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**Public Law Project**

**#PUBLICDISCO Special Edition:   
From Crisis to Empowerment**

Event agenda   
& biographies

Allen & Overy – Australia's LGBTQ Inclusive Employers

**Foreword**

This event is co-produced with:

* [Amanda Hailes](#_Amanda_Hailes,_Voices) and [Susan Winter](#_Susan_Winter,_Voices) from An Untold Story – Voices
* [Ernest James Ulaya](#_Ernest_Ulaya,_Migrants’) from Migrants Rights Network
* [Ellen Clifford](#_Ellen_Clifford,_Disabled) from Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)
* [Kehinde Adeogun](#_Kehinde_Adeogun,_Black) from Black Equity Organisation
* [Verity Nevitt](#_Verity_Nevitt,_The) from The Gemini Project.

With the kind support of Matrix Chambers and Allen & Overy.

Note re accessibility and inclusivity:

* PLP wants to ensure that #publicdisco is as accessible as possible. To that end we are providing Speech-To-Text-Recognition (STTR) both in person and online (limited to just one of the breakout sessions in morning and afternoon.
* We also want to ensure that the physical and intellectual space of the event is a safe, inclusive and non-exclusionary environment. We ask anyone contributing to the event in any capacity to consider others' safety and avoid oppressive (or potentially oppressive) language, especially where people affected may have experienced, or continue to experience, discrimination, oppression or trauma on the day please do let PLP staff (We’ll be badged) know if something is upsetting.

**Agenda and links to biographies**

\*Links are either to websites or the biography section of this document

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| --- |
| **9.00-9.45 Registration** - f*rom 9.15 am drinks and snacks are provided* |
| **9.45-10.45 Opening session**  *@ main room 125/6/7* |
| * [Amanda Hailes, Voices](#_Amanda_Hailes,_Voices) * [Susan Winter, Voices](#_Susan_Winter,_Voices) * e[Shameem Ahmad, Public Law Project](#_Shameem_Ahmad,_Public) |
| **10.45-11.45 What the f\*\*\* does that mean?**  *@ main room 125/6/7* |
| * Chair: [Aoife O’Reilly, Public Law Project](#_Aoife_O’Reilly,_Public) * [Hannah Moxsom, Public Law Project](https://publiclawproject.org.uk/what-we-do/who-we-are/staff/#custom-collapse-0-27) * [Darryl Hutcheon, Matrix Chambers](#_Darryl_Hutcheon,_Matrix) * [Unkha Banda, Deighton Pierce Glynn](#_Unkha_Banda,_Deighton) * [Ellen Clifford, Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)](#_Ellen_Clifford,_Disabled) |
| **11.45-12.00 Break: drinks and snacks**  *@ refreshments room 128/9/30* |
| **12.00-13.30 Breakout session #1 - Influencing law and policy**  *@ main room 125/6/7* |
| * Chair: [Saba Shakil, Public Law Project](https://publiclawproject.org.uk/what-we-do/who-we-are/staff/#custom-collapse-0-27) * [Verity Nevitt, The Gemini Project](#_Verity_Nevitt,_The) * [Chris Brill, Expert Link](https://expertlink.org.uk/who-we-are/) * [Shannon Johnstone, Expert Link](#_Shannon_Johnstone,_Expert) * [David Siesage, Allen and Overy](#_David_Siesage,_Allen) * [Adis Sehic, Work Rights Centre](#_Adis_Sehic,_Work) * [Lee Marsons, Public Law Project](#_Lee_Marsons,_Public) |
| **12.00-13.30 Breakout session #1 - Identifying discrimination**  *@ room 120/1* |
| * Chair: [Eleanor Finlay, Disability Law Service](#_Eleanor_Finlay,_Disability) * [Raj Desai, Matrix Chambers](https://www.matrixlaw.co.uk/member/raj-desai/) * [Clare Hayes, Deighton Pierce Glynn](https://dpglaw.co.uk/lawyers/clare-hayes/) * [Svetlana Kotova, Inclusion London](https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/about-us/our-team/our-team/) |
| **12.00-13.30 Breakout session #1 - Community legal strategies**  *@ room 137/8* |
| * Chair: [Clare Cruise, Southwark Law Centre](#_Clare_Cruise,_Southwark) * [Saskia O’ Hara, Public Interest Law Centre](#_Saskia_O’_Hara,) * [Jasmin Stone, Focus E15 housing campaign](#_Jasmin_Stone,_Focus) * [Sabrina Dixon, Social Inclusion Recovery Group (S.I.R.G)](https://sirglondon.org/sirg-team-member/sabrina-dixon/) * [Naomi Madden, Grapevine](#_Naomi_Madden,_Grapevine) * [Emma Austin, Central England Law Centre](https://www.centralenglandlc.org.uk/faqs/rights-in-community-strategy-lead) |
| **13.30-14.30 Lunch** *@ refreshment room 128/9/30 + 134/5 if needed* |
| **14.30-15.45 Breakout session #2 - Discrimination, language and communications**  *@ main room 125/6/7* |
| * Chair: [Julia Tinsley-Kent, Migrants Rights Network](#_Julia_Tinsley-Kent,_Migrants) * [Tracey Lazard, Inclusion London](https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/about-us/our-team/our-team/) * [Fizza Qureshi, Migrants Rights Network](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/about/our-people/) * [Nic Cook, Difference North East](#_Nic_Cook,_Difference) |
| **14.30-15.45 Breakout session #2 - Protest rights**  *@ room 120/1* |
| * Chair: [Danielle Manson, Matrix Chambers](https://www.matrixlaw.co.uk/member/danielle-manson/) * [Anna Birley, Reclaim These Streets](#_Anna_Birley,_Reclaim) * [Ife Thompson, BLAM UK and Garden Court Chambers](https://www.gardencourtchambers.co.uk/barristers/if-thompson) * [Josie Argyle, Not1more](#_Josie_Argyle,_Not1more) |
| **14.30-15.45 Breakout session #2 - Discrimination and migration**  *@room 137/8* |
| * Chair: [Nick Armstrong KC, Matrix Chambers](https://www.matrixlaw.co.uk/member/nick-armstrong/) * [Brian Dikoff, Legal Organiser, Migrants Organise](#_Brian_Dikoff,_Migrants) * [Sarah Maramag, Community Organiser, The3million](https://the3million.org.uk/people/sarah-maramag) * [Shpresa youth group](https://shpresaprogramme.org/) |
| **15.45-16.00 Break: drinks and snacks** *@ room 134/5* |
| **16.00-16.45 Human Rights: Not a game (**[**introduction**](#_Human_Rights:_Not)**)** *@ main room 125/6/7* |
| * [Nic Cook, Difference North East](#_Nic_Cook,_Difference) * [Laura Grace, Just Fair](https://justfair.org.uk/amo-team/laura-grace/) |
| **16.45-17.45 Closing panel: Making the law accessible** *@ main room 125/6/7* |
| * Chair: [Ernest Ulaya, Migrants Rights Network Ambassador](#_Ernest_Ulaya,_Migrants’) * [Carlyn Miller, British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR)](https://www.bihr.org.uk/about-us/meet-the-team/carlyn-miller) * [Christian Weaver, Garden Court North (Author: The law in 60 seconds)](#_Christian_Weaver,_Garden) * [Timi Okuwa, Black Equity Organisation (BEO)](#_Timi_Okuwa,_Black) |

**Notes**

* Please note that we have a clinical psychologist – [Amy Chisholm](#_Amy_Chisholm,_Clinical), onsite throughout the event. If you wish to talk to Amy, please inform PLP staff.
* We also have a quiet room - room 133 if you need.

**Biographies**

**Adis Sehic, Work Rights Centre**

Adis is a Senior Policy and Research Officer at the Work Rights Centre, bringing the issues faced by migrant workers to the attention of policymakers through policy development and strategic advocacy. Adis has previously briefed MPs and peers, government departments, parliamentary committees and international governmental delegations in the areas of migration, labour exploitation and workers' rights. Adis is a non-practising immigration solicitor whose previous work has included judicial review, asylum and human rights claims.

**Amanda Hailes, Voices**

Amanda Hailes is part of the Hull-based women’s collective, An Untold Story – Voices, campaigning for women’s rights and social justice, and is in the Sound delivery Media Spokesperson Network.

**Anna Birley, Reclaim These Streets**

Anna Birley founded Reclaim These Streets in response to the rape and murder of Sarah Everard. When the Met Police claimed the proposed vigil was unlawful under Covid regulations and threatened Anna and other vigil organisers with prosecution under the Serious Crimes Act, they took the case to High Court on human rights grounds, and after appeal won their case conclusively. Alongside her activism, Anna works for a large trade union.

**Aoife O’Reilly, Public Law Project**

Aoife is a solicitor in PLP’s casework team and joined PLP in 2021. Aoife’s role involves identifying strategic litigation and her cases often relate to welfare law and the European Union Settlement Scheme. Aoife has experience acting for individuals and organisations, which has included advising on and representing organisations in interventions before the English courts.

**Brian Dikoff, Migrants Organise**

Brian Dikoff is the Legal Organiser at Migrants Organise. He is a OISC Level 3 immigration and welfare adviser, and he coordinates the Migrants Mental Capacity Advocacy (MMCA) project. He also leads on Migrants Organise strategic policy and legal work.

**Christian Weaver, Garden Court North (Author: The law in 60 seconds)**

Christian Weaver is a barrister at Garden Court North, specialising in actions against the state and is the author of 'The Law in 60 Seconds: A Pocket Guide to Your Rights’. He was also the winner of the Legal Aid Newcomer of the Year Award 2023 at the Legal Aid Practitioners Group Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards 2023.

**Clare Cruise, Southwark Law Centre**

Clare is the Education, Employment and Discrimination Supervisor at Southwark Law Centre. She deals with claims in the Employment Tribunal and education work including: appeals to the SEND Tribunal, applications for judicial review, advice on appealing exclusions etc. She is part of the Action for Education Rights group which works with charities and not for profit organisations to improve the education of children and young people in Southwark and the wider area.

**Darryl Hutcheon, Matrix Chambers**

Darryl’s core areas of practice are public law, claims against public authorities, and employment and discrimination law. In the judicial review context he has particular experience in claims about education, Universal Credit and other benefits, asylum and immigration, policing and national security.

**David Siesage, Allen and Overy**

David is a litigator at Allen & Overy specialising in complex and high-stakes commercial disputes and public law litigation. David has experience advising clients on a range of contentious matters, including judicial review claims, commercial and banking litigation, and commercial arbitrations. He also advises on matters relating to campaign finance, lobbying and other electoral law issues, and maintains an active pro bono practice, including acting for charities in strategic judicial reviews.

**Eleanor Finlay, Disability Law Service**

Eleanor is a trainee solicitor and Justice First Fellow. She is undertaking her training contract at the Disability Law Service and is currently working in the areas of community care, housing, and employment law.

**Ellen Clifford, Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)**

Ellen Clifford is a writer and campaigner for Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC), and the author of The War on Disabled People.

**Ernest Ulaya, Migrants’ Rights Network**

Ernest is an ambassador and policy research volunteer at the Migrant’s Rights Network. In his role, he works across a variety of areas including asylum accommodation, community outreach, and capacity building, where he passionately champions the invaluable “Know Your Rights Guide.”

**Jasmin Stone, Focus E15 housing campaign**

Jasmin Stone of Focus E15 housing campaign for over 10 years. Originally living in the hostel once known as Focus E15 with 28 other mothers who began resisting their evictions and fighting to not be socially cleansed. Now working with those affected by the housing crisis holding local authorities accountable and demanding decent housing for all.

**Josie Argyle, Not1more**

Josie’s background of protesting on HS2 campaign – she spent 2 years living on sites and was living at Bluebell Woods when the Route-Wide injunction was applied for and obtained. Josie supported people going through the civil court process of breaching injunctions and during their prison sentence and also Robert Lizars lawyers to make a challenge to the Route Wide Injunction application. Josie now works for Not1More, who supported her with fundraising, organisational structure, mentorship, design, and collaboration with lawyers.

**Kehinde Adeogun, Black Equity Organisation (BEO)**

Kehinde Adeogun is Director of Legal Services and Policy at Black Equity Organisation. She is a qualified solicitor and have been practising in the specialist area of employment law since 1991. Her expertise includes negotiating and advising on contracts and her professional expertise also includes devising and delivering training.

**Lee Marsons, Public Law Project**

Lee Marsons is a Senior Researcher at Public Law Project, focusing on research related to access to justice, immigration and the constitution. Lee is editor of the Ombudsmen, Tribunals and Administrative Justice section of the Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law and co-edits the Current Survey section of Public Law. He is also Research Officer at the University of Essex's Constitutional and Administrative Justice Initiative (Essex CAJI).

**Nic Cook, Difference North East**

Nic is a committed and passionate activist, campaigning on Disability Rights issues across diverse social justice issues. She roots her work in creativity, accessibility, and inclusion, informed by her background in the arts and post-compulsory/ community education. She has carried out research exploring how understandings of practice might inform ‘care-ful’ policy that works for equality. She likes hiking, reading, writing and being silly with her son Dylan.

**Naomi Madden, Grapevine**

Naomi is the Director of Projects at Grapevine, a charity that helps people experiencing isolation, poverty and disadvantage in Coventry and Warwickshire.

**Saskia O’ Hara, Public Interest Law Centre**

Saskia O’Hara is a legal caseworker and community legal organiser at the Public Interest Law Centre (PILC). She is co-leader of PILC’s Gentrification Project: Supporting access to justice in the class-based transformation of urban space and has worked on public law challenges across London including opposing demolition of estates, protection of community green space and assets, and challenging the conditions of families in temporary and overcrowded accommodation.

Outside of work, Saskia has been active in grassroots community campaigns for 15 years across Glasgow and London, playing leading roles in housing, anti-austerity, Palestinian human-rights campaigns.

**Shameem Ahmad, Public Law Project**

Shameem began her career as an advisor in Government, developing policy and legislation in the wake of the financial crisis. She then went to the City where she became a senior associate and solicitor advocate in a market leading public law team. She has represented individuals, corporates, public bodies and charities. Prior to becoming its Director of Advocacy, Shameem helped set up the Black Equity Organisation, a racial justice charity.

**Shannon Johnstone, Expert Link**

Shannon Johnstone is a member of Expert Links network and was a peer researcher in the Housing First Research. She is also Co-Founder of Homelessness Best Practice CIC which delivers homelessness law training and consultancy.

**Susan Winter, Voices**

Susan is a campaigner from An Untold Story – Voices, a collective of women with lived experience of street sex working in Hull, and allies.

**Timi Okuwa, Black Equity Organisation (BEO)**

Timi Okuwa is Chief Executive of the Black Equity Organisation, an independent, national Black civil rights organisation created to dismantle systemic racism in Britain, drive generational change and deliver better lived experiences for Black people across the country. She was previously a Director at Sistine Street and is a part time magistrate.

**Unkha Banda, Deighton Pierce Glynn**

Unkha is a solicitor in the Public Law Team at Deighton Pierce Glynn (‘DPG’). Unkha has expertise in public law challenges arising from immigration law and border management policies due to her background in Immigration Law.

As part of her practice, Unkha’s work is often instructed in challenges against the UK Government regarding asylum support and resettlement scheme issues. That said, Unkha has a strong interest in strategic litigation for social change and is therefore keen to collaborate with others including NGOs and community activists to support efforts to achieve practical change, through the law. She is currently instructed by one of the Lead Claimants in a strategic challenge against the use of RAF Wethersfield as asylum accommodation.

Outside of work, Unkha is a Co-Convener of the Racial Justice and Equity Group of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association (‘ILPA’). Unkha also holds an LLM in Human Rights, Conflict and Justice from the School of Oriental and African Studies (‘SOAS’), University of London.

**Verity Nevitt, The Gemini Project**

Verity Nevitt, Co-founder of The Gemini Project, a grassroots, survivor-led organisation working to end sexual violence through advocacy, education and campaigns.

##### **Amy Chisholm, Clinical psychologist**

Amy Chisholm has been a clinical psychologist for 15 years. Her specialty is working with refugees/asylum seekers and in particular treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. She supervises, teaches, and contributes to literate regarding treatment of PTSD.

Amy is currently one of the clinical leads in a national position at Freedom From Torture (FFT) and previously was the Head of Clinical Services for London. She has been privileged at FFT to work alongside a great survivor leadership and influencing directorate.

Trauma therapy wise, Amy has worked at Helen Bamber Foundation, Woodfield Trauma Service (NHS service for PTSD treatment for refugees/asylum seekers), Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service and an NHS Veterans treatment service.

##### **Human Rights: Not a game - Introduction**



Right now, across the UK, people are experiencing soaring levels of poverty, a health service in crisis, a social security system no longer fit for purpose, poor working conditions, restrictions on the right to strike and discrimination at work and in education, healthcare, and housing. **These are** [**economic, social and cultural rights**](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtu%3A%2Fjtsoastgr.rfip%2F.uiamakcr-gnm%2Fpos2cnotn-eoigdcomsan-i-iaoch-rgil%2F2st&s=Ad0VL19ZFvuyeh-2orN6H9GW_XY) **issues**.

[Just Fair](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtu%3A%2Fjtsoastgr.rfi%2Fku.&s=OKJ2pe1R29bhitbfzkZcILgMWig) is the only UK-wide civil society organisation focusing on these everyday human rights, bringing social justice and human rights together by championing economic, social, and cultural rights. We want to build a more just and compassionate UK, where everyone is guaranteed the basic requirements of a dignified and flourishing life.

[Human Rights: Not a Game](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtu%3A%2Fjtsoastgr.rfie%2F.uresakrurchcsor%2Fenhesrma-%2Fuotig--nths%2Femag-a&s=kjiZVmSUUNtWDxnQj9bFxF4lwWI) opens people’s eyes to why human rights really matter in everyday life, and helps communities build confidence in naming and claiming their rights.

It is co-designed, co-developed and co-owned by Kayleigh Rousell ([Sheppey is Ours!](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphth%3A%2Fstsoeeprisupy%2Fku.oc.s&s=mz5vkzNCituLu-4LMMAHoIZR0AE)), Hinda Mohamed ([Intisaar](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtn%3A%2Fitsoatigr.rsa%2F&s=oV-63I6kHYv80kzTh_89oE_oklU)), and Nic Cook ([Difference NE](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphti%3A%2Fdtserffoncnee.ertrstoha%2Fku.g&s=2q726wznUTTlNXs4sOEWzE2GRfA)) and [Just Fair](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtu%3A%2Fjtsoastgr.rfi%2Fku.&s=OKJ2pe1R29bhitbfzkZcILgMWig). It has been designed by [Dan Farley](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtw%3A%2Fwtsraw.efaldn.sydogncei%2Fku.&s=tsEyve91Uz9k1wYE3ScJlo5qNdg).

Take on a character and explore the impact of policy and power structures on their rights. What will be more powerful: the system or the people? Who has responsibility to fulfil our rights, and what actions can we take to make the situation better? Through game play, we claim "the right to talk about rights".

As a team, hold the system to account to win a better future for all!

We will be playing an abridged version of the game at #publicdisco, take a copy home today, [download for free, or order a hardcopy](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtu%3A%2Fjtsoastgr.rfie%2F.uresakrurchcsor%2Fenhesrma-%2Fuotig--nths%2Femag-a&s=kjiZVmSUUNtWDxnQj9bFxF4lwWI) (£30 or £10 for small organisations under £25,000 p/a) and start using this new resource with your group.

For more, visit: [justfair.org.uk/research/resources/human-rights-not-a-game/](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1712828400%2F1rur1T-00Fljp-3Z%7Cin6m%7C57e1b682%7C27394928%7C12347018%7C6617B19F2194441C1E30C61BDFA87E0E&o=%2Fphtu%3A%2Fjtsoastgr.rfie%2F.uresakrurchcsor%2Fenhesrma-%2Fuotig--nths%2Femag-a&s=kjiZVmSUUNtWDxnQj9bFxF4lwWI)