

Helena Kennedy QC



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Profile

Helena Kennedy practises predominantly in the criminal law, undertaking leading work of all kinds. She also undertakes judicial review, public inquiries and sex discrimination work. She has acted in many of the prominent cases of the last decade including the Brighton Bombing Trial, Guildford Four Appeal, the bombing of the Israeli Embassy, the abduction of Baby Abbie Humphries and a number of key domestic violence cases. She is currently acting in cases connected to the recent wave of terrorism.

She is Chair of the Human Genetics Commission and a member of the World Bank Institute's External Advisory Council and was recently appointed to the board of the British Museum. She stepped down as Chair of the British Council in July 2004 after completing six years. She is a Bencher of Gray's Inn and a Member of the House of Lords, speaking on issues of human rights and civil liberties.

She is Vice-President of the Haldane Society, Vice-President of the Association of Women Barristers and a Patron of Liberty. She chaired the Commission of Inquiry into Violence in Penal Institutions for Young People for the Howard League. The Commission's report *Banged Up, Beaten Up, Cutting Up* was published in 1995. She chaired the

Commission of Inquiry into the health, environmental and safety aspects of the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston for Reading Borough Council, the findings published in the report *Secrecy Versus Safety* 1994. In 2004/5, she was Chair of the Inquiry into Sudden Infant Death for the Royal Colleges of Pathologists and of Paediatrics, producing a protocol for the investigation of such deaths. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and a Fellow of the City and Guilds of London Institute. She is a member of the Foreign Policy Centre's Advisory Council and was the UK member of the International Bar Association's Task Force on Terrorism.

She is President of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and President of the National Children's Bureau. As Commissioner on the National Commission for Education she chaired a committee on widening participation in further education and the Commission's seminal report, *Learning Works*, was published in 1997.

She has lectured on Human Rights, Criminal Law and many other subjects, both in Britain and internationally. She was the Rose Sheinberg scholar-in-residence at New York University's School of Law in 2003. She delivered the Hamlyn Trust lecture for the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in 2002. She was a contributor to *The Bar on Trial* 1982, *Child Sexual Abuse Within the Family* 1985 and *Balancing Acts* 1989.

A frequent broadcaster and journalist on law and women's rights, her many media contributions and appearances include creating the BBC television series *Blind Justice* in 1987, presenting the BBC's *Heart of the Matter* throughout 1987, *Raw Deal on Medical Negligence* in 1989, *The Trial of Lady Chatterley's Lover* in 1990, and *Time Gentlemen, Please* for BBC Scotland - which won The Television Programme Award category of the 1994 Industrial Journalism Awards.

In 1992 she received the Women's Network Award for her work on women and justice and in 1995 added to it the UK Woman of Europe Award. For her work on equal rights she was recognised by the National Federation of Women's Institutes in 1996 who presented her with their Campaigning and Influencing Award - *Making a World of Difference*. In 1997 *The Times* gave her their Lifetime Achievement in the Law Award for her work for women and the law, and *The Spectator* made her Parliamentarian of the Year 2000.

She was awarded a life peerage in 1997. She was created a member of the French Académie Universelle des Cultures by the French government, a Cavalier di Gran Croce (Italy's highest honour) by the President of Italy in 2004, Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 2005 and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in 2005.

Her publications include the widely acclaimed *Eve Was Framed: Women and British*

Justice (Vintage, 1993) which has been fully updated and has just been reissued in paperback, March 2005. Her new book Just Law: The Changing Face of Justice and Why It Matters to Us All (Chatto & Windus, 2004) has just been published in paperback, March 2005.

Education

Honorary Doctorates of Law:

University of Strathclyde 1992,

University of Teeside 1993,

Keele University 1994,

Lancaster University 1994,

Leeds Metropolitan University 1995,

University of Bristol 1997,

University of Wolverhampton 1997,

The Open University 1997,

University of Abertay Dundee 1997,

Tavistock Centre under the auspices of the University of East London 1997,

University of Derby 1998,

University of Leicester 1998,

University of York 1999,

National University of Ireland 2000,

University of Aberdeen 2000,

Oxford Brookes University 2001,

Caledonian University 2001,

Robert Gordon University 2002,

Judicial Academy of Russia 2002,

Polytechnic University of Tomsk 2002,

Middlesex University 2003,

De Montfort University 2004,

University of Sheffield 2005,

University of Staffordshire 2005,

University of Paisley 2005,

University of Edinburgh 2005.

Related practice areas

Inquests and Public Inquiries

International Law & Arbitration

Business and Human Rights and Modern Slavery

International Media Defence

Children's Rights Group