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E-Bulletin July 2023

Message from the Chair



Rt Hon. Sir Stephen Irwin, Chair of The Slynn Foundation

The year has been another busy period for the Foundation. With the lifting of Covid restraints on travel, we have been able to go out to countries and deliver programmes in-person rather than being confined to remote connection. We prefer to have a physical presence, although we maintain a balance of training techniques including virtual and hybrid. Often for serving judges, or those delivering a single session, remote delivery is the best answer.

In the early part of this year, we continued our presence in the Western Balkans with seminars in Montenegro and Kosovo. Slynn took part in a round table discussion of international actors in the Czech Republic on the combatting of sexual violence. At the end of February, we returned to northern Cyprus for the second of our 2-day seminars, in conjunction with Public Administration International and the British High Commission.

Our judicial seminar series in Brunei Darussalam continued, supported by the British High Commission and the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, with a virtual presentation by Mr Justice Jeremy Baker entitled 'The Use of Expert Witnesses in Criminal Cases'. Other projects are in the planning stage.

Ambassador Simon Smith CMG, Andriy Kostin Prosecutor General of the Ukraine and Justice Stanislav Kravchenko, President of the Supreme Court of Ukraine formed the distinguished panel for the 5th Slynn Foundation Open Forum. The panel engaged in a lively discussion on the legal and organisational steps being taken to avoid impunity from prosecution for war crimes in the Ukraine. For those who were unable to attend, we recommend you view the event: a video recording of the event is available by using the link below or on our website.

Retirement of Trustees and Appointment of Honorary Members

Since our last newsletter, the Board has agreed to change some of the provisions of our articles. A number of our long-standing trustees have retired from the main board. I would like to acknowledge their great contribution to the Foundation and I am very pleased to welcome them in their new roles as Honorary Members of the Foundation, allowing us to continue to benefit from their advice and experience.

Our new Honorary Members are:

Sir Stanley Burnton
Sir James Dingemans
Sir David Latham
Fergus Randolph KC
Sir Geoffrey Vos
Peter Williamson

I have been in discussion with a number of relevant senior government officials, in an attempt to encourage a more coherent approach on the part of HMG to the planning and delivery of the international Rule of Law programme by government. It will be obvious that the Ukraine features high on the list of priorities and will do so into the future. However, for obvious reasons, there is a high constraint on government spending, even on such relatively inexpensive but worthwhile programmes as those in which we participate. At the same time, there has been a tendency to outsource the organisation and supply to commercial external agencies. This is not obviously coherent as an approach. We await developments.

Earlier in February 2023, the Foundation held a simple but very successful reception in the Royal Courts of Justice for supporters and those who have helped Slynn, and for some of those who might do so in the future. It was a pleasure to see everyone, and to register their enthusiasm for our work.

Slynn News

Slynn 5th Open Forum Impunity after the Ukraine

On Monday 26th of June Attorney General the Rt Hon Victoria Prentis KC MP, former Ambassador Simon Smith CMG, Andriy Kostin Prosecutor General of the Ukraine and President of the Supreme Court, Stanislav Kravchenko formed the distinguish panel of speakers for the 5th Open Slynn Foundation Forum chaired by the Rt Hon Sir Stephen Irwin, chairman of the Slynn Foundation at Gresham College, London

Both Justice Kravchenko and Mr Kostin spoke passionately about the need for continued international support to enable the Ukraine to bring to justice those who would seek to

There has been broad international support for the establishment of a special International Tribunal enabling the trials to be held within the Ukraine with hundreds of trials already underway and last week it was announced that a new Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Prosecutor's Office Authority to Prosecute Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) has been signed.

Legal thinking and drafting is already turning to empowering trials of the so-called troika - the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Russia, the group most responsible for the aggression.

On Wednesday 28th June, the Ukraine celebrated 'Constitution Day' and Justice Kravchenko and Andriy Kostin, together with colleagues throughout the judiciary and legal system continue to work towards these goals.

If you were not able to join the us for the event it may be viewed [by clicking here](#) further details of this event including a translation of Justice Kravchenko's comments and the other activities of the Slynn Foundation can be found at the Slynn website www.slynn-foundation.org (translation for Justice Kravchenko provided by Sergei Vakarin)



Pictured L - R : Attorney General Victoria Prentis KC, Rt. Hon Sir Stephen Irwin, Simon Smith CMG

Western Balkans

Throughout the last 12 months, the Foundation continued its work on the Home Office project in the Western Balkans presenting seminars in the Montenegro and Kosovo designed to tackle domestic violence issues. We would like to thank all the contributors for their dedication and participation.

Northern Cyprus

In February the Foundation, in conjunction with Public Administration International (PAI) and the British High Commission in Nicosia, presented an in-person two-day lecture series for the Judiciary and Lawyers of north Cyprus entitled "Case Management in Criminal Cases" chaired by the Rt. Hon. Sir Stephen Irwin (Slynn chairman) with guest speakers Sir Peter Thornton KC and Lord Justice Birss. Presented over four half-day sessions to an audience of 100 lawyers and 40 judges, topics included management in criminal cases, hearsay and judicial conduct with a virtual presentation in by Lord Justice Birss on cryptocurrency.



pictured L - R: Sir Peter Thornton KC, Rt.Hon Sir Stephen Irwin, Slynn Foundation Executive Director, Katherine Eden Haig and Chief Justice Narin Ferdi Şefik.

Czech Republic

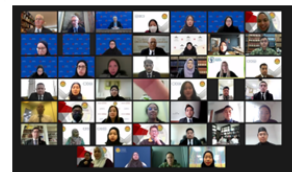


In January 2023, at the request of the British Embassy in Prague, the Foundation joined a meeting of international experts convened by the House of Representatives of the Czech Republic to consider best practice on tackling sexual violence. The Foundation, represented by HHJ Martin Picton, together with representatives from Amnesty International and other international groups, contributed to a 1-day round table discussion on methods of fighting abuse under the Embassy's Women and Girls campaign.

Brunei Darussalam

On the 22nd May 2023 the Slynn Foundation, in conjunction with the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the British High Commission, presented a virtual lecture on the use of expert witnesses in criminal cases.

Our guest speaker, The Hon. Mr Justice Jeremy Baker, addressed an audience taken from the Judiciary, Attorney General's Chambers, Law Society, Syariah Courts, Judge Advocate General's Office, Prime Minister's Office and Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA). The session was opened by H.E. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, with a warm welcome from British High Commissioner H.E. John Virgoe. The Rt. Hon. Sir Stephen Irwin, Chair of the Slynn Foundation, chaired the session.



We would like to express our thanks to Mr Justice Jeremy Baker for his engaging and informative presentation.

Pictured are seminar participants (with permission).

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