

Centre for the Study of Human Rights *The Guardian*

HUMANS WITHOUT RIGHTS: Asylum seekers in the 21st Century

Saturday 1 November 2003

9.30am-4.30pm

9.30am	Registration
10 am	<p>Framing the debate</p> <p>The debate on asylum is too often trapped in the narrow ground of the here and now. This is unsurprising, given the political importance of the issue and the passions that it excites amongst the wider public. Nevertheless there is much to be gained by locating our contemporary engagement with the issue of asylum in a wider context, one that embraces historical, philosophical, sociological and international law perspectives on the subject. In a series of keynote addresses from these different angles, this session provides this wider view, thereby serving as an effective launch-pad for the day's proceedings.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Conor Gearty, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, LSE</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Vice President of the United Nations Association, UK Zrinka Bralo, Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum Satvinder Juss, King's College London Michael Kingsley-Nyinah, UNHCR</p>
11am	<p>Interlude</p> <p>Pupils from John Kelly girls' school coeducational class, as featured by Wendy Berliner, <u>Education Guardian</u>, 13 May 2003</p>
11.15am	Coffee
11.45am	<p>Rights and the asylum seeker</p> <p>Asylum seekers have limited rights under international law. At the same time their protection under domestic human rights law can often seem to relegate them to the status of second-division citizens. Sometimes the human rights of asylum seekers seem to drift completely out of the view of decision-makers. In this session we explore the weaknesses in international and domestic human rights law; the reasons for these deficiencies; the problems of enforcement with regard even to those rights that asylum seekers enjoy; and prospects for the future in this fast-moving area of law.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, University of Oxford</p>

	<p><i>Speakers:</i> Chaloka Beyani, LSE Nick Blake, Matrix Chambers Margaret Lally, Refugee Council</p>
12.45pm	<p>Interlude</p> <p>Stands by campaign groups</p>
1pm	Lunch
2pm	<p>Speaking the unspeakable</p> <p>Asylum seekers are humans without rights because the states of which they are citizens are unable or unwilling to guarantee those rights, and because the states in which they are requesting asylum have not yet recognised them as refugees. From the end of the Second World War in particular, it has been assumed that the solution to this problem must be either repatriation, resettlement or asylum.</p> <p>In this session, we want to think outside the boundaries – to consider the possibility that the best solution to the problems facing asylum seekers is to open the borders. Such a radical response is normally dismissed out of hand. Our speakers this afternoon consider the arguments for and against such a solution in the hope that we can broaden the debate and interrogate current responses from a new and challenging perspective.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Andrew Puddephatt, Article 19</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Stephen Castles, Director of Refugee Studies Centre Oxford Don Flynn, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants Daniele Lochak, Paris X-Nanterre</p> <p><i>Discussant:</i> Liza Schuster, LSE and the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, Oxford</p>
3pm	Tea
3.30pm	<p>Concluding session: what is to be done</p> <p>Drawing in speakers from earlier in the day, this last session will provide an opportunity for questions from the floor and further discussion. The session aims to connect ideas discussed during the day with an agenda for action for the future on the intellectual, international, regional and domestic fronts.</p> <p>Chair: Conor Gearty, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, LSE</p>