



Law and social change

12 November 2019

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Welcome to the Strengthening Civil Society programme e-bulletin.

The place for news, resources, events, training and other opportunities for those interested in the development of the **use of the law and human rights by UK civil society**. We welcome contributions, so please do send us suggestions for inclusion.

[MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMME](#)

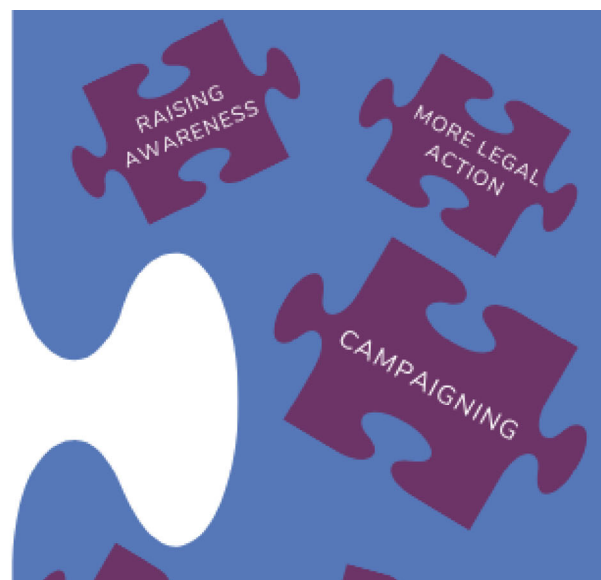


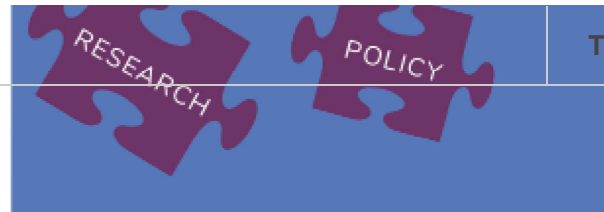
This issue's highlight



NEW FUND!

Implementing
successful strategic





New funding round! Continuing work after successful litigation

We know that change is rarely achieved in the court room alone and this new fund is designed to help civil society to continue its work after successful litigation.

Grants could support a range of activities including advocacy and policy influencing, campaigning, awareness raising, research, monitoring of implementation, and further legal action.

Grants of up to £30,000 are available for up to one year. Deadlines are staggered throughout 2020. More information about the fund, eligibility and how to apply are on our website.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



News

Using the Law for Social Change - free conference on 28 November

There are still a few places available on this one-day conference produced by the **Sheila McKechnie Foundation** on how campaigners can integrate the use of the legal tactics into their work.

The day will:

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- explore the different ways the law can be used
- help you to decide whether the law should be part of your

toolkit

- tackle common and emerging challenges that change-makers face in using the law
- consider how the law can fit into a broader strategic approach
- connect you with a network of people asking similar questions.

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The conference will be held at Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, London, SE1 9NH from 10am to 5pm on 28 November.

FIND OUT MORE



Birthrights raise concerns about mental capacity and human rights in maternity care

Recent months have seen a spate of Court of Protection cases permitting Caesarean sections on women who were deemed to lack – or be at risk of losing – mental capacity under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Birthrights is concerned about the human rights issues which arise in these cases. The charity is working with obstetricians, lawyers, midwives and academics to improve care for pregnant women whose mental capacity is in question and support for healthcare providers working with women in this situation.

READ A BLOG



CAJ raise racial discriminatory nature of cross-border checks in Ireland

CAJ (Committee on the Administration of Justice) runs an Equality Duty Enforcement Project which supports civil society

CAJ is currently using the Equality Duty to raise the equality impacts of border immigration checks - particularly their racially discriminatory nature - on Translink bus services (Translink runs bus/train services between the North and South) and have submitted a complaint to the Equality Commission.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE



Maternity Action launch a judicial review on NHS charging for maternity care

Maternity Action are challenging the practice of issuing bills of £7,000 to destitute pregnant women arguing breach of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

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More background, legal arguments and outcomes sought are explained in greater detail in this [short briefing paper](#). The case was picked up by [The Guardian](#) here.

Past Issues

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Maternity Action are crowdfunding to cover the costs risk.

Please do share if you can.

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Migrants' Law Project launch podcast about human rights law in action

"It can be done" is a new podcast series exploring how the law can be used for social change produced by the **Migrants' Law Project** in partnership with openDemocracy.

It looks at the work of lawyers, activists, and others during the 'refugee crisis' of 2015, telling the story of how people and groups came together to use strategic litigation to open up safe and legal routes to family reunion for refugees trapped in camps on the European mainland.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST



Public Law Project is awarded funding towards access to justice in Wales

The **Public Law Project (PLP)** has been awarded funding over three years to work towards improving access to justice in Wales.

PLP will work with civil society organisations working with vulnerable groups to develop coordinated referral pathways to specialist help; bring cases and undertake advocacy and policy work.





Sustain progress on the Right to Food campaign

Sustain are – with the support of a grant from the Foundation – leading a campaign for the Right to Food with Just Fair, Nourish Scotland and the Centre for Health and Society at the University of Newcastle. Recent exciting developments include:

- The **Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party have now made commitments** to incorporate the Right to Food into law if they get into power.
- The **Chief Medical Officer has adopted the concept of the Children's Right to Food** into her radical ideas for tackling child obesity.

The Right for Food campaign is also working closely with food aid organisations to ensure that a no-deal Brexit does not push people into more food hardship. **More about this here.**

Resources

Using the law to create change – new resources from The Children's Society

In July 2018, the Government conceded a case brought by The Children's Society in 2013 to bring support for migrant children back into the scope of legal aid. Last month, the changes they achieved were passed into law.

They've produced a video about some of the key considerations in taking a judicial review – and a how-to guide with some top tips.

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