

<p>Institution: University of the West of England</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA21 – Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Since 2008, the Politics and International Studies Unit of Assessment at UWE has been located in the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy (2008-10), the Department of History, Philosophy and Politics (2010-11), and now the Department of Arts (2012-13). Throughout these different phases, it has remained a relatively autonomous and coherent group, with an unusual high of 14 FTE staff in 2009, to 8 FTE from January 2013 onward.</p> <p>All of the Politics Unit's members are research-active, and all actively participate in its research culture. While the research interests of members of the Unit are diverse, each individual is linked in various ways to others with whom they share common research interests. Several research groups have provided the principal means of achieving this: the Human Rights Unit [HRU] was active from 2008 to 2011; it was succeeded by the International Security and Human Rights Research Group [ISHRG] from 2012 to date; in addition, the Peace and Conflict Research Group [PCRG] was active from 2010 to the end of 2012. Members of the Unit have been highly active in these groups, which taken together have helped to ensure that the Unit's research environment has remained lively and vibrant, and has maintained a critical mass.</p> <p>A number of members of the Politics Unit are also active in other research groupings in the University, including the International Law and Human Rights Unit, the Centre for Legal Research (both in the Law School), the Centre for Understanding Social Practices, and the University's Institute for Sustainability, Health and Environment.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p><i>Vision for research 2008-14.</i> Since 2008, the Politics Unit's vision has been to engage in excellent research, which where appropriate is strongly linked to knowledge exchange, partnership and public engagement, in order to make a positive difference to society.</p> <p><i>Research strategy.</i> The Unit's research strategy during the REF period has been designed to guide the realization of this vision. To do so, it specifies four main aims: (1) to consolidate and further develop selected areas of research excellence; (2) to consolidate and further develop a range of knowledge exchange, partnership and public engagement activities; (3) to maintain a research environment in which the aims and objectives of this strategy can be successfully pursued; and (4) to increase the number and quality of applications for research funding (see section [d]).</p> <p><i>Selectivity of funding.</i> The first aim, which specifies that there will be focus on 'selected areas', has led <i>inter alia</i> to the introduction of criteria for determining the distribution of the available funds for research support which has concentrated on those individuals who, in the early phase of the REF period, could be expected to produce high-quality research outputs and who, in the later phase of this same period, could be expected significantly to enhance the quality of their outputs. In this way, decisions have been taken in order to maximise the positive effects of the resources available to the Unit.</p> <p><i>New areas and new opportunities.</i> The Politics Unit's commitment to the further development of selected areas of research has also enabled it to focus on increasingly important areas. In particular, the Unit's focus on human security has been enhanced by the appointment of Abzhaparova in 2011 and Cole in 2013. These two additions have strengthened the vitality and sustainability of this area of the Unit's research. In addition, as the USA's status as the only super-power has come under increasing challenge, the Unit has responded with the appointment of McGlinchey, an expert on US foreign policy, in 2012.</p> <p><i>Research groups as drivers of strategy.</i> Over the REF period, the three research groups noted above have been vitally important means of achieving the Unit's strategic aims. This is amply evidenced by consideration of just some of the key achievements of these groups:</p> <p><i>HRU/ ISHRG.</i> The chief aim of ISHRG is to bring together staff working in the areas of international security, human rights and cognate areas for the purpose of intensifying collaboration between them. The group meets each term to discuss shared research interests and identify a set of activities to be developed. There is also an annual programme of research events – including</p>

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seminars and workshops.

The HRU's highlights include: a networking event on 'Human Rights and Migration', which received €16,000 funding from the European Science Foundation (2008); a dissemination event on 'Trafficking for Forced Labour: what can Bristol do?', which received €4,000 from the European Science Foundation (2009); and the 'Bristol Counter Trafficking Coalition', which received £4,500 funding from HEFCE (2010). There have also been annual events to celebrate Human Rights Day; and training has been provided for 200 Bristol City Council trainers, cascading to 16,000 employees, on trafficking in persons. Its successor, ISHRG, continues to organize a range of research events, including an important workshop on 'The Recognition of New States', planned for 2014.

PCRG. From 2010 until the end of 2012, the PCRG brought together researchers from the social sciences, humanities, law, business, science and technology. The Group's principal aims were to promote innovation and collaboration across disciplines, as well as to encourage cooperation with other bodies both within UWE and further afield in the area of peace and conflict studies. While concerned primarily with research, it embraced public engagement, teaching informed by research, and external partnerships. Through cross-disciplinary networking and advising, it also facilitated bidding for external funds. The work of this Group has continued under the aegis of the ISHRG.

The highlights of the PCRG's activities include: a workshop on 'Peace-building from an Interdisciplinary Perspective', including discussants from the International NGO Training and Resource Centre and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Issues (2011); an agenda-setting meeting on 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (2011); an event on 'Cyprus, Peace-building and Reconciliation' presenting findings and observations by UWE researchers based on their EU/EuropeAid project 'Reconciliation and Peace Economics in Cyprus' (2012); and a workshop, co-organized with UWE's Centre for Legal Research, on 'Youth Gangs and Child Soldiers' (2012).

Progress on strategic objectives. Evidence that considerable progress has been made on the Unit's research objectives can be seen in particular in the excellent quality of the research outputs in REF2. Concentration of available funds on fewer individuals has enabled these individuals to produce high-quality outputs and grant proposals. One example of the quality of funding applications is Flynn's award of €213K, from European Commission/EuropeAid as Principal Investigator for a project on 'Reconciliation and Peace Economics in Cyprus' (2010/11). An example of how research has enriched knowledge exchange is the founding of the Migrant Rights Centre, Bristol by **van den Anker** in 2010 (migrantrightscentre.org.uk).

Monitoring of progress. The monitoring of progress on the objectives of the research strategy is achieved in a number of ways. First, all members of the Unit in receipt of research funding are rigorously monitored. They are interviewed halfway through the academic year in which they have received support in order to check on their progress, and they must then submit a report at the end of that year summing up their progress against their objectives. The opportunity to secure further funding is heavily dependent on success in previous periods. Second, at regular meetings (at least one per term), all members of the Unit have an opportunity to collectively discuss research matters, including progress made on the implementation of the research strategy. Third, reports of the Department's research activities are presented for scrutiny and debate at every meeting of the Faculty's Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee, on which **Thompson** has served.

Vision for research 2014-20. A rigorous review of its research strategy, aims and achievements will be conducted after the REF. By 2020, the aim is for the Politics Unit to be an agile, lively and sustainable research group, one that makes the most of its connections throughout the University and beyond, and one that concentrates (although not exclusively) on research which has considerable potential for impact in a number of areas and at a variety of levels.

Changes in internal environment. It is likely that the Unit will remain at around 8 FTE members for the five years following the current REF period. At the same time, there will inevitably be one or two departures and arrivals, and this will provide opportunities for recruiting staff able to strengthen existing areas of expertise or to offer expertise in new areas where significant opportunities for external funding may exist.

Changes in external environment. The Unit's research strategy will also be shaped in part by likely changes in the external environment. At the University level, UWE's increasingly strong focus on

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'research with impact' will be of considerable significance. At the national level, the likely increase in significance of the impact criterion in the next REF will also be an important influence on future strategy. That a good number of members of the Unit already engage in research with clear impact has been demonstrated in REF3. Alongside these changes, new opportunities will also be carefully monitored in order to identify funding bodies whose strategic priorities are aligned with those of the Unit. In section (e) below, it is shown that members of the Unit already engage in extensive collaboration at both national and international levels. Further development of these relationships will be vital in order to produce high-quality research outputs and to continue to secure external research income to underpin this.

ISHRG. The International Security and Human Rights Research Group will be at the heart of the Unit's research activities, since it brings together a number of members of the Unit around a set of coherent themes. In particular, the relationship between security and rights will be an important focus for the Group's research. **Van den Anker's** continuing work in this area, and **Cole's** expertise in migration policy, will be important in this regard. A key goal for the Group will be to obtain significant external funding to support its activities, for example funding from the ESRC's Research Seminars programme and the European Science Foundation's Exploratory Workshops and Research Networking Programme, which would facilitate collaboration between the Group and European partners.

Other areas of research. At the same time, it is recognized that the research interests of a number of other members of the Unit sit outside the remit of ISHRG. In their case, an important objective will be to enable the forging of important links to other research groups and centres in the University, and to support individuals' efforts to obtain resources for their research as effectively as possible, with the help of the Unit leader and the University's Research, Business and Innovation [RBI] unit. It is anticipated that a growing public profile for ISHRG, and the growing reputation of UWE's Graduate School, will provide an attractive environment for postgraduate researchers which will further enrich and enliven the research environment of the Unit.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staff changes over the audit period. A number of members of staff have moved within UWE or left the University since 2008. **Harrison** became an Associate Dean of the Faculty (but remains research active), **Hoggett** has taken up a significant role in the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences. Others have moved to prestigious posts elsewhere, including: **Lock** (to Victoria University, Melbourne), **Pattison** (to Manchester University), **Christopoulos** (to MODUL University, Vienna), **Flynn** (to set up a private consultancy) and **Startin** (to Bath University). New members of staff have been recruited specifically to complement and extend the Unit's current research and research-related activities. **Abzhaparova**, who took up her post in January 2011, studied for her PhD at Bristol University. **McGlinchey** took up the post of Senior Lecturer in January 2013, with a PhD from Cardiff University. Both new appointments qualify as early career researchers. Most recently, **Cole** was appointed in September 2013. Overall staff changes have significantly enhanced the vitality and sustainability of the Unit over the REF period.

Relationship between staffing strategy and research strategy. Research is an essential criterion for recruitment in the Politics Unit, conceived both specifically in terms of quality and depth of publications, but also more generally in terms of experience of or potential for the development of knowledge exchange activities, and the ability or potential to secure external funding (and, more recently, the potential for impact). Thus in the most recent recruitment round the criteria for the appointment of a Senior Lectureship included the ability to strengthen the Unit's research profile, to complement the Unit's existing research strengths. **McGlinchey's** and **Cole's** appointments in 2013 thus made a significant addition to the Unit's research profile. in particular by ensuring the consolidation and development of selected areas of research excellence.

Demographic profile and succession planning. Currently four members of the Unit are just over 50; three are in their 40s; the youngest two are in their early/mid 30s. As far as research leadership is concerned, planning for succession is not an immediate issue. Before the current senior members retire we will ensure that other members of the Unit will be able to take on a research leadership role. At the same time, if new appointments are made, careful consideration will be given to

complementing existing areas of excellence, as well as filling gaps in the current areas of research expertise of the Unit.

Effectiveness of staff development. The principal way in which staff development is supported is by means of the annual Performance and Development Reviews for all members of the Unit, which are conducted by the Head or an Associate Head of Department. As part of this review, members of the Unit are asked to agree personal development objectives and research training needs with their reviewer, and to agree on how those objectives and needs will be realized. If appropriate, funding is available to support staff in the achievement of those objectives and meeting of those needs. For instance, **Abzhaparova**, as an early career academic, attended the University's Academic Development Programme. She also received mentoring from **Harrison**. Similarly, **McGlinchey** is currently being mentored by **Thompson**. In addition, the University's Research, Business and Innovation Unit and other Professional Services provide a varied and extensive programme of training events, e.g. **Harrison** has benefited from UWE's Marketing Department's Media Training to support her frequent media appearances.

Supporting equality and diversity. UWE has a dedicated Equality and Diversity Unit which provides expert and professional equality and diversity input to the management of staff and student-facing aspects of the University. It audits current policy and practice; leads equality projects and policy initiatives which will have a significant and practical impact on identifying and tackling discrimination, removing barriers and improving the experience of both staff and students at the University. **Thompson**, as leader of this Unit's submission, has received training on equality and diversity policy organized by RBI specifically in relation to the selection of staff for the REF. Over the last two years, as the result of a significant medical condition, **van den Anker** has received considerable University support – including, for example, the provision of a support worker – to enable her to continue to make a full contribution to the work of the Politics unit.

Implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. UWE is committed to implementing the principles of this *Concordat* as part of its strategic plan. A comprehensive 'gap analysis' was undertaken which reviewed all the relevant policies and procedures in place in comparison with those principles. Recommendations on how to enhance the support for researchers have been set out in an action plan which has been approved by the University's Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee. In virtue of this plan, the European Commission granted UWE an HR Excellence in Research award in January 2012. A key vehicle for taking forward the plan is the UWE Researchers' Forum (see section [d] below). In addition, the University achieved a Bronze Award under the Athena SWAN Charter in 2013 in recognition for its commitment to equality and the career development of female staff.

Research governance. The Faculty of Arts, Creative Industries and Education, in which the Politics Unit is located, is committed to promoting high ethical standards in the conduct of research undertaken by its staff and students. All research conducted by staff (including PhD students) involving human participants must be subject to research ethics scrutiny by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) – of which **Greer** is Deputy Chair – or the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) if it is funded by the ESRC.

ii. Research students

Quality of training and supervision of PGR students. The training and supervision of PGR students in the Politics Unit is organized through UWE's Graduate School. Its Researcher Skills Development Programme is informed by QAA guidelines, AHRC strategic priorities, and VITAE's Researcher Development Framework comprising Knowledge and Intellectual Abilities, Personal Effectiveness, Research Governance and Organisation, and Engagement, Influence and Impact. The Graduate School also ensures that the monitoring of PGR students' progression and completion are subject to a stringent policy. The School organises training for supervisors and students and ensures a consistent and fair approach to recruitment, progression and examination. Each student completes a training needs analysis during their first three months in consultation with their Director of Studies as well as seeking approval from the Research Ethics Committee where necessary. The training provided is therefore individualised. For example David Drew participated in an event on trans-disciplinary approaches to research (2013) designed specifically to support those exploring issues across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Contribution to the research environment of PhD candidates. The Politics Unit at UWE strongly encourages the integration of PGR students into its research culture. It does so in various ways: students are encouraged to participate in the activities of research groups; they are warmly invited to attend research seminars and external speaker events; and they are encouraged to give papers at staff seminars. Furthermore, the Graduate School supports networking events for research students across the University as well as access to regional and national networks, events and support. Politics PGR students have participated in a number of themed workshops and given a number of presentations, for example: Cezara Nanu spoke on 'Best Practices in Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings', at a workshop in 2010; Patrick Burland contributed to the workshop, 'A Critique of Current Approaches to Trafficked Persons', in 2010; and David Drew gave a talk entitled 'Ideological, pragmatic or reactive? New Labour's Approach to Rural Policy in England' at a UWE postgraduate conference in 2012.

Support offered to PGR students (including employability skills). UWE doctoral students are supported throughout their studies through a partnership between the University Graduate School and a Faculty-based supervisory team. The Graduate School provides an overarching supportive environment for doctoral students from admission through to graduation. The School is underpinned by an integrated professional Graduate School Office providing a range of bespoke services aimed at meeting the particular needs of PGR students as noted above. This includes a comprehensive training and development programme for students and supervisors which addresses many areas of the Vitae Researcher Development Framework. The Graduate School's training programme places particular emphasis on careers development, impact and international awareness. UWE requires all PG students to acquire 60 credits of research training, and enables students to submit a reflective portfolio relating to their own research drawing on a series of workshops and selected skills training events. All PGR students are members of the Graduate School but are also attached to supervisory teams in Faculties and can also access a variety of local activities designed to develop their research knowledge and skills. The National Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (2013) showed overall student satisfaction with the Faculty's Research Degree Programmes is 94.3%, compared with 82% nationally.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

i. Research income generation

Strategies for generating grant income. One of the main aims of the Unit's research strategy since 2008 has been to 'increase the number and quality of applications for research funding'.

Research funding figures. For a group of its size, the Politics Unit at UWE has had considerable success in obtaining research income from a variety of prestigious sources, including the ESRC, local and central government, EU governmental bodies, the EC under FP6, and UK-based charities (see REF4b).

Examples of major and prestigious grant awards. This funding included a number of prestigious awards made by external bodies on a highly competitive basis. Here are some examples: Flynn was principal investigator/project manager for 'Reconciliation and Peace Economics in Cyprus, 2010-12', which received €213k from EuropeAid; **van den Anker** was leader of a project on 'Trafficking for Forced Labour in other Industries than the Sex Industry', 2006-10, which received €1.5 million total funding for all project partners from the European Science Foundation; **Thompson** was co-organizer of an ESRC Seminar Series, entitled 'The Politics of Recognition and Dynamics of Social Conflict', which ran from 2007-2009, and received £18,000 funding; and **Cole** was a member of the FP7-funded RESPECT project, *Towards a Topography of Tolerance and Equal Respect*, with total funding €1,341,533, which ran from 2009-2011 with research partners from all over Europe.

Links between research funding and high-quality research output. This external funding enabled several members of the Unit to significantly enhance the quality of their research outputs. For example, **van den Anker's** influential research on migrant rights began during the period in which her work was supported by the European Science Foundation. This resulted in high-quality publications including her 'Transnationalism and Cosmopolitanism', *Journal of International Political Theory*, 2010. **Thompson's** co-edited volume (with Majid Yar, University of Hull) on *The*

Politics of Misrecognition (Ashgate, 2011) was one of the fruits of the ESRC Research Seminar Series.

ii. Nature and quality of research infrastructure

Several significant parts of UWE's research infrastructure support the Unit's research environment. *Research, Business and Innovation*. RBI is the key body at University level providing support for research and research-related activities, including funding information, bid support, post-award project support, research governance and ethics, research events, dissemination and publicity. RBI has supported the Politics Unit in a number of ways including: the peer review of applications, grant-writing workshops, and briefing by funder representatives, including the AHRC and ESRC.

The UWE Researchers' Forum: This forum, established in 2005, provides a network for research staff to help ensure that they are fully informed about UWE's research strategy and policies and relevant Human Resources policies, to enable all research staff to share good practice and common issues across the University, and to provide a space to run development events specifically for research staff to support their career aspirations and development needs. The Politics Unit has benefited from the Forum's activities in a number of ways.

The Graduate School: As noted above, UWE's Graduate School carries out a number of important functions, including: (1) providing a skills training programme for early career research staff as well as PhD students; (2) running training sessions on the PGR process: induction, preparing for the progress exam, writing your thesis, preparing for your viva (**Greer** has delivered these sessions on a number of occasions). (3) organising an annual residential event in partnership with other universities in the South West.

iii. University investment and policies to support the research environment

At the Faculty level, the Politics Unit's research environment is sustained by investments in: *Research leave and an annual bidding system*. Over the assessment period targeted funding was made available each year to the Department in which the Unit was located. This was allocated by competition between individual applicants. A committee oversees the award of periods of research leave and other means of supporting particular individuals. Christopoulos, **Clegg**, **Greer** and **Thompson** all obtained support from these sources during the REF period.

Research expenses. Staff also have access to Faculty and University funds for research expenses, such as travel, publication costs, indexing, and transcription costs. For example, **Clegg** obtained funding from UWE's Equality and Diversity Unit to support the costs of a conference entitled 'Jamaica and the Caribbean: Beyond the Boundary', held at the Watershed Media Centre, Bristol in 2012 in collaboration with the Watershed, Festival of Ideas, and Afrika Eye. The event brought together academics from UWE and the University of Bristol with members of civil society, and representatives of the Jamaica/Caribbean diaspora from around the UK.

Research conference attendance. Each member of staff has an individual allowance – currently of £800 per annum – to fund attendance at conferences at which they are presenting their research. For example, **Thompson's** attendance at the MANCEPT Conference in Political Theory in September 2013 enabled him to join a network led by the United Nations University on non-citizenship and statelessness, and **Clegg's** attendance at 'Caribbean Spaces and Institutions: Contesting Paradigms of "Development" in the 21st Century', organised by the Caribbean Studies Association in Grenada, (2013).

Resources for seminar programmes and research groups. The Faculty funds a number of research groups which organize seminar series. Until 2011-12, the HRU and PCRG received on average about £1,000 per annum to support their activities. From 2012-13, the ISHRG has received £1,500 per annum (see section (b) for details about the achievements of these groups).

Finally, the Unit's three Associate Professors – **Greer**, **Thompson** and **van den Anker** – benefit from additional timetabled support for their research and research leadership activities.

iv. Space/facilities available for PGR students including library and IT provision

In addition to the library facilities available to all UWE students, PGR students enjoy a number of specific services, including, for example, dedicated space for postgraduate researchers, support for using the Research Repository and Refworks training workshops.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

In this section, a few selected highlights of members of the Politics Unit's collaborations and contributions to the wider research base are listed by type.

Co-written research. **Taylor** co-wrote a research monograph *The Crisis of Social Democratic Trade Unionism in Western Europe* with Martin Upchurch (Middlesex). **Thompson** co-wrote an article with Chris Armstrong (Southampton) for *European Journal for Political Theory*, 2009. **Cole** co-wrote a research monograph *Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is There a Right to Exclude?*, with Christopher Heath Wellman (Washington University in St Louis).

Co-edited journals. **Clegg** co-edited a Special Issue of *The Round Table* (2008) on 'Competitiveness and Caribbean Economies', with Densil Williams (West Indies). **Taylor** co-edited a special edition of *Sociology* on 'Sociology and the Global Economic Crisis', with colleagues from Bath and Open University. **Thompson** co-edited two special editions of the journals *Ethnicities* and *Res Publica*, both in 2012, with Wendy Martineau (Bristol) and Nasar Meer (Northumbria).

Edited journals. **Clegg** is editorial board member of *The Round Table*, *The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*. **Van den Anker** is lead editor of the *Journal of Global Ethics*. **Greer** edited *Irish Political Studies*, 2008-11.

Co-edited books. **Clegg** co-edited two books: *Governance in the non-independent Caribbean* (2009) with Emilio Pantojas-Garcia (University of Puerto Rico); and *The Non-independent Territories of the Caribbean and Pacific* with David Killingray, (Goldsmiths, London). **Thompson** co-edited three books with Tony Burns (Nottingham), Paul Hoggett (UWE) and Majid Yar (Hull). **Van den Anker** co-edited three books with Rhona Smith (Northumbria), Ilse van Liempt (Netherlands), Jeroen Doomernik (Netherlands). **Cole** co-edited *Citizenship Acquisition and National Belonging* with Gideon Calder (University of Wales, Newport) and Jonathan Seglow (Royal Holloway, University of London).

Co-organized conferences. **Clegg** co-organized a conference 'Fifty years of Jamaican Independence', School of Advanced Study, University of London, 2012. **Harrison** co-hosted the PSA Women and Politics Conference, UWE, 2012. **Van den Anker** organised an International Global Ethics Association bi-annual conference at UWE, 2011.

Invited participants and keynote speakers. **Taylor** was invited keynote speaker, Critical Labour Studies Conference, University of London, 2009. **Cole** was an invited speaker at the conference 'Migration in Legal and Political Theory', University of Cambridge, 2011, and at the International Studies Association Workshop on Health Inequalities and Global Justice. **Greer** was invited keynote speaker, at 'Reviewing Rural Developments in Europe', University of Helsinki, May 2008.

Roles in professional bodies. **Harrison** is a member of the Political Studies Association UK Executive. **Clegg** is Treasurer and former Chair of the PSA's Caribbean Politics Group. He is also a member of the Institute of Latin American Studies Advisory Council. **Van den Anker** is also founding Convenor of BISA Global Ethics Group.

Research fellowships. **Clegg** held a Visiting Research Fellowship, University of the West Indies, 2009/10. He was also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, 2013. **Cole** is a Research Associate with the Centre on Migration Policy and Society at the University of Oxford, 2013-14.

Research networks. **Taylor** coordinated the development of new cross-disciplinary research network on well-being at work with a range of other universities (Lancaster, Nottingham, Middlesex, Bristol, Liverpool). **Thompson** was co-organizer of an ESRC Research Seminar Series, 2007-2009, with colleagues from several UK universities.

Overall, the maintenance and development of this dense and extensive network of collaboration has enabled the Politics Unit to produce high-quality research outputs and to sustain highly productive research networks, both formal and informal, at both national and international levels.