



The Slynn Foundation



The Rt Hon
Lord Slynn of Hadley

Friends of The Slynn Foundation

E- Bulletin No 18 March 2019

A letter from the President



I begin with the pleasant task of welcoming Sir Nicholas Blake to the Board of Trustees. Our Trustees are fundamental to the work of the Foundation, both in developing our strategy, and in implementing it, travelling to a wide variety of countries to offer their expertise in what are often challenging environments. Sir Nicholas has already been to Georgia on behalf of the Foundation and this was reported on in the May [E-Bulletin](#). You can read more about the project in Georgia below.

I have the sad task of recording the death on 8 January 2018 of Paul Randolph, who became a Trustee in the early, formative years of the Foundation. He later became an Advisor to the Trustees, and continued his work in mediation training for the Foundation in Albania, Romania and many other countries. His work was always greatly appreciated and he will be much missed.

Current and future activities

As well as our work in Georgia and Eritrea, we have just embarked on a new, three-year project in Tanzania. The first visit has taken place and you can read more below. We continue to receive approaches for assistance and we are currently considering potential work in Myanmar and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as working with the UN-Global Judicial Integrity Programme.

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. These gifts increase the scope of the work we can do.

With warm regards

[The Rt Hon Sir Stanley Burnton](#)

President, The Slynn Foundation, March 2019

A Note from the Executive Director

Following much preparation, the Foundation was pleased to start work on its three year, DfID funded project in Tanzania. The Foundation was delighted that Lord Iain Bonomy agreed to take the judicial lead in this project supported by His Honour Nic Madge on training. With the support of the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sarah Cooke, an initial scoping visit was undertaken in January 2019 by Lord Bonomy, HH Nic Madge and myself (for more information see below). The visit was very successful and we look forward to forming a strong relationship with the Tanzanian judiciary in the coming years.

The Foundation has continued to play an active part in ROLE UK. It has now been confirmed that DfID will fund ROLE UK under the auspices of A4ID for a further three years. As it will no longer be an independent organisation, the current Board will be disbanded. There will be a 'ROLE UK Strategic Forum', which is intended to meet every six months and will be open to all interested stakeholders of the ROLE UK programme including Government and the wider legal profession. It is intended to provide an opportunity for the legal stakeholders to be apprised of the ongoing work of ROLE UK, and to be a forum for views on the direction of the programme. The Foundation looks forward to contributing to this.

Alison Fenney,
Executive Director

Eritrea

Following the completion of the previous project, reported in the [May issue](#), further project funding was explored with a possibility of funding from UNDP and a small amount from the Embassy. An initial bid for £10,000 was submitted and approved.

The Ministry of Justice requested some help with drafting Eritrea's first Investment Code and Clifford Chance has agreed in principle to providing some support. However, recent positive developments in Eritrea, including the Ethiopia/Eritrea border agreement and the removal of UN sanctions, means the Eritrean Government is extremely busy at the moment. The British Embassy in Asmara will keep in touch with the Foundation and confirm when the project can go ahead. ☒

Georgia

In March 2018 in association with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), the Foundation undertook a project (funded by the DfID Good Governance Fund) in Georgia aimed at establishing a commercial court to improve the quality of justice applied to business disputes and international commercial cases.



Tbilisi

Following Sir Nicholas Blake's scoping trip in March 2018, which was reported in the May 2018 [E-Bulletin](#), Sir Jeremy Cooke undertook a further visit in July 2018 where he met with the deputy Justice Minister and the PwC team to plan further visits/work.

Sir Jeremy also undertook a piece of work during the summer on the procedural rules of the Commercial and Tax Chambers of Georgia. Following this, Sir Nicholas Blake prepared a report on the Civil Procedure Code of Georgia and its compatibility with the proposed Georgian Commercial Court.

This is the final activity for this phase of the project and the Foundation will continue to liaise with PwC regarding the next potential phase. 

Tanzania

This project arose out of the meeting between the Chief Justice of Tanzania (CJ), Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma and Sir James Dingemans, Lord Iain Bonomy and Sarah Cooke, British High Commissioner at the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA) Conference in Dar Es Salaam in September 2017.

The UK government has been supporting Tanzania for some time in its fight against corruption. The CJ had identified a number of ways in which he thought British judges could contribute to the programme of reform of the justice system of Tanzania. It was felt that this was a good opportunity for the British judiciary to attempt to support the Tanzanian judiciary in their efforts to reform court procedures to render them more efficient and effective. The programme is funded by DfID and will initially run for three years.

To gain a better understanding of the most pressing issues facing the Tanzanian judiciary, a scoping visit was undertaken in January 2019 by Lord Bonomy, His Honour Nic Madge and the Foundation's Executive Director, Alison Fenney. During this visit, the team met with the CJ and with the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs.



L-R: Chief Justice of Tanzania Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma (CJ), Lord Iain Bonomy (IB), Sarah Cooke British High Commissioner (SC)



L-R: Katarina Revokatt Chief court registrar (KR) IB, CJ, SC, Dr Eliezeh Fereshi, Principal Judge, HH Nic Madge (NM), Alison Fenney (AF) Sean Hilhorst DfID (SH), Elizabeth Mkwizu, Senior deputy registrar

The CJ also arranged a full programme of meetings with key individuals and bodies including the Principal Judge of the High Court, the Chief Court Registrar, the Resident Magistrate of Dar Es Salaam, the Institute of Judicial Administration, the judge of the Corruption and Economic Crime Division of the High Court, the Mediation Centre and the Tanganyika Law Society. The Foundation also met with the World Bank, the US Department of Justice's Resident Legal Advisor and the Legal Services Facility. The High Commissioner hosted a dinner for the Foundation and the CJ, the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs and other senior judicial figures.



Judge Winifreda Beatrice Korosso Corruption and Economic Crimes Division of High Court, SC



Meeting with Professor Palamagamba, Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs



Nic Madge and Iain Bonomy outside the Court of Appeal Dar Es Salaam

The visit was extremely productive and enabled the Foundation to produce a work plan for the next 12 months which will include developing and delivering a training the trainers course, working alongside senior members of the Tanzanian judiciary and working with the Law School. A follow up visit to agree the work plan will take place in March 2019. ☒

Slynn Foundation Open Forum 2019 – China topic

The Foundation is planning an Open Forum on 4 November 2019 on the topic, “China: Should human rights, social credits and the Belt and Road Initiative make the UK’s legal and judicial community more or less enthusiastic to engage?” Speakers are being invited and we will announce further details in due course. 

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. 