

CK Daphtary Memorial Lecture 2005

Women's Rights are Human Rights

Speaker

Cherie Booth QC

Guest of Honour

Honourable Mr Justice R C Lahoti, Chief Justice of India



Inns of Court
(India) Society



Honourable Mr Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti



Mr Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti took oath as Chief Justice of India on 1 June 2004. He has been a Judge of the Supreme Court of India since December 1998. Justice Lahoti graduated in Law in 1960 and was enrolled as an advocate in 1962. In April 1977, he joined the State Higher Judicial Services and was appointed as a District and Sessions Judge. However, he resigned in May 1978 and reverted to practice in the High Court.

He was appointed as the Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 1988 and a permanent judge a year later. Justice Lahoti later moved to the Delhi High Court in 1994. After serving as the High Court Judge for four years, Justice Lahoti was appointed Judge, Supreme Court of India. His areas of interest include legal aid, training and continuing education programmes for judges and lawyers and Judicial reforms. Justice Lahoti has headed the Court of Enquiry on the mid-air collision between Saudi Arabian Boeing 747 and Kazakhstan IL-76 at Charkhi Dadri (near Delhi).

He is an advocate of alternative dispute resolution and recently launched the National Legal Literacy Mission to take justice to the grassroots.

Useful websites

Supreme Court of India
<http://supremecourtsofindia.nic.in/>

Law Commission of India
<http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/>

Delhi High Court
<http://delhihighcourt.nic.in/>

Ministry of Law and Justice, India
<http://lawmin.nic.in/>

Delhi Districts Courts
<http://delhidistrictcourts.nic.in/>

Department of Legal Affairs
<http://lawmin.nic.in/Legal.htm>

Indian courts
<http://www.indiancourts.nic.in/>

Department of Justice
<http://mha.nic.in/justi.htm>

National Legal Service Authority
<http://causelists.nic.in/nalsa/banner.htm>

Ms Cherie Booth QC

Cherie Booth QC is a leading Silk specialising in public law, human rights, media and information law, employment law and European Community law. Born on 23 September 1954, she was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1976. In employment and discrimination work, Ms Booth acts for applicants and respondents in both individual and collective disputes. In public law she has a strong practice advising local authorities and other public bodies, as well as acting for individuals and commercial organisations who wish to challenge decision of these bodies in the Courts. She also lectures widely on human rights. She has appeared in the European Court of Justice and in Commonwealth jurisdictions, and sits as an international arbitrator. She became the Queen's Counsel in 1995. Ms Booth is a founder member of Matrix Chambers.



Ms Booth is also involved in several public and charity organisations. She is the President of Barnardo's – UK's largest children's charity, Patron of Breast Cancer Care and Patron CLIC-Sargent (cancer care for children). She is President of the Loomba Trust through which she recently launched the International Widows Day on 23 June 2005. Ms Booth is also the Vice President of Kids Club Network and Vice President of Family Mediators Association, a charity that trains and supports family mediators who work with couples to look at their options relating to the children, property and financial matters. She is also Patron of many charities such as Home Start, Victim Support London, SCOPE and Refuge – a national charity for women and children experiencing domestic violence and also a trustee of Citizenship Foundation which aims to empower individuals to engage in the wider community through education about the law, democracy and society.

Ms Booth enjoys spending time with her four children. Her recreations include the arts, reading, theatre and keeping fit.

Useful links

Matrix Chambers
www.matrixlaw.co.uk

Breast Cancer Care
www.breastcancercare.org.uk

Barnardo's – UK's largest children's charity
www.barnardos.org.uk

CLIC-Sargent
www.clicsargent.org.uk

Family Mediators Association
www.fmassoc.co.uk

The Loomba Trust
www.theloombatrust.org

Refuge
www.refuge.org.uk

Home Start
www.home-start.org.uk

Citizenship Foundation
www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk

Victim Support London
www.vslondon.org

SCOPE
www.scope.org.uk

C K Daphtary

Chandra Kishan Daphtary was born in 1893. He was educated at an English public school, St Paul's and thereafter read classics at Magdalene College, Cambridge. After graduating with a first class, he was called to the Bar from Lincoln's Inn in January 1917.

He practiced at the Bombay Bar and became Advocate General of the State of Bombay in April 1945. He was appointed as the first Solicitor General of India in 1951. He became the leader of the Bar as the Attorney General for India in 1963, an office which he held until 1968. He had appeared in many courts throughout India, and also in international tribunals.

Mr Daphtary was the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association for four terms between 1963 and 1977 and President of the Bar Association of India. After he demitted office as Attorney General, he was nominated by the President as a Member of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), the Upper House of the Indian Parliament. He was also awarded the second highest civilian honour of the Government of India, known as Padma Vibhushan in recognition of his services to the nation.

From the Full Court Reference, in memory of Mr CK Daphtary, February 1983

By the (then) Honourable Chief Justice of India

...he hardly had any equal at the Bar for persuasive reasoning, and for presenting a case by appealing to the common sense of the Judge...His methods were straight and simple ... His most formidable weapon was his air of reasonableness and his mastery over words which he used for making his point ... He did not challenge. He charmed. And his opponents were not called upon to yield; often the opposition dissolved.

By the (then) Attorney General of India

Apart from purely legal issues, he also kept the moral issues in any litigation in the forefront...His advocacy was superb. He knew exactly what to say and when to say and even more what not to say.

By the (then) President of the Supreme Court Bar Association

He was quick to appreciate junior members of the Bar whether they appeared with him or on the opposite side...He was always ready to concede if he found a point unarguable... he was not egocentric, he would never belittle anyone...He liked life, he liked people.

The Daphtary Memorial lectures have been delivered by eminent personalities and have covered a wide range of topics such as 'The Bench and the Bar', 'Public Interest Litigation', 'Right to Information' and 'Role of Advocates in a Democracy', to name a few. The British Council has collaborated with the Inns of Court (India) Society in the past. Lectures jointly organized by the Inns of Court (India) Society and the British Council are: 'Reason and Criminal Responsibility' by Professor LH Leigh and 'Human Rights Jurisprudence - India and UK' by Justice Sujata Manohar.

The 2005 Daphtary Memorial Lecture 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' by Ms Cherie Booth QC will be available on the British Council website www.britishcouncil.org.in/rights

Inns of Court, UK

There are 4 Inns of Court – Lincoln’s Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple and Gray’s Inn – all based in the same corner of London. Law students must join an Inn before they commence the vocational stage of a barrister’s training. The Inns provide collegiate activities, support for a barristers and student members, advocacy training and other continuing professional development opportunities. Above all, the Inns provide a great deal of valuable financial assistance for the various stages of becoming a barrister.

The Inns provide the mechanism by which people become barristers, known as ‘Call to the Bar’. Students are eligible to be called on completion of the Bar Vocational Course (BVC). Before they can be called to the Bar, they must attend 12 qualifying sessions at their Inn, which consist of collegiate or educational activities (often combined with dinners) in the form of lectures, residential courses, moots or debates and which give students the opportunity to meet with practising barristers. Special Education Days are held for those studying the BVC outside London. However, Call to the Bar does not entitle a student to practise as a barrister. In order to do that they must have completed pupillage at either the self-employed or employed Bar.

Each Inn runs advocacy training courses for their pupils. These vary in format and length and combine advocacy training with lectures on particular areas of law or forensic skills. Additionally, each Inn has student societies and supports involvement in debating activities which range from internal events to inter-Inn, national and international competitions.

Lincoln’s Inn
www.lincolnsinn.org.uk

Inner Temple
www.innertemple.org.uk

Middle Temple
www.middletemple.org.uk

Gray’s Inn
www.graysinn.org.uk

Inns of Court (India) Society

The Inns of Court (India) Society was formed in the 1970s and the Founder Member was the late CK Daphtary in whose honour the CK Daphtary Memorial lecture is being held. Mr Daphtary was called to the Bar from Lincoln’s Inn, London in January 1917. The first Honorary President was the late Dr Justice Hidayatulla followed by the late Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of India was also the President of the Society. Mr Nagendra Singh of ICJ was also the President d’ Honneur. The current President d’ Honneur is Honourable Justice AS Anand, Chair of the National Human Rights Commission and former Chief Justice of India.

The Inns of Court (India) is an association of members who qualified from the four Inns of Court in London and who now live and work in India. Its aims and objectives are to build greater co-operation between the Inns at London and the society to promote respect for the rule of law and democracy, to promote legal literacy and to provide legal aid to the deserving. In this context to hold seminars and discussions.

Association of British Scholars

www.abs-india.org

The Association of British Scholars India, ABS India, is the umbrella organisation for individual ABS Chapters. Its member chapters are alumni associations whose members are Indians who have had education or training in the UK. Thus ABS India is a national forum as well as a single point of reference for any information on UK alumni in India. Currently, there are 22 ABS regional chapters in India. ABS India's primary objective is to act as a catalyst for encouraging member chapters to pool their resources and work in partnership to strengthen the Indo-UK relationship. It encourages professional networking, sharing of information as well as the organisation of social, cultural, professional and educational events.

ABS offers opportunities for working together for social change for those who have studied or trained in the UK.

British Council

www.britishcouncil.org.in/rights

The British Council is the United Kingdom's leading cultural relations organisation and India is our largest operation worldwide. In India, we operate as a division of the British High Commission and have offices in the four main metros as well as a network of 11 libraries. Through our centres and programmes we promote the diversity and creativity of British society and culture.

The Governance and social justice unit of the British Council works in the areas of Participative Democracy, Law and Human Rights, Gender Equality and Diversity, and Management and Economic Reforms. We adopt a partnership approach to our work. Specifically in the area of law and human rights, we have worked in the area of Gender and Law, organised Judicial colloquiums on Juvenile justice, Advocacy training for lawyers and visits by distinguished legal personalities from UK such as Lord Justice Robin Auld and Lord Justice David Keene.

British High Commission, India

www.ukinindia.com

Department for International Development, India

www.dfid.gov.uk

Useful websites

The International Women's Rights
Action Watch
<http://www.iwraw.igc.org>

Human Rights Watch
<http://hrw.org/women>

International Women's Rights Action
Watch Asia Pacific
<http://www.iwraw-ap.org>

Women's Link Worldwide
<http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/>

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and
Development
<http://www.apwld.org/>

Equality Now
<http://www.equalitynow.org/>

Women's Human Rights Net
<http://www.whrnet.org/index.php>

Stop Violence Against Women
[http://www.stopvaw.org/
About_the_Site.html](http://www.stopvaw.org/About_the_Site.html)

Equal Opportunities Commission, Britain
<http://www.eoc.org.uk>

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
[http://www.equalityni.org/aboutus/
index.htm](http://www.equalityni.org/aboutus/index.htm)

Women and Equality Unit
[http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.
uk/](http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/)

Women's National Commission
[http://www.thewnc.org.uk/about_us/
index.html](http://www.thewnc.org.uk/about_us/index.html)

The Division for the Advancement of
Women
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/daw

The Commission on the Status of Women
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw

Women's Aid Federation
www.womensaid.org.uk

Refuge
www.refuge.org.uk

Rape Crisis Federation
www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Truth About Rape Campaign
www.truthaboutrape.co.uk

Justice for Women
<http://www.jfw.org.uk/>

Zero Tolerance
[http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/
index.htm](http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/index.htm)

Southall Black Sisters
<http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk/>

Black women's rape action and women
against rape
<http://www.womenagainstrape.net/>

Northern Ireland Women's Aid
<http://www.niwaf.org/Default.htm>

Amnesty International UK
<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/svaw/>

For more information please contact

British Council

17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110 001

T + 91(0) 11 51497 274

F + 91(0) 11 2-3710717

Neeti Malhotra

neeti.malhotra@in.britishcouncil.org

Kalpana Das

kalpana.das@in.britishcouncil.org

Inns of Court (India) Society

Ashok Desai

President, Inns of Court (India) Society

Anjali Varma

Secretary, Inns of Court (India) Society

anjalya@vsnl.net

Association of British Scholars

Vipan Chopra

President, Association of British Scholars, Delhi Chapter

vipan Chopra@yahoo.com

Shubra Dey

General Secretary, Association of British Scholars, Delhi Chapter

deyshubhra@hotmail.com