

Sexual Orientation and the European Convention on Human Rights: Voices and Perspectives

Friday 16th May 2014

University of York

Heslington Hall, The Feilden Room (H/G09)

Programme

- 09.30 Arrival and refreshments
- 10.00 **Welcome and Introduction**
Paul Johnson
- 10.10 **Discussion 1: Lawyers' perspectives**
Led by Robert Wintemute who will give the short talk 'The European Convention and Equal Human Rights for Same-Sex Couples and Parents: The Challenge of Building European Consensus'.
- 10.50 **Discussion 2: Perspectives on hatred**
Led by Nikita Ivanov who will give the short talk 'Hate Crimes against LGBT'.
- 11.30 Short break
- 11.40 **Discussion 3: Activist voices**
Led by Jeffrey Dudgeon who will give the short talk 'Mission Accomplished in Northern Ireland?'
- 12.20 Vegetarian buffet lunch
- 12.50 **Discussion 4: Judicial perspectives**
Led by Marc de Werd who will give the short talk 'Sexual Orientation and Human Rights: A Judge's Perspective'.
- 13.30 **Discussion 5: Absent and silenced voices**
Led by Loveday Hodson who will give the short talk 'Sexual Orientation and the ECHR: What of the L in LGBT?'
- 14.10 Short break
- 14.20 **Discussion 6: Queer voices**
Led by Damian Gonzalez-Salzberg who will give the short talk 'Deconstructing and re-constructing the European Court of Human Rights' ideas about human sexuality'.
- 15.00 **Closing remarks**
Paul Johnson

Biographies of participants

Jeffrey Dudgeon MBE was the successful plaintiff at the European Court of Human Rights whose 1981 judgment relating to the right to a private life led to the passing of the 1982 law decriminalising male homosexual behaviour in Northern Ireland. This was a European first. He is the author of *Roger Casement: The Black Diaries - With a Study of his Background, Sexuality, and Irish Political Life* (692 pp., 2002). During his career he worked latterly in the NI Department of Health dealing with public health issues including antibiotic resistance and healthcare associated infection. He stood for a Trinity College seat in the Dublin Seanad in 2011 to offer an alternative voice from Northern Ireland. Jeff was awarded an MBE in the 2012 Honours List for services to the LGBT community in Northern Ireland. He was one of the Ulster Unionist Party's two negotiators at the recent Haass talks in Belfast on the issues of Flags, Parades and the Past and is a candidate in the local government elections in Belfast in May 2014. His website <http://jeffdudgeon.com/> carries extensive material on the continuing Casement controversies and current LGBT and Irish political issues. He is still active in the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association which has currently more of a virtual existence at <http://nigra.org.uk/>

Damian Gonzalez-Salzberg: PhD Candidate and Sessional Lecturer (University of Reading, School of Law); Diploma in International and Comparative Law of Human Rights (International Institute of Human Rights, 2013); MA in International Relations (Barcelona Institute for International Studies, 2010); MA in Public Administration and Public Policy (University of York, 2009); Attorney-at-Law (University of Buenos Aires, 2006).

Dr. Loveday Hodson is Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Leicester. Her research interest lies particularly in the area of LGBT family rights in international law. Loveday has published a number of academic articles and NGO reports on this subject. She also writes on international human rights law and social movements. In 2011 she published a monograph with Hart, 'NGOs and the Struggle for Human Rights in Europe'. Loveday is also the co-convenor of the European Society of International Law's interest group on Feminism and International Law.

Nikita Ivanov, J.D. (Moscow State University, 1998), LL.M. in Public Service Law (New York University, 2001), has been the case-processing lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights for the last twelve years. Prior to that, he worked as a law enforcement specialist with the US Embassy in Moscow and advised, on a pro bono basis, Russian and Ukrainian LGBT NGOs.

Dr. Marc de Werd is Justice in the Amsterdam Court of Appeal in the Netherlands. He studied law at Nijmegen University and attained a PhD (constitutional law) at Maastricht University (1994). Until 1999 he was assistant-professor in Maastricht. Marc de Werd is currently the Court's EU law and ECHR co-ordinator. In that capacity he is responsible for international training programs of judges and law clerks in the Amsterdam Court of Appeal. He is editor in chief of the weblog *European Courts* (<http://europeancourts.blogspot.nl>). Marc de Werd is married to Robert Jansen.

Prof. Robert Wintemute is a Professor of Human Rights Law at King's College London, where he also teaches Anti-Discrimination Law and EU Law. Since 2000, he has participated in cases of discrimination against lesbian and gay parents or prospective parents, and against same-sex couples claiming the same rights as unmarried or married different-sex couples, in the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the EU, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the Supreme Courts of Argentina and Massachusetts. He is the author of "Sexual Orientation and Human Rights", the editor of "Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Partnerships", and the co-editor of "Confronting Homophobia in Europe".