

## ***Does the World Need a Treaty on Business and Human Rights? Weighing the Pros and Cons***

Notre Dame London Law Centre, One Suffolk Street, London

14 May 2014, 6 PM to 7.45 PM

The University of Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame's Center for Civil and Human Rights, and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre cordially welcome you to our first annual London human rights speaker series event. Currently the question of a binding instrument on business and human rights is the topic of intense international debate. A proposal at the UN for a Treaty has received the support of over 80 governments and over one hundred regional and international NGOs. At the same time, it has received a high degree of scepticism by many experts, developed country governments, and international business associations.

### **Programme:**

**Welcome:** Notre Dame London Law Programme Director, Professor Geoffrey Bennett

**Chair's Introduction:** Phil Bloomer, Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

**Introduction of Topic:** Professor Doug Cassel, Notre Dame Law School

**Proponent:** Professor Chip Pitts, Stanford Law School

**Commentator:** Professor Sheldon Leader, Essex University

**Sceptic:** Chris Esdaile, Leigh Day

**Commentator:** Professor Nadia Bernaz, Middlesex University

**Reflections:** Professor Michael Addo, UN Working Group on business and human rights

**Questions** from the audience: **Moderator**, Andrea Saldarriaga, Lawyer and Lead, Investment and Human Rights Project, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, London School of Economics

**Closing remarks:** Chip Pitts and Chris Esdaile

### **Post-event reception**

### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order):**

**Michael Addo**, Senior Lecturer, University of Exeter, specializing in business and human rights. Professor Addo is a member of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights. At Exeter he serves as Director of Postgraduate Studies and Director of the LL.M. in International and Comparative Law. His many publications include *Human Rights Standards and the Responsibility of Transnational Corporations* (Kluwer, The Hague, 2000). He has lectured at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and at the Universities of Milan, Padova, Zurich, Connecticut and Paris XI.

**Geoffrey Bennett**, Professor of Law and Director, Notre Dame London Law Programme, since 1995. A barrister since 1975, Professor Bennett has previously taught at the University of Liverpool, the University of Leeds, City University in London, and as a Visiting Professor at the University of Louisville (Kentucky) in the United States. His specialties include criminal procedure and the law of education, among others. He earned his B.A. at Cambridge University.

**Nadia Bernaz**, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, Middlesex University London, and adjunct lecturer, Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Professor Bernaz specializes in public international law, human rights and international criminal law, and specifically in human rights and business. Among her recent publications is *Enhancing Corporate Accountability for Human Rights Violations: Is Extraterritoriality the Magic Potion?* (Journal of Business Ethics, 2012). She blogs [[Rights as Usual](#)] and tweets [[@HRightsBusiness](#)] on issues of human rights and business, corporate liability, and international law. She holds an LLM and a PhD from the University of Aix-Marseilles, a BA from the University of Grenoble, and a Graduate Diploma in English Law from BPP Law School.

**Phil Bloomer**, Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. Phil was selected for this position in 2013, following a comprehensive search by the Centre's Board, upon the retirement of Centre founder Chris Avery. Previously Phil served for 18 years at Oxfam GB, including eight years as Director of its Campaigns and Policy Division. His Division provided support, learning and advice on issues including justice in business supply chains. Among many other Oxfam projects, Phil was Head of Oxfam International's campaign to *Make Trade Fair*. He has served on the boards of the Global Food Security programme, and the Foresight Global Food and Farming Futures High Level Stakeholder Group. Before joining Oxfam, Phil worked for eleven years in Latin America on international economic justice issues, human rights and humanitarian emergencies.

**Doug Cassel**, Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School, United States, specializing in business and human rights. His article, *Corporate Aiding and Abetting of Human Rights Violations: Confusion in the Courts* (2008), was cited by several US courts in ruling that corporations may be sued under the Alien Tort Statute. His forthcoming article in the Notre Dame Law Review is *Suing Americans for Human Rights Torts Overseas: The Supreme Court Leaves the Door Open*. He has taught at the Universities of Oxford (England), Leuven (Belgium), and Alcalá de Henares (Spain). He holds a B.A. in economics from Yale and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Chris Esdaile**, a Solicitor at the London law firm of Leigh Day, specializes in corporate accountability, human rights, and international and group claims. He has worked in South Africa (before the end of apartheid) and Chile on issues of human rights. Fluent in Spanish, he is currently working on a case in English courts brought by a group of Colombian farmers who claim to have had their lands devastated by the construction of an oil pipeline. Chris has previously served on the International Human Rights Committee of the Law Society. He qualified in 1993, and holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from Queen Mary, University of London.

**Sheldon Leader**, Professor, School of Law, and Director, Essex Business and Human Rights Project, University of Essex. Professor Leader's work on this Project includes advice and training on issues involving business and human rights in various parts of the world. He also teaches and lectures at the University of Paris-Ouest and several universities in the US. He is a member of the Advisory to the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales. His numerous academic publications include his chapter on "Risk Management, Project Finance, and Rights Based Development," in his co-edited book, *Global Project Finance, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). Professor Leader is a graduate of Yale and Oxford Universities.

**Chip Pitts**, Lecturer in Law, Stanford Law School, specializing in international business and human rights. Professor Pitts has taught courses on ethical globalization, corporate social responsibility and sustainable development, and international business and human rights, at Stanford, Oxford, and universities in China and Korea. Among other publications, he co-authored the book *Corporate Social Responsibility: A Legal Analysis* (Lexis Nexis 2009). Professor Pitts is a former partner in the global law firm of Baker & McKenzie; former Chief Legal Officer of Nokia, Inc.; former Chair of Amnesty International USA; and former Chair of Fairtrade International, among other affiliations. He did his academic studies at Tulane, Oxford, Cambridge, and Stanford Law School.