

Examining human rights violations against minority groups.

14 JULY 2022, 9am - 5pm

Canterbury Christ Church University together with the Common Good Foundation present this one day online conference.

This conference examines the violation of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights against minority groups through specific case studies. This conference further examines the scope of two of the current accountability mechanisms for addressing these infringements and explores their potential to suppress, punish and deter further commission of these mass atrocities. In this way, the conference aims to examine human rights infringements and the various ways in which accountability mechanisms can be creatively used to stymie their commission.

9.00	Welcome Address Dr Kos Siliafis, <i>Director of Law</i>
9.15	Keynote Address Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, <i>Professor of Law Gresham College, Lead Prosecutor of the Milosevic Trial, Head of the Uighur Tribunal</i>
PART ONE	Selected case studies through which mass atrocities have occurred in the context of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
10.00-11.00	BURMA This panel will explore the situation that has continued to unfold within Burma since the February 2021 coup by the Burmese military forces. Specifically, this panel will explore how genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes have been committed and probe the links with these crimes against a pattern of human rights violations. Panellists will discuss the how the situation unfolding in Burma impacts on various ethnic groups throughout the country and in violation of international treaties. Moderator: Dr Soeren Keil, <i>University of Fribourg</i> Presenters: Ms. Naw Hser Hser, <i>General Secretary of Women's League of Burma</i> Ms. Maiker Vang, <i>Commissioner, Culture and Society Commission Congress of Nations and States</i> Dr. Hla Myint, <i>Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Arakan Rohingya National Organisation</i>
11.00-12.00	IRAN This panel will explore the unfolding situation of human rights violations that are taking place in the context of Iran in light of the recent wave of protests that are taking place. Specifically, this panel will explore how torture and crimes against humanity and other significant rights violations are perpetrated towards minority groups in Iran. Panellists will also discuss what kinds of accountability efforts have been pursued. Moderator: Dr Laura Cashman, <i>Canterbury Christ Church University</i> Presenters: Ms Shiva Mahbobi, <i>Spokesperson Campaign to Free Political Prisoners Iran</i> Mr Omid Shams, <i>University of Portsmouth</i> Ms Marilena Stegbauer, <i>Assistant to Counsel, Aban Tribunal</i>

11.45-12.30	<p>NIGERIA and MALI</p> <p>This panel examines two separate scenarios on the African continent.</p> <p>It examines the impact of human rights violations that occur in the course of oil and gas extraction and their connection to international crime commission in Nigeria. It also examines significant human rights issues in Mali which include unlawful or arbitrary killings by both government and non-state actors; torture and cases of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment by government forces, violence against women and child labour in Mali.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Eunice Shang, <i>Canterbury Christ Church University</i></p> <p>Presenters: Mali: Dr Emo Pearce, <i>Canterbury Christ Church University</i> Nigeria: Ms Enuma Moneke, <i>Canterbury Christ Church University</i></p>
12.30-13.00	<p>Break</p>
<p>PART TWO</p>	
13.00-14.45	<p>An examination of Accountability Mechanisms for the suppression of mass atrocities on Minority Groups</p> <p>This panel examines international responsibility for the commission of international crimes against minority groups and to evaluate the extent to which, international courts and tribunals retain a role in the suppression of mass criminality.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Mba Nmaju, <i>School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London</i></p> <p>Presenters: Dr Narissa Ramsundar, <i>Senior Lecturer Canterbury Christ Church University</i> Ms Elisabeth Slida, <i>Legal Officer, Belgium Prosecution Service</i> Ms Mari Sewell, <i>Immigration Consultant, Belgium</i></p>
14.45-16.00	<p>People’s Tribunals: The Space between reality and accountability</p> <p>This panel examines the role of people’s tribunals as a legitimate mechanism for accountability. Since international courts and tribunals can assert jurisdiction primarily on the basis of consent of state parties, this panel examines whether that legal space in accountability can be filled by People’s tribunals. This panel speaks of the challenges, the strengths and personal experiences involved in the creation of these tribunals and the role of these tribunals in the broader space of accountability for international crimes.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Narissa Ramsundar, <i>Canterbury Christ Church University</i></p> <p>Presenters: Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, <i>Professor of Law Gresham College, Uighur Tribunal, China Tribunal, Former Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia</i> Dr. Martin Elliot (MD), <i>Panelist China Tribunal, Professor of Paediatric and Cardio thoracic surgery University College London</i> Shadi Sadr, <i>Executive Director Justice for Iran, Organizer, Aban Tribunal</i></p>
16.15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Dr Narissa Ramsundar</p>

Biographies.

Key note address.



Sir Geoffrey Nice QC

Sir Geoffrey Nice was called to the bar in 1971 and was knighted in 2007 for services to International Criminal Justice. He was educated at Keble College, Oxford (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) and the College of Law, London. He was a Professor of Law at Gresham College and has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Kent in 2005.

He has prosecuted a number of cases relating to genocide, and in November 2001 undertook the prosecution of Slobodan Milošević until the end of that trial in 2006. He has done prolific work in addressing human rights violations against minority groups. He was the Chair of the China Tribunal commissioned by the International Coalition to end Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) and is currently the head of the Uyghur Tribunal. Both Tribunals address responsibility for international crimes and human rights violations against minority groups through the People's Tribunals as an accountability mechanism.

He has served in multiple roles : as a Recorder (Civil, Criminal, Family cases), 1984 to date (sitting at Old Bailey since 1995); as a Member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (making awards of compensation for victims of crimes) 1995 – 2001; as Deputy Chairman (the senior professional member) of the Bar Standards Board (regulatory body of the Bar of England and Wales) 2009 – 2012; as a Board Member of Indict (an NGO for gathering evidence for the indictment of Saddam Hussein); as a Board Member of the 'Burma Justice Committee', 2007; as a Commissioner of the Harvard Report into Burma, with Justice Richard Goldstone (South Africa) and Justice Patricia M. Wald (United States); as an Advisory Board Member of 'Prisoners of Conscience and has argued for an official UN Commission of Inquiry. Since the establishment of that enquiry in 2013, he has served as an adviser to the Commission.

Welcome address.



Dr Konstantinos Siliadis

Dr Siliadis is the Director of Law and Politics at Canterbury Christ Church University. His research centres on cyber crime, taxation law and the law of obligations. He is currently involved in research surrounding access to justice in the UK.



Professor Soeren Keil

Professor Soeren Keil is an internationally recognised scholar in the areas of federalism and decentralisation, conflict resolution and democratisation. He has worked as an expert for several international organisations, governments and civil society organisations. He is a trained political scientist with more than 15 years of experience, and has authored and edited 11 books. Since July 2021 he works as the Academic Head of the Institute of International Research and Consulting Centre at the Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Before that, he was the Subject Director of the Politics and International Relations programme at Canterbury Christ Church University in the United Kingdom.



Dr Laura Cashman

Dr Laura Cashman is Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Canterbury Christ Church University. Her PhD (University of Glasgow) examined the implementation of Romani integration policies in the Czech Republic and her research agenda has now broadened to look at wider concerns of the growth of anti-Gypsyism in Europe to understand the persistent failure of state policies to address the social exclusion of Roma.



Ms Eunice Shangl

An international arbitrator, mediator and speaker, Eunice Shang-Simpson is currently focusing on international trade & investment negotiations and investor-state dispute resolution.

A member of the Ghana Bar and a UK solicitor-advocate, Eunice has several years' experience as a specialist Crown prosecutor and policy adviser. She has a track record of successfully steering critical EU cross-border dispute-resolution meetings as chair at Eurojust. Eunice is taking up the role of chair of the International committee in September 2022.

In her spare time, Eunice is a steward and reader at the Canterbury Cathedral and a director of Golden Age International School, Ghana.



Dr Mba Nmaju

Mba Chidi Nmaju is a Teaching fellow at the Centre for international studies and diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Dr Nmaju has published several peer reviewed articles on international law and African conflicts.

Dr Nmaju qualified gained his LLB at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and was subsequently called to the Nigerian Bar. Dr Nmaju obtained his LLM and PhD in International Law from Queen Mary, University of London. He has held academic positions at Queen Mary, University of London (Associate Lecturer) and at the University of the Witwatersrand, School of Law, Johannesburg, South Africa (National Research Foundation (NRF) Free Standing Postdoctoral Fellowship).

Dr Nmaju had a brief stint as a Visiting Professional with the Trial Chambers at the International Criminal Court, The Hague. He has also worked in law firms in Nigeria and the UK as well as the corporate/Banking sector in the UK.



Narissa Ramsundar

Narissa Ramsundar is a former prosecutor from Trinidad and Tobago who has worked in crime suppression for over 7 years. She is currently the Director of Research in law at Canterbury Christ Church University. She did her LLB at University of the West Indies, her LLM at Kings College London and her PhD at Queen Mary University. She was awarded a scholarship from Queen Mary University to undertake her PhD and her dissertation is now published by Brill/Nijhoff: State Responsibility for the Support of Armed Groups in the Commission of International Crimes. She worked as a Visiting Professional at the International Criminal Court for six months in 2020-2021. Narissa Ramsundar is a former prosecutor from Trinidad and Tobago who has worked in crime suppression for over 7 years. She is currently the Director of Research in law at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Presenters.



Naw Hser Hser

Naw Hser Hser is the General Secretary of the Women's League of Burma and is one of the representatives of the WLB in NUCC. She is also currently serving as a member of Standing Committee of her mother organization, Karen Women's Organization (KWO). At the same time, she is also a regional council member of the Asia Pacific Women, Law and Development In 2019, Naw Hser Hser joined the delegation of the Karen National Union (KNU) in the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. During the conference, she led the NCA-S EAOs delegations in political sectors to advocate for gender equality and women's participation in all levels of decision-making process. From 2015 to 2017, she also served in the Technical Support Team for KNU's participation in peace process. Since joining KWO in 2008, Naw Hser Hser has advocated for human rights, women's rights, justice and accountability and an end of system of impunity for the past fifteen years. She has also advocated for ethnic equality and self-determination and has taken part in political process within Karen State as well as national, regional, and international level. For her commitments and dedications, she received Padoh Mahn Sha Karen Young Leader Award from the Pan Foundation in 2018. She is also Karen State Constitution Drafting Committee member.



Maiker Vang

Maiker Vang is a graduate of St. Cloud's University Minnesota. Among her many roles she is the Hmong Human Rights Committee Chair and Presenter on Hmong family structures and culture in Wisconsin. She was a recipient as a Hmong Women and Children Advocated Leader to Family Federation for World Peace National Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 2021. She continues to work on the advancement of Hmong women and young persons in her role as Family Victims Advocate for Asian United Women of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and also serves as a member for Amnesty International Minnesota. She is the author of *Gao Naw, The Hmong Orphan Girl, Nkauj Nog, Hmoob tus ntxhais Nkauj Ntsuag*, 11/2019, Vientiane, Laos and *"Remembering Grandma's Hmong New Year Celebration"*, Sept.08., Stevens Point, Wisconsin by Worzalla Publishing Co, St.P., WI.



Dr. Hla Myint

Dr. Hla Myint is an Australian educated academic, who is a senior member of Arakan Rohingya National Organisation. Dr. Myint works as an academic both in Australia and United States of America. Dr. Myint is heavily engaged with both International Rohingya advocacy and Australian Rohingya movement which campaigns to end grave abuses of human rights of defenceless Rohingya People in Burma. Several prominent figures from across all spectrum of society in the world work with Dr. Hla Myint to strengthen the bonds between the International Community and the Rohingya Community in the world. Dr. Hla Myint is the President of Rohingya Intellectual Community Australia and Chair of Foreign Affairs of Arakan Rohingya National Organisation. Dr. Myint has participated several national and International conferences in relation to the plight of Rohingya.

Presenters.



Shiva Mahbobbi

Shiva was active in Iran in the student movement in Iran and was arrested when she was 16 and spent more than three years in prison. Shiva left Iran for Turkey in 1992; she was a refugees rights and women's rights campaigner in Turkey. She then went to Toronto-Canada where she was the coordinator of the Action Committee in Defence of Women's Right in Iran- Canada. She moved to the UK in 2001 and was in charge of the public relations for the International Committee against Stoning from 2002-2004. She has campaigned for women's right, abolition of stoning and the death penalty, refugees' rights all her life. She is a psychotherapist, a women rights activist and currently is the spokesperson for the Campaign to Free Political Prisoners in Iran (CFPPI).



Omid Shams

Omid Shams is an Iranian law academic at the University of Portsmouth where he taught in the areas of European and British Human Rights Law. His PhD research is focused on freedom of expression and indirect mechanisms of censorship. He is also a member of Danish PEN and was a writer in residence in Denmark under ICORN program for writers at risk. He is also the research director at Justice for Iran, an NGO focused on ending impunity for human rights violators in Iran.



Marilena Stegbauer

Marilena Stegbauer is an independent human rights consultant based in London focusing on atrocity crimes and minority rights. She is the Assistant to Counsel at the Iran Atrocities Tribunal ("Aban Tribunal").



Ms Enuma Moneke

Enuma Moneke is currently a Lecturer at the School of Law, Policing and Social Sciences, Canterbury Christ Church University. She is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria as well as a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales. She holds a Masters' degree in Maritime Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. She has extensive knowledge and experience in Housing Law and Debt Management following years of successful law practice with Haringey Law Centre, London. Enuma was a Research Fellow with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, where she also served as the Deputy Coordinator of the Centre for Continuing Legal Education of the Institute for three years. A scholar and an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) proponent, her research interest is in the realm of International Commercial Arbitration and International Investment Arbitration, in which areas she has published works. She also has a keen interest in the Law of Investment Treaties, Corporate Accountability and Human Rights, in which fields she is presently completing her PhD at Canterbury Christ Church University. Enuma has also authored works on Maritime Law, Constitutional Law and Corporate Governance.

Presenters.



Dr Emo Idornigie-Pearce

Dr Emo Idornigie-Pearce holds an LLB (University of Jos, Nigeria), BL (Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria), LLM (University of Jos, Nigeria), MSc (International Business, University of Hertfordshire) and a PhD in Law (Canterbury Christ Church University).

Currently, she is a Law lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University where she has been teaching since 2019. Her research interest focuses on International human rights, with particular focus on socio-economic rights and the advancement of minority and indigenous Peoples' rights.

In Nigeria, she has worked as an Assistant Chief Legal officer with the National Human Rights Commission, where her main role was research and developing programs for development targeted at social change, counter radicalisation/conflict resolution and investigating all alleged cases of human rights violations in Nigeria in order to provide appropriate recommendations to the Federal Government.



Narissa Ramsundar

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Elisabeth Slida

Elisabeth Slida is a Legal Officer at the Prosecutor's Office of Brussels. She holds a Law degree from the Catholic University of Leuven and an LL.M. in International and Transnational Criminal Law from the University of Amsterdam. She has previously worked as an intern for Belgian criminal law firms, the Yazidi Legal Network, the International Criminal Court and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime.



Mari Sewell

Mari Sewell holds a Master's degree in International and Transnational Criminal Law from the University of Amsterdam and a Master's degree in international and European law combined with criminal law from the Catholic University of Leuven. Mari was a defence intern at the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and a legal intern at the Chambers of the International Criminal Court. She currently works as an immigration consultant and is involved in research in criminal justice and human rights.

Presenters.



Martin Elliott

Martin Elliott is Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at University College London & Emeritus Professor of Physic and now, Fellow at Gresham College London. From 2010 until 2015, he was Medical Director at Great Ormond Street where he had worked as a paediatric cardiothoracic surgeon from 1984. He led the thoracic transplant team there from 2000 to 2010.

He has directed research into the pathophysiology of cardiopulmonary bypass, clinical outcomes and databases, and tracheal reconstruction in children pioneering several surgical techniques. In 2000, he formed and led the National Service for Severe Tracheal Disease in Children.

He has held several international visiting professorships and has taught and operated throughout the world. He has delivered over 450 invited lectures worldwide, including more than 40 named lectures. He was the 2015 Hunterian Orator at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Widely published, he has edited 4 books and published >300 peer-reviewed papers.

He is now a non-executive director at both The Royal Marsden Hospital NHS FT, London and Children's Health Ireland, Dublin. Other 'portfolio' roles include being Chief Medical Officer of Allocate Software Ltd, a member of the (advisory) Industry Council of Novartis UK and a Senior Adviser to PA Consulting Ltd. He was a member of the recently completed China Tribunal considering evidence of forced organ harvesting in Chinese detention camps (www.chinatribunal.com).



Shadi Sadr

Shadi Sadr is an Iranian human rights lawyer who studied Master of International Law at the University of Tehran.

Shadi Sadr is the founder and director of Raahi, a legal centre for vulnerable women. In a wave of repression against civil society, Raahi was closed down by the Iranian authorities in 2007 when Sadr was detained in notorious Evin prison. Sadr has touched the lives of hundreds of individuals through her work and her support for campaigns such as the Stop Stoning Forever Campaign. In July 2009, she was arrested once again and then released, which allowed her to escape to Europe. On May 17, 2010, she was convicted in absentia in a Tehran Revolutionary court of "acting against national security and harming public order" and was sentenced to six years in prison with 74 lashes.

Shadi Sadr has received several awards such as Human Rights Tulip and Alexander Prize of Law School of Santa Clara University.

In 2010 Shadi Sadr co-founded a new organisation Justice for Iran (JFI) which aims to address and eradicate the practice of impunity that empowers officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to perpetrate widespread human right violations against their citizens and to hold them accountable for their actions.

As the Executive Director of Justice for Iran (JFI), she has overseen the creation and implementation of several research projects on gross violations of the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTs, women, and those who are persecuted because of their political beliefs. She is also the co-author of Crime and Impunity: Sexual Torture of Women in Islamic Republic Prisons.

Shadi Sadr served as a jury member for the 2015 International People's Tribunal (IPT) 1965, the 2017 People's Tribunal on Myanmar, and the 2018-19 Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China.

Presenters.



Sir Geoffrey Nice QC

Sir Geoffrey Nice was called to the bar in 1971 and was knighted in 2007 for services to International Criminal Justice. He was educated at Keble College, Oxford (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) and the College of Law, London. He was a Professor of Law at Gresham College and has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Kent in 2005.

He has prosecuted a number of cases relating to genocide, and in November 2001 undertook the prosecution of Slobodan Milošević until the end of that trial in 2006. He has done prolific work in addressing human rights violations against minority groups. He was the Chair of the China Tribunal commissioned by the International Coalition to end Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) and is currently the head of the Uyghur Tribunal. Both Tribunals address responsibility for international crimes and human rights violations against minority groups through the People's Tribunals as an accountability mechanism.

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