

About the conference

Workers have rights – human rights - and attempts to undermine those, whether through the UK's anti trade union laws or the actions of individual employers, are increasingly being challenged through use of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Despite being recognized in international human rights conventions for many years, for example in the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the International Labour Organisation's *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, over the past 30 years the steady creep of anti-trade union legislation in the UK has cumulatively weakened workers' rights and freedoms – both collective and individual.

But, the relative newcomer to international human rights legislation – the European Convention on Human Rights - may be ushering in a new era of trade union success as the Convention is increasingly being used to challenge discriminatory and unfair practices.

It is unlawful for your employer to violate your human rights under the Convention and human rights law has been incorporated into general employment law and applies to all employers.

Our experts will lead you through the maze of Human Rights. Who is covered, and in what circumstances? How can the European Convention be used to challenge anti trade union practice and unfairness at work, including issues such as unfair dismissal, equality and discrimination?

They will also look at the how the European Convention can be used to protect the right to protest and wider public order issues.

Use of the European Convention on Human Rights is a relatively new area of work for the trade union movement, and yet has already succeeded in securing individual and collective rights and improving fairness at work. This conference will further stimulate the debate on the future of employment rights in the context of Human Rights legislation.

Programme

- 9.30 Registration
- 9.50 Welcome from Chair, Carolyn Jones, Director of IER
- 10.00 International developments in Human rights and Corporate Responsibility
David Whyte, University of Liverpool
- 10.30 Unfair dismissal and the Human Rights Act: cases and precedents
Paul Draycott, Doughty Street Chambers
- 11.00 Questions and discussion
- 11:15 BREAK
- 11:30 Industrial Action and Human Rights
John Hendy QC, Old Square Chambers
- 12:00 Latest Themes on Protest Law
Mike Schwartz, Bindmans Solicitors
- 12:30 Q&A
- 12:45 LUNCH
- 1:45 Whistleblowing: a right or a safeguard for the rights of others?
Francesca West, Public Concern at Work
- 2:15 Challenging Discrimination
Catrin Lewis, Garden Court Chambers
- 2:45 Where next for Human Rights?
Professor Keith Ewing, Kings College London
- 3:15 Q&A
- 3:30 Close