

HUMAN RIGHTS – ALTERNATIVE ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

14 January 2013

Doughty Street Chambers, 53-54 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LS

5 Hours CPD (Law Society and Bar)

The existence and success of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights may have taken attention away from the fact that there are other remedies that lawyers can use on behalf of clients to protect human rights. In particular, there are opportunities for complaints to be made to UN bodies on behalf of individual clients; and wider opportunities for issues to be raised on behalf of non-governmental organisations as part of the process of “periodic reporting”. This is where the UK reports its progress in complying with its obligations under various UN treaties. In addition, the standards that have been developed in these treaties can be used to assist in developing the jurisprudence arising under the ECHR. At the same time, it is worth noting that the UK has a poor record of engagement with these alternative UN-based mechanisms compared to many other members of the Council of Europe. This seminar aims to introduce lawyers to these alternative mechanisms so that there is knowledge of what they are in case they are of value for clients, including NGOs; and also so that work can be done to lobby for a better engagement with the UN mechanisms.

Programme:

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| 10.00-10.15am | Conference Opening: John Wadham, General Counsel, Equality and Human Rights Commission |
| 10.15-11.00am | Overview of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms: Kris Gledhill, Director, New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice, University of Auckland |
| 11.00-11.45am | Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Prof. Geraldine Van Bueren, Queen Mary Human Rights Consortium and former Commissioner, Equality and Human Rights Commission and Prof. Aoife Nolan, University of Nottingham |
| 11.45am-12.30pm | The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Catherine Casserley, Cloisters and Paul Bowen QC, Doughty Street Chambers |
| 12.30-1.15pm | Lunch |
| 1.15-2.00pm | The Convention on the Rights of the Child: Ian Wise QC, Doughty Street Chambers |
| 2.00-2.45pm | The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Prof. Sandra Fredman, Oxford University |
| 2.45-3.30pm | How to Make Good Use of Shadow Reporting: Clare Collier, Senior Lawyer Equality and Human Rights Commission |
| 3.30-4.00pm | Panel Discussion |

To reserve your place please RSVP to events@doughtystreet.co.uk or contact Jennifer Noone on 020 7404 1313.