

Graduate Women New Zealand Charitable Trust Progress Report

Philippa Moran



I commenced study at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in September 2019, undertaking a Masters of Laws with a specialism in Human Rights Law.

The calibre of the teaching staff and the breadth of courses offered by the LSE has been outstanding. I have found it invigorating to study in the heart of London's legal district with the Royal Court of Justice and various Inns of Court located nearby. During Michaelmas Term I studied papers in Freedom of Speech, Media and the Law; Foundations of International

Human Rights Law; European Human Rights Law and Cultural Property and Heritage Law. Through these papers I have gained a deeper understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of human rights law, the development of rights jurisprudence in the international context (particularly Europe), and the politicisation of rights issues which can lead to shortcomings in the full realisation of rights. I found the study of food security particularly pertinent to rights implementation in the wake of national disaster.

During Lent Term I am studying papers in United Kingdom Human Rights Law; Comparative Constitutional Rights; and Terrorism and the Rule of Law. I have found it interesting to explore the impact of European Court of Human Rights' jurisprudence on the implementation of rights in the United Kingdom, particularly in the ever-changing political climate. The comparative examination of the treatment of controversial rights issues including abortion, euthanasia, religious freedom and hate speech by various national courts has also been fascinating. In May and June we prepare and undertake exams and then write our dissertations which are due in August. I have requested Professor Conor Gearty as my supervisor, to examine the potential infringement of civil liberties of protestors who advocate opinions which are seemingly nonconformant to liberal democratic views.



I have found the social element of the LSE greatly rewarding, meeting students and academics from varied cultural and legal backgrounds. Before Lent Term commenced in January 2020, I participated in the LSE Law Department's weekend at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor. This was an invaluable opportunity to meet with members of the faculty and attend a series of informal lectures including on the LSE's tradition of Public Law research and whether there exist right answers to moral questions. In February 2020 I joined the Department's weekend trip to Liverpool learning about the city's unique cultural and historical significance.

In October 2019 I was appointed an Officer with the Corporate-Careers Division of the LSE Student Union's United Nations Society (UNSOC). Through UNSOC I assist in organising events including several speaking panels where former United Nations interns provide useful guidance for future graduates seeking to attain these positions. I am leading the organisation of UNSOC's mentoring programme, where 22 professionals working in the fields of human rights law, international relations, public policy, journalism, charity and academia have been paired with student mentees to share their real-world expertise at a series of events and work experience opportunities throughout February and March 2020.

Currently the challenges presented by Covid-19 are disrupting the ability to study and take exams on-site. I have been especially appreciative of your support in this changing environment.

