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This year the OxHRH celebrated its five year anniversary! From its initial start in 2012 with the OxHRH Blog, to its pioneering use of multiple technological platforms, the Oxford Human Rights Hub has been committed to fostering a global conversation among students, researchers, academics, practitioners and policy-makers engaged in the research, teaching and practice of human rights law. Through the energy and passion of our team and contributors, the OxHRH is recognized around the world as a leading platform on human rights.

Our annual report is designed to showcase the rich multimedia resources that we have developed over the past year, including our RightsUp #RightNow podcasts. This year we have focused on how to connect traditional modes of scholarship to digital platforms. Through the power of technology, we have been able to create an important platform to share and disseminate expert analyses of cutting-edge human rights law developments in countries all over the world, including in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Oceania and South America.

The infographic and statistics set out on page 6 and 7 demonstrate the breadth of our global network.

We now have over 11,000 Twitter followers; over 4,400 followers on Facebook; and an international mailing list of 1,300 subscribers.

As of August 2017, the OxHRH blog has published over 1200 blogs from more than 400 experts, from 40 different countries.

Our website has 15,000 unique views per month.

It is incredible to see how we can make best use of technology to overcome physical boundaries while simultaneously enhancing teaching and learning.

The Blog is now firmly established as an accessible and democratic space where senior lawyers, professors, judges, UN Special Rapporteurs, and early career academics, as well as professionals and post-graduate students, can participate and collaborate. Our blog has been frequently cited, most recently by The Financial Times, and it has been used as a research resource by leading academics and the European Court of Human Rights. Through the hard work of our Regional Correspondents, we continue to focus on spotlighting overlooked human rights issues and giving a voice to under-resourced areas.
As in previous years, it has been fascinating to observe the common themes that arise spontaneously from individual blogs. This year’s blogs are drawn together in the fourth edition of our anthology, *Global Perspectives on Human Rights*, grouped together into sixteen thematic chapters. We are particularly pleased to have been able to include an analysis of the blogs in each chapter by an expert on the subject, drawn from both academic and practitioner circles. The resulting Anthology makes a valuable contribution both to the study and the practice of comparative human rights law over differing jurisdictions.

This year we were also very pleased to co-host a major inter-disciplinary conference in Oxford together with the International Labour Organization and the University of Kent. Building upon the success of past international conferences, the conference examined *A Better Future for Women at Work*. We not only drew large live audiences of students, practitioners and NGOs, but also leveraged social media to bridge the gap between the conference room and our global community. Live tweeting of the presentations and dialogue garnered over 20,000 Twitter impressions. The compelling papers from the conference will be published in 2018.

The central mission of the OxHRH has been to make the best use of technology to exchange knowledge and build communities. We have developed a series of online resources that have been crucial in building communities of expertise without having to travel to Oxford. Our RightsUp #RightNow podcast series takes a human rights perspective to the issues dominating the news cycle and shows the importance of speaking about current events in human rights terms. To bring the classroom to our global community, we live-streamed an exciting Oxford-based panel discussion on Brexit and the pathbreaking judgement of the UK Supreme Court in *Miller*. It is incredible to see how we can make best use of technology to overcome physical boundaries while simultaneously enhancing teaching and learning. The recorded video of the Brexit discussion has been viewed over 1200 times and is an excellent resource.

To celebrate our five year anniversary, we released two videos reflecting on the ground-breaking work of the OxHRH. Former Deputy-Director, Dr Laura Hilly, in warm words of praise, explained that the OxHRH is a focal point to share research and collaborate so that academics and practitioners can mutually support each other. Former graduate students and blog editors highlighted the importance of the OxHRH in their doctoral research, of having a high-quality free resource at their fingertips and of the central value of taking a comparative approach so as to cover issues that can be overlooked in domestic human rights law. As human rights are deployed on both the left and the right for political purposes, it is important to remember that the work of the OxHRH and knowledge of human rights, as Deputy-Director Dr Meghan Campbell said in our anniversary retrospective, is for everyone. We all have a stake in human rights.

The Oxford Human Rights Hub would not be what it is without the active involvement of our many contributors, our student editors, our regional correspondents, our funders, and most of all our passionate team. My very special thanks to Dr Meghan Campbell, the Deputy Director; Tom Lowenthal, our Managing Editor; Dr Kira Allmann, our Communications Director; and Helen Taylor, Research Director; who have done such an extraordinary job over the past year. Thanks too to our blog editors, Rory Kelly and Natasha Holfcrost-Emmess, as well as to Jason Brickhill, Research Director, and Victoria Miyandazi, Researcher, who have done so much for the Hub. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Carli Schoeman and The Bakery Ideas Company whose creativity, vision and patience have been so important to the OxHRH’s growth over the last five years. I am also very grateful to Professor Anne Davies, Dean of the Law Faculty, for her support. Last but certainly not least, we are enormously appreciative of the ongoing support of our funders: the British Academy, Open Society Foundations, Oxford University, International Labour Organization, ESCR and Hart Publishing. Ultimately, our greatest appreciation is to our community of contributors and followers across the globe.
### Facts & Figures

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Our Mission

The Oxford Human Rights Hub (OxHRH) strives to build a global community to enhance the understanding of human rights law and practice. By harnessing the potential of technology, the OxHRH has created a rich and accessible body of research and learning tools for students, teachers, academics, and advocates of human rights law, both in Oxford and beyond.

The OxHRH transcends traditional boundaries in order to open up new spaces for exchange and learning. Our flagship activity is the daily blog, which continues to attract high-quality legal analysis of the latest human rights issues. It is a democratic space that publishes blogs from established academics and lawyers as well as featuring new voices and perspectives from students and early career researchers. This past year we have focused on developing new digital research and learning tools: our RightsUp #RightNow podcasts series, which applies a human rights lens to current headlines, and our upcoming online course called Learning Lessons from Litigators: Realising the Right to Education Through Public Interest Lawyering.
The OxHRH is an award-winning and egalitarian intellectual space for the analysis of the latest global developments in human rights. In the five years since the OxHRH blog was launched, we have published over 1,200 posts from over 400 experts from over 40 different countries, ranging from the UK to Thailand, Romania to Uruguay, Mexico to Qatar, Rwanda to Spain, India to Australia. We have published blogs from leading academics, barristers, members of civil society organizations, early career academics and graduate students.

The blog has covered the most pressing issues of the past year, including up-to-the-minute analysis of the unfolding developments on Brexit, the no-confidence vote in the South African Parliament, the Indian Supreme Court's decision upholding a right to privacy in the Constitution and the UK Supreme Court's decision on access to abortion for women in Northern Ireland. We have also covered the controversial decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union on headscarves, the death sentences handed down in the Delhi gang rape case, the links between land dispossession, security of tenure and human dignity drawn by the South African Constitutional Court and Tunisia's decision to allow direct access to the African Court on Human and People's Rights. We have assessed the the recent measures decriminalizing gender-based violence in Russia, on the voting rights of refugees and using legislation from the US as a tool for pre-litigation strategies in environmental litigation.

The blog is an established and respected research and teaching resource. We have over 15,000 unique views per month and to date we have around 11,000 Twitter followers. Tens of thousands of people have viewed and read our blogs analysing the latest constitutional and human rights developments in relation to Brexit and Miller. Our blogs have significant real world impact and are influencing legal and policy debates. A series of OxHRH blogs on the need to give due regard to children's rights have been drawn upon in debates in the House of Lords, and our recent blog on fundamental rights in Cyprus has been retweeted by the High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus. Alison Young's analysis of The White Paper on The Great Repeal Bill has been referred to by the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law. After publishing an OxHRH blog on discrimination faced by lepers, the authors presented their arguments before the Parliament of India’s official television broadcast agency. Our blog on the decision of the UK Supreme Court on employment tribunal fees was picked up and cited by The Financial Times. OxHRH blogs have been included on reading lists in Australia, the USA and the UK. The global influence of the OxHRH blog demonstrates the power of technology for disseminating rigorous human rights scholarship.

The range of human rights issues covered and the far-reaching impact of our posts reflect the strength of the OxHRH Blog. Managing Editor, Tom Lowenthal, and a small team of blog editors carefully vet all blogs and ensure a high standard of academic rigour. In aspiring to global inclusivity, the OxHRH Blog benefits greatly from
the contributions of its Regional Correspondents, who volunteer to promote the blog in jurisdictions whose experiences of human rights law may be lesser known to readers, perhaps by reason of the local situation or linguistic barriers.

The desire to capture the themes spontaneously emerging from our many diverse contributions has inspired the OxHRH’s Anthology, Global Perspectives on Human Rights. The Anthology offers a thematic overview and assessment of the previous year’s blogs, drawing together posts on similar topics and providing an expert commentary for each theme. This provides our readers and contributors, as well as those who are new to the OxHRH Blog, another forum in which the ideas and concerns raised over the last year can be compared, reviewed and reflected upon. This creative process has found expression in how the posts have been selected, categorised into chapters and analyzed in the introductions by our expert commentators. The fourth edition will be released in fall 2017.
Law is often perceived to be an elite and relatively inaccessible field, but it has tremendous implications for the way we live our daily lives.

The “RightsUp #RightNow podcast series emerged from our desire to apply a human rights lens to current events and headlines in a way that is accessible and engaging to both legal and non-legal audiences. It has become apparent that there is a deep thirst for high quality human rights analysis of world events, especially concerning Brexit and political developments in America. RightsUp #RightNow is geared toward offering critical perspectives and framing contemporary issues in human rights terms.

Led by Kira Allmann, Communications Director, and Meghan Campbell, Deputy-Director, we aim to both create new, dynamic multimedia content on human rights issues and also to engage a wider, interdisciplinary audience. RightsUp #RightNow is a magazine-style, interview-based audio program, in which Allmann interviews leading experts on human rights about breaking news stories and contemporary human rights issues. It complements the existing OxHRH digital scholarship, but it also extends the OxHRH vision into a new media space. While visitors to a website might skim blog posts or news articles, looking for key words, relevant links or eye-catching photos, a podcast provides an entirely different user experience – the opportunity to listen uninterruptedly to coverage of a singular topic. Listeners can take an episode with them— anywhere, anytime—and engage with challenging topics on the go or in the midst of their ordinary daily activities.

Law is often perceived to be an elite and relatively inaccessible field, but it has tremendous implications for the way we live our daily lives. In both content and format, RightsUp #RightNow bridges the chasm between law in the abstract and law in society; the topics are timely and relevant, and the podcast platform broadcasts these topics to new audiences, wherever they are.

Each podcast episode is carefully scripted and edited to tell a story, using essay-style reporting while maintaining high standards of academic rigor. The goal is to make challenging issues conversational without sidestepping their complexity. To date our podcasts have explored:

- Religious and cultural opposition to sex education with Deputy-Director Meghan Campbell (University of Birmingham)
- The UK Supreme Court’s Brexit decision, *Miller* with Alison Young (University of Oxford);
- The rise of the death penalty in North Africa and the Middle East with James Lynch (Amnesty International);
- The gender and social implications using legislation to prevent the spread of contagious diseases with historian Anne Hanley (University of Oxford).
- The restrictions being put in place to abortion services in America with Carol Sanger (Columbia University),
- The threats to the Human Rights Act 1998 with Sir Keir Stamer, MP;
- The legal battles for transgender rights with Corey Stoughton (Liberty and previously Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the US Department of Justice)
- The intersection between environmental justice and political campaigns with Nick Stump (West Virginia University)
Each podcast has been listened to hundreds of times, with the Transforming the Law: Transgender Rights in the US having over 500 listens. The production team keeps a close eye on the latest developments to generate topics of interest. The producers schedule interviews for the episodes with global experts, and the podcast format allows a great deal of flexibility in bringing in international perspectives because interviews can be recorded by phone or over Skype, eliminating the barriers of space and time that constrain a traditional lecture series. These international perspectives are invaluable in conveying the diversity of human rights law in practice, allowing listeners a unique insight into how key issues are debated throughout the world.
Despite making impressive gains, women continue to face significant disadvantages in both formal and informal work. The law, currently conceived, has been unable to fully achieve women’s equality in the labor force. However, while it is important to question whether we can rely exclusively on the law to fully address the continuing and emerging obstacles to women’s employment, it is equally as important to recognize that law still retains a vital role in modifying cultural norms that underpin women’s role in the labor force. Legal and policy strategies can and do empower women around the globe.

On 18 and 19 May the Oxford Human Rights Hub, The International Labour Organization and the University of Kent hosted *A Better Future for Women at Work*. The conference began the process of developing transformative legal and policy strategies to ensure that work leads to a better future for all women.

We brought together a wealth of experience from practitioners, academics and policy-makers from around the world and across disciplines to explore eight inter-related themes:

- Legal Strategies and Informal Work
- Achieving Transformative Equality for Women in the Rural Economy
- Women and Fragmented Work
- Recognizing, Rewarding, Reducing and Redistributing Care Work
- A Better Future for Women at Work: Intersectionality at Work
- Responding to Inequality in Earnings and Income
- Combating Violence and Harassment at Work
- Women and Vertical and Horizontal Occupational Segregation

The conference discussions were energetic and moved beyond traditional debates on women’s roles in the labor force. Panels looked at the importance of zoning regulations for informal women workers, the desperate necessity of guaranteeing decent working conditions for formally employed care workers, the need for childcare policies for informal workers, the importance of transforming men’s gender roles and understanding how class structures and power relations can exacerbate gender inequalities. The presentations and discussions made bold claims, such as arguing that labour rights are inherent to the person and not to the contract of employment, and that to achieve decent work for all women, there must be universal provision of high quality public services. The conference concluded with a call for universal solidarity and, at the same time, spotlighted the need to be attentive to local political, legal and social culture.

The findings of the conference will be drawn together for publication. In the lead up to the conference, the OxHRH published a special blog series drawn from the conference papers that explores these themes. These blogs were viewed tens of thousands of times on our website and Twitter.
Engaging in Policy Discussions

The OxHRH continues to be a strong and passionate voice for upholding human rights. We have been especially proactive in sparking and shaping debates on Brexit. On 31 January, 2017, we held a conversation on Brexit and human rights in the UK, in partnership with the Bonavero Institute for Human Rights, the Public Law Discussion Group and the Programme for the Foundations of Constitutional Law and Government. In front of a live audience of over 250 people, Paul Craig, Alison Young, Nick Barber, Timothy Endicott and Sandra Fredman debated the impact *Miller* will have on the UK's legal landscape. We live-streamed this event on Facebook, and it has been archived on the OxHRH website and Youtube account. Across these different platforms, the Brexit conversation has been viewed over 1200 times.

We have made several submissions to Parliamentary Committees on the impact of Brexit on human rights. In October, Director Sandra Fredman, and Deputy-Director Meghan Campbell, joined with Oxford colleagues Alan Bogg and Alison Young in submitting a report to the Joint Committee on Human Rights, explaining how existing domestic and international legal frameworks could compensate for the role that EU law currently plays in protecting workers' rights. Sandra Fredman and Meghan Campbell also collaborated with Oxford colleagues Anne Davies and Mark Freedland, and Judy Fudge of the University of Kent, on a report to the Women's and Equalities Committee. The report assesses how best to address the potential challenges to equality law in the UK. In addition, Professor Fredman was invited to give oral evidence to the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee on 15 November. She offered practical recommendations on protecting and promoting equality law after the UK leaves the EU. Her submissions were referred to in detail in the report of the Women and Equalities Committee on this issue. The government's proposed Great Repeal Bill raises many challenging questions. OxHRH Director Sandra Fredman and Oxford law professor Alison Young submitted a report to the Women and Equalities Committee. Explaining what might be included in the proposed Great Repeal Bill to protect equality rights after Brexit. It sets out the problems which such a clause would address, shows how these problems affect equality legislation and proposes several possible clauses which could address the problems identified. All of these reports can be found on the OxHRH website.

The *African Journal of International and Comparative Law* published the papers from our 2014 conference in Rwanda, exploring the potential for human rights law to combat women's poverty. The conference was jointly hosted with the Oxford Martin School *Human Rights for Future Generations* project and the University of Cape Town, with the support of the Chief Justice of Rwanda. This special edition of the journal canvasses the difficulty of translating legal commitments into practice and emphasizes the importance of taking a holistic perspective to human rights approaches to women’s poverty. It makes a timely and important contribution to the debates on the role of human rights in alleviating poverty.
Fostering a Community of Human Rights Scholars
Graduate Student Workshop

More information
The OxHRH team has been hard at work filming our online course *Learning Lessons from Litigators: Realising the Right to Education Through Public Interest Lawyering*. In partnership with Open Society Foundations, the course explores the extent to which courts and international human rights bodies can be effectively utilized as part of a campaign to realize the right to education. In Oxford, we have filmed Sarah Sephton (Legal Resources Centre, South Africa), Michael Rebell (Columbia University), Ann Skelton (Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria), and Tembeka Ngcukaitobi (leading South African litigator). At the launch of the Open Society Foundations Strategic Litigation Impact Report in Brazil in April, we filmed Cameron McConnachie (Legal Resources Centre, South Africa), Kiran Bhatt (Centre for Policy Research, India), Nurina Ally (Equal Education Law Centre, South Africa), and Thiago Ampara (Conectas, Brazil). This course will be launched in Fall 2017.

Our high-level workshop on *The Impact of Brexit on Equality Rights* will be held on 28 September 2017. This workshop draws together academics, politicians and policy-makers to reflect on how to ensure robust protection of the fundamental right to equality after Brexit.

In October 2017, the OxHRH, alongside the Universidad de Los Andes, FGV Direito and the University of Witswatersrand will be hosting *Beyond Human Rights: Rethinking Gender Equality in Law and Politics* in Bogota, Colombia. Human rights are being challenged in a multitude of ways – conceptually, politically, culturally, legally and practically – from the left and from the right. The workshop will examine new and old questions about the place of constitutions, law, gender equality and women’s human rights in an increasingly unequal and divided world.
As always, we are incredibly grateful for all the hard work of the members of our team, the pro-bono support from Carli Schoeman and The Bakery Ideas Company and to the financial support from the British Academy, Open Society Foundations, International Labour Organization, Hart Publishing and OUP, as well as the University of Oxford and the ESRC.