



Zehrah Hasan

YEAR OF CALL: 2016



Zehrah became a Garden Court Chambers tenant in October 2020 and intends to build a practice in public, human rights, immigration and asylum law – with a particular interest in representing survivors of gender-based violence, trafficking and exploitation.

She joined Garden Court as a pupil under the supervision of Grace Brown (first six) and Keir Monteith QC (second six).

Zehrah has previously worked at a number of non-profit organisations, including Liberty and Southall Black Sisters. She also currently sits on the Executive Committee of the Human Rights' Lawyers Association.

Zehrah was very professional in dealing with my hearing. She communicated with me in advance of the hearing and was very helpful. She addressed my concerns to the judge. She got to the point of everything we discussed and was very responsive in all her communications with me, explaining everything clearly. I was very happy and grateful to receive help from her and I really do recommend Zehrah Hasan. A very articulate, knowledgeable and helpful barrister.

NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE CLIENT, 2020

If you would like to get in touch with Zehrah please contact the clerking team:

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You can also contact Zehrah directly:

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BACKGROUND

Prior to pupillage, Zehrah worked on the Policy and Campaigns team at human rights advocacy group – Liberty. There she led parliamentary and public-facing interventions on issues including domestic abuse, abortion rights and LGBTQIA+ equality. She also worked on campaigns challenging immigration detention, the Government’s ‘hostile environment’ policies, and police use of surveillance technologies.

Zehrah spearheaded Liberty’s policy and advocacy work to secure legal protections for migrant survivors of domestic abuse, as part of the Step Up Migrant Women coalition. Owing to her in-depth knowledge in this area, she gave oral evidence in Parliament as an expert witness to the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill, briefed the Joint Committee on Human Rights, and drafted submissions for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

In addition, she worked on campaign strategies and briefed parliamentarians on abortion rights in Northern Ireland, reforms to the Gender Recognition Act 2004, and ending indefinite immigration detention. She was also the UK focal point for the Religious Freedoms and Equal Treatment group of the International Network for Civil Liberties Organisations.

Zehrah previously specialised in assisting migrant and black, Asian and minoritised ethnic (BAME) survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. As Legal, Policy and Campaigns Officer at Southall Black Sisters, she managed complex casework and strategic litigation for vulnerable clients and worked with the Director on the organisation’s legal intervention in *HM Chief Inspector of Education, Children’s Services and Skills v The Interim Executive Board of Al-Hijrah School* [2017] EWCA Civ 1426 – where they successfully challenged gender segregation in co-educational faith schools.

Prior to this, she worked as part of the legal team at the London Black Women’s Project, advising women of

their rights and options when fleeing domestic abuse. This included providing legal and practical advice to clients on housing, immigration, family and welfare benefits law.

Recently, Zehrah has been awarded [The Atkin Senior Scholarship](#) and [The Ann Felicity Goddard Scholarship](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Liberty (Blog): [UN Poverty Report: Five Ways the UK Can Clean Up Its Human Rights Record](#) (May 2019)

Huffington Post: [The Domestic Abuse Bill Fails Migrant and BAME Women](#) (March 2019)

Liberty (Blog): [Liberty's Christmas Wishlist](#) (December 2018)

Gal Dem: [The UK's Gender Recognition Act needs reforming: let's act now](#) (October 2018)

Unlocking Detention: [How to: Help indefinite detention](#) (October 2018)

Liberty (Blog): [New Domestic Abuse Laws Cannot Become A Missed Opportunity](#) (October 2018)

Liberty (Blog): [Safety, Security And Support - Transforming The Response To Domestic Abuse](#) (June 2018)

Guardian (Interview): [Lewis Ewu: 'Every single person has a unique, inherent worth'](#) (April 2016)

Guardian: ['I've seen how debating skills win the argument for rehabilitation in jail'](#) (August 2015)

Institute of Art & Law: [Rauschenberg Trustees await verdict on \\$60 million claim](#) (August 2014)

Institute of Art & Law: [Power struggle between Coram and Foundling Museum ends in settlement](#) (August 2014)

The Justice Gap: [GCHQ legal challenge: 'You can't use national security as trump card'](#) (October 2013)

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

2019

Chair- 'A Representative Legal Profession', Human Rights Lawyers' Association, Goldsmiths, University of London

Chair- 'Gender Recognition and Human Rights – Reforms to the Gender Recognition Act 2004', Human Rights Lawyers' Association, Garden Court Chambers

Panellist- 'Abortion Rights in the UK', INCLO, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Lawyers for Choice and University of Birmingham, Dublin

Chair- 'Equality, Dignity and Safety – migrant women and the Domestic Abuse Bill', Human Rights Lawyers' Association, 11 King's Bench Walk

Panellist- 'Campaigning to End Indefinite Detention', Young Lawyers Making Change, Public Law Project, the

Legal Education Foundation and Young Legal Aid Lawyers, BPP Waterloo

Panellist- 'No Recourse, No Safety', Raising Women's Voices, House of Lords

Panellist- 'The draft Domestic Abuse Bill – ensuring it works for all', APPG on Domestic Violence and Abuse, House of Commons

2018

Panellist- 'The Hostile Environment for migrants – how is it affecting our communities?', Barnfield Education Project, Greenwich Diversity Conference

Panellist- 'Challenging Indefinite Immigration Detention', Deport Deprive Extradite, Rich Mix

Panellist- 'State Violence and Our Communities – Dismantling the Hostile Environment', NUS Black Students' Conference, Bradford

AWARDS

The Atkin Senior Scholarship (2020)

The Ann Felicity Goddard Scholarship (2020)

HRLA Bursary Award, Human Rights Lawyers' Association (2016)

Overseas Internship Scholarship, the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn (2016)

Treasurer's Award, the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn (2016)

Residential Scholarship, the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn (2015-2016)

Richard Yorke Scholarship, the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn (2015)

Vocalise Award, the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn (2015)

CPE Award, the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn (2014)

PRO BONO WORK

In 2016, Zehrah completed an internship with the Women's Legal Centre in Cape Town, South Africa – which was funded by scholarships from the Human Rights Lawyers' Association and Gray's Inn. There she worked on the Centre's 'health and human rights' stream, for which she drafted submissions on HIV discrimination for the Kenyan High Court, an amicus curiae brief on trans prisoners' rights for the South African Equality Court, and led an investigation with the Commission for Gender Equality on coerced sterilisations. She also helped grassroots advocates give legal advice to sex workers across Cape Town.

Alongside studying, Zehrah spent a year as Director of Vocalise – a student-led initiative that runs debating programmes in prisons - where she worked with both adult and youth offenders in over 5 prisons in and near London. She also volunteered with the Migrants' Law Project, assisting with their judicial reviews, and worked as a Legal Assistant for the late Professor Norman Palmer QC CBE - on art, cultural heritage and international human rights law.

EDUCATION

City Law School, Bar Professional Training Course

City University London, Graduate Diploma in Law

University College London, BA (Hons) History

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Liberty

Human Rights Lawyers' Association

Immigration Lawyers Practitioners Association

Society of Asian Lawyers

LANGUAGES

French

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