

E-Bulletin June 2022



*The Rt. Hon. Sir Stephen Irwin
Chairman of the Slynn Foundation*

Message from the Chairman

It is a year since our last bulletin and as you might expect there have been several changes within the Foundation. It has been a remarkably busy year continuing the development of our international projects and adjusting to working full time in the virtual world. As with many other organisations and families, we have also been touched by COVID and we recognise that we may need to adjust for quite a time to come. We hope to return to face to face contact as much as possible. Despite these challenges, we have been able to continue our work. The Foundation contributed to a high-level symposium in Tanzania during Law Week held in January 2022 with Foundation representatives both in person and virtual.

During 2021 we also produced seminars and professional development events in Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, and Dubai covering a broad range of topics including sentencing, judgments, small claims tribunal management, and vulnerable witnesses (reports may be found on our website). We received a warm and enthusiastic welcome wherever we “went” and although COVID prevented us from presenting these events in person, we were able to adapt and maintain our contact through virtual means with positive outcomes. With the support of the Executive Director and the other Board members, I will continue to explore these opportunities in the coming months.

Changes to our Trustee Board

Over time, changes to our Board are inevitable. Some of our long-standing members have elected to step down this year. We are extremely grateful for the contribution of The Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Gross who has led the organisation as President since 2019. He has regrettably had to take the decision to step down due to the pressure of other commitments. However, he will remain with us as a trustee.



Mr Peter Williamson has retired from his role as Chair after rather more than a decade in the role. He has agreed to remain a trustee until the end of the year, which will be of great help in ensuring continuity. Peter has made a huge contribution to the development of the Foundation during his Chairmanship, and we are greatly in his debt.

I will mention other trustees by name when they reach the end of their term.

Executive Administrator

Our Executive Administrator Ms Ruth Eldon has retired after serving with the Foundation since 2006. We thank her for her long service and wish her well.

Earlier this year, the Board recruited four new members and I am delighted to welcome them to the Foundation.

(in alphabetical order)

Ms Merethe Borge McLeod

Ms Claire Lindley

Sir Howard Morrison QC KCMG

The Rt Hon. James Wolffe QC

Further details may be found on our [website](#)

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.

Slynn News

Brunei

The Foundation received an invitation from the British High Commission and the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam to present a series of seminars for the judiciary.

Although COVID delayed our original plans for this event the Foundation presented seminars on two consecutive Saturdays in the early morning hours, during November 2021 to an audience including the Chief Justice, Attorney General, British High Commissioner and senior judiciary. The first seminar was presented by Slynn Trustee Dame Maura McGowan on judgment writing, and the second presentation by Mr Nicholas Vineall QC, Vice Chairman of the English Bar, on the legal profession. The session chairs were Foundation President, The Rt Hon. Sir Peter Gross and Chairman, Mr Peter Williamson. We are grateful to our speakers and chairs for their support of these important events.



The two events were well received and resulted in a further seminar on sentencing held in March 2022. We are grateful to Lord Justice Holroyde of the Sentencing Council for his presentation and Sir Stephen Irwin who chaired the session.

Cyprus

In 2021, the Foundation was approached by Public Administration International (PAI) to consider a joint event in Cyprus at the request of the British High Commission in Nicosia.

The events focused on professional development for lawyers and the judiciary. The seminars were held over two separate sessions each focusing on one of the two professional groups. Topics included: case management, commercial courts, and vulnerable witnesses. We are grateful for the contribution of HH Justice Angela Rafferty QC and Foundation trustees, the Rt. Hon Sir Stephen Irwin, who chaired the sessions, the Rt. Hon. Sir Simon Picken and Ms Angela Pinto QC for their contributions to this project.

Dubai

In April 2021, the Foundation received a request to assist the Dubai International Financial Courts with a series of professional development sessions for its young judges. Although the sessions were originally planned for presentation in person, COVID restrictions required that the presentations be virtual. The Foundation adapted its plan to create a series of pre-recorded sessions, supported by live online sessions. Topics were tailored to meet the specific needs of the courts and the Foundation are grateful to senior judges who supported the online sessions. We would like to give special thanks to Lady Justice Andrews, Michael Walker CBE, Senior Costs Judge, Andrew Gordon Saker, and Mr Steven Thompson QC for their contribution to this project.

Fellowship

In light of the 2021 world-wide outbreak of COVID-19, the Foundation was unable to offer its normal fellowships programme. The Board of Trustees wished to put funds to another charitable cause and focussed on the plight of women judges forced to flee Afghanistan, after the resurgence of the Taliban. The Board agreed to grant the monies through a programme run by the Association of Women Judges in the United Kingdom. This programme benefits the women judges by offering help with bare essentials, together additional education to rebuild their lives in England. The Foundation is grateful to our trustee the Hon. Justice Maura McGowan for bringing this charity and its worthy recipients to the attention of the Board.



Tanzania

The Foundation jointly organised a second High-level Symposium in Tanzania during Law Week held in January 2022 with Foundation representatives attending both in person and virtual.

The Foundation has continued to work closely with the Tanzanian judiciary and the Tanzanian Institute of Judicial Administration (I.J.A.). Early in 2021, when international travel was impossible, I.J.A. used skills acquired during the 2019 SLYNN Foundation fortnight of Training the Trainers sessions and papers and case studies prepared by His Honour Nic Madge to deliver sentencing training to a number of judges and magistrates. In November 2021, after the implementation of the new Tanzanian Sentencing Manual, Nic Madge, Justice Dr Paul Kihwelo and Hon Raymond Kaswaga delivered face to face training on the Manual to thirteen High Court Judges and seven Principal Magistrates in Dar Es Salaam with the aim that those Tanzanian judges and magistrates, cascade similar training widely among the judiciary.

In conjunction with the Tanzanian Judiciary and British High Commission, the Foundation organised a second High Level Symposium in Dodoma which was attended by many of the senior judiciary. Papers were delivered by Tanzanian judges and Nic Madge (in person) and by Sir Nicholas Blake, Dame Maura McGowan and Lord Iain Bonyon (remotely). The Symposium was featured on the main Tanzanian evening television news. The papers are to be published by I.J.A. as Proceedings of the Symposium. On the same visit, Nic Madge ran a Sentencing Workshop for prosecutors and represented the Foundation at the official Law Day ceremony when President Samia Suluhu Hassan formally opened the legal year. In her speech, the President paid tribute to the work of the Foundation. The Foundation, in conjunction with the British High Commission, has also continued to support Building Sustainable Anti-Corruption Action in Tanzania.

Uzbekistan

The Foundation continued its work in Uzbekistan with an interactive event held in September 2021. The event was supported by the Uzbekistan Minister of Justice, Ruslanbek Davletov and the Uzbekistan consulate in London and sponsored by Fieldfisher. Delegates included senior members of the Uzbekistan judiciary, office of Anti-corruption and General Prosecutor's office and included presentations on UK anti-corruption agencies and legislation from Professor Sir Ross Cranston and Investment Arbitration from Mr Ali Malek QC. Following the presentations, the delegates took part in a lively discussion using hypothetical cases and looked at how these would be managed under both the English and Uzbekistan systems. We look forward to continuing our work with colleagues in Uzbekistan.