT v UK (the right to strike) and IB v Greece (on discrimination on the basis of HIV status). The UK government cited the OxHRH post on Winter in its action plan submitted to the ECtHR following judgment.

Postcards for Justice
In November 2013, the OxHRH was proud to support the Slave Justice UK Postcards for Justice Campaign. Professor Sandy Fredman signed a card on behalf of the OxHRH, noting that we are deeply concerned about the impact of recent legal aid cuts, and we support the Campaign's efforts to facilitate an ongoing institutional partnership.

Events and Speakers
In January 2014, John Bowers QC, leading counsel in Reedv UK v UK (a landmark ECtHR decision on the rights of employees to affiliate with far right parties) spoke at the OxHRH. He explored the impact of the decision and current conceptions of tolerance.

In April 2014, the OxHRH, in collaboration with the Oxford Public Law Discussion Group, welcomed Judge Robert Spoo, of the European Court of Human Rights. Judge Spoo spoke on the principle of subsidiarity and its impact on the ECtHR. In the same month, the OxHRH welcomed Professor Sir Bob Holgrave QC, Chair of the Equal Rights Trust. He gave a seminar entitled, "Discrimination Law: Meeting the Challenges."

In May 2014, Justice Baer of the German Federal Constitutional Court, along with Justice Abella of the Canadian Supreme Court, led discussions on gender identity, judging and equality law. This formed part of a seminar series funded by the Bapsybanoo Marchioness of Winchester Lectureship.

OPPB Reports
OPPB prepared a comparative hate crime research report for the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, and undertook comparative hate crime research on prosecutorial discretion for the intervener’s submissions in Pasha v Sarabia before the ECtHR.

Directors’ Activities
Cathryn Costello is currently engaged in an equality research study for the European Parliament on access to asylum and responsibility sharing for asylum in the EU (with Professor Elspeth Guild, Madeline Garlick and Violeta Moreno-Lax). She also presented her work on asylum and asylum procedures in Italy, Brussels, Dublin, Vienna, and Copenhagen. In November 2013, Cathryn gave a Current Legal Problems Lecture in London entitled, 'Immigration Detention: The Grounds Beneath Our Feet'. She also gave invited lectures on immigration detention at the University of Glasgow and at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

Sandy Fredman is part of an ongoing project on The Law of the Contract of Employment, co-ordinated by Professor Mark Freedland and Dr Nicola Countouris, which has held several workshops in Oxford. Her contribution, with Judy Fudge, is on ‘Gender and the Contract of Employment’. She also gave a paper on human rights at the conference on mark the 80th birthday of Lord Hoffmann in Oxford in April 2014, and contributed a paper entitled ‘Labour law and equality to the conference on ‘The Autonomy of Labour Law’ in Oxford hosted by Professor Mark Freedland in Oxford in July 2013. In March 2014, she was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion at the House of Commons on Threats to Human Rights in the UK. Her article ‘Addressing Disparate Impact: Indirect Discrimination and the Public Sector Equality Duty’ appeared in the September issue of the Industrial Law Journal (2014) 43 ILJ 349).

Associate Director Lorna Lazarus was invited to submit evidence on the Draft Modern Slavery Bill, in the September issue of the Industrial Law Journal (2014) 43 ILJ 349).

In February 2013, Justice Dhaya Pillay, judge of the High Court in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, presented a seminar to OxHRH members on the challenge of adjudicating social democratic values in capitalist societies.

In 2014, the OxHRH also welcomed former South African Constitutional Court Justice Karlton Regan, who gave a talk on the rights to housing and education in the South African Constitutional Court.

Sustainable Connections in East Africa
In May 2014, Sandy Fredman visited the University of Rwanda in Butare to meet with students and faculty members. She spoke about the role of human rights law as a framework of accountability and visited the University’s developing legal aid clinic. The OxHRH and Oxford Law Faculty are currently drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Rwanda, to facilitate an ongoing institutional partnership.

Regional Correspondents
Kathryn O’Regan is the OxHRH Correspondent for Southern Africa.

On the Blog
OxHRH posts have covered a range of topics and jurisdictions, including corporal punishment in Namibia, laws prohibiting homosexuality in Cameroon, and labour rights in Ghana.

Posts have also focused on major developments in South African human rights law, such as Constitutional Court decisions on housing rights, and developments in gender equality in the South African judiciary.

On the passing of former South African President Nelson Mandela, Professor Sir Bob Holgrave QC also wrote a moving account of his experiences alongside Nelson Mandela during the anti-apartheid struggles.

OxHRH Partnerships
In May 2014, the OxHRH and the African Politics and History Seminar Series hosted the Oxford premiere of “In the Shadow of the Sun,” an internationally acclaimed documentary looking at albino in Tanzania. This was followed by a panel discussion with the film’s director and the managing director of UK charity Standing Voice.

OPPB Reports
OPPB prepared a report on the liability of states in damages for rights-violating conduct by the judiciary in the performance of the judicial function, for the Judge-President of Namibia.

Speakers
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The OxHRH and the Legal Resource Centre
Sandy Fredman has been advising, on a pro bono basis, the Legal Resource Centre, assisting with the formulation of its strategy on the right to sanitation in ongoing education rights litigation in the Eastern Cape. Professor Fredman, and OxHRH founding editor and administrator Chris McConnachie, contributed to a publication by the LRC titled ‘Ready to Learn: A Resource for Realising the Right to Education’, consolidating its education rights litigation strategy and achievements to date. They attended the launch of this publication in New York in October 2013.

Southern African Judges Project
The Southern African Judicial Assistance Project (SAJAP) is a collaboration between OPBP and the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit, University of Cape Town. It was established in October 2013, at a DGRU hosted Judicial Forum of Southern African Judges in Johannesburg at which Sandy Fredman was a participant on behalf of OPBP.

SAJAP provides high quality international and comparative law research to judges in southern African countries, and facilitates students from the Universities of Oxford and Cape Town to undertake clerkships with judges. In early 2014, SAJAP was awarded a grant by the World Justice Project, in order to continue its activities.

Directors’ Activities

The Kenyan Human Rights Commission
In June 2013, the Oxford Human Rights Hub hosted a delegation from the then-newly established Kenyan National Gender and Equality Commission. The Commission undertook a week-long programme of events, which included a visit to Professor Oxford Human Rights Hub at the Embassy of Kenya to meet with the Commissioner for the Centre, later participated in the Oxford Human Rights Hub’s Rwandan conference.

The European Human Rights Hub
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Asia and the Middle East

Regional Correspondents
Sebastian Ko is the OxHRH Correspondent for East Asia. A.S. Vishwajith is the OxHRH Correspondent for India.

On the Blog
OxHRH Blog posts have covered many important developments in human rights law across Asia. A series of posts considered the Supreme Court of India’s decision, maintaining the criminality of homosexual conduct, in Kaushal v Naz Foundation. Other major developments in India include the use of the death penalty and the prevalence of acid attacks. The OxHRH Blog has also looked at sexual harassment and rape in India. Other posts have covered sexual violence in Burma, the right to vote in Cambodia, housing rights in Hong Kong, and developing environmental protection laws in China.

Directors’ Activities
In January 2014, Associate Director Naz Ghanea undertook research in Qatar and Kuwait with Dr Basak Çali of Koç University. This research focused on the domestic effect of UN treaty ratification in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E.). It further examined the manner in which lawyers and courts address rights questions post-ratification.

In February 2014, Sandra Fredman spoke at a workshop on gender mainstreaming hosted by the Rights of Women at Work Clinic at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The workshop discussed both “bottom up” initiatives of gender mainstreaming initiated by Israeli civil rights organisations, and the policies entailed in a “top down” policy, as adopted by the UK.

Oceania

On the Blog
The OxHRH Blog has looked at several major developments in Australian and New Zealand human rights law. Australian posts have centred on the same-sex marriage debate, and on the rights of the indigenous Aboriginal population. New Zealand posts have also looked at the issue of same-sex marriage, as well as at sex worker rights.

UNSW Virtual Classroom
In February 2014, students from the OxHRH and the University of New South Wales engaged in a virtual classroom debate, centred around housing rights in South Africa, and the Grootboom decision by the South African Constitutional Court.

Students from UNSW created a short video entitled “An Australian Grootboom: What Would It Look Like, and How Would It Change Our Democracy?” which was then screened to Oxford students. The Oxford students’ formal response to the video, as well as the informal class discussion which followed, was filmed and fed back into discussions among UNSW students.

Speakers
In mid-2014 the OxHRH was extremely privileged to welcome Michael Kirby, former Justice of the High Court of Australia. Justice Kirby gave a very engaging talk on the Supreme Court of India’s judgment in the Kaushal v Naz Foundation. He was then kind enough to answer questions from the audience.

In early 2014, the OxHRH welcomed Dr Dominique Allen, a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University and co-author of “Australian Anti-Discrimination Law.” Dr Allen discussed her forthcoming publication on the structure and role of human rights commissions.
International

UN Special Rapporteurs
The OxHRH has benefitted from interaction with various eminent figures from the United Nations over the course of this past year.

In March 2013, Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, wrote a guest piece on the efforts to empower women through eliminating hunger and discrimination.

In September 2013, the OxHRH Blog covered the visit to the UK of Raquel Rolnik, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing.

In November 2013, the OxHRH and the Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations, co-hosted two seminars presented by UN Rapporteurs. Ben Emmerson QC, UN Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, presented a seminar on the use of drones in counter-terrorism. Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, spoke about poverty, stigma and potential rights-based solutions.

In Michaelmas term 2013, the OxHRH hosted Jennifer Welsh, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on the Right to Protect. It also welcomed Patricia Sellers, Special Adviser on International Criminal Law Prosecution Strategies, who presented an international criminal law perspective on child soldiers and gender.

In February 2014, the OxHRH welcomed Dr Chaloka Beyani, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced People, to speak on the right to seek and obtain asylum under the African human rights system.

In April 2014, Jeni Klugman, Director of Gender and Development at the World Bank, spoke at the OxHRH’s international conference in Rwanda. She has also written for the OxHRH Blog.

In June 2014, Frances Raday, UN Rapporteur and Chair of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice, wrote a post presenting the findings of the Working Group’s report on women’s economic and social life, delivered to the UN Human Rights Council.

In the same month, the OxHRH welcomed Dr David Scharia, Coordinator of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Committee of the UN Security Council. Dr Scharia presented a seminar on the question of whether courts were able to review national security issues.

OPRP Reports
OPRP drew up a report on the remedies and procedures for anyone deprived of liberty to bring proceedings before a court. This report compiled and analysed state practices for Professor Mads Andenas, UN Special Rapporteur for Arbitrary Detention.

OPRP also prepared a research brief analysing austerity measures under the framework of human rights law, for UN Special Rapporteur for Extreme Poverty Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona.

Looking Forward
The Year Ahead
This past academic year has marked a series of exciting firsts for the OxHRH – from our increased foreign language posting capabilities to our international conferences and use of virtual learning technology.

Looking to the coming year, the OxHRH is excited to be hosting a further international conference in Brazil in November 2014. With the help of funding from the British Academy and from the University of Oxford’s Knowledge exchange, the OxHRH will be expanding its use of interactive technology, such as virtual classrooms and webinars. It will also be expanding its growing networks, including on social media and on iTunes U.

The OxHRH is always looking for members to join its international network of human rights practitioners, academics, students and policy-makers. To join our global discussion on human rights, please get in touch at oxfordhumanrightshub@law.ox.ac.uk.
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