



**DOUGHTY STREET CHAMBERS**  
**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS GROUP**



LONDON



MANCHESTER



## OUR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS GROUP

Welcome to the Doughty Street Chambers Children's Rights Group, which brings together barristers from across all practice teams. The Children's Rights Group members have acted in many of the leading cases on children's rights in the UK, regional and international courts. Reflecting this, the Children's Rights Group has a particular focus on innovative legal advocacy, both in the courtroom and beyond, aimed at securing the rights set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Doughty Street Chambers offers extensive expertise across numerous child rights-related areas and has wide-ranging experience in bringing ground-breaking litigation for and concerning children in public law, extradition, immigration, mental health, community care, prison law, trafficking, education, criminal justice, clinical negligence and inquests. Many of our members specialise in complex and developing areas concerning the rights of children, including unaccompanied minors' rights, female genital cutting (FGC) and children, abortion rights for vulnerable teenagers, the education rights of children in custody, inclusive education for disabled children, children's effective participation in criminal trials, and the rights of LGBTQI children.

Beyond the domestic context, our barristers have played key roles in important cases before regional and international courts, including the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the International Criminal Court. They also advise and engage with international and regional human rights entities, including UN treaty bodies and UN Special Procedures. They also work with intergovernmental organisations with a human rights mandate, as well as national human rights institutions. Many of our members are involved in training on children's rights issues for different stakeholders, as well as advising on law and policy reform in the field of children's rights. Others are actively involved in academic writing, making major contributions to child rights scholarship, both in the UK and elsewhere.

**Why is Doughty Street the UK's leading child rights chambers?**

Our **public law, housing and community care** teams have been involved in major cases concerning carers' rights, challenges to elements of welfare 'reform' such as the benefit cap, as well as challenges to failure to provide support under sections 17 and 20 of the Children Act 1989. We have brought ground-breaking challenges concerning the rights of children in the criminal justice system and of children in and leaving custody.

We regularly act on behalf of children in matters involving **criminal law, prison law and actions against the police**, including difficult cases concerning prison suicide, the use of restraint in Young Offender Institutions, and the use of police powers in relation to children within the criminal justice system. Members of our criminal team are experienced in representing children and young people at trial and at the appellate level. They have especial expertise in cases which involve intermediaries and complexities surrounding mental health and learning disability. Many of our criminal practitioners have led public law challenges relating to youth criminal justice, including the use of youth conditional cautions and youth court procedure.

Our **Court of Protection and mental health** teams frequently represent 16 and 17 year olds as well as their parents in the Court of Protection.

Members of Doughty Street regularly represent children and young people in **education** cases, including matters involving special educational needs, disability rights, discrimination, and challenging exclusions from school.

Our members assist **migrant and refugee children** and have been involved in challenges to age assessments of accompanied asylum-seeking children carried out by local authorities, as well as challenges involving asylum support to destitute families. Our barristers have appeared in key cases involving refugee children separated from their families across Europe. Members of our **immigration** team regularly represent accompanied asylum-seeking children in claims for international protection as well as children facing the deportation of a parent from the UK. Our **extradition** barristers have

appeared on behalf of children in challenges to a parent's proposed extradition from the UK. We have extensive expertise in assisting **trafficked children** in different legal contexts, including when they are defendants in criminal proceedings, where immigration and asylum issues arise, in public law challenges concerning unlawful decision-making or failures to provide support, and in unlawful detention, false imprisonment and civil claims against public authorities and traffickers.

Our **clinical negligence** team have experience of challenging negligence on the part of healthcare staff during pregnancy and delivery. Chambers members have appeared in **inquests** involving the deaths of children and young people supported by local authorities, in custody or mental health settings, have worked to provide sensitive representation for families of disabled children who have died.

Our members have been involved in actions seeking redress for historic **child sex abuse**. Several of our members are involved in the Independent Child Sex Abuse Inquiry both as Counsel to the Inquiry team and

on behalf of participants. We bring claims to hold institutions and public bodies to account on behalf of survivors of child sex abuse, and bring challenges concerning the failure to remove children from abusive homes.

We offer expertise in cases where **family law intersects with children's rights**, including with regard to forced marriage, as well as public law proceedings on allegations of radicalisation and child neglect.

Reflecting our experience in using international law instruments, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in a range of different legal contexts, members of Chambers have contributed to the **promotion and defence of children's rights globally**. This has included, work on behalf of Nigerian children accused of witchcraft, child soldiers, and children with disabilities. Members have also brought actions before a range of UN and regional complaints bodies.

## Co-leaders of the Children's Rights Group



**Shu Shin Luh**

Co-Leader, Children's Rights  
Group

Call: 2006



**Professor Aoife Nolan**

Co-Leader, Children's  
Rights Group

## Silks



**Helena Kennedy KC**

Call: 1972, Silk: 1991



**Edward Fitzgerald KC**

Call: 1978, Silk: 1995



**Nicholas Bowen KC**

Call: 1984, Silk: 1995



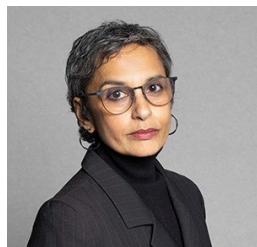
**Martin Westgate KC**

Call: 1985, Silk: 2010



**Stephen Cragg KC**

Call: 1996, Silk: 2013



**Aswini Weeraratne KC**

Call: 1991, Silk: 2015



**Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC**

Call: 2001, Silk: 2017



**Ben Cooper KC**

Call: 1999, Silk: 2020



**Emma Goodall KC**

Call: 1996, Silk: 2021



**Maya Sikand KC**

Call: 1997, Silk: 2021



**Jamie Burton KC**

Call: 1999, Silk: 2021



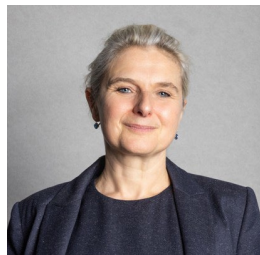
**Adam Straw KC**

Call: 2004, Silk: 2021



**Liam Walker KC**

Call: 2001, Silk: 2022



**Laura Dubinsky KC**

Call: 2002, Silk: 2022



**Fiona Murphy KC**

Call: 2013, Solicitor: 1993



**Garry Green KC**

Call: 1999, Silk: 2023

## Juniors



**Sophy Miles**

Call: 1991, Solicitor: 1989



**Zia Nabi**

Call: 1991



**Simon Cox**

Call: 1992



**Dominic Preston**

Call: 1995



**Krishnendu Mukerjee**

Call: 1996



**Oliver Lewis**

Call: 2000



**Phil Haywood**

Call: 2001



**Angela Patrick**

Call: 2003



**Amelia Nice**

Call: 2006



**Megan Hirst**

Call: 2015 (2006 -  
Supreme Court of  
Queensland, Australia)



**Louise Price**

Call: 2006



**Leonie Hirst**

Call: 2006



**Shu Shin Luh**

Co-Leader, Children's  
Rights Group

Call: 2006



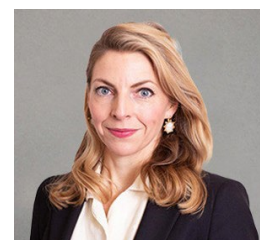
**Mary Westcott**

Call: 2007



**Michelle Knorr**

Call: 2008



**Catherine Meredith**

Call: 2008



**Zimran Samuel**

Call: 2008



**Sarah Steinhardt**

Call: 2008



**Rowena Moffatt**

Call: 2009



**Marisa Cohen**

Call: 2010



**Maryam Mir**

Call: 2011



**Sam Jacobs**

Call: 2011



**Kate O'Raghallaigh**

Call: 2011



**Tim Cooke-Hurle**

Call: 2012



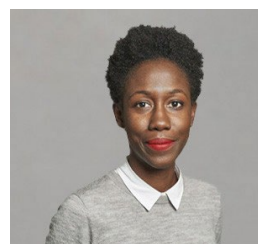
**Hayley Douglas**

Call: 2012



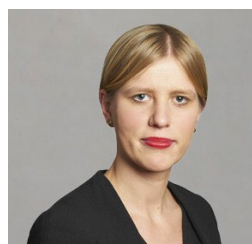
**Antonia Benfield**

Call: 2013



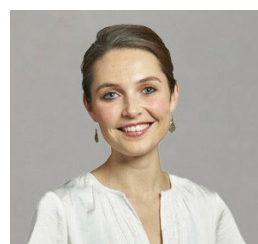
**Jelia Sane**

Call: 2013



**Agata Patyna**

Call: 2014



**Daniella Waddoup**

Call: 2014



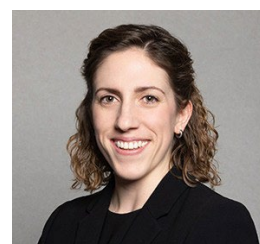
**Zoe Harper**

Call: 2015



**Mary-Rachel McCabe**

Call: 2015



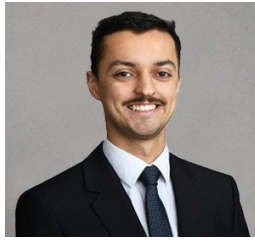
**Zoe Harper**

Call: 2017



**Margherita Cornaglia**

Call: 2017



**Donnchadh Greene**

Call: 2018



**Alice Irving**

Call: 2018



**Tayyiba Bajwa**

Call: 2019



**Caragh Nimmo**

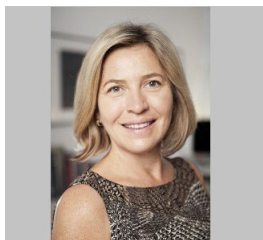
Call: 2020 (2016 –  
Solicitor, Scotland)



**Sarah Dobbie**

Call: 2020 (2017 -  
Australia)

## Academic Experts and Associates



Dr. Anne Gallagher



Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al  
Hussein



Professor Aoife Nolan  
Co-Leader, Children's  
Rights Group



Theo Huckle KC  
Call: 1985, Silk: 2011



Geraldine Van Bueren KC  
Call: 1979, Silk: 2013



Susie Alegre  
Call: 1997



Katherine O'Byrne  
Call: 2013



Alison Pickup  
Call: 2007



Nani Jansen Reventlow  
Call: 2007



Martha Spurrier  
Call: 2010

## Contact us

To discuss the work of our barristers, or for more information about Doughty Street, please contact:



**Sian Wilkins**

Senior Clerk (Civil)

s.wilkins@doughtystreet.co.uk

020 7400 9087

*"The clerks are exceptional and always quick to respond to queries, offering good availability and flexibility. Always reliable and very commercially aware, meaning they are more than happy to negotiate a fee that meets the client's needs and budget."*

- Legal 500

*"The clerking is really good; they go the extra mile to get things sorted. They're some of the friendliest clerks and can't do enough for you."*

- Chambers & Partners