

International Human Rights Day Event

Executive Suite, Technology and Innovation Centre
99 George Street, G1 1RD

Friday 8th December 2023

10.30am – 2.30pm

Full agenda to follow

Lunch will be provided

In 2018, the Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law (CSHRL) at the University of Strathclyde hosted a high-profile event, addressed by the then First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, on the theme of 'Human Rights Innovation in Scotland' in response to the appointment of the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership which was chaired by the CSHRL's Professor Alan Miller. Now, five years on, the CSHRL is delighted to host a further event to reflect on the next phase of Scotland's human rights journey. The CSHRL warmly welcomes the support of this event by the First Minister, Humza Yousuf MSP, and the former First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, who will join us as a guest speaker.

The event will begin by reflecting on Scotland's human rights journey to date and consider its next steps. This will include consideration of the forthcoming Scottish Human Rights Bill and its reaffirmation of the values of the Universal Declaration and the rights contained within the UN human rights treaty system.

Since 2018, the CSHRL has supported Scotland's human rights journey – Alan was appointed by the then First Minister as Independent Co-Chair of the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership and CSHRL's Director, Dr Elaine Webster, served as a member of its Academic Advisory Panel.

The CSHRL is also delighted to mark the appointment of Professor Katie Boyle, former member of the First Minister's Advisory Group and the Taskforce's Academic Advisory Panel, as Professor of Human Rights Law and Social Justice at Strathclyde Law School.

Professor Boyle will deliver an inaugural lecture entitled '*Justice Closer to Home – Scotland's next steps in enabling effective access to social justice.*' This lecture reframes the access to justice journey to bring rights closer to home as first envisioned as part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75 years ago. As Scotland takes to the global stage embarking on progressive human rights reform, the lecture examines what is needed in order to make rights realisable in practice with a particular focus on effective accountability. Professor Boyle explores the justice framework and asks what next for Scotland's journey to enable effective access to social justice?

A response to the lecture will be given by Professor Philip Alston, John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law at New York University and former UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

The event also marks a number of significant milestones in Strathclyde's human rights research, teaching and public engagement, including the 25th anniversary of the CSHRL, the 20th anniversary of the LLM in Human Rights Law and launch of the Strathclyde Centre for Doctoral Training in Human Rights-based Decision Making. The CSHRL will be sharing its plans for its next steps in supporting Scotland's human rights journey.

Provisional List of Speakers

Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Former First Minister of Scotland

Professor Katie Boyle, Professor of Human Rights Law and Social Justice, University of Strathclyde

Professor Philip Alston, John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law, New York University & former UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Dr Elaine Webster, Director of the Centre for Study of Human Rights Law, University of Strathclyde

Professor Alan Miller, Professor of Practice in Human Rights Law, University of Strathclyde & former Independent Co-Chair of the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership