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LAW

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFLICT ZONES

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone to Sri Lanka, human rights become endangered during times of crisis and conflict. Effective peacemaking and peacekeeping, accountability and reconciliation are all crucial to the rebuilding of peaceful societies.

Professor Chandra Lekha Sriram, our inaugural Chair in Human Rights and director of the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict at UEL, this year conducted in-depth comparative research in Sri Lanka, Sudan and Columbia, funded by the British Academy, the Nuffield Foundation and the Carnegie Trust. The resulting book, 'Peace as governance? Power sharing, armed groups, and contemporary peace negotiations', is published in May 2008.

A United Nations Development Programme Human Rights Expert and co-chair of the International Studies Association Human Rights Section, Professor Sriram is leading policy-relevant research focused on the relationship between human rights and violent conflict, and protection of human rights and civil liberties in the context of the war on terror. In 2007, the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict was awarded a British Academy research grant to conduct a two-year project on rule of law in African countries emerging from violent conflict. The Centre also currently hosts a Leverhulme Visiting Research Fellow studying security and human rights issues relating to litigation over terrorist "blacklists". ■

Our School of Law is a leader in international law, human rights, and criminology. We offer an innovative range of LLM programmes and the UK's first MSc in Terrorism Studies. The development of pioneering research in terrorism by Professor Andrew Silke and Pete Fussey, further strengthens our position as a leader in the fields of international law, human rights and criminology, and builds on the School's reputation for excellence in developing legal studies in an international and multicultural context.

In March 2007, UEL law students took part in the finals of a Mooting competition held at Stratford

Magistrates Court. The School also organised numerous research seminars with a range of speakers, including Baroness Scotland QC, a UEL Honorary Doctor of Laws who was this year appointed as the first black Attorney General.

In May, leading international experts gathered at UEL to examine the implementation of Islamic law, land and property rights in achieving UN development goals in various countries around the world. The meeting was convened by Dr Hilary Lim and Siraj Sait, who recently published an influential report for UN-HABITAT on land, property and housing rights. ■

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- ◀ Peace-keeping in action, subject of research in our School
- ▼ The Old Bailey, Central Criminal Courts in the City of London

