



University of  
Central Lancashire  
UCLan Cyprus



British  
High Commission  
Nicosia

Facilitator:



Knowledge partner:



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ONLINE TRAINING

# Strategic litigation in the field of human trafficking

This online training is part of a series of free Continuing Professional Development (CPD) online and in person trainings organised by the School of Law of the Cyprus Campus of the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan Cyprus) in the framework of the '**Smuggling and Human Trafficking across the Green Line**' project supported by the British High Commission in Nicosia.

**Date** Monday 13 December 2021 | **Time** 14:30-16:30 Cyprus time (i.e. 12:30-14:30 UK time)

**Venue** Online via Microsoft Teams (*Details will follow after registration*)

## The general aims of the series

The project's overall objective is to examine, detect, and understand the criminal activities of smuggling and trafficking goods and persons across the UN-controlled buffer zone, also known as "Green Line". The idea is to enhance the sustainability of the island in an intercommunal, national and international setting by increasing awareness as to how lives and interests at stake are endangered by various illegal activities, particularly smuggling of illicit goods, smuggling of persons and human trafficking. An ancillary objective is to enhance the ethical literacy, performance effectiveness of those in NGOs, law enforcement, legal and justice sectors who engage in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal activities across the Green Line. It is thus a capacity building project that aims at educating and spreading awareness to a variety of individuals ranging from students to frontline workers, experts, young people and the general public through a two-way transfer of knowledge (facilitated by ICLAIM).

The team's aim is (i) to expand the knowledge and the applicability of the law combating smuggling and trafficking of goods and persons; (ii) to promote awareness and provide training to frontline workers, law and order professionals, NGOs, students, the general public and other stakeholders. In doing so, we aspire to create a pool of confident practitioners and/or researchers that can recommend, apply and inform their communities about the dangers and the extent of perceived/reported criminality. We also aspire to promote awareness through specialised trainings, focus groups and other activities. Support will be sought from EU institutions and international organisations locally present including UNDP and UNFICYP, Embassies, the SBA Administration, the relevant services of the Republic of Cyprus, and NGOs on the ground across the divide facilitated by Step Up Stop Slavery.

## The specific aims of the online training

This Training rests on two inter-twined premises. One is to examine, detect and understand criminal activities across the Green Line culminating in the trafficking of human beings. The second is that, in

common with other states, the Republic of Cyprus requires a profound change in culture so that much greater emphasis is placed on both the capacity building and the promotion of awareness of smuggling and human trafficking as a modern phenomenon of modern slavery with grave socio-legal implications for society as a whole.

Against this backdrop, the Training will address a number of questions, notably the following as applied to Cyprus:

- What are the fundamental considerations in using litigation for societal change- defining objectives, and formulating strategies?
- How can we use international, regional and domestic fora of litigation?
- What is the importance of evidence, and evidence gathering, in strategic litigation?

**CPD HOURS 2**

## PROGRAMME

**15:00-15:20** Introduction and Opening remarks

**Prof. Stéphanie Laulhé Shaelou**, Head of the School of Law, UCLan Cyprus and Professor in European Law and Reform, School of Law, UCLan Cyprus

<https://www.uclan.ac.cy/academic/dr-laulhe-shaelou-stephanie/>

**15:20-16:35 Presentations by the Keynote Speakers**

**15:20-15:45** Speaker 1: **Catherine Meredith**

How can litigation be used to achieve outcomes beyond securing justice to the affected individual? What role can litigation play within a wider strategy for change? What conditions are required to ensure that litigation can have wider impact? How can litigation help to combat the problem of human trafficking and smuggling on the island of Cyprus? Catherine will explore these and other fundamental questions, the answers to which will help attendees understand the potential role for litigation as a tool for fighting combating human trafficking and smuggling.

*Catherine is a barrister practising at Doughty Street Chambers in London. She is the head of the Anti-Trafficking team and is recognised as a leading expert in human rights and anti-trafficking. She was involved in the recent landmark case in Strasbourg of VCL v United Kingdom. Her chambers profile is accessible [here](#).*

**15:45-16:10** Speaker 2: **Anthony Vaughan**

Anthony will then look more closely at some of the key international and regional tribunals and institutions which each provide a forum for ventilating individual and systemic complaints. Anthony will look at the jurisdiction, powers and relative benefits, in the present context, of the European Court of Human Rights, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and petitions to the UN Human Rights Council.

*Anthony is a barrister practising at Doughty Street Chambers in London in public law and human rights. He has been involved in a number of systemic challenges to the lawfulness of UK's processes for handling victims of trafficking and asylum seekers. His chambers profile is accessible [here](#).*

## **16:10-16:35** Speaker 3: **Gráinne Mellon**

Gráinne will move on to address the role of evidence, and evidence gathering, in litigation targeting systemic problems; the relationship between evidence and the legal grounds of challenge; and common issues that can arise in practice. Gráinne will address these themes in the context of the previous two speakers' presentations; and with reference to decided cases, including those in which she has been involved.

*Gráinne is a barrister practising at Garden Court Chambers in London. She is also Co-Vice Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales. She has acted in a number of strategic challenges, including a challenge to the processing of asylum claims within an expedited detained environment. Her chambers profile is accessible [here](#).*

## **16:35-17:00 Q&A Session**

We welcome a discussion on applying our presentations to the particular challenges faced by those working on the ground in Cyprus to combat human trafficking and smuggling.

### **Target Audience**

This CPD Training is free and open to the general public, subject to prior registration. However, it is primarily aimed at civil servants, judges, other public servants, members of the legal profession, trainee lawyers, law students and journalists in the Republic of Cyprus, the UK and other parts of the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and the wider world. The Training may also be of interest to others, including police officers, other law enforcement personnel and students from disciplines other than law, such as business studies and political science. The Training will be pitched at an intermediate level.

### **Certification of Attendance for CPD purposes**

Participation may contribute to the CPD of members of the legal profession in England and Wales, the Republic of Cyprus and internationally. UCLan Cyprus, through its School of Law, is an accredited provider of CPD programmes under the relevant Cyprus Bar Association scheme. At the end of the Training, the participation of lawyers practising in the Republic of Cyprus will be certified in accordance with the CPD requirements of the Cyprus Bar Association. For the participation of any lawyer to be certified in this way, he or she must attend the whole of the Training. Within a few working days of the Training, other participants will receive, by email, an electronic Certificate of Participation.

### **Language** English

**Organiser** School of Law, UCLan Cyprus, 12-14 University Avenue, Pyla, Larnaka District 7080 ([www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/](http://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/))

**Registration** Admission is free, but registration is essential. To register to attend the Training, please click [here](#) and return the consent form to [lawacademy@uclancyprus.ac.cy](mailto:lawacademy@uclancyprus.ac.cy) (Telephone: +357 24694097). The running of the Training is subject to a satisfactory number of participants booking their place as soon as reasonably possible. Accordingly, participants who wish to attend are kindly requested to book their places promptly and, in any event, not later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time.

**Notice** Each Training in this CPD Series will be recorded and disseminated publicly subject to the Policies of UCLan Cyprus, including its Privacy and GDPR Policy (<https://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy/data-protection-policy/>). Consent from participants will be sought. Recordings and any related materials will be published on the project's website (under construction). In each Training, each speaker and other participant will take part for educational purposes in an educational setting. Accordingly, what each participant will provide verbally, electronically or otherwise must not be accepted or interpreted as either legal advice or any other form of advice.