

# PRO BONO MATTERS

L E N T T E R M N E W S L E T T E R

January 2021



**LSE Pro Bono Matters** is a postgraduate group that volunteers to work for social justice using the law with the aim of improving access to justice, protecting human rights and furthering public interest causes. The student organisation was founded by Master of Laws (LLM) students in the 2014-15 academic year and is led by an LLM Student Director, a PhD Representative and the LSE Law department's Pro Bono Coordinators.

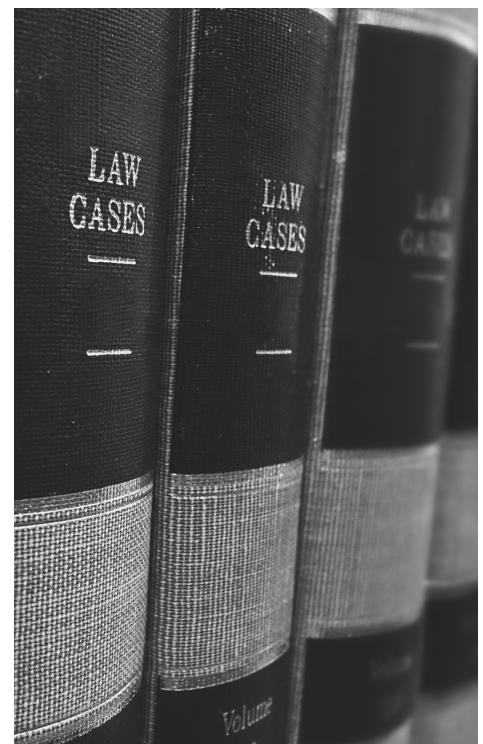
The LSE Pro Bono Matters group consists of LLM and other LSE Masters students who volunteer to assist internal and external organisations and practitioners on: human rights cases and international strategic litigation; producing legal submissions; writing reports for non-profit organisations; and conducting research in the public interest. In addition to this, LSE Pro Bono Matters also holds events throughout the academic year to raise awareness for particular issues and for careers in human rights and other areas of law.

## CONTENT

[Meet the Team - 2](#)

[Our Research Projects - 6](#)

[Events - 8](#)





## Meet the Team

### **Student Director - Abhaya Ganashee**

Abhaya is an LLM candidate pursuing a specialism in Public International Law and Human Rights

#### **Why did you Join Pro Bono Matters?**

I developed a passion for pro bono work while serving as the Laidlaw Research Scholar with the Leeds Disability Law Clinic. Here, I assisted with group litigation cases, research influencing public policy and Amicus Curiae briefs to the European Committee on Social Responsibility. This experience helped me observe the social impact that such pro bono work had and motivated me to work with the LSE Pro Bono Matter Committee.

#### **What do you do In your Spare Time?**

I spend my spare time reading and playing the keyboard. I also spend way too much time watching Brooklyn 99!

### **Vice Student Director/Treasurer - Claudia Hyde**

Claudia is an LLM candidate pursuing a specialism in Public International Law and Human Rights

#### **Why did you Join Pro Bono Matters?**

I got involved in PBM because I've always been passionate about public service and access to justice. Working with the charities we've partnered with has been a great way to contribute to a range of causes and learn about fascinating issues I didn't have much exposure to before

#### **What do you do in your spare time?**

I like to read fiction, play/listen to music, cook and talk way too much about my cat, Ray.





## Meet the Team

### **Secretary - Caoimhe Landy**

Caoimhe is an LLM candidate pursuing a specialism in Public International Law

#### **Why did you Join Pro Bono Matters?**

I got involved in Pro Bono Matters as I have been involved in a number of pro bono projects whilst interning in law firms in Dublin and throughout my undergrad degree. I was also keen to take part in the management and facilitation of new pro bono projects with some fantastic organisations across London for this year's LLM cohort

#### **What do you do in your spare time?**

You can find me running, going to concerts (pre-covid) and regularly getting lost around London

### **Events Coordinator - Jiayue (Leanne) Ma**

Jiayue is pursuing a traditional LLM degree

#### **Why did you Join Pro Bono Matters?**

I joined PBM because I gained invaluable experience from doing pro bono work, whether it was doing voluntary translation or helping NGO's on their research. Joining the PBM, I hope to help LSE students engage in a wider range of pro bono projects and support the community

#### **What do you do in your spare time?**

I enjoy traveling and sometimes write articles sharing my university experience





## Meet the Team

### Communications and Media Officer - Maria Polycarpou

Maria is an LLM candidate pursuing a specialism in Competition Innovation and Trade Law

#### Why did you Join Pro Bono Matters?

I recognise the impact that a contribution towards the public interest can make in people's lives and so I wanted to pursue Pro Bono during my master's at LSE. I enjoy the opportunity of working with amazing organisations and being able to secure volunteering opportunities for LSE students who also want to work towards improving access to justice.

#### What do you do in your spare time?

I run a legal commercial awareness blog called Law Forward which I co-founded. I also practice yoga and I like touring around whichever city I am in.

## Special Thanks to:

### The LSE Pro Bono Coordinators

- Dr Niamh Dunne (Associate Professor of Law)
- Dr Emmanuel Voyiakis (Associate Professor of Law)
- Dr Insa Koch (Assistant Professor of Law and Anthropology)

### Our PhD Representative

- Shree Agnihotri (PhD Student in Law)

# Our 20/21 Research Projects

## Past:

### 1. British Institute for Comparative Law (BIICL)

BIICL is one of the leading independent research centres for international and comparative law in the world. LSE Pro Bono Matters has worked with BIICL on two research projects: one focusing on anti-trafficking law and policy (the JTIP Project) and one focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on international commercial dispute resolution.

#### **Research Volunteers:**

**JTIP:** Marina, Cardoso-Farias, Michaela Chen

**Dispute Resolution:** Shambhavi Nargundkar, Chiara Fori

### 2. The Prison Reform Trust and Howard League

The Prison Reform Trust (PRT) an independent UK charity working to create a just, humane and effective penal system. The Howard League for Penal Reform is the oldest penal reform charity in the UK.

LSE Pro Bono Matters volunteers are working with these two charities on casework analyses focusing on decisions of the UK Parole Board and court proceedings relating to prisoners' rights.

**Research Volunteers:** William Craig Cohen, Jordan Briggs, Anersha Lewis, Jessica Coventry and Laura Regueiro-Romero

### 3. Restorative Justice For All

RJ4ALL an international institute with a mission to advance community cohesion and human Rights.

LSE Pro Bono Matters is working with RJ4All on a rapid evidence review on cyberbullying of LGBTQ+ young people in the UK and the legal response to it.

**Research Volunteers:** Laoise Mangan, Shivanshu Bhardwaj

## Ongoing:

### 4. Reprieve

Reprieve is a legal action non-governmental organisation (NGO) which defends marginalised people who are facing human rights abuses, often at the hands of powerful governments.

LSE Pro Bono Matters is assisting on Reprieve's cutting-edge Stop Aid For Executions project through researching comparative approaches across different jurisdictions towards ensuring that aid does not contribute to the imposition of death penalties overseas.

### 5. Somers Town Legal Advice Center (SIAC)

The Somers Town Legal Advice Corner provides free legal advice to residents of Somers Town and St Pancras. LSE Pro Bono Matters helped STLAC recruit two advice volunteers from the LSE student body. The volunteers will assist in casework, drafting, client care and legal administration in support of the STLAC's vital work in the local community.

### 6. UKFPC iSea

iSea is the UK's first national support centre for Southeast and East Asian Communities, combatting hate crime, promoting community outreach, elderly care, resource aid & sharing, language support etc.

LSE Pro Bono Matters is helping iSea to recruit two students to participate in the research project on tackling hate crime, particularly its resurgence in light of the pandemic.

# How can you get involved?

## To get involved a candidate must:

- Be pursuing a PhD, LLM Degree or have relevant work experience at an NGO, international organisation, government department or private practice.
- Be eager to learn and expand their knowledge of the legal areas our organisations are involved with at a national and international level.
- Have good researching and drafting skills as our projects are highly research based
- Must be open and communicative in order to work with supervisors (or members of a group depending on the given project)
- Be passionate about pro bono work, furthering public interest causes and ensuring access to justice!

## Frequently Asked Questions:



To apply for any position we have available you will need to send your CV and a 200 word statement of interest to [law.probonomatters@lse.ac.uk](mailto:law.probonomatters@lse.ac.uk)



If you have not been accepted for a project (due to very limited positions) you are still eligible and encouraged to apply for any other position that becomes available



Students already accepted for a research role are not permitted to apply for another one in order to keep opportunities as open to everyone as possible

# Docu-Screening Event: "The Empire"

Featuring a discussion on Imperialism with Dr Taylor Sherman and Professor Thomas Poole

We explored the theme of : **Empire, Colonisation and Globalisation.**

Tracing the complex story of the British Empire, our Committee aimed to explore how the impacts of colonisation continue to be felt in the global realpolitik and beyond.

To do this, we screened the episode, Doing Good, from the BBC Documentary series 'Empire', providing a space for critical discourse centred around these themes. Addressing how Britain's desire for conquest was cloaked as a mission to improve the rest of mankind, **Dr. Taylor Sherman** and **Professor Tom Poole** focused on the history of British imperialism and the popular narrative in Britain surrounding the British Empire as well as the construction of new nation-states in the shadow of Western imperialism.

The panellists explored what imperialism looks like in the global realpolitik through a discussion on the white man's burden of "grooming" the colonised. Discussing how imperialism interacted with constitutional development in the past, they addressed the question of whether, and how, it interacts with constitutional orders today.

## Panellists:

**Dr. Taylor Sherman** (Lecturer, International History, LSE): Dr. Sherman's research interest lies broadly within Empire, Colonialism and Globalisation. Dealing with the cultural and political history of countries in transition such as India and Pakistan, Dr. Sherman discussed the impacts of colonisation felt in these countries even in modern times.

**Prof. Thomas Poole** (Professor of Law, LSE): Professor Poole's research interests lies broadly in the area of UK constitutional and administrative law as well as legal and political theory. Talking about his books Reason of State: Law, Prerogative, Empire and The Double-Facing Constitution, Professor Poole discussed the insights that can be gained on the functioning of imperialism from the history of constitutional thought.



# Arendt, Nation Building and Collective Guilt: "The Wave"

**Featuring a panel discussion with Professor Gerry Simpson and Dr. Ayça Çubukçu.**

The focus will be on the formation of certain types of **government**, and on the relationship between **violence**, intimidation and similar forms of violations of human rights and the "exterior" -- often **imperialistic** -- elements in **nation building**.

Screening '**The Wave**', a film that follows a social experiment conducted by a highschool teacher where he turns his classroom into a Nazi-style dictatorship, we hope to provide a space for critical discourse centred around these themes.

The panellists will explore the social and political landscape in which such nation-building is possible and the idea of a manufactured 'enemy' and 'sovereign'. Discussing how these systems once constructed could take their own shape, they will address the question of individual responsibility and collective guilt. The panellists will also be available for a short Q&A.

## Panellists:

**Dr. Ayça Çubukçu (Co-Director of LSE Human Rights, Department of Sociology):** Dr. Çubukçu's research interest lies in social, political and legal theory, with a focus on human rights, political violence, postcolonial studies, and transnational social movements. Dealing with the politics of transnational solidarity and the entanglement of international law and human rights ideals with the ethics and politics of violence, Dr. Çubukçu will discuss how these governments are formed and take account of their impact.

**Prof. Gerry Simpson (Professor of Public International Law, LSE):** Professor Simpson's research interests lies in the area of international law and war crimes. Taking a critical approach to these issues, Professor Simpson will discuss nation-building and the creation of an outsider or 'enemy' and an inviolable sovereign. Taking account of the atrocities committed, he will address the question of responsibility and guilt.

