



UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Intensive two-day course in central London

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 April 2012

CPD Points tbc

It is over two decades since the groundbreaking UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) came into force, resulting in an exponential growth in child-related law and policy, both on the international and domestic levels.

International human rights law now informs all elements of UK strategy and policy as it relates to children. Childcare professionals, including lawyers and those directly working with and for children must therefore understand and be able to apply the international human rights law framework relating to children and young people. To assist busy professionals in using human rights law effectively, and being able to realise its potential, the LSE's Centre for the Study of Human Rights has devised an innovative course in Understanding Children's Human Rights.

This practically-focussed course, consisting of six substantive sessions over two days, places in perspective international human rights law as it affects children. At the end of the two days participants will have comprehensive information on the international framework to guarantee the rights of the child and also on how to use and apply this in a domestic setting.

Whilst the focus of the course will be the CRC, other key international human rights treaties which guarantee civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights of children will also be examined. Relevant standards emerging from Europe will be explained, and reference will also be made to other child-specific regional developments and good practice standards.

The course will place the rights of the child in the context of factors such as gender, race and class, which have a significant impact on the realisation of child rights in the UK and elsewhere. One of the key objectives of the course is to address the gap that remains between the idealistic principles articulated in law and policy, and the reality of children's lives. This is as true of the UK as it is of many other countries. Despite significant progress and a plethora of child-related measures, the full potential of human rights to improve the lives of children is not being realised. This course will assist in prioritising the value of the human rights framework in delivering services, and value, to children.

The course is designed for professional participants involved in either developing policy and practice in relation to children, or working in child rights and child protection. Lawyers working in child law will be able to use the course to update and develop their knowledge in this crucial area of their work. Equally the course will be highly beneficial for those who campaign for children's rights and those who are interested in the added value of human rights, and in discussing and analysing these issues.

There are six components to the course:

- The International human rights framework and how it relates to children;
- The evolution of international child law, its framework and implementation mechanisms, and the definition of the 'child';
- Development issues including child poverty, child labour, trafficking and education;
- Litigating children's rights using international, and regional courts and tribunals, including the rights of child migrants;
- International human rights and juvenile justice;
- Participation of the child in international, national and domestic life - and UK implementation of participation rights.

Why take this course?

- delivers comprehensive information on the international framework to guarantee the rights of the child and develops the capacity to use and apply this in a domestic setting;
- provides a unique opportunity to move beyond specialised areas of child-related expertise to an overview of 'child rights' within the broader international human rights framework;
- offers insight and guidance on various approaches to child-related advocacy which can be applied in practice;
- provides a forum for discussing some of the complexities inherent in the notion of 'children's rights';
- offers a broad analysis of substantive and topical issues of child law and policy;
- provides access to leading child law and human rights practitioners and academics

Speakers

The course will be taught by distinguished academics and leading practitioners in the field of child law, child policy or human rights law.

The course is co-convened by Madeleine Colvin and Jenny Kuper. They will be present throughout the two days, drawing the sessions together, encouraging participation and guiding participants through the subject matter. They will each also lead sessions in their areas of expertise.

Madeleine Colvin is a human rights lawyer who practised as a barrister before joining Liberty and later JUSTICE as a legal policy specialist. She is a human rights consultant and a part-time Immigration Judge and convenes the certificate course programme of LSE's Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

Jenny Kuper is a Research Fellow at LSE who worked as a solicitor specialising in child-related law before obtaining her PhD in international law in 1996. She has also worked as a consultant for UNICEF on law reform issues in Nepal, and for the International Committee of the Red Cross as the UK expert for the study on 'Customary International Humanitarian Law.'

Course dates

This is a two-day course and participants are required to attend both days. The course will be held on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th April 2012 between 9.30am and 4.30pm at LSE in central London.

Course fees

Standard (Standard individual rate): £750

Concessionary (Voluntary sector organisation): £500

Discounts may be available for group (3+) bookings from one organisation / company. Please contact the Centre for the Study of Human Rights for more information.

The Centre is able to offer up to five subsidised (half price, £375) places for those who would otherwise be unable to attend. Those wishing to apply for a subsidised place must complete and return the 'Subsidised Place Application Form' by noon on Thursday 15 March 2012. Applications will be competitively assessed after the deadline, and places will be awarded on the basis of merit and financial need.

LSE Alumni, Student or Staff are entitled to a 10% discount on the standard course fee.

Further information

On registering, participants will be sent (via email and post) some recommended pre-reading. At the start of the course participants will be provided with a file of papers to accompany each session and additional resources for future reference.

A certificate of attendance from the Centre for the Study of Human Rights at LSE will be awarded to all those who have successfully completed the course. Completion of the course requires attendance of all sessions over the two days.

For registration and application forms, and information about the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, visit www.lse.ac.uk/humanrights