



## The Slynn Foundation



The Rt Hon  
Lord Slynn of Hadley

### Friends of The Slynn Foundation

E- Bulletin No 15 May 2017

#### A letter from the President

*Sir Henry Brooke*

I was delighted to attend an award ceremony in London recently at which retired Slynn Foundation President The Rt Hon Sir Henry Brooke was honoured by His Excellency, Mr. Bujar Nishani, The President of the Republic of Albania, with the Order of Skanderbeg, for his activities and contributions to the legal profession in Albania. From his first visit on behalf of the Slynn Foundation in 2011, Sir Henry has made numerous visits since to assist in the development of the profession, and this has developed into the Slynn Foundation's major area of activity in the past six years, as we have reported in the *E-Bulletin*. Sir Henry is held in the highest esteem in Albania.



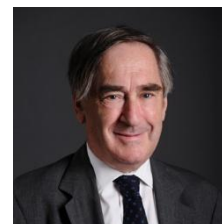
*Bulgaria*



Sir Stanley Burnton

Sir Stephen Silber and I visited Sophia at the invitation of HM Ambassador, Emma Hopkins, in March. We were warmly received and accommodated at the Residence, and the Ambassador is keen to support efforts to improve the judicial system. The visit was very

efficiently organised by Villy Angelova, one of the Embassy staff. A large number of meetings were organised (see below) and we were particularly impressed with the reforming views of Mr Lozan Panov, the Chair of the Supreme Court of Cassation (SCC). We hope that further funding can be obtained in the future to continue this interesting and valuable dialogue.



Sir Stephen Silber

### *New horizons*

With each E-Bulletin, I am happy to report that the Foundation is being approached by countries we have not worked with before, such as Pakistan, Somaliland and the UN – Global Judicial Integrity Programme. Not every project can be carried out for a number of reasons, but in the next few months we look forward to working in cooperation with Kazakhstan.

### *Support the Foundation*

If you would like to do more to support the work of the Foundation, please see the item at the end of this Bulletin. Since the last E-Bulletin we have received some generous donations for which we are very grateful because these gifts increase the scope of the work we can do.

With warm regards



*The Rt Hon Sir Stanley Burnton*

President, The Slynn Foundation

May 2017

### **A Note from the Executive Director**

The last six months have been busy ones for the Foundation. As well as continuing its work in Albania, and developing its work in Eritrea and Bahrain, it has also responded to a new demand in Bulgaria. We are extremely pleased that we have been able to secure further funding for 2017-18 for continuing the work in Albania and Eritrea.

I accompanied Sir Peter Cresswell on his second visit to Eritrea in November and a full report of this visit is given below. As part of this project, the Foundation has been able to collaborate with the International Law Book Facility to facilitate an initial shipment of much needed law books to the School of Law in Asmara.

During this period we also received the final version of the training manual, *Building Human Rights into Practice*, written as part of the Foundation's Palestinian project. This is to assist Judges and Prosecutors on the application of Human Rights Law in the administration of criminal justice in Palestine. A copy of both the English and Arabic versions can be found on the Foundation's [website](#).

The Foundation continues to play an active part in the Board of ROLE UK and is pleased to note that it received a favourable annual review from DfID. Its current funding runs until March 2018 and we will report in the next *E-Bulletin* what the future plans of ROLE will be.

*Alison Fenney*, Executive Director

## Albania

As the Foundation's Albania project reached the last quarter of its funding year in March, the Foundation successfully completed the programme that had been agreed with the Foreign Office and the Embassy in Tirana.

We reported in the December 2016 *E-Bulletin* that a delegation from the Magistrates' School would be visiting the UK and this took place, the purpose of the visit being mainly to meet and discuss additional training in Legal Reasoning and Judgement Writing and Court Administration / Judicial case management with the Judicial College. The visit was rounded off with a dinner hosted by the Slynn Foundation.



Following the success of the Roundtable held with judges of the Supreme Court held last year, a similar Roundtable was held in February. This year the event was organised by the Slynn Foundation and we were delighted that the Rt Hon Lord Phillips was able to attend together with Aaron Baker of Durham University and Sir David Latham, who has been leading the work in Albania with dedication.

This was followed later in February by an EU training course, which included the jurisdiction of the European Courts, and was delivered by Alistair Sutton.

As part of the coming year's activities following a successful but reduced funding bid, a visit by Michel Aslangul to the Magistrates' School is planned and a new Training the Trainers course is due to be delivered in November in conjunction with the Judicial College. ☒

## Bahrain

In December last year, as part of the Foundation's project with Beyond Borders, Sir David Keene visited Bahrain to assist with their training of the Appeal Court. The focus of the visit was to discuss how having a permission to appeal requirement would help the Bahrainis remove some of their existing delays and backlog. Sir David arranged for mock applications for permission to appeal to be performed which the Bahraini judges reported greatly assisted their understanding of the process. ☒

## Bulgaria

Sir Stanley Burnton and Sir Stephen Silber were presented with a full agenda on their scoping visit in March to Bulgaria which, like Romania, is being monitored for its progress towards judicial independence, reduction of corruption and adherence to the Rule of Law.

There were numerous meetings, some of them with as many as 40 or 50 judges, but also with as few as 3 or 4, or even one – with Mr Lozan Panov, the Chair of the Supreme Court of Cassation (SCC) who provided an assessment of the problems of the Bulgarian judiciary. The Slynn Foundation would be prepared to provide assistance with the problems of judicial independence and integrity, and general management of their court system, if further funding can be found for this. ☒

## Eritrea

The Foundation successfully applied for further funding from the FCO enabling Sir Peter Cresswell to make a further ten-day visit to Asmara in December 2016. He was accompanied on this visit by the Foundation's Executive Director.

As part of the visit, the Eritrean Ministry of Justice arranged a series of meetings and presentations attended by senior judges, including Chief Justice Menkorios Beraki, and Ministry officials. Presentations included one from Daniel Semere Head of Legal Services on the Eritrean Legal System, one by Samuel Gebrebrhan Head Co-ordinator of the Community Courts and one from Dr Yonas Mesfin on Raising Legal Awareness in Eritrea.

L-R: Samuel Gebrebrhan, Daniel Semere, Dr Yonas Mesfin and Sir Peter Cresswell



The Chief Justice led a lively discussion after each presentation. Keen interest was shown in the independence of judges in England and Wales, the role of our Law Commission, and many other aspects of the English Legal system.



Sir Peter also delivered a lecture on a range of topics including the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and the six values; the landmark Brexit Decision; the concepts of the rule of law, precedent (not followed in Eritrea) and jurisdiction; the role and jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court in London and techniques for dispute resolution.

Sir Peter Cresswell discussing his lecture with Chief Justice Menkorios Beraki

A lively discussion led by the Chief Justice and numerous questions followed on most of these topics.

A visit to two Community Courts in Asmara was also arranged and Sir Peter was able to observe reserved civil judgments being delivered.



A Community Court in Asmara

Sir Peter also provided lectures to a range of judges and staff from the Ministry of Justice as well as to final year students at the Law College.

Sir Peter discussing with a student at the Law School



Ian Richards, the British Ambassador kindly hosted a reception for the Foundation at the Embassy which was attended by many of the people, judges, officials and others Sir Peter had had met during his visit.



The Foundation is very grateful to the FCO for its funding and hopes this will enable it to continue to build a relationship with the Eritrean judiciary. ☒

Sir Peter Cresswell and Chief Justice Menkorios Beraki (facing)

## Kazakhstan

The Foundation has been invited to present an event during the judicial training programme for 14 Kazakhstani judges and legal representatives taking place between April and September. The Law Society, in partnership with the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, the Astana International Financial Centre (“AIFC”), and City Law School, is organising a judicial training programme which aims to provide Kazakhstani judges with an overview of the English common law system as well as an insight into the legal profession in England and Wales. The programme also aims to contribute towards greater judicial independence and an empowered judiciary by institutionalising the key concepts, practices and principles of English law and the rule of law principles. The Foundation is planning to provide a lecture followed by a drinks reception in July, and we will report more fully in the next E-Bulletin. ☒



## Palestine

As part of its earlier project in Palestine, the Arabic version of the training manual, *Building Human Rights into Practice*, is now available. The manual was written by Jonathan Cooper, on behalf of the Foundation, and the Bristol University Human Rights Centre. It was published with support from EUPOL-COPPS and the Foreign Office. Sir Henry Brooke wrote the introduction and both the English and Arabic versions are now available on the Slyn Foundation website – click [here](#). The Foundation is delighted

that EUPOL-COPPS launched the manual at the Conference of the Palestinian Judicial Institute, earlier this month.

## Russia

The Foundation was contacted by the Russian State University of Justice who are thinking about establishing a training course for English-speaking students who are going to become judges. They will be instructed on the judicial systems of various countries, including UK, and they are interested in inviting retired judges to deliver lectures. Representatives from the University will be visiting London in July and will be meeting with the Foundation to discuss future co-operation. The Foundation was pleased that contact with Russia has been re-established after a gap of some years. ☒

## Please support the Slynn Foundation

Please contact our Executive Administrator, [Ruth Eldon](#), for further information about the Foundation and how you may be able to support us. There is an increasing demand for our work and offers to assist on projects, or financial donations, are very much appreciated. The Foundation is a charitable trust and a non-profit making company limited by guarantee. ☒



Sir Peter outside the Community Courts