



The Rt Hon  
Lord Slynn of Hadley

## Friends of The Slynn Foundation

### E- Bulletin No 20 June 2021

#### Letter from the President



##### *A difficult year*

Well over a year has passed since our last *E-Bulletin*, during which time the world has struggled to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic and many have suffered loss and hardship. We have faced many challenges, both in the way we live and the way we work, and the Slynn Foundation has spent much of this time considering how to adapt the work we do to the new conditions, which means, in effect, expanding our on-line capacity. There is no room for complacency but it is very much hoped that good use has been made of this time and that the Foundation is now well placed for the future.

##### *Going online*

In the December 2019 *E-Bulletin*, we reported on the Foundation's 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Forum, held in the magnificent surroundings of Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn. In the event, we held the 4<sup>th</sup> Open Forum earlier this month, but due to Covid limitations, as a webinar. From the feedback received, it was no less successful for being virtual, and you can read more about it below.

Elsewhere in this issue we outline some of the other online projects we are developing, as well as a report on our participation in the prestigious Tashkent Law Spring event, at which we provided an online session with a large number of distinguished speakers.

##### *Developing new activities and new means of delivery*

Meanwhile, although travel, including scoping visits, has not been possible, we have developed plans for a number of new, largely virtual, training projects in up to five additional countries which are currently under serious discussion. Concurrently, we are

continuing remotely with our major project in Tanzania and our new commitment in Uzbekistan. Our online activities will continue to expand and we will report on these in the next issue.

#### *Trustees*

I report the retirement of Mark Clough QC, one of the Foundation's longest serving Trustees and I would like to thank him for his involvement with our work, particularly in the field of EU law. Similarly, I thank Sir David Keene who has also retired as a Trustee; he was involved in a large number of the Foundation's activities, travelling over the years to carry out training in many countries. Finally, I thank Stephen Wordsworth CMG LVO, who retired recently, particularly for his insights into Central Europe.

I am delighted to welcome four new Trustees, who I know will make (and have already made) an invaluable contribution to our work; they are The Rt Hon Lady Justice Nicola Davies, The Hon Mrs Justice McGowan, Mr Ben Yallop JP and The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Irwin.

#### *Executive Director*

We also said goodbye on 31 December 2020 to Alison Fenney, the Foundation's Executive Director for almost eight years. She was our first Executive Director, fulfilling a role that was much needed. I thank her for her dedicated work and we wish her a happy retirement.

We welcome our new Executive Director, Katherine Eden Haig who, since joining us in January, has already made her mark by energetically redesigning our website, facilitating our move to a virtual world and proactively supporting our expanding engagements.

#### *New website*

Finally, some of you may have noticed that we have a new logo and [website](#) which now has a number of interactive features. If you have not done so already, please do visit it. A recording of the 4<sup>th</sup> Open Forum is to be found there, in addition to the filmed reports of some of our recent Fellows.

#### *Support the Foundation*

If you would like to do more to support the work of the Foundation, please click [here](#). These gifts increase the scope of the work we do.

With warm regards



The Rt Hon Sir Peter Gross  
President, The Slynn Foundation  
June 2021

## Slynn Foundation 4th Open Forum

The Slynn Foundation's 4<sup>th</sup> Open Forum took place on 14 June 2021 on the topic, *The Rule of Law and the Economy – What are the profits and gains of an independent judiciary preventing corruption?*

The speakers were the Rt Hon Lady Dorrian, the Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland; The Hon Sir Ross Cranston, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics and retired High Court Judge; Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Sheriff of the City of London in 2018/19 and partner in DLA Piper; and Professor Barry Rider OBE, Professorial Fellow, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge.

The Forum was chaired by Slynn Foundation President Sir Peter Gross and the vote of thanks was given by Chair of the Trustees, Peter Williamson. Following the presentations, questions were taken under the Chatham House rule.

The speakers covered such issues as the globalisation of corruption, the importance of the rule of law in sustainability and development, the independence of the judiciary and the relationship between the law and the economy. A recording of the event is available on the Slynn website.

As noted above, this was the Foundation's first virtual domestic UK event and our thanks are due to Gray's Inn for hosting it. 

## Tanzania

Due to the pandemic, training visits to Tanzania had to be postponed. The project has now been modified and the Foundation has been asked to converge with other partners in the BSAAT\* programme to place particular focus on the Economic Crimes Court. A virtual training programme covering the rest of 2021 is being proposed. 

## Uzbekistan

A two-year plan has been developed with a number of Uzbek partners including the Uzbekistan Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary of the Uzbekistan Supreme Court. The first event took place in April when Sir Peter Gross and Katherine Eden Haig brought together a range of distinguished speakers, including some of our Slynn Trustees, for various sessions at a special English law session for the Tashkent Law Spring (TLS) virtual event.

Paula Hodges QC, Amanda Pinto QC and Sir Stephen Irwin spoke in various sessions. A specific and principal session on common/English law was chaired by Sir Peter; the Uzbekistan Minister of Justice (His Excellency Minister Davletov) gave the speech of welcome; Sir Suma Chakrabarti (now advising the President of Uzbekistan) also spoke, as did Lord Wolfson (a Justice Minister), Sir James Dingemans, Atabek Nazirov (Adviser to the Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade and Director General of the Direct

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\* Building sustainable anti-corruption action in Tanzania.

Investment Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan), Khawar Qureshi QC and Michael Patchett-Joyce.

This very full, two-hour session was followed by a Q&A session bringing in Michael Blair QC and Christopher Campbell-Holt from the Kazakhstan Astana International Financial Centre.

The session was deemed a great success and a recording of the session will be available on our website in the coming months. The next event, which will likewise be virtual, is due to take place in September 2021. We will report on this in the next issue.

### **Junior Lawyers Against Poverty**

The Slynn Foundation are always looking for new ways to engage with young solicitors and barristers who will carry on our work into the future. This has been even more important during the pandemic.

In March we had the pleasure of assisting the Junior Lawyers Against Poverty with an online series of interviews when our Slynn trustees talked about the importance of pro-bono work in the legal profession. Both interviewers and interviewees thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Recordings of the interviews will appear on our website in the coming months.



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