

Youth Justice Legal Centre Summit 2021:

Bias.
Discrimination.
Fear.

25th March from 10am

Free to attend, register at
[YJLCSummit2021.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yjlc-summit-2021)

#YJLCSummit2021

Our call to action is:

Defeating discrimination for children within the youth justice system

You will hear from leading experts from across the globe about their ideas for tools that can be used to confront discrimination in order to represent children better.

As in previous years, the YJLC Summit is an opportunity to bring together those who work so tirelessly in this undervalued sector, and to celebrate our community and our collective work. We hope to share knowledge, circulate innovation, and develop good practice by first identifying the bias, discrimination and fear children experience within the criminal justice system and then developing ways of tackling it. We hope that this year's Summit will be one of many steps towards defeating discrimination.

We are a registered training provider with the Solicitors Regulation Authority. Attendance at the Summit can be recorded on your development record as part of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Sessions will be presented by **Henry Bonsu** in collaboration with each session's expert Chair

Born in Manchester to Ghanaian parents, Henry Bonsu is a leading British African broadcaster. Henry has worked on some of the UK's biggest current affairs shows and is also an international moderator and Master of Ceremonies, working for UN bodies such as the UNDP, UN Global Compact, the WHO and UNFCCC.



*Complete biographies for speakers
and more information on the Summit can be found at*

YJLC.UK/YJLCSummit2021

Girls

10:00 - 11:00am

This session will examine the experience of girls in a criminal justice system which may have been designed with boys in mind. What are the problems, what is missing and how can practitioners put forward different arguments to support girls who find themselves in the criminal justice system?

“Rarely are girls mentioned as a specific demographic and where they are, there is a failure to fully reflect the challenges and barriers they face.”

Plan International

The Rt Hon The Baroness Hale of Richmond *President of the Supreme Court (2017-20)*

Brenda Hale retired as President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the UK's most senior judge, in January 2020. In 2004, she became the first and only woman Law Lord and, in 2009, the Supreme Court's first woman Justice. She is President of the United Kingdom Association of Women Judges and a past President of the International Association of Women Judges.



Saffron

Spokesperson for girls who get caught up in crime

Saffron is an advocate on behalf of young women who get caught up in the criminal justice system. She is dedicated to changing attitudes and improving understanding and is a committed supporter of justice reform.

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC *Doughty Street Chambers*

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC is one of Britain's most distinguished lawyers. She has spent her professional life giving voice to those who have least power within the system, championing civil liberties and promoting human rights. She has published two books on how the justice system is failing women.



Leigh-Anne Rodriguez *Abianda*

Leigh-Anne Rodriguez is Abianda's Senior Practitioner on Rescue and Response – a service for young Londoners affected by county lines. She is a specialist in working around street culture, youth and gang violence, and girls and young women affected by all forms of violence.



Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC, Chair *Doughty Street Chambers*

Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers specialising in human rights, and she co-leads the Children's Rights Group with Professor Aoife Nolan. The rights of women and girls is an area of particular interest for Caoilfhionn. She has acted in leading cases on these issues before the UK and Strasbourg courts.



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Join us to discuss how together we can develop tools which highlight and undermine racist practices within the youth justice system.

Race

11:10am - 12:10pm

*“If you can see the breached blue dusk
And the caramel curls in swirls of tea
Why do you say you are colour blind when you see me?”*
Lemn Sissay



Rt Hon David Lammy MP

*Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Shadow Lord Chancellor,
Doughty Street Chambers*

David Lammy is the Labour Member of Parliament for Tottenham, England, where he was born and raised. In December 2019, he was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, following his landmark review exploring the treatment of and outcomes for Black and minority ethnic people in British courts and prisons.



Ryan Matthews

MBA candidate; Exonerated from death row, USA

Ryan Matthews spent five years on Louisiana's death row for a crime he did not commit. Ryan was seventeen years old at the time he was arrested. In 2019, Matthews graduated from Texas Woman's University with a bachelor's degree in applied arts and sciences, and he is currently completing an MBA.



Temi Mwale

The 4Front Project

Temi Mwale is a racial justice campaigner and the Founding Director of The 4Front Project, a member-led youth organisation empowering young people to fight for justice, peace and freedom.



Dr William Lez Henry (PhD) FHEA

University of West London

William Lez Henry is Professor of Criminology and Sociology in the School of Human and Social Sciences at University of West London. His areas of expertise include anthropology, race, education, ethnicity and youth crime. Dr Henry is also a reggae deejay, poet, writer and community activist.



Garry Green, Chair

Doughty Street Chambers

Garry Green is a criminal defence barrister at Doughty Street Chambers and a member of the YJLC Advisory Board. His practice is made up of serious crime, especially high-profile homicide cases. Garry is passionate about the welfare and potential of young people.

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Class

12:20 - 1:00pm

Children who come from less affluent backgrounds are overrepresented in the youth justice system. How can we as practitioners shine a light on and fight to address this discrimination?

“Most people, it seems to me at least, hate poor people more than they hate poverty.”

Akala

Professor Emerita Geraldine Van Bueren QC

Queen Mary, University of London

Geraldine Van Bueren QC is one of the original drafters of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Professor Van Bueren founded the Association of Working Class Academics and is writing *Class and Law* (Hart). She is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, Oxford, and an honorary Queen’s Counsel.



Renaldho Pelle

Director and animator

Renaldho Pelle is a London-based film director, illustrator and animator, and director of the 2020 animated short *The Fire Next Time*, which looks at the impact of social inequality on the 2011 London riots.



Joanne Cecil

Garden Court Chambers

Joanne Cecil is a barrister at Garden Court Chambers. She has a mixed public law and criminal practice, with particular expertise in child rights and youth justice. She has a wealth of experience in representing children and she is renowned for having been instructed in many test cases relating to children in the criminal justice system.



Greg Stewart, Chair

GT Stewart Limited

Greg is a director at GT Stewart Limited and a member of the YJLC Advisory Board. He is a former youth justice representative on the Law Society Criminal Law Committee, and he co-authors the Criminal Appeals Handbook (2nd Edition Bloomsbury, 2019).



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The child – a person under the age of eighteen – has special status in law, but how does the justice system use its power to criminalise this protected class of people?

Kids

2:00 - 3:00pm

*“For these are all our children,
we will all profit by or pay for what they become.”*
James Baldwin



Professor Ann Skelton

*UN Committee on the Rights of the Child,
University of Pretoria, South Africa*

Ann Skelton is a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and was the Chairperson of the Advisory Board for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty. She has worked as a children's rights lawyer in South Africa for 30 years and is a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria.



Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore

University of Cambridge

Sarah-Jayne Blakemore is a professor of psychology and cognitive neuroscience at the University of Cambridge and runs a lab that studies the development of the adolescent brain.

Sarah-Jayne is the author of *Inventing Ourselves: The Secret Life of the Teenage Brain*.



Sandra Paul

Kingsley Napley LLP

Sandra Paul is a partner at the law firm Kingsley Napley and a member of the YJLC Advisory Board. Sandra is particularly experienced with navigating children and young adults safely through the youth justice system.



Marsha Levick

Juvenile Law Center, USA

Marsha Levick is co-counsel and Chief Legal Officer of Juvenile Law Center, the oldest public interest law firm for children in the United States. Marsha is a nationally recognized leader in juvenile law and has been an advocate for children's and women's rights for more than 45 years.



Shauneen Lambe, Chair

Impact Law for Social Justice

Shauneen Lambe is Director of Impact Law for Social Justice.

She is co-founder and former CEO of Just for Kids Law (2005-2018), where she set up the Youth Justice Legal Centre in 2014 and now serves on the YJLC Advisory Board.

Shauneen is a legal innovator dedicated to the law being a tool for social change.

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Fear

3:10 - 4:10pm

This session will examine how fear of people who are different can lead to bias and discrimination. Together we will discuss how we can create greater understanding and bring more compassion into the youth justice system.

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”
Marie Curie

Professor Kristin Nicole Henning *Georgetown University, USA*

Kristin Henning is the Blume Professor of Law and Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic at Georgetown Law. Kris was previously the Lead Attorney for the Juvenile Unit of the D.C. Public Defender Service and is currently the Director of the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center.



Dave Merritt

Social justice advocate and Father of Jack Merritt

Dave Merritt is the father of social justice advocate Jack Merritt, who was killed in the London Bridge terror attack on 29 November 2019. Dave is an outspoken advocate for social justice reform.



Rosca Onya *Rap artist*

Rosca Onya is a rap artist and songwriter. A child refugee fleeing conflict in his native Democratic Republic of Congo, he arrived in England at the age of nine. Rosca met Jack Merritt through Cambridge University's 'Learning Together' programme and released the single 'Jack' in his honour.



Hossein Zahir QC *Garden Court Chambers*

Hossein Zahir QC specialises in criminal defence work as a member of the Garden Court Chambers Crime Team. He has acted as lead defence counsel in some of the most high-profile criminal and terrorist trials in recent times.



Aika Stephenson, Chair *Just for Kids Law*

Aika Stephenson is Legal Director and Co-founder of Just for Kids Law. Aika is a youth justice specialist with years of experience representing young people in criminal proceedings. She has led the criminal work at Just for Kids Law since the organisation was awarded its first criminal legal aid contract in April 2017.



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The Youth Justice Legal Centre Summit is brought to you by



Laura Cooper

*Co-Head of the Youth Justice
Legal Centre*

Laura is a specialist youth justice lawyer who has been at the Youth Justice Legal Centre since 2015, becoming co-head in 2019. She has practised as a solicitor advocate since 2011, and has experience of representing children at the police station, youth court and Crown Court.



Katya Moran

*Co-Head of the Youth Justice
Legal Centre*

Katya is a specialist youth justice lawyer with 14 years' experience representing children in criminal proceedings. Having worked with Just for Kids Law when they were first getting started in 2005, she was thrilled to return in 2017 and to become co-head of the Youth Justice Legal Centre in 2019.



Augusta Itua

Youth Justice Lawyer



Lily Bayrock

*Events and Projects
Officer*



Yasmin Perez

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