

<p>Institution: MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: LAW DEPARTMENT</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>We target three key audiences for research impact: (i) <i>policy makers</i> engaged in planning, implementing and monitoring social change - for this group, our research emphasises respect for fundamental legal principles; (ii) <i>justice sector professionals</i> – this group benefits from clarification of principles of law based on our research, as well as detailed tracing of relevant legal developments; (iii) <i>advocacy organisations</i> supporting vulnerable groups who use our research to assist with advocacy, capacity-building and empowering professional communities (through training programmes and other forms of professional development).</p> <p>Within and across these groupings, a range of local, national and international organisations have benefited from our research: (a) <i>International, Supranational and Inter-governmental agencies</i> under the UN, the Council of Europe, the EU, and the International Criminal Court; (b) <i>Governmental bodies</i> including national judiciaries (e.g. in India, Bangladesh, and Mexico), Equality Commissions (in Ireland, Holland, and the UK), and Government Departments such as Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office and the National Audit Office; (c) <i>Non-governmental organisations and advocacy groups</i>, including Human Rights Law Network (India), Global Tamil Forum (Sri Lanka and UK), Public Concern at Work, Human Rights Defenders Network (Central Asia), Migrant Rights Network, Femme Africa Solidarité (Senegal), and Age UK.</p> <p>In terms of types of impact, the Unit’s research has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Influenced legal adjudication and related legislation</i> through litigation at the European Court of Human Rights, followed up by obligatory changes to national legislation as required in implementing judgments (EHRAC; see case study). 2) <i>Shaped legal policy</i>, through research-led analysis and contributions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Testimony at the European Parliament on whistleblowing legislation and Lewis’ appointment to the National Audit Office to advise on whistleblowing legislation (see related Case Study). ➢ Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, through justification for and advocacy of human rights as a goal within the global planning agenda, 2015-2030 (Castellino, see Case Study). ➢ Citation in important court decisions: on caste, cited by the Supreme Court in <i>R v Governing Body of JFS and another</i> [2009] UKSC 15 (Keane); evidence used by Liberty and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants on pre-entry language tests for spouses in <i>Bibi and another v SSHD</i> [2013] EWCA Civ 322 (Wray); expert evidence on minimum income thresholds for sponsors of non-EEA spouses, in <i>MM and others v SSHD</i> [2013] EWHC 1900 (Admin) (Wray, Howard, and Kofman, case study in UoA22); regular citation by International Courts and Tribunals (Schabas). 3) <i>Impact on regulatory bodies</i>. For example, Corkin’s research used by Body of European Regulators on Electronic Communication (BEREC) in its assessment of European telecommunications, impacting on the industry and consumers through more effective market regulation and governance. 4) <i>Contributed to capacity-building</i> in relevant professional sectors. Examples include research-led programmes delivered to agencies and human rights staff in a bespoke LLM in post-war Iraq (Domínguez-Redondo, Keane, Bernaz, Howard, Castellino, Schabas) and establishing an International Whistleblowing Research Network (2009) (Lewis).

Impact template (REF3a)

b. Approach to impact

We are committed to undertaking research which meets the highest academic standards alongside having relevance to a number of key areas of legal and policy concern. Impact beyond academia is therefore built into our approach to research. Coming together with policy-oriented social sciences in the new School of Law has provided both impetus and additional resources to pursue this goal.

Relationships with user-partners were initially developed by colleagues fostering collaborative approaches based on their own contacts and reputations, supported by a central Research and Knowledge Transfer Office (RKTO). In the area of whistleblowing, research links with policy-makers developed gradually, over a period of years. The substantial number of new staff appointed have brought with them additional networks with users, and experiences of approaches to non-academic impact. Our individual and collective experience of collaboration with stakeholders has yielded frequent opportunities to engage in policy advice (e.g. Schabas, International Criminal Court; Lewis, National Audit Office; Castellino, UNSDSN; Leach, Media Law Initiative; Wray, All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration; Dominguez-Redondo, Universal Rights Group; and Corkin, BEREC). The user network has been extended further by hosting and participating in events in areas of proven research achievement, including the annual Middlesex Law Conference, the School of Law Debates Series, training programmes in Whistleblowing Law and Practice and Minority Rights law, and a range of other workshops and seminars. The commitment to creating and exploiting synergies between research, knowledge exchange and impact is exemplified in our decision to fund the transfer of the European Human Rights Research and Advocacy Centre (EHRAC, previously at London Metropolitan) to this Unit. EHRAC is well recognised for the quality of its research and impact, as articulated in the impact case study.

Our practice in working with partners in developing and disseminating research with clear policy and practice relevance is now well established. Departmental resources to support this are augmented by RKTO, which plays a key role through its Research and Enterprise Development Programme, access to information, support with funding, and contacts in and outside the University. Achieving impact is central to the Unit's strategy and is integrated through monitored plans for initiating, undertaking and disseminating research. It also counts against a staff member's agreed annual work programme. Given this priority, a significant amount of the Unit's research is now conducted with/for policymakers and is funded by them. Alongside this, we remain committed to undertaking high quality, basic research where key beneficiaries or types of impact may not be readily envisaged.

c. Strategy and plans

The strength of our strategy since 2008 has been to identify and create synergies between research, teaching and impact beyond academia. The strategy for enhancing impact is therefore an integral component of the overall Departmental strategy. Development of existing staff, further enhancement of research leadership and capacity through numerous new appointments (see environment template), and bringing together law with social sciences into a new School of Law, all contribute to our impact strategy and plans.

The Unit has a strong focus on research which addresses major legal and social issues in and beyond the UK, as reflected in our research funding sources and research themes. Our strategy and future plans are as follows:

Enhancing current strengths and developing new areas of impact

Our research in public international law, and aspects of industrial law and European law enjoys strong recognition with clear impact on legal policy and practice. We will continue our policy of supporting the development of less experienced researchers to further enhance their research reputations in these areas. In particular, we will support them in strengthening networks with non-academic users of their research and support their development in relation to types of impact and range of beneficiaries. In the environment template, we have identified a number of research areas for further development e.g. world trade law, intellectual property law and media law. Key senior appointments and promotions (Pech, Kariyawasam, Durant, Howard), along with other research active staff (e.g. Corkin, Katsirea) will be supported to strengthen impact in these areas. Further investment will focus on building up these areas.

We will also collaborate with researchers in other academic Schools, especially in Media and in Computer Science, who have shared interests in these fields (please see below).

Direct engagement in research driven litigation

Bringing EHRAC to this Unit fits centrally with our research as well as impact strategies. Led by Leach, EHRAC staff include academic researchers as well as litigators. EHRAC opens opportunities for other researchers with interests in European and/or human rights law to engage in its work, and to share its extensive national and international networks among user communities. It also presents a model for research-led litigation in other fields. It is anticipated that by 2019, the EHRAC model will have triggered cognate litigation initiatives in other fields such as minority rights, capital punishment and freedom of expression.

Collaboration with criminology, other social sciences and other disciplines

The School hosts strong research clusters and centres in areas of complementary interest, including criminal justice, migration policy and international development, and provides opportunities to collaborate with different social science disciplines (including criminology, sociology, social policy and politics). Collaboration (e.g. Wray and Howard in law and Kofman in social policy) is already bearing fruit – a case study on this is being submitted in UoA 22. A major new collaborative research project has recently been funded (£800K, EU funding, led by L. Ryan). We plan to further strengthen collaboration in research and impact across and beyond the School. In particular, the School's broader history of collaboration with the police, probation services, equality bodies, campaign groups and a range of minority groups will give us key additional networks, approaches to impact and types of beneficiaries. University-level synergies are also being developed between Law and the Schools of Media and Performing Arts (in relation to media), Business (e.g. industrial law), Health and Education, and Science and Technology (access to technology, ethics of practice).

This three-pronged programme of impact is and will be actively managed. The strategy outlined will be overseen by the School Research Committee, chaired by the Dean, and directed within the Unit by Wray, whose appointment as Research Leader in Law includes responsibility for enhancing impact. We favour a broad-based approach with contributions from staff at different levels of seniority. For example, alongside the extensive experience of senior staff, Corkin has recently completed the Clore Leadership Programme on research impact. At the University level, the Director of Knowledge Transfer, reporting to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, carries explicit responsibility for research impact. Our efforts will therefore have strategic and resource support from the Centre.

d. Relationship to case studies

The three case studies take an international perspective while reflecting different routes to and beneficiaries of impact. Types of impact range from policy development (social exclusion; whistleblowing), to direct research-led litigation (EHRAC), and capacity building (all three case studies). The whistleblowing case study demonstrates how existing law can be developed in the public interest. The two human rights case studies contrast in showing *how* they achieve impact in the legal domain: EHRAC works to achieve recognition of rights through litigation and the courts; the 'socio-economic group rights' case study, by contrast, shows how change can be achieved by routes other than litigation, and how vulnerable groups can benefit from legal input to policy even when they have limited or no access to the legal system.

The three case studies show different routes to impact. The 'whistleblowing' case study tracks research that emerged from wider interests in employment law, gaining momentum in its interaction with external social factors including demand for evidence on which to base legal responses to whistleblowing, for example, post-*Wikileaks*. The 'EHRAC' case study illustrates the role of research in determining direct litigation with significant benefits to individuals and organisations. The 'socio-economic group rights' case study shows how international comparative constitutional research can lead to the development of policy instruments with global and sustained reach.