

6th IARS International Conference 2018

Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
London, 12th and 13th July



**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY VOICES STRONGER TOGETHER:
ABUSED AND STIGMATISED NO MORE**



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Book of Abstracts

12th-13th July 2018

Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, London



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THURSDAY 12TH JULY, WORKING GROUP 1 (12:00-13:15)

Name: Jakub Niewinski

Affiliation: University of Warsaw

Presentation title: 'Dignity/Our Right'

The participants of the workshop will reflect on the situation of migrants and other vulnerable groups in modern Europe (LGBT). The emphasis will be placed on social inclusion. The educators will be invited to work in small groups using simulation exercises related to a "bystander effect". A few texts from the press will be used as well as film clips and some photos to learn empathy through imagination. During all activities will be built up a friendly space of discussion, so that various ideas can be shared.

Name: Allan Briddock

Affiliation: One Pump Court

Presentation title: 'LGBT+ refugees denied status due to multi-layer marginalisation'

LGBT refugees are required to show the reason they would conceal SOGI in home country is connected to fear of persecution. This is misapplied and is further marginalising LGBT claimants. Decision makers and the judiciary frequently examine how the claimant 'behaves' in the UK to assess how they would 'behave' in home country. If the person is not overtly 'out' in the UK it is common for claims to be refused. However, many LGBT claimants struggle with their SOGI. It is not the case, as is expected, they will be automatically live an 'open' life after they reach the UK. Further, many LGBT refugees live in communities of their own nationality and are marginalised as LGBT people which makes it harder to be open about their SOGI. When their applications are examined by the authorities they are often found to conceal their SOGI in the UK 'for their own reasons' and claims rejected. They are therefore subjected to many layers of marginalisation, as LGBT people in society, as LGBT people in their own community, and as asylum seekers. Their asylum claim may be refused due to their marginalisation. The workshop would examine the principles of the law, how it is being misapplied and how its misapplication is further marginalising LGBT refugees.

Name: Emily Lanham

Affiliation: The IARS International Institute

Presentation title: LGBT and Public Legal Education; Knowing Your Rights'

Public Legal Education is important for all and a popular element of PLE is discrimination. Your sexuality is a protected characteristic but what does that mean? How can PLE be used to empower the LGBTQ+ community to fight; and what particular challenges does being a migrant add in addition? This workshop looks at the delivery of PLE for the LGBTQ+ community and what we can learn from experience.



THURSDAY 12TH JULY, WORKING GROUP 2 (12:00-13:15)

Name: Bartosz Kotylak

Affiliation: University of Warsaw

Presentation: 'Problems of homosexual relationships resulting from the Polish act of 14 July 2006'

Problems of homosexual relationships resulting from the Polish act of 14 July 2006 about entry into the territory of the Republic of Poland, stay and departure from that territory of citizens of the European Union and members of their families, and The Act of 2 April 2009 about Polish citizenship.

As it is commonly known, not all European Union countries allow registers of same-sex relationships. This causes problems when traveling between European Union countries. The paper is intended to present what obstacles people from outside the Union encounter when they want to come with a partner to a country that does not recognize their relationship. Which regulations govern their situations and what the position of the courts looks like. Examples that took place at border crossings will be presented. The paper will also focus on the issues of equality of the law and the attempt to avoid the problem by states that do not recognize marriages. It will also mark the problem of children raised in homosexual relationships at the moment of applying for the documents of a state that does not refer to same-sex relationships. The attention of the paper will also focus on simple official obstacles that often make it impossible to settle matters. Also possible solutions for each of the problems will be presented.

Name: Maija Linnala

Affiliation: The IARS International Institute

Presentation: LGBT Community, Discrimination and Integration: Finding Ways Forward'

This workshop provides an in-depth overview of the Epsilon project by presenting the aims and objectives and the methodological framework of the project in the UK. This workshop elaborates on the key findings of the project, and it aims to understand the lived experiences of the LGBTI migrants in the UK. The workshop concludes with recommendations on a practical and policy level as a way of moving forward.

Name: Deyone Milana Guiseppi

Affiliation: University of Groningen

Presentation: 'My Journey to Belonging'

My name is Milly. I am Trinidadian. I am black. I am transgender. I am a refugee. I am a human being. There is an infinite amount of aspects that make me who I am, makes me unique and this is in constant evolution. All these aspects come together to make a whole



and that's the true definition of who I am which I believe cannot truly be defined by any one word. I experience all these aspects about myself therefore nobody else can truly define who I am.

Ever since I knew myself, I knew I was different, different from the standards and binaries that the world had set up through performativity to define me and everyone else. At the age of three, the age at which I started having a sense of who I was, I didn't acquire the language to define different aspects about myself, such as my transgenderism. My parents did notice this difference, especially my dad who is Catholic. He grew up in a family where being anything different from the norm was aggressively policed and met with punishment. I remembered dressing up in my mother's clothing and shoes and played with dolls and would often be scolded by dad for it. Ever since I knew myself, I always had a strong feminine way of expressing myself. I remembered a particular incident at a Christmas class party all the boys got trucks and the girls got dolls, I, of course, got a truck. I cried, kick and screamed until I got a doll. Maybe it might have seemed then as me acting up but now looking back on, this is one of the first forms of my expression of my conviction and realization of an element of my identity, my transgenderism, and the refusal to be what people wanted me to be.



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THURSDAY 12TH JULY, WORKING GROUP 3 (14:00-15:00)

Name: Jonathan Mastellari

Affiliation: Anziani e non solo

Presentation title: 'LGBT+ Asylum Seekers: Needs and Good Practices in 5 Countries in Europe'

SOGI (sexual orientation and/or gender identity) asylum seekers are members of a specific group with specific needs.

In Europe legal practices related to their asylum procedure and to their accommodation (that in some countries could be specific for LGBT+ community members) are different country by country.

Epsilon research tried to get more clear the situation about SOGI asylum in 5 different countries (UK, Italy, The Netherlands, Cyprus, Greece) with a focus on needs and good practices in different area of Europe.

Name: Dr Antonia Torrens

Affiliation: Family and Childcare Centre (KMOP)

Presentation title: 'The Situation of LGBT people in Greece'

According to the 2018 report carried out by ILGA-Europe, which assesses LGBT rights in European countries, Greece achieved the highest improvements among the 49 countries in the legal and policy situation of LGBT people between 2014 and 2018, with an overall score of 52%, ranking 15th in Europe. Although in recent years Greek society has started accepting LGBT people to a greater extent and anti-discrimination legislation protecting them exists, LGBT in Greece constitute one of the most vulnerable social groups, as they continue to become victims of an imperfect legal status and experience all forms of discrimination against the right to equal treatment.

In the working group of the “European Community Voices Stronger Together: Abused and Stigmatised No More” Conference, Dr Antonia Torrens, President of KMOP, will provide a brief overview of the situation of LGBT people living in Greece.

Name: Dr. Simon Aulton

Affiliation: The IARS International Institute

Presentation title: 'The user-led model of LGBT project delivery'

This workshop considers the value of a user-led approach to project delivery, particularly focusing on the lived experiences of the LGBT migrants who contributed to the Epsilon project. Looking at the reasons for taking a user-led approach to action research, particularly focusing on how this can be applied to a pan European project in a way that adds value to the project and makes the outcomes of the project tailored and meaningful.

Through the lived experiences of the IARS LGBT user group, the workshop considers the impact this group has by creating a bottom-up approach to project delivery



Friday 13TH JULY, WORKING GROUP 5 (12:00-13:15)

Name: Emily Lanham

Affiliation: The IARS International Institute

Presentation title: 'Public legal education online: tackling discrimination in the digital age'

Following on from the experiences and challenges faced getting young people to engage with public legal education online during this project, this workshop looks for some solutions. It reflects on the findings of the Civil and Social Justice Surveys (2006 – 2012) and The Legal Problem Resolution Survey which help us understand how young people and adults use the internet to search for, and resolve their legal disputes. The more that we understand how public legal education might be accessed, the more we can improve the information on offer online.

Name: Daphne Spyropoulos

Affiliation: The American College of Greece

Presentation title: 'Young Refugees as Peer Mentors to European Foster Children: A Suggestion for Integration'

The aim of this paper is to suggest that European communities integrate young refugees as peer mentors to indigenous foster children. This proposal relies on the idea that policy makers view refugees as fixed in the receiving end of help, while their potential to reciprocate and to inspire host societies is underestimated. After analyzing four cognitions academically shown to promote resilience in refugees, making meaning, persevering, appreciating help and discrediting attacks, the author proposes that they communicate these ideas to children in alternative care through a peer mentorship program. By determining the features and the needs of foster children in Europe, she pinpoints the common grounds between them and their close-in-age refugees and she acknowledges pre-existing strengths such as their own sense of determination. To conclude her paper, the author recommends that young refugees work with foster children to help them create meaning of their experiences, review their opinions about the agents who help them and rebuff non-constructive criticism.

Name: Mily Saraswat

Affiliation: Middlesex University

Presentation title: 'Abolitionist Restorative Justice – Theory & Practice'

Restorative Justice (RJ) provides an alternative reference to the current adversarial-retributive model of justice for delivering answers to offenders and victims. It is often referred to as a more wholesome approach, a more human and humane stance on the justice system, which people are seen to benefit more highly from, in the long run. This piece of research attempts to probe this hypothesis and see to what extent RJ contains abolitionist



elements in the UK. RJ and alternatives to custody in the UK will be analysed through a comparative, multi-level, evidence-based approach. History of and the debate around RJ involves a discussion of its effects on the offender and the victim. Additional strengths and weaknesses of RJ as one of the alternatives to prison in the UK are analysed theoretically, methodologically and at the level of policy.

Most of the work regarding restorative justice is done with the youth offender population in terms of bullying at school, threatening behavior, delinquency, truancy or with petty crimes such as shoplifting. The researcher will use data derived from secondary literature for that field. There is a gap in literature regarding utilizing restorative justice for serious and violent crimes among the adult male offender population. The researcher endeavors to add to the findings within this sub-sector, explore the alternatives to punitive justice in the UK and also analyse to what extent they are abolitionist in their principle and functioning, in reality or potentially.



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Friday 13TH JULY, WORKING GROUP 6 (12:00-13:15)

Name: Maija Linnala

Affiliation: The IARS International Institute

Presentation title: 'Domestic violence and restorative justice'

This workshop assesses whether restorative justice (RJ) is an appropriate means by which we can support victims of domestic violence, and bases its findings in extensive fieldwork conducted in recent years. It considers why RJ is often overlooked in domestic violence resolutions, what its strengths and challenges are, and the preconditions for the successful delivery of RJ. The workshop concludes with a summary of what RJ can offer to victims of domestic violence that the criminal justice system cannot.

Name: Sabrina Hussain

Affiliation: University of Warwick

Presentation title: 'Gender-based Violence of Honour Crimes'

This paper examines "Honour" (Izzat) a symbolic term, which covers gender-based violent crime within families in the British-Pakistani community in the UK. The phenomenon has been exemplified through an explicit set of values affecting and subordinating women's position in family and the community. The concept of "Honour" can have a lifetime impact upon women's lives starting from birth and in practice to beyond puberty. The concept is built into the belief system of the community both to exert control over women's lives but crucially to maintain the reputation of the family within the community. Young women are indoctrinated and intimidated, to follow rules for modesty, facing harsh consequences if they do not adhere. Women's decorum and their marriage are a central component in honour culture. Marriage demands women's modesty, sexual purity and compliant role being a daughter, wife and a mother.

Young British born women are increasingly in conflict with older generations in not adhering to these patriarchal codes. In the UK honour crimes have received more media attention as they are not cultural practices but a violation of human rights. I will examine the wide range of honour crimes, potential cues to concern and practical ways of providing support.



Friday 13TH JULY, Parallel International Workshop (14:00-15:00)

Name: Elzbieta Grab

Affiliation: Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (SIP)

Presentation title: ‘Starting the Conversation – Interactive Methods in Legal Education’

The workshop will present a proposition of how to employ interactive methods in legal education for youth and encourage young people to think about the law as about something that concerns them personally. Participants will have an opportunity to take part in a short workshop on Human Rights that will include the Applied Drama techniques. The method is based on learning through experience and it focuses on using acquired knowledge in practice. The workshop is aimed at providing participants with tools that may be used as a starting point for a conversation on various topics with young people, with a partnership approach and engagement of both their minds and emotions into the education process. The workshop will open discussion on ways to approach young people about sometimes difficult subjects related to their rights. It also aims to create a space for exchange of good practices and ideas in a field of legal education.

Elzbieta Grab, Association for Legal Intervention (Warsaw, Poland), project coordinator and trainer in national and international projects for youth and refugee children, art-therapist and Forum Theatre instructor.

Name: Manuela Tagliani

Affiliation: Anziani e non solo

Presentation title: “countering youth discrimination: the italian training for professionals working with young people”

Training young people and professionals working with them on the topic of discrimination was one of the main objectives of the ABUSED NO MORE project. The purpose was bridging the gap of legal knowledge on the theme and making youths able to counter the violation of their rights.

In Italy the training activities involved 95 high school students aged 15-18 and 16 professionals, in particular educators and social workers, and resulted incisive in helping youths to change their view on discrimination topic and to learn how to protect themselves.

Much appreciated was, in particular, the methodology adopted, namely, a mix of theory and practice: games, practical activities and simulated cases for learning in a “non-formal way”.

This workshop has the aim to show participants the techniques used during the training, making them part of the ABUSED NO MORE experience done by professionals working with young people in Italy.



Name: Balquis Alsharabi

Affiliation: Schottener Foundation Social Services

Presentation title: The Situation and Available Services for Young Migrant Women and Girls in Romania Who Are Victims of Violence and Abuse'

We are trying to develop to prevent and combat different forms of violence against Arab and non-Arab women and girls in the three communities (Arabs , Kurds, and Muslims)

We are trying to work hard on:

- 1) Strengthening civil society in preventing and combating violence against Arab and non-Arab women by transferring best practices;
- 2) To identify the specific problems and needs of each community by conducting qualitative research on violence against Arab and non-Arab women at local level;
- 3) Conduct information and awareness-raising activities through community forum and theater, organize information workshops and implement campaigns to prevent and combat all forms of violence against Arab and non-Arab women and girls.
- 4) To develop the capacity of local authorities to develop programs and projects and to implement local public policies to prevent violence against Arab and non-Arab women.
- 5) Ensuring legal assistance for victims of violence against women;

This main problem aimed at Arab and non-Arab women from the three communities Arabs,Kurds and Muslims , as well as from Arab and non-Arab men to raise awareness of violence against women and solidarity to prevent and combat this phenomenon. At the same time, we try to addresses staff from local authorities, non-governmental organizations for respecting human rights and respect for women's rights, as well as other relevant actors at local and national level.



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