

MAGNA CARTA

VOLUME II / ISSUE II / APR. 2021

ROYAL HOLLOWAY LAW AND
CRIMINOLOGY GAZETTE



This gazette is made by undergraduate students in the School of Law and Criminology. We want this to be a platform where students can engage with academic discourse and keep up with the department/industry.

We also encourage students from all disciplines to make submissions. You do not have to be a law student to write for us!

For any further queries, suggestions or questions please do not hesitate to contact the editorial team at:

lawgazette.rhule@gmail.com

If you are interested in being a part of next year's editorial team, please keep an eye out for any future announcements or contact us.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Reflecting on the positives...

Dear reader,

I hope this term has been going as smoothly as possible during these unsettling times. As exams and deadlines approach, it is important to remember to continue to work on yourself and focus on the positives this year has brought us.

After we published our first issue of this year, the editorial team could not be more pleased with the responses and queries about how to get involved with the gazette. It makes me happy to see that our publication has been keeping you up to date with various virtual university events whilst providing you with a wide variety of interesting articles to give you a refreshing yet informative read. With this issue, we have a range of stimulating topics, from Oprah's interview with Meghan Markle to the impact of Brexit on trade. We have also worked with the Legal Advice Centre to highlight the important work students have done this year.

Towards the end of this upcoming term, the recruitment process will begin for next year's editorial team. If you would like to be a part of the student team behind the gazette, please keep an eye on your emails or contact us.

Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, we are grateful to have been able to produce this platform as a way to stay in touch with the School of Law and Social Sciences. Being a part of the gazette since its creation in the past academic year has been a dream come true for me and I am looking forward to seeing what the future of the Magna Carta will bring.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hredi" with a long, sweeping underline.

HREDI CHHABRIA
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL TEAM

2020 – 2021



CALLUM MILLARD

Executive Editor –
Content



FARSAM RAJA

Executive Editor – Design



MARTA IVERSEN OHLSSON

Executive Editor –
Communications



NOOR HAIDER

Editorial Assistant



LEIA PAXTON

Editorial Assistant



FOIVI MOUZAKITI

Academic Liaison

IN THIS ISSUE

06 - 07

INDUSTRY UPDATES

08 - 10

TRADITIONAL NEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA: AN
AMBIVALENT RELATIONSHIP

11 - 13

THE HEAVY IMPACT OF MEGHAN MARKLE AND
PRINCE HARRY'S OPRAH INTERVIEW

14 - 16

"DEAL OR NO DEAL": THE IMPACT OF BREXIT
NEGOTIATIONS FOR EEA STUDENTS WISHING TO
REMAIN IN BRITAIN AFTER GRADUATION.

17 - 18

WHY POST-BREXIT BRITAIN MUST URGENTLY
RE-ENGAGE WITH AFRICA

19- 21

THE PANDEMIC: IN PRISON

22 - 23

LABOUR: FAILURE AFTER LAST YEAR'S LEADERSHIP
ELECTION

24 - 26

FARM LAWS: HOW ARE INDIA'S NEW REFORMS
AFFECTING THE COUNTRY?

27 - 29

WHY FAST FASHION NEEDS TO SLOW DOWN

30 - 32

THE DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND DISSOLUTION ACT
2020: HOW *OWENS V OWENS* INSPIRED A DRASTIC
CHANGE IN THE LAW.

33 - 35

SOCIETY PAGES

36 - 39

LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE

40

CAREER INFORMATION

INDUSTRY UP

Important headlines from the quarter brought to you by the *Commercial Awareness Society*

The Legal Battle between Marks & Spencer and Aldi over Caterpillar Cake

Following a striking similarity between M&S's 'Colin the Caterpillar' cake and the 'Cuthbert' cake recently sold by Aldi, M&S decided to launch a trademark infringement lawsuit against Aldi. The claim has brought before the High Court in an attempt to prevent Aldi from selling this product due to the similarity between Aldi's Cuthbert cake and Colin the Caterpillar cake stocked by M&S. The 'Colin the Caterpillar' cake has been sold by M&S since the 1990s and has three trademarks attached to it, making it a signature product. However, the high importance that this case has been given by M&S has made critics question why legal action has only been placed against Aldi and not towards other supermarkets who sell cakes that are very similar to the 'Colin the Caterpillar' cake.



Photo by Neighbourly



Photo by Oxford Mail



Photo by BBC News

Restaurant Chain Leon has been Purchased by the Issa Brothers

The Issa brothers, also known as the new owners of Asda Stores Limited, have purchased the Leon restaurant chain. The restaurant chain Leon operates across the UK and mainland Europe, where it is recognised for its healthy fast-food options. This sale agreement has been estimated to be worth £100 million GBP and covers the scope of 71 restaurants, as well as franchise sites. The deal is evidence of the Issa brothers' growing dominance in the food industry, as they currently operate 700 food outlets.



Photo by The Times



Photo by Asda

Y P D D A T E S

Cryptocurrency Exchange 'Coinbase' Exponential Growth

Following the launch of Coinbase on NASDAQ, its valuation has reached approximately \$75 billion USD. The growth of Coinbase has been surprisingly rapid since it was valued at approximately \$8 billion USD in 2018 which, as we can see now, has increased up to 10 times. This rapid increase ranks the value of Coinbase to be higher than the majority of firms on the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index (FTSE 100). This exchange has brought in an influx of 56 million retail customers, making Coinbase the largest cryptocurrency exchange in the US. This listing could be the turning point for cryptocurrencies with an increase in customers everyday.



Photo by Bleeping Computer

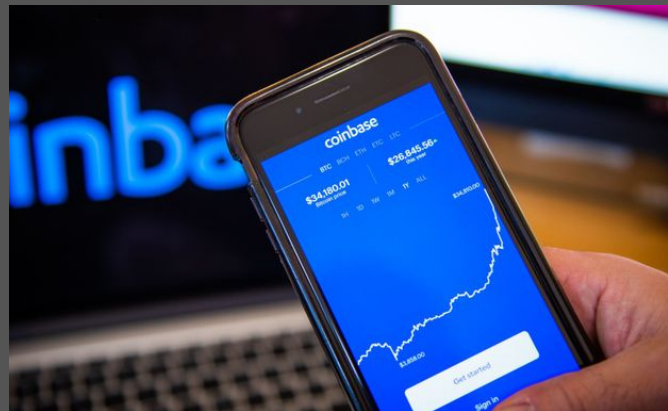


Photo by MarketWatch



Photo by Synopsys

Southampton Cryptocurrency Deal

Southampton FC has proceeded to sign a shirt advertising sponsorship deal with the Coingaming Group. This means that all performance bonuses that are received by the club will soon be in Bitcoin. The brand that will appear on the club's clothing is Sportsbet.io, a company within the Coingaming Group. This three-year agreement marks one of the largest deals to come about in Southampton FC's history and a deal that can be seen as leading the technology industry with its focus on cryptocurrency



Photo by Box to Box

Traditional News and Social Media: An Ambivalent Relationship

Marta Iversen Ohlsson – 3rd Year LLB Law

Social media has beneficial elements and has contributed to the modern journalism we see today. On the flip side, it is causing traditional news media to decline, both in demand and popularity and, therefore, we could be witnessing the death of print journalism in our lifetime. Using the News Media Bargaining Code Law,^[1] the Australian Government is attempting to resurrect traditional journalism by paying local news publishers for the news content made available or linked on social media platforms. Yet, this has been met by a fair amount of criticism.

The way we consume and communicate information and news online has changed dramatically since the emergence of social media. For one, traditional media is no longer a one-way avenue of communication: now, consumers can participate in the conversation and influence the news they read. Social media has allowed news to be accessed in real-time. An example of this is having immediate notifications once a significant news story emerges.

The social amplification of news on social media allows us to wallow in our own echo chambers, reading stories written to our ideological bent. Despite the visual presentation of real and fake news stories growing alongside the rise of Twitter and Facebook, more and more people are relying on social media for news. This becomes problematic as news posted on social media requires far less fact-checking and editing, which makes it more difficult for readers to distinguish facts from fiction. Traditional journalism is usually structured around a senior editor or publisher who is responsible for ensuring that the information is correct. However, this is not the case with social media. Now, everyone feels as though they have a voice. Whether through Facebook, Snapchat or Twitter, social media has provided a public forum for anyone who has an opinion. While this has created an overwhelmingly saturated social atmosphere where people at times confuse personal opinions for facts, this has also led to a genuine wave of positive voices and influencers.

Though social media has made news more accessible and interactive, it is slowly killing traditional newspaper journalism. This is because most news outlets are funded by either advertisements or subscriptions which are being transferred into online advertisements for social media platforms. ^[2] Hence, traditional news media is facing a dramatic increase in competition. The Australian Government resorted to designing a new law whereby big media platforms that operate in Australia pay local news publishers for the content made available or linked on their platforms. Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Communications Minister Paul Fletcher said to Reuters that “the Code will ensure that news media businesses are fairly remunerated for the content they generate, helping to sustain public interest journalism in Australia”.^[3]

Footnotes

[1] Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, ‘News Media Bargaining Code’ (25 February 2021).

[2] Filipe Ribeiro, et al, ‘Media Bias Monitor: Quantifying Biases of Social Media News Outlets at Large-Scale’ [2018] ICWSM 290.

[3] Swati Pandey, ‘Australian Parliament passes news media bargaining code’ (Thomson Reuters, 2021) <www.reuters.com/article/australia-media-idUSS9N2KD01J> accessed 11 April 2021.

Essentially, Australia would become the first country where a government-appointed mediator could decide whether a platform would have to pay Australian news publishers, provided a commercial deal cannot be reached independently.[4] When the News Media Bargaining Code Law[5] was drafted, it received extensive support from the Australian Parliament, local newspapers, and broadcasters but overwhelming criticism from Google and Facebook.[6]

The digital platforms did not react well, to say the least. In response, Facebook “unfriended” Australia by blocking users from sharing and viewing news contents on its platform. Scott Morrison, Australian Prime Minister, reacted by saying “Facebook’s actions to unfriend Australia, cutting off essential information services on health and emergency services, were as arrogant as they were disappointing”.[7] Misinformation and essential services were real and immediate concerns following Facebook’s rebuttal, especially considering that over 60 percent of Australians say that they get their news from the internet, with 37 percent relying solely on social media.[8]

The absence of regulation on social media can have significant effects on the credibility of other media. For example, in efforts to find the bomber, social media played an essential role in circulating information about the bombing at the Boston Marathon in 2013, the majority of which was accurate. Nonetheless, there was a range of misleading information. A tweet falsely suggesting that an arrest had been made was retweeted more than 13,000 times and reported as a fact by news corporations.[9] This is an example of where the lack of regulation allowed assertions to be made, which could then circulate as facts without verification. Social media can thus perpetuate the misinformation available.



Photo by Interesting Engineering

Footnotes

[4] Shaimaa Khalil, ‘Facebook and Google news law passed in Australia’ BBC News (London, 2021) <www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-56163550> accessed 11 April 2021.

[5] Treasury Laws Amendment (News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code) Bill 2021.

[6] Asha Barbaschow ‘Media Bargaining Code enters Parliament despite Google and Facebook’s best efforts’ (ZDNET, 2020) <www.zdnet.com/article/media-bargaining-code-enters-parliament-despite-google-and-facebooks-best-efforts/> accessed 21 April 2021.

[7] Michele Levine, ‘It’s official: Internet is Australia’s main source of news; TV remains most trusted’ (Roy Morgan, 2020) <www.roymorgan.com/findings/8492-main-sources-news-trust-june-2020-202008170619> accessed 11 April 2021.

[8] Philip M Napoli, *Social Media and the Public Interest: Media Regulation in the Disinformation Age* (Columbia University Press 2019), 101.

[9] Saheli Roy Choudhury, ‘Facebook cuts deal with Australia, will restore news pages in the coming days’ CNBC (New Jersey, 2021) <www.cnbc.com/2021/02/23/facebook-to-restore-news-pages-for-australian-users-in-coming-days.html> accessed 10 April 2021.



Photo by Fortune



Photo by My Assignment Help

After a week-long blackout, Facebook switched on its services to its Australian users again and officially 're-friended' Australia.[10] Following talks between Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, a modified deal was struck. Both sides claimed victory in the clash, which has drawn global attention as countries (including Canada and Britain) are now considering similar legislative steps to rein in the dominant tech platforms and preserve traditional media.

All things considered, the battle between the Australian Government and big media could be seen as the modern equivalent of past fights between the US Government and big oil companies during the second industrial revolution.[11] Autonomous governments that set the rules are grappling with market-dominating tech giants who hold invaluable data and information. Facebook is worried that the law will set an international precedent, which is understandable considering that they are rarely held accountable.

As we gradually spend more and more of our time on the internet, Australia is progressing towards making sure the news we consume online is held at the same standard as traditional news outlets. Legislating during the internet era is not easy, as we want the internet to remain a free forum for self-expression, information-hunting, and networking. However, it is essential to keep in mind that a few social media companies stand behind all this, and what their agenda is.

Footnotes

[10] Amanda Meade, 'Prime minister Scott Morrison attacks Facebook for "arrogant" move to "unfriend Australia"' The Guardian (London, 2021) <www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/feb/18/prime-minister-scott-morrison-attacks-facebook-for-arrogant-move-to-unfriend-australia> accessed 11 April 2021.

[11] John Kehoe and Max Mason, 'Facebook's Australian ban has galvanised a new world' (Financial Review, 2021) <www.afr.com/companies/media-and-marketing/facebook-s-australian-ban-has-galvanised-a-new-world-20210218-p573op> accessed 21 April 2021.

The Heavy Impact of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's Oprah Interview

Noor Haider – 3rd Year LLB Law

The highly anticipated and widely publicized interview between the Duke and Duchess of Sussex with Oprah Winfrey was recently aired, catching the world by surprise. The interview drew a substantial amount of attention and controversy as a number of damaging allegations were made against the Royal Family which included instances of racism and a lack of the required support. The interview became even more controversial after it was revealed to have aired while Prince Phillip was in the hospital. The couple expressed that the timing was unfortunate, but they felt the interview was something they had to do.

The interview prompted many points of discussion – one being the legality of a secret marriage conducted before the official public ceremony. Although the detail about the wedding was just a very small moment in a lengthy interview covering many far-reaching matters, it prompted weeks of allegations. The Duchess admitted to getting married in private three days prior to the official Royal wedding. The secret wedding consisted only of the bride and groom and the Archbishop of Canterbury. This led to questions of its legality due to English law requiring a wedding to take place in a registered venue and in the presence of witnesses.[1] The Archbishop consequently clarified that the legal wedding was indeed the public royal wedding on May 19, 2018. The former Chief Clerk at the Faculty Office stated that Meghan must be confused and misinformed for thinking the small ceremony was when they were married; he suggested instead that the event was more comparable to an informal exchange of some vows or a rehearsal.[2]



Photo by BBC News

Footnotes

[1] Marriage Act 1949.

[2] Nick Pisa, "Meg tied the knot" (The Sun, 2021) <www.thesun.co.uk/news/14411884/meghan-markle-prince-harry-wedding-certificate-three-days/> accessed 2 April 2021.



Photo by The Telegraph

Throughout the rest of the interview, many serious allegations were made to which the Monarchy's response has been continuously succinct. Meghan Markle claimed that whilst she was pregnant and having damaging suicidal thoughts, very little support or acknowledgement was provided to her as it would be damaging to the institution. Additionally, it was stated that the Royal Family expressed concerns about the skin tone of Meghan and Harry's unborn baby, Archie. Allegedly, several conversations had taken place about the darkness of Archie's skin, but the couple refused to disclose who was involved in these conversations. Furthermore, the couple explained that they felt trapped within the system and received a lack of support and understanding which prompted them to leave. Evidently, the statements made by the Duke and Duchess are damaging towards the Royal Family's reputation and how they are perceived by the general public. Thus, it may be worth considering the possibility for the Royals to pursue action in order to protect their reputation by initiating legal proceedings for a claim of defamation.

Interestingly, the couple have not been strangers to lawsuits in the past. In November 2020, Prince Harry successfully pursued a libel action against Associated Newspaper for an article that misrepresented his relationship with British armed forces.[3] Meghan has also sued Associated Newspapers for publishing a private letter she wrote to her father and was victorious.[4] Nonetheless, it may now be possible that they could be defending themselves against a defamation claim.



Photo by The New York Times

Footnotes

[3] BBC News, "Prince Harry accepts damages from Mail publishers over 'baseless' article" *BBC News* (London, 2021) <www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55888361> accessed 2 April 2021.

[4] Adela Suliman, "Meghan Markle wins privacy battle against UK tabloid over letter to father" *NBC News* (New York, 2021) <www.nbcnews.com/news/world/meghan-markle-wins-privacy-battle-against-u-k-tabloid-over-n1257434> accessed 2 April 2021.

However, it is highly unlikely that the Monarchy will begin defamation proceedings as they generally avoid becoming involved in any public lawsuits. There are also certain hurdles that the Royal Family would face in pursuing such a claim – such as identifying who exactly was defamed, as the statements made by the couple did not refer to any particular individual. Furthermore, it would be unclear whether they would launch such proceedings in the United States (US), where the interview took place, or in England, where the harm to reputation occurred. In both jurisdictions, a defamation case will not succeed if the alleged defamatory statement was true. However, in England, the defendant has the burden of proving that the defamatory statement was true.^[5] On the contrary, in the US, the claimant bears the burden of proving that the defamatory statement is false.^[6] Thus, the jurisdiction that the claim would be pursued in could significantly affect the chance of success for the claim.

A claim in privacy could also be brought as the Royal Family could express that this was a violation of their “reasonable expectation to privacy”. This is because the couple spoke of private matters that occurred within the Royal household. Nonetheless, bringing any such claim would attract even more attention to the private matters within the Royal household and this would expose the matter further to the public as opposed to their preference of containing the matter privately.

In conclusion, it is clear that the interview contained highly damaging allegations against the Royal Family, without any room for them to defend themselves. Although the claim would be a difficult one, it would definitely be worth pursuing as this gives the family a chance at correcting any potential falsities or exaggerations in the interview. However, it is unlikely that they will be pursuing any legal claims as they usually avoid involvement in public proceedings – a trend seen in the aftermath of Princess Diana’s 1995 interview.



Photo by TheDenverChannel.Com

Footnotes

[5] The Defamation Act 2013.

[6] *Levinsky’s, Inc v Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 127 F.3d 122 (1st Cir. 1997).

"Deal or No Deal": The Impact of Brexit Negotiations for EEA Students Wishing to Remain in Britain after Graduation.

Peter Aivaras Aksentis – 3rd Year LLB Law

The 23rd June 2016 was one of the most significant dates in contemporary British politics, as the result of the Brexit referendum rolled in. Now, almost five years later, the United Kingdom (UK) has passed the end of the so-called "Transition Period"[1] and is adapting to a lack of EU influence. The impact of this turmoil can be felt in every walk of life throughout the country. However, some of those most significantly affected, are the lives of EU and EEA nationals living and studying in the UK. This article will point out all the changes these individuals can expect to see in regard to their leave to remain, and will explain some of the pathways they may use to stay in the UK after their inevitable virtual graduation.

Whilst the trade talks with the EU remain in the negotiation stages, the Home Office has already moved to a points-based system (PBS) for various fields of migration – most significantly for student visas. The Statement of Changes, known as HC 707[2] and HC 813,[3] codified the new systems and brought in the PBS for all new applications made after October 2020. The question may be asked: why did the UK Government pursue this new strategy and what is the point? Whilst the immediate thought may be to impose tighter restrictions or reduce the number of students entering the UK, Government plans point to quite the contrary. As set out in International Educational Strategy 2019,[4] the Government has set a target of 600,000 international higher education students to be hosted in the UK by 2030.[5] In comparison, for the academic year 2018/19 it was estimated that 458,490 international students were studying in the UK, with an estimated 340,000 coming from the EU.[6] Furthermore, the Government also wishes to expand its educational export markets. These markets include everything from early years education, to higher education and even English language training.[7]

Footnotes

[1] BBC News, 'All you need to know about Brexit' (BBC News 2020) <www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32810887> accessed 19 November 2020.

[2] Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules: HC 707 10th September 2020.

[3] Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules: HC 813 22nd October 2020.

[4] Department for Education and Department for International Trade, 'Policy Paper: International Education Strategy: global potential, global growth' (updated 16 February 2021) <www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth> accessed 13 April 2021.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Universities UK International, 'International Facts and Figures 2019' (Universities UK International, 2019) <www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/International/Documents/2019/International%20facts%20and%20figures%20slides.pdf> accessed 19 November 2020.

[7] Department for Education and Department for International Trade, 'Policy Paper: International Education Strategy: global potential, global growth' (updated 16 February 2021) <www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth> accessed 22nd April 2021

The aim is to expand these markets to almost £35 billion GBP per year,[8] which can be contrasted with the revenue of £21.4 billion GBP achieved in 2017.[9] It is therefore clear from the goals that the Government has set, the aim is to increase the income of new students – not restrict it.

Naturally, some EU and EEA students may be asking how these changes would affect them if they are already enrolled in a UK university. The starting point to establish is that, once the transition period ends, all students from EU/EEA must have valid immigration permission from the Home Office. To help with this, the withdrawal agreement preserves the rights of EU nationals, as in accordance with EU law, until the 31st of December 2020.[10] Alongside this, the EU settlement scheme has now been established and allows EU nationals to secure a legal status if they require it.[11] Split into two pathways, the settlement scheme divides – into a settled status – those who have lived in the UK continuously for at least 5 years and – a pre-settled status for – those who have not.[12] This free scheme is extremely beneficial as it ensures those who are granted pre-settled status are still eligible to work, use the NHS and continue their studies. Yet, CJ McKinney of the FreeMovement points to the potentially discriminatory nature of the scheme for women, and individuals with a disability who are applying.[13] However, these effects could be negated by the work of various support charities and the actions of the Government that aim to counter these challenges by simplifying the application process and directing funding to charities that aid those in need.[14] Even with such considerations, the need for students to apply to the scheme remains urgent. The deadline is 30 June 2021, and it is highly recommended to apply sooner rather than later. So, what about after graduation? The Government certainly hopes to retain some of the “brightest and the best” by offering a new Graduate Route which begins in the summer of 2021, after graduation.[15] This route will enable international students of all backgrounds to remain in the UK post-graduation and to work or seek work. This route is a non-extendable period with further limitations, depending on the level of study completed. The current guidelines indicate that individuals who have completed their undergraduate or postgraduate studies will be granted leave for two years, whilst PhD candidates will be granted 3 years.[16]

Footnotes

[8] DE and DIT (n 7).

[9] Ibid; DE, ‘UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education activity in 2017’ (Crown, 2019) <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/850263/SFR_Education_Exports_2017_FINAL.pdf> accessed 20 April 2021.

[10] European Commission, ‘Questions and Answers on the United Kingdom’s Withdrawal’ (24 January 2020) <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_104> accessed 26 November 2020.

[11] UK Government, ‘Apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (settled and pre-settled status)’ (UK.Gov) <www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?utm_campaign=transition_p1&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=seg&utm_content=eut__act84&gclid=CIPK-MvWoO0CFZbhGwodEZMM8Q> accessed 26 November 2020.

[12] Ibid.

[13] CJ McKinney, ‘Government admits, EU settlement scheme likely discriminates against women, disabled and other groups’ (*Free Movement*, 2020) <www.freemovement.org.uk/government-admits-eu-settlement-scheme-likely-discriminates-against-women-disabled-and-other-groups/> accessed 20 April 2021.

[14] Ibid.

[15] UKCISA, ‘Working after studies’ (UK Council for International Student Affairs, updated 19 April 2021) <www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies> accessed 20 April 2021.

[16] Home Office and UK Visas and Immigration, ‘New Immigration System: what you need to know’ (UK.Gov, updated 30 March 2021) <www.gov.uk/guidance/new-immigration-system-what-you-need-to-know#:~:text=A%20new%20graduate%20immigration%20route,you%20are%20a%20PhD%20graduate> accessed 20 April 2021.

It is important to note that if you choose to study for a postgraduate degree after your undergraduate studies, you will need to apply for a new student visa and not the postgraduate route – meaning you are not using your two years of eligibility. The flexibility of the route also allows for individuals to switch into work route visas if they meet the necessary requirements.[17] Most importantly, this route will not require a licenced student sponsor; individuals from international backgrounds can apply for any job available to them on the market, not just those at companies willing to sponsor. Nevertheless, this route does have some requirements which need to be met, and some details about the requirements have been released by the Government. While the full details of the route will be available in July 2021 on the Government website, the breakdown can be found on the Home Office fact sheet.[18] Most importantly, and as expected, the route will be aimed at students graduating from Higher Education who currently hold a valid tier 4 visa. This route will require a new visa application which can only be made from inside the UK. It will carry a 700 pound (£) visa fee, and applicants will also have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge at the full rate of 624 pounds (£) per year. The new route applications open 9:00am Thursday 1 July, 2021. If you wish to find out more about the Graduate Route, please check out the webinar by UKCISA.[19] This contains in depth information and may answer some questions.

It is also key to note that the Government has confirmed that the time spent studying outside of the UK as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID -19) pandemic will not count against you as long as you enter the UK before a set deadline. Individuals who commenced their studies in autumn 2020 will have to enter before the 21st June 2021 to be eligible to apply.[20] Individuals who commenced their studies in January/February of 2021 will have until 27 September 2021 to return to the UK. Like the guidelines, this deadline may be subject to change due to travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic, but it also may present an issue for those who have opted for online studies and do not have the necessary accommodation arrangements.

Another relevant pathway that can often be overlooked is the option to become a sabbatical officer. As a campus university, Royal Holloway certainly relies on its sabbatical officers to liaise with the Students Union and ensure that the students are represented, and their voices heard. Those who wish to stand for elections for RHSU Sabbatical Officer[21] positions are available to do so, and individuals can apply for a student visa if they are elected. They will have to meet the same points-based requirements as the new student visa with one significant exception; the Government does not expect you to study while you work in your role. This route can be extended for up to two years if you are successfully re-elected and is extremely beneficial to international students, as they are not discriminated against in standing for these elected positions by way of migration restrictions.

It is clear that there are many new changes on the horizon for EU/EEA students who wish to stay and remain in the UK. However, the approach of the current Government certainly points to a dedication to growing the educational sector, and towards reassuring the individuals who wish to remain in the UK to live and work, via the new routes available to them.

Footnotes

[17] For details on all the requirements for a Work Visa under the new regulations visit <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>.

[18] Home Office news team, 'Fact sheet: Graduate Immigration Route' (GOV.UK, 14 October 2019) <<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/14/fact-sheet-graduate-immigration-route/>> accessed 22 April 2021.

[19] UKCISA (n 15).

[20] Home Office (n 18).

[21] Ibid.

Why Post-Brexit Britain Must Now Urgently Re-Engage with Africa

Jack Codling – PG International Relations

To all those who bet that in the wake of Brexit Britain would retreat into isolationism, oblivious to the existence of anything beyond the English Channel, it is now time to pay up. Since Britain's exit from the European bloc was finalised at the end of 2020, these islands have undergone dramatic rebranding that signals to our global partners that we are open for business. Government ministers have been scrambling to renew ties with the UK's international allies, with the Trade Secretary Liz Truss being dispatched on a virtual globe-trotting mission to strike ambitious deals with the most exciting and fast-growing economies from all corners of the earth. This is undoubtedly all part of proving the nay-saying commentators of the post-referendum era wrong, mitigating some of the inevitable financial consequences of Britain's exit from the EU and making our mark in the realm of foreign affairs by championing free trade, human rights and liberal democratic values.[1] This nation has a very real opportunity to be a powerful force for positive change in the world; therefore, the next step of our journey must be to encourage developing countries to join us in kick-starting economic recovery and growth, following the pandemic. Brexit has given the UK a chance to play a more active and international role as the world's premier supporter of new entrepreneurs that are eager to invest serious capital in the next generation of business leaders. It is for this reason that Africa should be Britain's foremost priority, as the continent is positively bursting at the seams with talent and untapped potential, yet it is far too often overlooked.

Although some have suggested that Global Britain should be setting its sights on SouthEast Asia as the first port of call for turbo-charging post-Brexit economic growth,[2] I would politely urge our politicians to instead look slightly closer to home. Just under 1,500 miles from our shores, lies a land of boundless opportunities for those willing to embrace it. African nations constituted no less than 'six of the world's top ten fastest growing economies for the year 2020'[3] with countries such as Rwanda and Mauritius ranking higher on the Ease of Doing Business Index than some European states such as Portugal and the Netherlands.[4]



Photo by Entrepreneur Europe

Footnotes

[1] Romesh Vaitilingam, 'After Brexit: the impacts on the UK and EU economies by 2030' (*LSE Blogs*, 25 January 2021) <<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/businessreview/2021/01/25/after-brexit-the-impacts-on-the-uk-and-eu-economies-by-2030/>> accessed 12 April 2021.

[2] James Smith, 'Brexit and the Impact of New Trade Ties on the UK Outlook' (2021) <<https://think.ing.com/articles/brexit-and-the-impact-of-new-trade-ties-on-uk-outlook>> accessed 12 April 2021.

[3] Prableen Bajpai, 'The Five Fastest Growing Economies in The World' (*Nasdaq*, 16 October 2020) <<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/the-five-fastest-growing-economies-in-the-world-2020-10-16>> accessed 12 April 2021.

[4] Mfonobong Nsehe, '30 Most Promising Young Entrepreneurs In Africa 2018' (*Forbes*, 18 April 2018) <www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/2018/04/18/30-most-promising-young-entrepreneurs-in-africa-2018/> accessed 12 April 2021.

Africa is also rapidly producing some of the youngest entrepreneurial minds of our time, such as thirty-year-old South African Nthabiseng Mosia, who launched Easy Solar in 2016, a locally famous for-profit organisation aimed at providing affordable and clean energy to off-grid communities in West Africa.[5] Nthabiseng is just one example among many of the incredible talent that the African continent has to offer, but unfortunately, due to a visual economy dominated by poverty, civil war and famine, Western perceptions of this vibrant and diverse region of the world, are sadly all too eager to divert their investment and capital to countries that they misguidedly see as less backward or perhaps more stable.[6] Therefore, it is in this respect that Global Britain has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to disregard the established and arguably unjust dynamics of the status quo of international economics, by becoming a trailblazer in the realm of commerce, innovation, and technology. I see absolutely no reason why Africa and post-Brexit Britain cannot mutually benefit from a much closer relationship, founded on trust, partnership and shared national interests; and it is this vision, for which all Britons should have a burning passion.

However, for this dream to stand any chance of becoming a reality, this endless and laborious discourse surrounding colonialism must stop. Of course, this is not to say that we in Britain should not reflect upon the mistakes of the past and continue to critically examine our history, but a situation in which the UK is forever held back from engaging with the developing world out of a sense of guilt for events that took place during a bygone age will simply disadvantage our global friends and partners. What also needs to take place, is a drastic overhaul of Britain's relationship with the African continent, starting with a move away from the infantilism of concepts such as aid and charity, towards an approach aimed at producing a diverse range of strong bilateral partnerships that are firmly rooted in the core principles of fair trade and respect among sovereign equals. This process, I would argue, is already well underway with the UK-Africa Investment Summit hosted in London in January 2020. The motivation behind this event was to convince hundreds of African political and industrial leaders that Britain is a reliable yet dynamic source of investment for all those aspiring young businessmen and women with an aching desire to breathe new life into their communities by expanding their enterprises.[7] This example is one that looks to the many exciting possibilities of the future that does not treat allies like Nigeria, South Africa and Botswana as mere dependencies but as utilisation of power of the free market and the promotion of liberal democracy to help bring about prosperity and self-reliance across the region. Africa is a largely untapped well of young talent, ingenuity and commercial potential just waiting to be unleashed that Global Britain are now free to pursue following Brexit. This opportunity must urgently be seized upon by reengaging with the African continent and forging mutually beneficial relationships that can withstand the test of time.

Footnotes

[5] The World Bank, 'Ease of Doing Business Rankings' (2021) <<https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/rankings>> accessed 12 April 2021.

[6] Japhace Poncian, 'The Persistence of Western Negative Perceptions about Africa: Factoring in the Role of Africans' (2015) 7(3) JASD 72-80.

[7] Jim Winslet, 'UK-Africa Investment Summit: Risks and Opportunities for Development' (2020) <www.bond.org.uk/news/2020/01/uk-africa-investment-summit-risks-and-opportunities-for-development> accessed 12 April 2021.

The Pandemic: In Prison

Teresa Etheredge – 2nd Year BSc Law and Psychology

A vital but often overlooked component in the fight against Covid-19 relates to the decisions made regarding the prison system that potentially saved tens of thousands of lives, both imprisoned and in the community. This article describes the major policy decisions that aided the process of reorganising the prison structure in light of the pandemic.

Prisons are the perfect breeding ground for a pandemic since they incubate disease within the physically vulnerable and malnourished population and spread infection quickly through the overcrowded nature of prisons.[1] Prisoners are a uniquely susceptible demographic with around 20,000 are estimated to be in the high-risk category, partially due to drug and alcohol-related issues as well as high rates of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, diabetes, and tuberculosis.[2]

In March 2020, when the pandemic was announced, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) faced a series of terrible issues and decisions. According to Public Health England, if no change was implemented in the prison system, up to 77,800 prisoners would become infected with coronavirus, potentially leading to 2,700 deaths.[3] Therefore, the MoJ acted decisively and announced a lockdown within prisons the day after Boris Johnson announced a national lockdown. All prisoners were to be confined to their cells for around 23 hours a day and all work, education and visits were halted, and inter-prison transfers were minimised as far as possible.[4]

The key strategy was ‘compartmentalisation’[5]; as in any community, those at high risk needed to be shielded. If anyone displayed symptoms they needed to self-isolate, and newcomers were forced to quarantine for 14 days, before being allowed to mix with anyone else. However, much like hospitals, prisons struggled with their limited capacity. More and more cells, originally intended for single occupancy, were converted in order to squeeze in extra prisoners. To paint a mental picture, a typical cell holds a bunk bed, a sink and an open toilet in a space of six-by-eight feet. Therefore, with a necessity to prioritise space for those self-isolating, it is easy to see how these cells quickly become overcrowded due to their limited numbers. As such, something within the structuring of the prison system needed to change.

As a result of the overcrowding, reducing the prison population became essential in order to create space for prisoners to be able to follow the pandemic restrictions. At the start of the pandemic, the prison population stood at around 83,709 prisoners – over 95 percent of its operational capacity.[6]

Footnotes

[1] Eamonn O’Moore, ‘Briefing paper: Interim assessment of impact of various population management strategies in prisons in response to COVID-19 pandemic in England’ (GOV.UK, 24 April 2020).

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882622/covid-19-population-management-strategy-prisons.pdf> accessed 22 April 2021.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid.

The initial World Health Organisation report by Dr O'Moore recommended a reduction of 16,000 prisoners in order to entirely eliminate cell-sharing, and prevent O'Moore's forecast that predicted around 2,500 - 3,500 deaths.[7] However, the Justice Secretary, Robert Buckland, was reluctant to release so many prisoners and, instead, proposed releasing 4,000 prisoners under the End of Custody Temporary Release scheme.[8]

However, neither of these promises materialised. By the time Buckland ended his proposed scheme in August 2020, only 316 inmates had been released early.[9] Nevertheless, as courts closed and trials were postponed, the lack of admissions meant that continued scheduled releases brought a steady decline in the prison population to around 3,000 prisoners.[10] At the end of April 2020, O'Moore published a second investigation that drastically revised his earlier evaluation since there were about 1,600 cases in prison and only 14 deaths.[11] Therefore, his new (revised) worst-case scenario predicted 100 deaths and 2,800 infections over the upcoming year.[12] The measures taken within prisons to enable social distancing had evidently been more successful than expected. Using the new data, Public Health England calculated that custodial facilities could actually manage with a population reduction of 5,000-5,500 prisoners.[13] Following this success, Lucy Frazer, the Prisons Minister, announced the upcoming of 2,000 single ensuite 'pods' to temporarily extend operational capacity, greatly diminishing the imperative for early releases.[14]

Nonetheless, the success was short lived as the restrictive measures meant that prisoners were stuck in their cells for most of the day. The findings for Young Offender Institutes found that teenagers as young as 15-years-old were subject to terrible 22-hour lock-ups.[15] At Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre, 12-18-year-olds were only allowed out of their rooms for half an hour a day, across a period of almost two weeks.[16] A recent review by Amnesty International criticised the UK's isolation regimes, concluding that they could amount to a breach of inmates' human rights since it is effectively an unnecessary, disproportionate sentence of solitary confinement of indefinite length. [17] To be locked in a prison cell about twice the size of a double bed for around 23 hours a day has been the reality for more than 100,000 men and women over the last year. Four walls, a toilet and a cellmate were the provisions of some, whilst many others were in solitary confinement for months on end.[18]

Footnotes

[7] Ibid.

[8] Ben Leapman, 'How the experts changed their advice' (InsideTime Southampton, 2020)

<<https://insidetime.org/how-the-experts-changed-their-advice/>> accessed 2 April 2021.

[9] Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service, 'HMPPS COVID-19 statistics. HM Prison and Probation Service COVID-19 Summary tables, September 2020' (GOV.UK, 2020)

<www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmppps-covid-19-statistics-september-2020> accessed 2 April 2021.

[10] Ministry of Justice, 'HM Prison and Probation Service COVID-19 Official Statistics - Data to 7 August 2020.' (GOV.UK, 2020)

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909207/HMPPS_COVID19_WE_07082020_Pub_Doc.pdf> accessed 2 April 2021.

[11] Ministry of Justice, 'HM Prison and Probation Service COVID-19 Official Statistics - Data to 7 August 2020' (Crown, 2020)

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909207/HMPPS_COVID19_WE_07082020_Pub_Doc.pdf> accessed 2 April 2021.

[12] HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 'Young offender institutions holding children.' (GOV.UK, 2020)

<<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/07/YOI-SSV-2.pdf>> accessed 3 April 2021.

[13] HMIP and Ofsted, 'Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre Urgent Notification.' (GOV.UK, 2020)

<<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/inspections/rainsbrook-secure-training-centre-urgent-notification/>> accessed 3 April 2021.



Photo by Council of Europe

Furthermore, the cessation of social visits from friends, family and children hit inmates particularly hard, contributing to increases in self-harm in women's prisons and the self-reported deterioration in mental health across both sexes.[19] Compounding the problems occurring inside prisons, by September 2020 (when Robert Buckland announced a temporary increase in the length of time a defendant can be held on remand, from six months to eight months)[20] UK courts amassed a backlog of around half a million cases. This led to debates over the ethics of detaining defendants on remand for such a long time, as the remanded population increased from around 10,000 in March 2020 to over 12,000 prisoners by February 2021.[21] The legal charity Fair Trials even reported that some of these detainees, who had been charged but not yet convicted of a crime, were considering pleading guilty just to avoid remaining in prison until trial dates that had been pushed back as far as 2022.[22]

The current state of prisons due to the pandemic remains unclear. The prison population stands at 78,000 as of February 2021 which is a reduction of almost 6000 people since the beginning of the pandemic.[23] With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination that began at the start of 2021 for prisoners, we hope to see a decrease in infection within prisons around the UK. Yet as there are mixed views on the effectiveness of the vaccine in general, a survey conducted by EP: IC (a research collective that works with the NHS) found that one in five prisoners are refusing the vaccination.[24] With the uncertainty of the virus, the vaccine and how it will affect the prison system, difficult yet important decisions will have to continue until a solution is found.

Footnotes

[14] Amnesty International, 'Forgotten Behind Bars: Covid-19 and Prisons.' (Amnesty International 2021) <www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL4038182021ENGLISH.PDF> accessed 3 April 2021.

[15] HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 'Young offender institutions holding children.' (Crown, 2020) <www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisoners/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/07/YOI-SSV-2.pdf> accessed 3 April 2021.

[16] HMIP and Ofsted, 'Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre Urgent Notification.' (Crown, 2020) <www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisoners/inspections/rainsbrook-secure-training-centre-urgent-notification/> accessed 3 April 2021.

[17] Amnesty International, 'Forgotten Behind Bars: Covid-19 and Prisons.' (Amnesty International London, 2021) <www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL4038182021ENGLISH.PDF> accessed 3 April 2021.

[18] Inside Time Reports, 'HMIP Short Scrutiny Inspection Reports' *InsideTime* (Southampton, 2020) <<https://insidetime.org/hmip-short-scrutiny-inspection-reports/>> accessed 3 April 2021.

[19] Prison Reform Trust, 'Covid-19 Action Prisons Project: Tracking Innovation, Valuing Experience' (Prison Reform Trust, 2021) <www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/CAPPTIVE2_regimes_and_progression_web_final.pdf> accessed 4 April 2021.

[20] Zaki Sarraf, 'One in three on remand held for longer than legal limit' (The Justice Gap, 2021) <www.thejusticegap.com/one-in-three-on-remand-held-for-longer-than-legal-limit/> accessed 4 April 2021.

[21] Ibid.

[22] Fiona Hamilton and Jonathon Ames, 'Criminals get shorter prison sentences in 'Covid bonus'' *The Times* (London, 2020) <www.thetimes.co.uk/article/criminals-get-shorter-sentences-in-covid-bonus-bx0vgc05j> accessed 7 April 2021.

[23] Ibid.

[24] Inside Time Reports, 'One in Five Prisoners will Refuse Job, Survey Finds' *InsideTime* (Southampton, 2021) <<https://insidetime.org/one-in-five-prisoners-will-refuse-job-survey-finds/>> accessed 4 April 2021.

Labour: Failure after Last Year's Leadership Election

Richard Booth – 1st Year Politics and International Relations

4th April 2021 marked one year since Keir Starmer, former Director of Public Prosecutions, former shadow Brexit Secretary and MP for Holborn and St Pancras, was elected leader of the Labour Party. He defeated his far left-wing rival, Rebecca Long-Bailey with a landslide, running on the message of ending the party's anti-semitism dilemma and reclaiming the Labour party's traditional northern support with pro-Brexit and anti-austerity views. How did he accomplish this? By taking a zero tolerance policy to anti-semitism, listening to northern working class voters, voting for Boris Johnson's Brexit deal and developing more electable policies.

However, one year in, there remains no sign of progress. Despite the election of a divisive conservative leader, a monumental policy that 48 percent of the country voted against not having been fully resolved,[1] a string of unpopular ministers and what even the most staunch of Tories could only describe as a sub par handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 48 percent of the working class electorate who voted Conservative are not showing much sign of changing back to Labour.[2] Despite the backlash from enforcement of a second lockdown, the Prime Minister himself, Boris Johnson still remains more popular than Keir Starmer.[3] To add to this, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has had an unexpected boost in approval ratings, becoming the most popular politician in the country.[4]



Photo by Dazed

Footnotes

- [1] BBC News, '2019 election results' (BBC, 2019) <www.bbc.com/news/election/2019/results> accessed 2 April 2021.
- [2] Ed Milliband, 'Britain rejected Labour in 2019. Let's learn the right lessons.' *The Guardian* (London, 18 June 2020) <www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/18/labour-report-ed-miliband> accessed 2 April 2021.
- [3] Patrick Diamond, 'Is Keir Starmer any good? Don't ask Londoners' (The Conversation UK, 2021) <<https://theconversation.com/is-keir-starmer-any-good-dont-ask-londoners-159464>> accessed 21 April 2021.
- [4] Harry Robertson, 'Poll says Rishi Sunak the most popular chancellor in 40 years' (CityAM, 2020) <www.cityam.com/rishi-sunak-most-popular-chancellor-since-1970s/> accessed 2 April 2021.

So why is the Labour government still performing so poorly?

To be able to retrieve the Labour party, Starmer needs to make serious changes or allow someone else to take the reins. The Labour party needs a more electable manifesto to move on from Brexit and to finally deal with anti-semitism effectively which may demand too much of Sir Keir. As shadow Brexit Secretary, Starmer was the architect of the Labour party's Brexit policy and is arguably complicit in Corbyn's poor handling of anti-semitism, as he was in the shadow cabinet at the time.[5] Starmer's questionable actions in politics bring to light the competition with other valid candidates who could have performed to a higher extent. For example, someone like Shadow Chancellor, the Duchy of Lancaster, Rachel Reeves could perhaps be a more suitable candidate. Reeves is liked by all factions of the Labour party and recently won praise over her criticism of the Government's handling of the pandemic.[6] Consequently, unlike Starmer, Reeves never involved herself in Corbyn's leadership team and was an outspoken critic of how he dealt with anti-semitism.[7] Most importantly, Reeves is from the Blairite root of the Labour party, which since the 1970s, has been the only branch able to win a general election.[8] Other than Reeves, Shadow foreign secretary Lisa Nandy is also a fantastic candidate for leading the Labour party. Nandy also played no part in Jeremy Corbyn's leadership after she resigned in 2016 and is well liked by all wings of the party.[9] Nandy is not as much of a centrist as Rachel Reeves but she is not as left-wing as Jeremy Corbyn, which could position her as having the ability to unite multiple factors of the Labour party. In essence, change can be brought by a candidate who is well liked by the Labour party and who cannot be easily criticised for their past.

The Labour party has a large generational divide within its members since Jeremy Corbyn reduced the membership fee. This means that now the members of the party are a complete mix with many young people which is why it is a necessity to have a powerful leader who will be able to reach all viewpoints of the various age groups that are now present within the Labour party's members.[10]

Starmer is not a terrible candidate, but just one who can be easily attacked. He has made many efforts to unite the party and clean out anti-semitism. For instance, he took a zero tolerance policy to his former Shadow Education Secretary tweeting an article containing antisemitic conspiracies in June 2020 and attempted to appoint a shadow cabinet representative of all wings of the party last year. Therefore, there is more to him that can be seen on the surface. The party still has three years until the next scheduled general election in May 2024, so only time can tell whether Starmer performs and is able to steer the ship to victory.

Footnotes

[5] Ian Watson, 'Sir Keir Starmer's critics in Labour become increasingly vocal' (BBC News, 2020) <www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56246532> accessed 2 April 2021.

[6] Alibhe Rea, 'The Comeback of Rachel Reeves' (NewsStatesman, 2021) <www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2021/02/comeback-rachel-reeves> accessed 2 April 2021.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Rachel Sylvester, 'Lisa Nandy on sexism, racism, Corbyn and why she should be Labour leader' *The Times* (London, 6 March 2021) <www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lisa-nandy-on-sexism-racism-corbyn-and-why-she-should-be-labour-leader-dbhbzv9pl> accessed 2 April 2021.

[9] Ibid.

[10] James Sloam, 'Britain's election and the deepening generational divide' (AlJazeera, 2019) <www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2019/12/20/britains-election-and-the-deepening-generational-divide> accessed 2 April 2021.

Farm laws: How are India's New Reforms Affecting the Country?

Monika Tsvetanova - 2nd Year, LLB Law with International Relations

On 27 September 2020, after increasing concerns regarding the collapse of the Indian economy due to the effects of the pandemic, the Indian Government introduced three pieces of legislation relating to agriculture. President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the three ambivalent farm bills that were consequential catalysts to the turmoil occurring in India. Farmers and homogeneous organisations are opposed to these farm bills due to their 'neoliberal orientation', which will deface existing wholesale markets and the corporatisation of agriculture according to them.[1] This reaction is no surprise since more than 60 percent of India's population are primarily dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.[2] Furthermore, this percentage is bound to increase even more due to the pandemic, which emphasises the plethora of people affected by these new regulations.

According to the Indian Government, the three new bills will introduce major reforms in the agricultural sector that will now allow farmers to sell their produce outside the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis in India.[3] Much of the opposition is targeted towards the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020. This Act allows for trading outside the physical premises of a market as well as electronic trading of farmers' produce in the specified trade area.[4] There is also an interest to establish an electronic platform for trading that would facilitate technological advances whilst integrating farmers with e-commerce, concealing the latent implications the Act possesses.[5]



Photo by The Wire

Footnotes

[1] Maju Varghese, 'India's New Farm Laws Mirror International Financial Institutions' Vision Of Agriculture - Bretton Woods Project' (Bretton Woods Project, 2021) <www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/03/indias-new-farm-laws-mirror-international-financialinstitutions-vision-of-agriculture/> accessed 25 March 2021.

[2] Mujib Mashal, Emily Schmall and Russell Goldman 'Why Are Farmers Protesting in India?' *NY Times* (New York, 27 January 2021) <www.nytimes.com/2021/01/27/world/asia/india-farmerprotest.html> accessed 23 March 2021.

[3] 'Farm Bill 2020: What Is Farmers Bill and Why Farmers Are Protesting | India News - Times Of India' *TimesIndia* (Bombay, 2021) <<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/what-are-newfarm-laws-and-and-why-farmers-are-protesting/articleshow/79609234.cms>> accessed 2 April 2021.

[4] The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020' (PRS Legislative Research, 2021) <<https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-essential-commodities-amendment-bill-2020>> accessed 2 April 2021.

[5] *Ibid.*

The discontent from farmers arose because regulated markets in the APMC are integral to the minimum support price (MSP), which is an agricultural product price set by the Government of India to ensure that farmers are not exploited through a minimum profit for the harvest.[6] The new shift to state governments has created a fear that the MSP will be exhausted through exploitation of private companies, leaving farmers at a huge disadvantage.[7] Farmers' fears come from experience when Bihar repealed its APMC Act in 2006, with a similar objective to attract private investment in the sector. This change resulted in eroded marketing infrastructure, very little development in the agricultural sector and high transaction charges.[8] This first reform is the largest change that has been a dominant factor to the disorder in India, with the other two pieces of legislation possessing more favourable clauses.

The second ordinance is the Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Assurance and Farm Service Act which provides a legal framework for farmers to work with large retailers and enter prearranged contracts. Similarly, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act aims to provide the imposition of stock limits for agricultural produce only when retail prices increase sharply.[9] Whilst both acts include benefits for farmers in terms of reducing the unpredictable nature of the market by providing price stability, the change is still unfavoured because large corporations now hold the centre of the agricultural sector. Farmers are facing apprehension as a result of these bills due to the reduced Government involvement in agriculture, exploitation by firms and unfavourable market conditions. This leads to the liberalisation of trade and does not fulfill farmers' needs.

Whilst the Indian government's support has been integral in helping India overcome the hunger crisis of the 1960s by guaranteeing minimum prices for essential crops,[10] the liberalisation of the economy allows private companies to dominate the agricultural sector, despite promises from the Government of India to provide farmers with emancipation.[11] Farmers are now losing hope with these market-friendly laws that will eventually eliminate regulatory support, further weaken the economy and be of detriment to livelihoods.[12]

The farmers' disappointment led to protests in Punjab in August 2020, and larger-scale demonstrations were initiated after the release of these ordinances the following month. Resentment continued until January 2021, when farmers progressed to New Delhi with more than 100,000 tractors to dismantle police barricades.[13]

Footnotes

[6] 'EXPLAINED | What the New Farm Bills Are All About and Why Being Opposed' (The Financial Express, 2021) <www.financialexpress.com/economy/explained-what-the-new-farm-billsare-all-about-and-why-being-opposed/2086681/> accessed 2 April 2021.

[7] T.K. Rajalakshmi, 'If APMC Mandis Go, MSP Will Vanish' (Frontline, 2021) <<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/interview-sukhpal-singh-agricultural-economist-on-farmlaws-2020-says-if-apmc-mandis-go-msp-will-vanish/article33538794.ece>> accessed 2 April 2021.

[8] The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020' (PRS Legislative Research, 2021) <<https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-essential-commodities-amendment-bill-2020>> accessed 2 April 2021.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Mujib Mashal, Emily Schmall and Russell Goldman, 'Why Are Farmers Protesting in India?' (Nytimes.com, 2021) <www.nytimes.com/2021/01/27/world/asia/india-farmerprotest.html> accessed 2 April 2021.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Maju Varghese, 'India's New Farm Laws Mirror International Financial Institutions' Vision Of Agriculture - Bretton Woods Project' (Bretton Woods Project, 2021) <www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/03/indias-new-farm-laws-mirror-international-financialinstitutions-vision-of-agriculture/> accessed 25 March 2021.

[13] Ibid.



Photo by CTV News

Photo by Flickr

Whilst some farmers are practicing passive resistance, others are using tractors and lorries to set up camps that block major routes into India's capital.[15] The turmoil that these new regulations are causing are further emphasised with peaceful protests decreasing. The police have been thoroughly involved in attempts to manage the protests, resorting to water cannons and tear gas to restrain farmers.[16] This increasing amount of brutality has resulted in the Indian government being instructed to exercise 'maximum restraint'[17] by the United Nations (UN), as the rights to 'peaceful assembly and expression should be protected both offline and online'.[18] There has also been support from other powerful actors such as the former Chief Economist of the World Bank, who has requested the Indian government to revoke the new legislation, and Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who has resigned from her position as Minister of Food Processing Industries in support of the farmers in India.[19] Continuation of such protests will be fatal, as emphasised by thirty-six members of the British Parliament who state that the new farm laws are a 'death warrant for India'.[20]

Regardless of the protests and requests to halt the reported reform, the Indian government's response has been continued reassurance that the current legislation will provide the outlined opportunities for farmers and immerse them in its technological developments. However, dismantling the present structure of the agricultural sector could result in an immense amount of regression, as illustrated by Bihar's similar reform in 2006. Existing food insecurity in India, further amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, means that farmers are in a vulnerable position because of this reform. With the continuation of unwavering violence and protests, it is unforeseeable whether farmers will receive justice and what the future of the agricultural sector in India will look like.

Footnotes

[15] India: UN Rights Office Urges 'Maximum Restraint' In Ongoing Protests' (UN News, 2021) <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084072>> accessed 3 April 2021.

[16] UN Backs Farm Law Protests, Says People Have Right to Demonstrate Peacefully' (Scroll.in, 2021) <<https://scroll.in/latest/980371/un-backs-farm-law-protests-says-people-have-right-to-demonstrate-peacefully>> accessed 3 April 2021.

[17] 'India: UN Rights Office Urges 'Maximum Restraint' In Ongoing Protests' (UN News, 2021) <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084072>> accessed 3 April 2021.

[18] Ibid.

[19] Ibid (n 14).

[20] India Rebukes UK MPs Over Farmers' Protest Debate' (BBC News, 2021) <www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-56330205> accessed 3 April 2021.

Fast Fashion needs to slow down

Samah Sajad - 2nd Year BA International Relations

Fast fashion is defined as 'combining a quick response production and a highly fashionable product design'.^[1] Essentially, fast fashion promises new trendy clothing through mass production of clothing which is sold at a very low cost. This immense production results in 2.1 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year. This is a huge contributing factor to climate change with the creation of greenhouse gases soaring in this industry.^[2] However, the garments industry also has an issue of waste. In March 2020, products worth 2.81 billion US Dollars from Bangladesh were cancelled after they had been manufactured which left the workers unpaid for the manufacturing and garments that would ultimately be thrown out.^[3] This is the hallmark of fast fashion - the garments are cheap and so readily thrown out by both producers and consumers because of the changing trends that fast fashion companies keep trying to chase. Thus, the impact of this wave in the fashion industry has a deeply damaging impact on populations, economies and the environment.



Photo by The Irish Times



Photo by Forbes

Footnotes

[1] Gerard P. Cachon, Robert Swinney, 'The Value of Fast Fashion: Quick Response, Enhanced Design, and Strategic Consumer Behavior' (2011) 57(4) Management Science 778.

[2] Bella Webb, 'Fashion and Carbon Emissions: crunch time.' (Vogue Business, August 2020)
<<https://www.voguebusiness.com/sustainability/fashion-and-carbon-emissions-crunch-time>> accessed 13 November 2020.

[3] Nameera Amin, 'Fast fashion in Bangladesh: why boycotting it isn't simple' The Vegan Review, November 2020.
<<https://theveganreview.com/fast-fashion-in-bangladesh-why-boycotting-it-isnt-simple/>> accessed 13 November 2020.

The general increase in consumerism across most industries over the last 20 years can be used to explain the acceleration of fast fashion. In fact, according to marketing studies, compared to consumers 15 years ago, today's consumers spend 60 percent more on clothing that is kept for half the time.[4] Specific to fashion, the link between empowerment, personality and one's clothing plays an intrinsic part in this rise. Fast fashion brands have made clothing and accessories an important tool in reflecting characters, trends and moods. This is ultimately an important aspect in the marketing and selling of their products. However, it has opened a space for fast fashion brands to use activism as an economic tool. For example, one of the frontrunners of fast fashion in the UK is Misguided plc. Many brands, like Misguided, use Instagram and other social media platforms to further market their products. The phrase: "committed to empowering all"[5] can be found at the very top of Misguided's Instagram page. An important question to ask here is- how far does that empowerment extend?

Around 85 percent of garment workers in Bangladesh are women that are paid an average of 3 US Dollars(\$) per day.[6] The conditions of these workplaces are usually terrible and are in buildings that can be unstable. A clothing factory in Rana Plaza, an area in Bangladesh that consists of many garment factories, collapsed in April of 2013 where 1132 people were killed and over 2000 injured. This is not an isolated incident, - due to poor electrical wiring, fires are common in such these factories which that injure many of the workers.[7]



Photo by OpenDemocracy



Photo by WTVOX

Footnotes

- [4] Felix Garcia, 'Fashion Industry Statistics in the UK and marketing insights.' (*Marketing Expertus*, June 2020). <www.marketingexpertus.co.uk/blog/uk-fashion-industry-statistics-marketing-insights/> accessed 7 December 2020.
- [5] Misguided Instagram. <www.instagram.com/misguided> accessed 13 November 2020.
- [6] Our Good Brands, April 2020. <<https://ourgoodbrands.com/real-impact-fast-fashion-industry-world/>> accessed 13 November 2020.
- [7] 'Bangladesh Tazreen factory fire was sabotage - inquiry' *The Guardian*, (London, 17 December 2012) <www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20755952> accessed 7 December 2020.

The affected employees are working in countries whose economies rely on the outsourced manufacturing that fast fashion brands have established. Yet, slogan activism promoting feminism to sell clothes remains the marketing formula. To put it simply, the hypocrisy is clear- these workers are not empowered, they are the victims of a system that will never benefit them.

These fast fashion marketing techniques highlights to its customers that their trends and clothing are empowering but the low cost of these quickly changing trends relies on workers that are being exploited and are not protected by any laws. The low cost creates a domino effect where the cheap outsourcing and manufacturing leads to safety regulations being overlooked, low taxation and cheap labour in third world countries. The fast fashion companies can also attempt to evade responsibility due to this decentralisation. Fast fashion's negative effects are overlooked because consumers appreciate low costs, but the idea behind buying new clothes all the time to protect an image in the public and digital world just promotes tokenistic activism rather than empowerment. Thus, consumer behaviour is the other side of the coin of fast fashion that works in conjunction with outsourced manufacturing to further the dangerous impact of the high level of production.

Fast fashion creates a cycle of disasters in third world country manufacturing sites, environmental dangers and consumerism. The goal is, therefore, to break this cycle. The key to achieving this is sustainable fashion from the producers down to the buyers. There will always be a demand for clothes, we just need to turn our attention to making eco-friendly and ethically produced clothing. Brands that promote repair, recycling and resale are key to lowering production levels and could, in turn, reduce emissions by approximately 347 million tonnes a year.[8] However, this would require collaborative efforts between companies and consumers to make it the norm within every brand. Social media campaigns could boost the normalisation of recyclable clothes or the resale of them which would also allow customers or small resale businesses to profit due to the increased 'thrifting'.

Ultimately, the fast fashion industry has tried to sustain itself by packaging and promoting messages of activism and empowerment alongside their clothes, however, this can only go so far in concealing the dangers of mass production. The real empowerment for the affected workers would be safe working environments and a price point that reflects their labour. Better quality clothing does not have to come from giant corporations or umbrella companies, but shopping ethically to lower demand and making the resale of clothes a norm can introduce a more sustainable cycle for fashion. We need to be honest about the severe damage done to deprived countries and disadvantaged social groups. Furthermore, we need to acknowledge the harm to the environment and the adoption of slogans pertaining to serious issues just to sell basic clothing. We only need to look at these facts to know that fast fashion is an unsustainable system - one that needs to slow down, rethink and make space for a greener and safer alternative for the future.

Footnotes

[8] Bella Webb, 'Fashion and Carbon Emissions: crunch time.' (*Vogue Business*, 26 August 2020)
<www.voguebusiness.com/sustainability/fashion-and-carbon-emissions-crunch-time> accessed 13 December 2020.

The Divorce, Separation and Dissolution Act 2020: How Owens v Owens Inspired a Drastic Change in The Law

Dan McMeekin – 3rd Year LLB Law

The operation of the law on divorce and dissolution, dealing with the termination and legal ending of a marriage or civil partnership (CP) is due to undergo drastic reform in the autumn of 2021 through the introduction of the Divorce, Separation and Dissolution Act 2020. The 2020 Act will replace the previous legal position found in the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (MCA) one must prove an 'irretrievable breakdown'[1] of a marriage/CP using the 'five facts' of Adultery, Behaviour, Desertion and Living Apart[2] in order for a divorce/dissolution to be granted. The 2020 Act replaces the need to use one of the 'five facts' to prove an irretrievable breakdown of a marriage/civil partnership and instead a singular statement to the court[3] of an irretrievable breakdown will be accepted as conclusive evidence[4] of such a claim. Academic, religious and social morals have conveyed a vast and expansive reaction to the forthcoming change in the law. This article discusses the positive effects that such change in legislation entails, as was originally ignited by the recent case of *Owens v Owens*. [5]

Students of law and other relevant disciplines can clearly identify the correlation between the complexity of the law and the lack of accessibility caused as a result. The ever-increasing costs of legal advice and representation leaves people unable to efficiently utilize and access their legal rights, especially with regard to the area of divorce and dissolution of marriages and civil partnerships. The upcoming change in legislation allows for no fault based dissolution of a marriage/CP, making this process less complex which increases the accessibility of the law.



Photo by Law.com

Footnotes

- [1] S1 (1).
- [2] S 1 (2) (a)-(e).
- [3] S 1 (1) (2).
- [4] S 1 (1) (3).
- [5] [2018] UKSC 41.

But where did such a drastic reform in the law stem from?

Previously there have been many attempts at reforming the system of divorce and dissolution, such as the Family Law Act 1996 and the No-Fault Divorce Bill 2015, which subsequently failed. Perhaps the reason that the process of no-fault divorce/dissolution had not been introduced was because of the lack of a 'real story' or a case that touched the moral and ethical consideration of the population – until the case of *Owens v Owens*.^[6] This case truly allowed courts to see the issues with the current legislation, the complicated nature of it and the chaos it causes.

In 2015, the claimant Mrs Owens sought to divorce her longstanding husband under Section 1(2)(b) of the MCA which states that 'the respondent (in this case Mr Owens) has behaved in such a way that the petitioner (Mrs Owens) cannot reasonably be expected to live with the respondent'. Mrs Owens adduced evidence that Mr Owens had become unreasonable, nasty and vindictive and she informed the Court that Mr Owens had publicly berated her a number of times– an incident in which caused her grave embarrassment. As a consequence, after more than 30 years of living together, Mrs Owens left her matrimonial home and did not return. At the first hearing and again in the Court of Appeal, the judges believed that the behaviour that Mr Owens exerted was not of such a standard that it would be unreasonable to remain within the marriage, instead they commented that these were minor altercations that should be expected within a marriage.^[7] In 2018, Mrs Owens' appeal to the Supreme Court was also reluctantly dismissed, despite her continuously trying to explain that her marriage was loveless and unable to recover from. Once the appeal was dismissed, according to the five years separation provision in Section 1(2)(e) of the MCA, Mrs Owens would have to wait another two years to be able to show the Court that she and Mr Owens have been separated for five years. Waiting for five years of separation means that Mr Owens' consent for the dissolution would not be required, since the parties would have not lived together for five years.

This case signified the real problem in the law, that individuals are required to remain within damaging marriages if they did not meet the fault-based criteria set out under the MCA. This leaves the state deciding on personal relationships, rather than the parties actually involved in said relationship. Therefore, the Supreme Court was left with the moral question of whether it is fair that they should be the one controlling what people's relationships need to look like to legally end. ^[8] Mr and Mrs Owens' marriage highlighted an unjust and unfair system of ending legal relationships, resulting in couples being trapped in loveless and hopeless marriages as to which there is no moral or ethical justification.^[9]

Footnotes

[6] [2018] UKSC 41.

[7] *Ibid.*

[8] Sarah Trotter, 'The State of Divorce Law', (2019)

<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/100740/3/Trotter_1601_FIN_FOR_LRO.pdf> accessed 18 April 2021.

[9] Geraldine Morris, 'Strengthening the Call for Divorce Law Reform– *Owens v Owens* (2018) UKSC 41' (2018)

<www.lexisnexis.co.uk/blog/family-law/strengthening-the-call-for-divorce-law-reform-owens-v-owens-2018-uksc-41> accessed 16 April 2021.



Photo by Sadek and Cooper

Owens not only inspired change for simplifying matters relating to the ending of a legal relationship and the unjustness of the MCA, but it also allowed for further reform especially in relation to same-sex couples. Before the Divorce, Separation and Dissolution Act 2020, same-sex couples were unable to rely on adultery as a fact for proving the irretrievable breakdown of a marriage or civil partnership. Fortunately, under this new law same-sex couples will not be prejudiced against in the matters relating to adultery and have been given a more equal, fair and empowering position, as all that is required under the 2020 Act is a single statement that an irretrievable breakdown has occurred regardless of which circumstances occur.[10]

The upcoming reform indicates that there is a promising future on the horizon for those who no longer wish to remain within a marriage or CP. This commitment between two people is one that should be celebrated with happy memories and experiences, not a trapping commitment that is unable to end. The 2020 Act allows those who wish to depart from a legal relationship easily and freely and also reforms the disadvantaged position of same-sex couples. In essence, the Divorce Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 rids the jurisdiction of England and Wales of its archaic, oppressive and unjust nature, but it is a shame that individuals such as Mrs Owens had to suffer in order to provoke a change.



Photo by Financial Times

Footnotes

[10] Monidipa Fouzder, 'Divorce Reform could Follow in Wake of Owens v Owens' (2018) <www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/divorce-reform-could-follow-in-wake-of-owens-v-owens/5067092.article> accessed 16 April 2021

Royal Holloway Law Society Reflection Note

Muhammad
Aftab



This academic year, my team and I conducted our skills activities virtually due to the pandemic, but we participated and held as many events as we could with resilience and motivation. With the support of the Law Committee, the Student's Union and the School of Law and Social Sciences, I am delighted to say we hosted over 50 virtual sessions during term one and term two, which included networking events, webinars, and we also hosted talks by the University of Law representative and Inns of Court College of Advocacy.

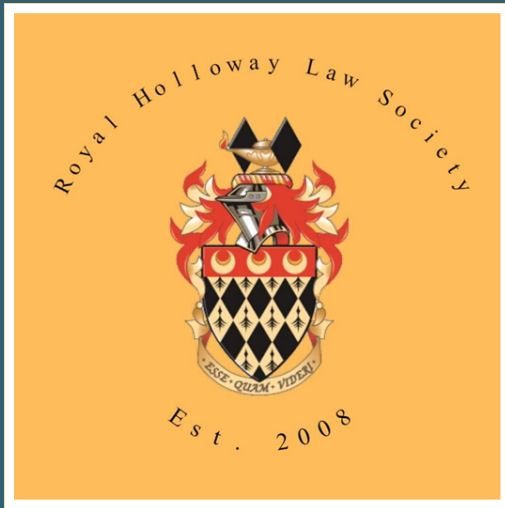
This academic year, after the client interviewing activity sessions during term one and our internal competition, we selected two teams to represent the university in the Surrey Client Interviewing Competition and I am proud to say that both teams won the competition and came in first in the region. Similarly, after the negotiations activity sessions during term one, we hosted our internal competition where we selected two teams to represent the university at the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution competition in February 2021.

Moreover, the Law Society's mooting team participated in the inter-varsity moot, OUP, and Essex Court National Mooting Competition. In March 2021, our mooting team took part in the 10th annual National Mooting Competition hosted by the Southampton Bar Society which led our team to the National semi-final. This will take place at the end of April, but we are proud that the team has gotten this far. Finally, in term one, our mock court team represented Royal Holloway in a National Trial Competition held by the University of Surrey. We conducted the mock court training sessions and finished with a full trial session, where participants acted as witnesses and jury members, which they found very engaging in term two.

We appreciate how difficult this academic year has been, but being able to be a part of this team and seeing such a great turnout at each event and activity has been one of my highlights of this year. Thank you all for your support and I wish you all the best for your exams and future endeavours.

Yours Sincerely,

Muhammad Aftab
President Royal Holloway Law Society



Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RHUL.LawSociety/>

Instagram: @law.rhul

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rhul-law-society/>

Email: law@royalholloway.su

Lauren Thompson (2nd year LLB) and Kofi Frimpong (3rd year Classics) won round 1 of University of Surrey's National Mock Trial against University of Portsmouth



Vice President & Mock Court Officer
Harry Applegate

Secretary
Courtney Leigh Hardyman

Finance Director
Julia Jeker

Career Representative
Olivia Smith

Social Secretary
Megan Williams

Negotiation Officer
Megan Friedlander

Mooting Officer
William Taylor

Client Interviewing Officer
Adriana Futejova



Photo by Chambers



Lauren Skinner (2nd year LLB) and Maxwell Harrison (3rd year LLB) won the first round and qualified for the semi-final in the 10th Annual Southampton Bar Society's National Mooting Competition

Commercial Awareness Society



President

Ahmad Akbar

Vice President

Mehru Khan

Secretary

Kashmira Aukeer

Treasurer

Noorshad Sarwar

Events Manager

Imran Jivani

Social Media Director

Ivanka Lee

Newsletter Officer

Tarandeep Hira

Social Media:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/rhulcas2020>

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/rhul_cas/

Linkedin:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/rhul-commercial-awareness-society/?viewAsMember=true>

Email:

rhul.cas@gmail.com



FREE Legal Advice

Legal Advice Centre

Appointment-only

Wednesdays (fortnightly)
1.30pm – 3.30pm (term-time)

For further information and dates of our sessions, please visit our website:
www.royalholloway.ac.uk/legaladvicecentre

Legal Advice Centre
Department of Law and Criminology,
School of Law and Social Sciences
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey
TW20 0EX
LAC@royalholloway.ac.uk



ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON



BPP's Careers Service has been brilliant with my pupillage applications and has definitely helped me get to where I am now.

At the careers events you can speak to different firms and chambers. You're making those networking connections that are so important when you later go for interviews.

Niamh Ingham
Pupil Barrister



Our graduates have **secured more pupillages in barristers' chambers** than any other provider.*



*BPTC graduates commencing pupillage between 2013-2017, aggregated.
Source: BPTC Key Statistics, Bar Standards Board, 2019.

12  Visit bpp.com/courses/law

'Street Law' Project – Lauren Thompson

lauren.thompson.lac@rhul.ac.uk

I am one of two Project Coordinators for the Legal Advice Centre's Street Law Project. This is a project focused on informing the community about different points of law that may particularly be helpful to them. My role has been to gather the volunteers within the Legal Advice Centre and recruit them for specific projects that I am leading. I have formed a team of 4 students who I oversee the meetings and steer them in the right direction, to ensure the project gets completed within the correct time frame and to the highest of their ability. I have been liaising recently with a Sixth Form located in Reading where my team have delivered a session on legal careers. The Sixth Form enjoyed this so much that we have been invited back this summer to do a session on Social Media and the Law. This is what the volunteers are working on now. They are using everything they have learnt from the first presentation regarding technology, timings and engagement techniques to make sure this session is even more informative and enjoyable than the last.



Street Law
know your rights.

Photo by Seren

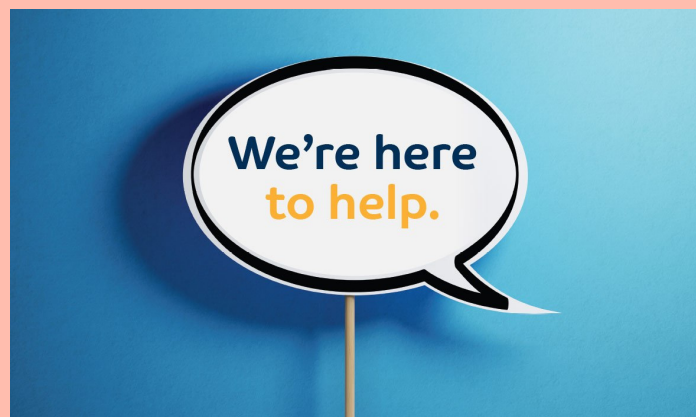


Photo by University of Bolton

My future plans with the LAC are unfortunately short ones. I am going on my year in industry this summer so will be leaving the university and my role at the LAC behind to take on a new job. However, I know that the centre has big plans in regard to the Street Law Project. They are eager to get back into in person presentations with the community to make sure engagement is the best it can be, and the attendees get the most out of the sessions that we run. The LAC are also expanding their reach when it comes to who they work with when delivering Street Law Sessions. So far this year we have already recruited the Reading Sixth Form to work with us and will be looking into other areas of the community to help. I wish the LAC well and will hopefully be back working with them when my year in industry is concluded on one of the many projects they will have running in the future.

'I See You' Project – Reena Chohan

reena.chohan.lac@rhul.ac.uk

I am a Project Coordinator for the 'I See You' Project in the Legal Advice Centre, along with Adriana Futejova and Ammar Abbas. This project is in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement; it is made up of student volunteers who write articles and produce legal information on the racial inequalities that appear within our justice system. At the end of the year, all the articles will be published on the BAME website, Legal Advice Centre Annual Report and on the Legal Lifelines website for your perusal.

I am in my first year at Royal Holloway so my experience with the Legal Advice Centre has only just begun and, so far, it has been very interesting. I was inspired to work on this project as I, myself, come from a BAME background and have always been interested in the future of diversity and inclusion within the legal field.

The 'I See You' Project is made up of nine students who have been divided into four sub-teams. These teams work individually to produce their own article. My role is to organise meetings, create deadlines, manage a group and edit the articles they produce. Each Project Lead manages one of the groups to divide the work fairly and to ensure efficient communication. So far, one sub-team has completed their article and the other three teams will have their articles finalised by the end of the month. We have many interesting articles to look forward to, ranging from the Chronology of Legislation Relating to Racism to an article discussing the impact of the Shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Whilst on the surface it seems that the world has progressed, there are many cracks that are coming to surface that shed a light on the shortcomings in the law field and the inequalities that impact a vast majority of people on a daily basis. Therefore, this project has so much potential as it educates individuals and hopefully creates an impact, no matter how small. The most important thing in the world right now is education, and this is what this project is accomplishing.

I look forward to continuing my journey with the Legal Advice Centre and discovering how much more it is capable of.

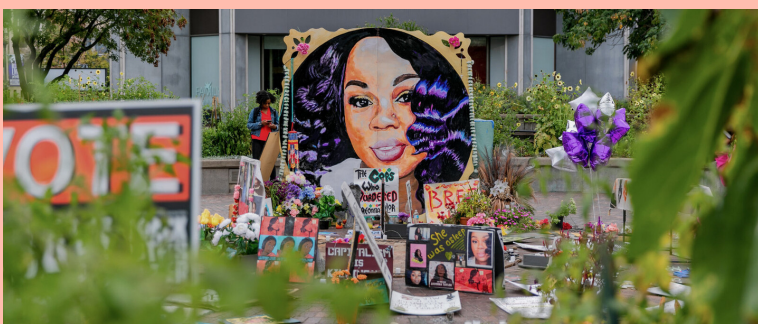


Photo by The New York Times

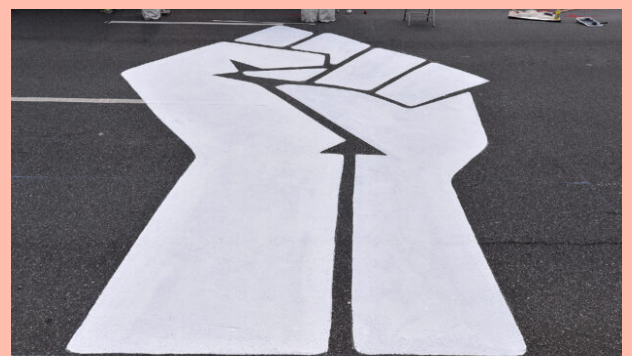


Photo by Prospect

Careers

LISTEN TO CAREER RECORDED WORKSHOPS- [HTTPS://INTRANET.ROYALHOLLOWAY.AC.UK/STUDENTS/JOBS-CAREERS/CAREERS-SERVICE-ONLINE/ONLINE-WORKSHOPS-AND-WEBINARS.ASPX](https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/students/jobs-careers/careers-service-online/online-workshops-and-webinars.aspx)

Career Essentials workshops

These workshops are delivered by our team of Careers Consultants and cover the most popular topics requested by students. If you still have questions after watching a session, simply click on the name of the Careers Consultant below to book an appointment.

- [Career Essentials: Internships and work experience in 2020](#) delivered by [Louise Ogle](#)
- [Career Essentials: Your graduate job hunt](#), delivered by [Louise Ogle](#)
- [Career Essentials: Interviews](#), delivered by [Ed McLean](#)
- [Career Essentials: Getting started with LinkedIn](#), delivered by [Doreen Thompson-Addo](#)
- [Career Essentials: Using LinkedIn to find a job](#), delivered by [Doreen Thompson-Addo](#)
- [Career Essentials: What to do if you don't know what to do](#), delivered by [Gemma Seabrook](#)
- [Career Essentials: Considering Further Study?](#) delivered by [Louise Ogle](#)
- [Career Essentials: Getting started with your Side Hustle](#) delivered by [Doreen Thompson-Addo](#)
- [Career Essentials: CV Workshop](#) delivered by [Ed McLean](#)
- [Career Essentials: Cover Letters](#) delivered by [Ed McLean](#)
- [Career Essentials: How to build a strong online network](#), delivered by [Siobhan Swindells](#)
- [Career Essentials: How to Leverage Your Online Networks](#), delivered by [Siobhan Swindells](#)
- [Career Essentials: LinkedIn Hacks Recruiters use to Hire Candidates](#), delivered by [Doreen Thompson-Addo](#)
- [Career Essentials: Writing Applications for Unadvertised Jobs or Internships](#), delivered by [Simon Mantell](#)
- [Career Essentials: Writing a great application for further study](#), delivered by [Jo Edmondson](#)

ARE YOU READY FOR THE WORKPLACE?

LISTEN/WATCH THE CAREER CENTRE'S EMPLOYER PARTNERS OFFER ADVICE FOR GAINING SKILLS IN THE WORKPLACE- [HTTPS://INTRANET.ROYALHOLLOWAY.AC.UK/STUDENTS/JOBS-CAREERS/EVENTS/SKILLS-FOR-THE-WORKPLACE.ASPX](https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/students/jobs-careers/events/skills-for-the-workplace.aspx)

Accenture: Securing a Job during the Pandemic



Donna Cummings
Senior Graduate Recruiter
Accenture

Imagen Insights: Branding and Promotion



Accenture: Adjusting to the workplace as a new Graduate



Donna Cummings
Senior Graduate Recruiter
Accenture

Everis: Resilience in the Workplace



Excel Skills Workshops



Tolu Ogunlaye - FDM
Senior Graduate Recruiter and
University Partnerships Consultant

We hope you enjoyed reading this issue!

For any further queries, suggestions or questions please do not hesitate to contact the editorial team at:

lawgazette.rhul@gmail.com

If you are interested in being a part of next year's editorial team, please keep an eye out for any announcements or contact us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Editorial Team

Editor-In-Chief – Hredi Chhabria

Executive Editor (Content) – Callum Millard

Executive Editor (Design) – Farsam Raja

Executive Editor (Communications) – Marta Iversen Ohlsson

Editorial Assistant – Noor Haider

Editorial Assistant – Leia Paxton

Academic Liaison – Foivi Mouzakiti

Writers

Marta Iversen Ohlsson

Noor Haider

Peter Aivaras Aksentis

Jack Codling

Teresa Etheredge

Richard Booth

Monika Tsvetanova

Samah Sajad

Dan McMeekin

MAGNA CARTA

VOLUME II / ISSUE II / APR. 2021

ROYAL HOLLOWAY LAW AND
CRIMINOLOGY GAZETTE

lawgazette.rhul@gmail.com