

7 December, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

## Experiencing the Law:

### Activity or Inactivity? The Issue of Failure in Law's Responses to Violence

This conference focuses debate on law's 'failures' in dealing with violence in daily life. Members of society affected often perceive themselves as being denied what they hope for in the way of the law's response (broadly conceived), expressed in terms of protection, justice, and safety. Do legal practitioners and academics agree? Is the law failing? If it is, what can and should be done? If it is not, then how can/should, the limits of law be explained, to victims or the concerned public? What alternatives should be offered? The conference takes a socio-legal approach, moving beyond the legal doctrinal aspects, using current dilemmas to consider the voices of those affected and involved both professionally and privately, past and present. Thus speakers will consider the quality of experiencing the law through judging, investigating, prosecuting and most importantly through the voices of victims of violence (forced marriages, honour-based violence etc). It is hoped that this day of debate and discussion will provide substantive conclusions and suggestions, emerging from speakers and participants, working together in the questions after papers and the concluding Round Table. This will be written up and will appear in the SOLON e-journal *Crimes and Misdemeanours* in Spring 2008, thereby placing this material in the public domain enabling a continuation of the debate in an online forum.

9.15-10.00 Registration and Coffee:

10.00-11.00 (Chair: David Nash, Oxford Brookes)

Heather Harvey (Amnesty International) 'The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts': the case for an integrated strategic approach to tackle violence against women.

11.00-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-12.15 (Chair: Mel Wright, Plymouth)

Les Moran (Birkbeck) – Facing the Judge

Kim Stevenson and Candida Harris (Plymouth) – Uncertain, Inaccessible and Unknowable: The problem of recent legislative 'hyperactivity' and 'frenzied law-making' in the criminal law

12.15-1.15 (Chair: Michael Kandiah, CCBH)

David Nash (OBU) – Shame, Blame and Blasphemy: other types of violence in international perspective

Lorie Charlesworth (Liverpool John Moores) – Violence Outside the Law: Individual Voices and the Law's Response

1.15-2.15 Lunch

2.15-3.15 (Chair: Shani D'Cruze, Keele)

Judith Rowbotham (Nottingham Trent) – Trust and Betrayal: Revisiting Domestic Violence

Alisdair Gillespie (De Montfort): Managing Prostitution: online – on the streets

3.15-3.30 Tea Break

3.30-4.45 (Chair: Kim Stevenson, Plymouth)

Jasvinder Sanghera (Karma Nirvana, Derby U) Forced Marriages: Witnessing Violence  
Nazir Afzal (CPS), Prevention and Prosecution

4.45-5.45 Round Table (Chair Les Moran): Heather Harvey, Jasvinder Sanghera, Nazir Afzal. Theme: Conclusions, Lessons and Suggestions

6.00 on Wine reception and Conference Dinner

This conference is an initiative between SOLON, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and the Centre for Contemporary British History, carrying CPD points. For further information, and to book your place, please contact: [Belinda.Crothers@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Belinda.Crothers@sas.ac.uk)