



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION 2024

Wellcome Collection, London, 2nd March 2024

✂ #DoughtyStWomen #InspireInclusion

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LONDON



MANCHESTER



CHAIRS' WELCOME

Welcome to the 9th annual Doughty Street Chambers' International Women's Day Celebration to all who are here in person and online. One positive legacy of the pandemic is that we continue to run this event on a hybrid basis to ensure that as many of you as possible can join in the conversation, wherever you are.

We gather today to celebrate the achievements and acknowledge the struggles in the fight for women's rights over the past year, and to look forward to upcoming opportunities and challenges ahead. Since 2016, Doughty Street Chambers has marked International Women's Day with events centred on the question: what more can the law do for women and girls? In 2024, it is a question we are still asking. We hope you will leave today feeling energised and inspired to continue the fight for women's equality, in whatever form that activism takes.

2023 was a particularly challenging year for us at Doughty Street. Tragically, we lost two cherished colleagues, Issy Forshall KC and Heather Rogers KC. They each exemplified leadership, commitment, dedication, compassion and an unwavering commitment to access to justice and we mourn their untimely passing.

We have covered the impact of war on women at our previous events including Ukraine last year. Last Saturday marked the two-year anniversary of Russia's all out invasion of Ukraine. And in 2024 we watch helplessly as the deadly conflict between Israel and Hamas intensifies and 85% of Gaza's population is displaced, with insufficient aid to feed starving children, whilst Israeli families fear for their relatives kept hostage by Hamas. UN Women reports that over 8 million women and girls will require humanitarian assistance in 2024. Over 72% registered as unemployed in Ukraine are women which heightens the risk of gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking. Meanwhile Afghanistan ranks 170th out of 170 countries on the Women, Peace and Security Index with child marriage, maternal mortality rates and gender-based violence increasing while at the same time, services who protect and support women are virtually non-existent. The need for effective conflict resolution could not be greater. Our keynote speaker today will look at the role women can play in bringing peace whilst our 'in conversation' will focus on the way women are used and exploited as tools of war.

Talking of the fight for peace, we pay tribute to the Iranian human rights activist, Narges Mohammadi, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023 "*for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedoms for all*". Sadly, Narges remains imprisoned in Iran, having been arrested and convicted multiple times for speaking out about women's rights in Iran. Her teenage children, who she apparently has not seen for 8 years, collected the award on her behalf, reading her acceptance speech which had been smuggled out of Evin Prison. Another female prize-winner last year was Claudia Goldin who became the first solo woman awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics for her work studying obstacles women face in obtaining equal pay. Incredibly and in a blow to the Catholic church, on the 6th September 2023, Mexico decriminalised abortion nationwide in a landmark Supreme Court judgment, which unanimously ruled that criminal penalties for terminating abortions were unconstitutional. This was in stark contrast to the dark shadow cast by the overturning of *Roe v Wade* two years ago, which continues to erode the rights of American women. Our final panel of the day will examine the UK's approach to the criminalisation of abortion.

We hope that today gives us all a moment to reflect, to commune and plot our next moves. There is much to work for. Together we fight on.

Happy International Women's Day!

Maya Sikand KC and Antonia Benfield, Co-Chairs, IWD Steering Group 2024

and #DoughtyStWomen

PROGRAMME

09.30

REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

10.00

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Maya Sikand KC, Doughty Street Chambers

Keynote Address

10.10

Monica McWilliams, Emeritus Professor, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster, signatory of the Good Friday Agreement and author of "Stand Up, Speak Out" (on women's rights, peace and equality).

Panel 1: Generated harms: the rise of exploitative AI

Chair: Fiona Murphy KC, Doughty Street Chambers

10.40

Speakers:

Kelsey Farish, Media Lawyer

Harriet Johnson, Doughty Street Chambers

Kavita Kalsi, Social Development Direct

Andrea Simon, End Violence Against Women

11.40

TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

11.55

Film: Intro from Anna Herrmann, Artistic Director/Joint CEO, Clean Break

Clean Break's short film "Sweatbox"

Panel 2: Towards a feminist vision of climate justice

Chair: Jennifer Robinson, Doughty Street Chambers

12.15

Speakers:

Camila Zapata Besso, Doughty Street Chambers

Tessa Khan, Uplift

Professor Karen Morrow, Swansea University

Katie de Kauwe, Friends of the Earth

Lola Fayokun, Climate Campaigner

13.15

-

14.15

LUNCH

In Conversation

14.15

*Baroness Helena Kennedy KC, in conversation with
Christina Lamb, leading foreign correspondent, and author of "Our bodies, their battlefield -
what War does to Women".*

15.15

TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

Panel 3: The Crime of Abortion: A UK Comparative Analysis

Chair: Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC, Doughty Street Chambers

15.30

Speakers:

*Karlia Lykourgou, Doughty Street Chambers
Dr Emma Milne, Durham University
Dr Lynsey Mitchell, University of Strathclyde
Dr Annabel Sowemimo, King's College London
Stella Creasy, MP for Walthamstow*

16.45

-

17.00

Closing Remarks

Antonia Benfield, Doughty Street Chambers

17.00

CLOSE

17.00

-

17.55

POST-EVENT DRINKS

BIOGRAPHIES

10.00 | Welcome and Opening Remarks



MAYA SIKAND KC

Doughty Street Chambers

Maya Sikand KC specialises in State accountability across public and private law. She started her working life as an advocate and campaigner for women and girls fleeing domestic violence, sexual abuse, forced marriages and other exploitation in the NGO sector. This experience means she brings an intersectional approach to her work with a commitment to providing a voice to the marginalised. Last year she represented Rianna Cleary in the high-profile inquest into her baby Aisha's death at HMP Bronzefield, the findings in relation to which have been a strong impetus for change. Her research on access to prison Mother and Baby Units (MBUs), [*Lost Spaces: Is the current procedure for women prisoners to gain a place in a prison MBU fair and accessible?*](#), funded by a Griffins fellowship, was published in March 2017. She is an editor of the leading criminal textbook *Archbold* and a contributor to *Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: Law and Practice* (Bloomsbury Professional, Second Edition, 2020). She sits as a part-time judge in the criminal courts.

10.10 | Keynote Address



MONICA MCWILLIAMS

Signatory of the Good Friday Agreement and author of Stand Up, Speak Out on women's rights, peace and equality

Monica McWilliams was a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and a delegate to the multi-party peace talks leading to the Good Friday Agreement. She served as an MLA from 1998-2003 and was Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission until 2010. She is an Emeritus Professor at Ulster University in the Transitional Justice Institute and a Commissioner on the Independent Reporting Commission for the disbandment of paramilitary organisations. She publishes on domestic violence and the impact of conflict on women's lives. Her recent memoir *Stand Up Speak Out* was published by Blackstaff Press.

10.40 | Panel 1: Generated harms: the rise of exploitative AI



CHAIR: FIONA MURPHY KC

Doughty Street Chambers

Fiona Murphy KC represents victims of human rights abuses in civil claims against public authorities, judicial review and before inquests and public inquiries. She is head of Doughty Street's Actions Against the Police and Inquests and Public Inquiries Teams. She has a particular interest and experience in representing women victims of police perpetrated sexual violence and seeking redress for women who had been failed by the criminal justice system.



KAVITA KALSI

Social Development Direct

Kavita Kalsi is a Senior Technical Specialist at Social Development Direct (SDDirect). She leads SDDirect's work across the [Digital](#) thematic area and is a researcher in technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), including in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI). She has 15 years' experience in the international development and humanitarian sector, with in-country experience in India, Nepal, Afghanistan and the Philippines.

Kavita has provided technical input on gender and social inclusion to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's flagship [Digital Access Programme](#) in Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Brazil and Indonesia. This included advising police on how to respond to TFGBV in a gender-sensitive way, strengthening people's digital rights such as freedom of expression online, and researching the harms experienced by teenagers online. She has also led research for UNICEF on online child protection in four countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Kavita is also responsible for guiding colleagues on the safe use of AI in their work.

Kavita has a BA in Italian and an MSc in International Public Policy, both from University College London. Prior to joining SDDirect, she worked as a project manager for CARE International UK, as an advocacy advisor on women, peace and security for the International Rescue Committee Belgium, as a policy coordinator for the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, and as a sales representative for Devex. She has also worked for a small community-based organisation in Mumbai which supports women from marginalised communities to train as leaders to address local issues using an insider-led approach.



HARRIET JOHNSON

Doughty Street Chambers

"She is precise, heartfelt and anti-pompous" – The Times

Harriet Johnson is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers and is responsible for founding its annual series of International Women's Day events. Her practice encompasses both criminal and civil law, with a particular focus on holding the state to account where it has failed women.

A powerful speaker, Harriet has given addresses at conferences all over the world. She is a regular media contributor who is frequently called upon to provide legal insight and commentary on a range of contemporary topics, but in particular concerning violence against women.

Harriet's first book, *"Enough: the violence against women and how to end it"* (Harper Collins 2022; 2023), was an Amazon bestseller and was named by Waterstones as one of its books of the year for 2022.



KELSEY FARISH

Media Lawyer

Kelsey Farish is recognised by Law.com as a "Rising Star – one of the UK's Best Up and Coming Female Lawyers". With her specialisation in digital media technology, AI-generated content, publicity law and freedom of expression, Farish is a leading authority on manipulated content such as deepfakes. She primarily focuses on advising entertainment and cultural sector clients on the creative and consensual use of generative AI - while simultaneously confronting the challenges posed by the technology and its disproportionate impact on women. A dedicated advocate for a safer, more equitable digital world for women and children, Kelsey has appeared on national news media and before policymakers to provide critical insights on the legal implications of AI. Originally from Seattle on the West Coast of the U.S., Kelsey lives in London with her husband and young son. Her portfolio and contact details are at www.kelseyfarish.com.



ANDREA SIMON

Executive Director at End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW)

Andrea Simon has worked in the ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) sector since 2017. She was appointed EVAW's Director in January 2021, to lead the organisation's influential work to improve responses to women and girls at risk of and experiencing abuse. EVAW is a UK-wide coalition of more than 150 women's organisations, researchers and experts working to end all forms of VAWG. Andrea is also a member of the London Policing Board and Co-Chair of the London VAWG Board at the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. She sits on a number of

partnership and advisory boards to improve strategic responses to VAWG at a local and national level.

Andrea is an experienced charity trustee in the equality and human rights sector, and has previously spent more than a decade working for Members of Parliament in Westminster and the EU, as well as conducting research and policy work on child trafficking and modern slavery.

11.55 | Film

CLEAN BREAK

CLEAN BREAK'S SWEATBOX

Clean Break was founded by two women in prison who believed in the power of theatre to transform lives.

Clean Break uses theatre to keep the subject of women in prison on the cultural radar, helping to reveal the damage caused by the criminal justice system. Through our unique work, we raise difficult questions, inspire debate, and help to effect profound and positive change in the lives of women with experience of the criminal justice system.

Since 1979, Clean Break has been the only women's theatre company of its kind, and we continue to inspire playwrights and captivate audiences with our ground-breaking plays on the complex theme of women and criminalisation.

Through theatre workshops and projects in prisons and in the community which build confidence, resilience and wellbeing, we transform the lives of women who have experienced the criminal justice system or who are at risk of entering it due to the challenges they are facing, such as mental health or drug use issues, which place them in circumstances that make interaction with the criminal justice system difficult to avoid.

12.15 | Panel 2 Towards a feminist vision of climate justice



CHAIR: JENNIFER ROBINSON

Doughty Street Chambers

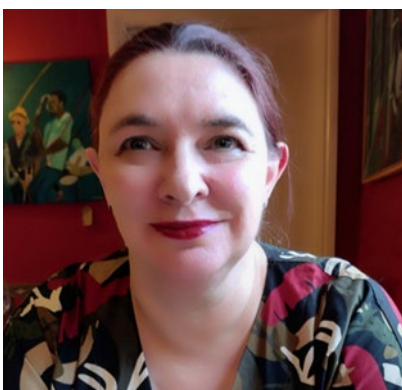
Jen Robinson is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers specialising with international law, human rights and media law. She is acting for Vanuatu in the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion proceedings on states obligations on climate change. Her book with Dr Keina Yoshida, *Silenced Women*, demonstrates the ways in which the law is being weaponised to silence women from speaking about their experiences of gender-based violence.



TESSA KHAN

Uplift

Tessa Khan is the founder and Executive Director of Uplift, a research and advocacy organisation focused on a rapid and just transition away from oil and gas in the UK. Previously she was Co-Director and co-founder of the Climate Litigation Network which supports climate litigation against governments around the world, in which capacity she worked on groundbreaking climate cases, including against the Dutch and Irish governments. She has served as an expert advisor to UN bodies and national governments and in 2019 was named by TIME magazine as one of fifteen women leading the fight against climate change. She has also received a [Climate Breakthrough](#) award, which is the largest environmental grant for individuals in the world.



PROFESSOR KAREN MORROW

Swansea University

Professor Karen Morrow was educated at the Queen's University of Belfast and King's College London. She has lectured at Buckingham, Durham and Leeds Universities and at Queen's University of Belfast. She has been Professor of Environmental Law at Swansea University since 2007. Her research interests focus on theoretical and practical aspects of public participation in environmental and sustainability law and policy and on ecofeminism, gender, and the environment. Her current work focuses on ecofeminist approaches to the challenges of the anthropocene, with particular emphasis on climate change. She is a series editor for *Critical Reflections on Human Rights and the Environment* (Edward Elgar) and a member of the international advisory board for the cross-disciplinary *Gender and Environment* series (Routledge). She is a member of the Wales Net Zero 2035 Challenge Group.



KATIE DE KAUWE
Friends of the Earth

Katie de Kauwe specialises in environmental judicial review, and also has expertise in cases concerning the right to protest.

Katie was listed in the Lawyer Hot 100 for 2023, and in the ENDS Power List 2023 of the UK's 100 most influential environmental professionals.

In 2022, Katie led Friends of the Earth's legal challenge to the Government's Net Zero Strategy, which successfully argued, alongside ClientEarth and the Good Law Project, that the Secretary of State had breached the Climate Change Act 2008. She is now leading on Friends of the Earth's subsequent legal challenge to the Government's revised climate plan, which goes to court in late February 2024. She is also working on challenges to fossil fuel projects, including Friends of the Earth's intervention in the *Finch* appeal regarding oil drilling in Surrey (judgment awaited).

Katie leads on Friends of the Earth's legal casework on civil liberties. She directed Friends of the Earth's intervention in the Supreme Court *Wolverhampton* appeal, which concerned the use of persons unknown injunctions in the context of Gypsy and Traveller communities, and also protestors. In 2023, the Police Bill Alliance, comprising Bond, Friends of the Earth, Quakers in Britain, Friends Families & Travellers and Liberty won the Sheila Mckechnie Foundation award for "best collaboration" at the National Campaigner Awards 2023 for its work in resisting parts of the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill; Katie was part of the Friends of the Earth team.

Katie converted to law from science, and holds a degree in Biology BSc (1st Class Honours).



LOLA FAYOKUN
Climate Campaigner

Lola Fayokun is a youth climate campaigner. Her activism journey began in the UK Student Climate Network, the grassroots network which hosted the youth climate strikes in England. Her role at the network saw her contribute to the organisation of the largest climate protests in British history. Today, she is developing a scheme to provide holistic support to young women of colour in the climate movement. Her work is centred around promoting a feminist and anti-racist vision of climate justice.



CAMILA ZAPATA BESSO

Doughty Street Chambers

Camila Zapata Besso is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers specialising in international and domestic human rights. Her recent international work includes contributing [written observations](#) to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in respect of its Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency; authoring a report on the extreme human rights challenges suffered by rural Indigenous campesino communities living in the midst of the agrarian conflict in Guatemala, and making an [amicus curiae submission](#) to the Colombian Constitutional Court in a case brought by Wayúu indigenous peoples against Carbones del Cerrejón mining company (now owned by Glencore). Her domestic work involves representing victims of human trafficking, torture, domestic and sexual violence, immigration detainees and other vulnerable individuals in asylum claims and actions against public authorities. She is in the Council of Europe pool of experts for the provision of consultancy services in the areas of migration and asylum. She is also on the Executive Committee of Black Protest Legal Support (“BPLS”) and of the Human Rights Lawyers Association (“HRLA”).

14.15 | In Conversation



(Photographer: Robert Perry)

BARONESS HELENA KENNEDY KC

Doughty Street Chambers

Baroness Helena Kennedy KC is a Barrister of over 50 years' experience. She is a King's Counsel and a member of the House of Lords in the UK Parliament. She is a Master of the Bench at Gray's Inn and has been Master of an Oxford College, during which time she established the Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University. Presently, she serves as the Director of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), an independent entity within the International Bar Association (IBA), established in 1947, which is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. She is also the President of Justice, a law reform and human rights charity, working to reform the UK justice system with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. In 2023, She has also been appointed by the Office of the President of Ukraine as Co-Chair of Bring Kids Back UA - a high-level group of experts focused on returning forcefully deported children to Ukraine.

**CHRISTINA LAMB OBE**

Leading foreign correspondent and author of "Our bodies, their battlefield - what War does to Women"

Christina Lamb OBE is Chief Foreign Correspondent at The Sunday Times as well as a bestselling author. She has reported from most of the world's hotspots from Afghanistan to Ukraine after an unexpected wedding invitation led her to Karachi in 1987 when she was just 21 and won numerous awards including six times being named Foreign Correspondent of the Year, as well as Europe's top war reporting prize, the Prix Bayeux, and was recently given the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society of Editors and Outstanding Impact Award by Amnesty International for her work on ISIS camps in Syria. She has always particularly focused on what happens to women in war and collected accounts of sexual violence in conflict from all over the world for her book *Our Bodies, Their Battlefields* described by leading historian Antony Beevor as 'the most powerful book' he had ever read and shortlisted for the Orwell Prize, the Bailie Gifford and the Kapuscinski award. She has authored ten books including co-writing the global bestseller *I Am Malala* with Malala Yousafzai. She is a Global Envoy for UN Education Cannot Wait, an Honorary Fellow of University College Oxford, on the International Board of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and an Associate of the Imperial War Museum.

15.30 | Panel 3: The Crime of Abortion: A UK Comparative Analysis

**CHAIR: CAOILFHIONN GALLAGHER KC**

Doughty Street Chambers

Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC is a barrister, human rights lawyer and in 2023 she was appointed as Ireland's Special Rapporteur on Child Protection. She has acted in many landmark cases in the UK, including acting for bereaved families and survivors of the *7/7 London Bombings* and the *Hillsborough Disaster*; before the European Court of Human Rights; and international tribunals.

Caoilfhionn is an international expert in media freedom and accountability for crimes against journalists. She has given expert evidence on these issues to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, UNESCO, and Parliamentary inquiries in the Council of Europe, UK, Canada, US and Australia.

Caoilfhionn's caseload includes leading the international legal teams for the family of journalist *Daphne Caruana Galizia*, assassinated in Malta in 2017; pro-democracy activist and publisher *Jimmy Lai*, imprisoned in Hong Kong; over 150 *BBC News Persian* journalists, targeted extra-territorially by

Iran; and (jointly with Amal Clooney) *Maria Ressa*, the Nobel Peace Prize winning journalist in the Philippines. She has acted for, and secured the freedom of, imprisoned journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers, cartoonists and peaceful protestors in a number of jurisdictions internationally, including Iran, UAE, Russia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Philippines.

Caoilfhionn also acts for and advises journalists and media organisations within the UK, and she has acted in many key cases concerning 'open justice' and the rights of journalists to freely report on court proceedings.

Alongside her practice as a barrister and her role as Special Rapporteur, Caoilfhionn is an Adjunct Full Professor at University College Dublin, sits part-time as a Coroner in England and Wales, and has recently been appointed as a Commissioner of the Irish Equality and Human Rights Commission. She also sits on a number of Boards, including the Advisory Board to Cartoonists Rights Network International (CRNI), the UK Advisory Board to RSF (Reporters Without Borders), and the Board of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

Caoilfhionn is a graduate of UCD, the King's Inns and Cambridge University. She was called to the Bar of Ireland in 2001, the Bar of England and Wales in 2005, took silk in 2017, and has also been called in a number of other jurisdictions internationally. In 2017 she was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts for her "*outstanding commitment to enabling the Human Rights Act's protections*" for devising and founding a mass advertising campaign, 'Act for the Act,' to tell positive human rights stories. In January 2024 she was awarded the President of Ireland's Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad.



STELLA CREASY MP

Labour and Co-Operative MP for Walthamstow, first elected in 2010

Stella Creasy MP has held a variety of positions within the Labour party, first as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the shadow Education Secretary Andy Burnham, and then in 2011 as a shadow Home Office Minister for crime prevention, in Ed Miliband's first reshuffle. She ran for the deputy leadership of the party in 2015, coming second. She is currently Chair of Labour Movement for Europe and has campaigned for a continued relationship with the EU and against Brexit induced parliamentary deregulation.

She is an avid campaigner and contributor to debates. Most notably, in July 2019 she put forward the amendment which proposed that if the Northern Ireland Assembly was not restored by October that Westminster would legalise abortion in the country. Other campaigns include sexual

harassment, childcare provision, and MotheRED – a campaign to financially support mums to be selected and elected as Labour Party candidates in the next General Election. She has also campaigned against 'legal loan sharks', introducing a Ten-Minute-Rule Bill to cap the cost of credit to avoid extortionate rates and force the Government to tighten restrictions.



KARLIA LYKOURGOU

Doughty Street Chambers

Karlia Lykourgou is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers specialising in crime, inquiries and professional discipline. She is interested in the increasing trend of prosecutions against women for offences committed during the perinatal period and is presently working with the Cambridge University Pro Bono Project and other groups on a review of the law on infanticide. Karlia won the Under 35 category at the Inspirational Women in Law Awards 2021 for founding Ivy & Normanton, the first legal outfitter specialising in clothing for women.



DR EMMA MILNE

Associate Professor in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at Durham University

Dr Emma Milne is a feminist socio-legal scholar and criminologist. Emma's research is interdisciplinary, focusing on criminal law and criminal justice responses to women who are suspected to have killed their infant or harmed their foetus. The wider context of Emma's work is social controls and regulations of all women, notably in relation to pregnancy, sex, and motherhood. Emma's monograph [*Criminal Justice Responses to Maternal Filicide: Judging the Failed Mother*](#) was published in 2021 (Emerald Publishing Limited). She co-authored [*Sex and Crime*](#) (SAGE, 2020), and co-edited [*100 Years of the Infanticide Act: Legacy, Impact and Future Directions*](#) (Hart Publishing, 2023) and [*The Emerald International Handbook of Feminist Perspectives on Women's Acts of Violence*](#) (Emerald Publishing Limited, 2023).



DR ANNABEL SOWEMIMO

King's College London

Dr Annabel Sowemimo is a doctor, academic, activist, and writer. She is a newly appointed Consultant in Community Sexual & Reproductive Health in the NHS. Her first book *[Divided: Racism, Medicine and Decolonising Healthcare](#)* was published by Profile Books/Wellcome Collection in April 2023 and was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for Political non-fiction.

Within her specialty, she is interested in tackling Gender Based Violence and improving access for marginalised groups. She founded the award winning charity the Reproductive Justice Initiative (RJI) (formerly *[Decolonising Contraception](#)*), which aims to address health inequalities and racial disparities. In 2023, she was awarded the Outstanding achievement award by the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH).

Annabel is also a part-time PhD candidate and Harold Moody Scholar at King's College London with her research focusing on the experiences of Black women in Britain with fertility control methods. As well as writing for mainstream publications, she has co-authored several academic publications.

Annabel firmly believes that healthcare should be about empowering people with knowledge to make informed decisions about their bodies. She spends her spare time campaigning on reproductive justice, against NHS cuts and improving healthcare services.



DR LYNSEY MITCHELL

Lecturer in law at the University of Strathclyde.

Dr Lynsey Mitchell is a member of the editorial board of Feminist Legal Studies and sits on the Organising Committee of the LEX: Law, Gender and Sexuality Research Network. She is also an Executive Committee member of Abortion Rights and Abortion Rights Scotland.

Her research straddles international human rights law, women's rights, reproductive rights, feminist legal theory, and law and literature. She has published in leading journals on the narrativisation of women's rights in law. She is currently working on a funded project entitled 'Scotland's Abortion Laws: Understanding the Past to Inform Future Reform' that explores how reproductive rights are understood within the wider human rights project in Scotland.

16.45 | Closing Remarks



ANTONIA BENFIELD

Doughty Street Chambers

Antonia Benfield works across the fields of asylum, immigration and public law with a specialism in refugee, asylum law and children's rights. Before joining the Bar, Antonia worked for NGOs including the Refugee Council, and has spent over 18 years working in support of refugee and migrant rights.

Antonia is regularly instructed in asylum and public law claims, with a particular focus on complex claims and those involving victims of torture and sexual violence. She has been instructed in country guidance claims, setting the refugee protection framework in the UK and systemic challenges to Government policy around immigration. Antonia has particular expertise in public law challenges on behalf of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children as well as unlawful detention, asylum support and human trafficking claims.

Antonia was appointed as Counsel to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), on the Children outside the UK (Phase 2) and Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks investigations from 2018 to 2022. She is a trustee of the charity West London Welcome which supports refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in West London and is legal advisor to Counterpoints Arts, a leading national charity focusing on migration and cultural change. Antonia was also finalist for Legal Aid Barrister of the Year in the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards in 2023.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY STEERING GROUP



Maya Sikand KC
Call: 1997, Silk: 2021



Antonia Benfield
Call: 2013



Sian Wilkins
Senior Clerk (Civil)



Sophy Miles
Call: 2015 (1989 – Solicitor,
England and Wales)



Yvonne Kramo
Call: 2008



Nancy Williams
Call: 2016



Sarah Dobbie
Call: 2020 (2017 - Australia)



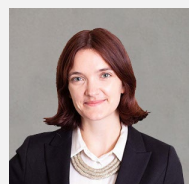
Lameesa Iqbal
Call: 2021



Rachel Woodward
Call: 2021



Finnian Clarke
Call: 2021



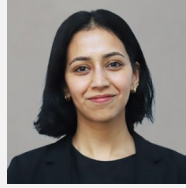
Rosa Polaschek
Call: 2021 (2015 - New
Zealand)



Ruby Peacock
Call: 2022



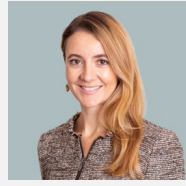
Hannah Smith
Call: 2023 (2019 - Solicitor,
England and Wales)



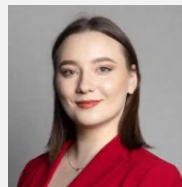
Nikila Kaushik
Call: 2023



Sheena Byrne
Client Services & Engagement
Senior Manager



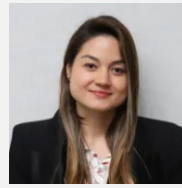
Julie Ahadi
Director of Operations and
Strategic Planning



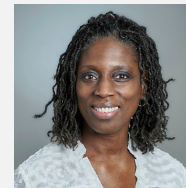
Raimonda Krasninkeviciute
Marketing and Events Manager



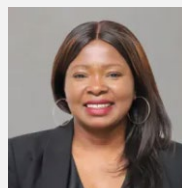
Naomi Smith
International Team Practice
Manager



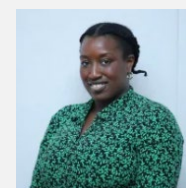
Camila Herrera
Events & CRM Assistant



Cynthia Francis
Front of House Supervisor



Evelyn Cole
Head of People



Edwina Koroma
Chambers and Pupillage
Executive