

CAJ 40th anniversary celebration

10.30am to 12noon, Friday 10 December 2021

Zoom

Register via Eventbrite: www.bit.ly/CAJ40th



SPEAKERS & PANELLISTS: BIOS



ALBIE SACHS: On turning six, during World War II, Albie Sachs received a card from his father expressing the wish that he would grow up to be a soldier in the fight for liberation.

His career in human rights activism started at the age of seventeen, when as a second year law student at the University of Cape Town, he took part in the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign. Three years later he attended the Congress of the People at Kliptown where the Freedom Charter was adopted. He started practice as an advocate at the Cape Bar aged 21. The bulk of his work involved defending people charged under racist statutes and repressive security laws.

Many faced the death sentence. He himself was raided by the security police, subjected to banning orders restricting his movement and eventually placed in solitary confinement without trial for two prolonged spells of detention.

In 1966 he went into exile. After spending eleven years studying and teaching law in England he worked for a further eleven years in Mozambique as law professor and legal researcher. In 1988 he was blown up by a bomb placed in his car in Maputo by South African security agents, losing an arm and the sight of an eye.

During the 1980s working closely with Oliver Tambo, leader of the ANC in exile, he helped draft the organisation's Code of Conduct, as well as its statutes. After recovering from the bomb he devoted himself full-time to preparations for a new democratic Constitution for South Africa. In 1990 he returned home and as a member of the Constitutional Committee and the National Executive of the ANC took an active part in the negotiations which led to South Africa becoming a constitutional democracy. After the first democratic election in 1994 he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to serve on the newly established Constitutional Court.

In addition to his work on the Court, he has travelled to many countries sharing South African experience in healing divided societies. He has also been engaged in the sphere of art and architecture, and played an active role in the development of the Constitutional Court building and its art collection on the site of the Old Fort Prison in Johannesburg.



MARTIN O'BRIEN: Martin directs the Social Change Initiative (SCI), a Belfast based international NGO working to improve the effectiveness of activism for progressive social change particularly in divided societies. Prior to joining SCI, Martin worked for 11 years at the Atlantic Philanthropies. For the last three of these he was Senior Vice President with responsibility for the foundation's global grant making programmes. He led the planning process for the conclusion of Atlantic's programmatic grantmaking. He has particular experience of working in the USA, South Africa, Ireland, Viet Nam and Cuba.

Martin is a seasoned activist for social change having worked for over 20 years in the peace and human rights movement in Northern Ireland. From 1987 to 2004 he was director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice. His work as an effective advocate for human rights and peace has been internationally recognised with a number of awards and honours.

He has extensive experience of high impact philanthropy, fundraising, human rights, advocacy, peace building, and conflict resolution. His work as an activist and strategic grant maker and has given him a particular insight into the most effective ways to secure social change and maximize the impact of philanthropic investments.

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PADDY SLOAN: Paddy worked in community services with a local council and subsequently in play development until joining the CAJ in 1985 as its first member of staff. In 1987 Paddy moved to running community development and anti-poverty programmes with the independent Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and in 1994 was seconded into government to manage urban regeneration funding and lead partnership development across west Belfast. From its establishment in 1999, she spent eight years as Chief Executive of the NI Human Rights Commission. Since 2007 Paddy has worked in various posts with BBC Children in Need, and currently leads on a UK wide children's mental health programme. She was formerly Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Charity Commission NI and has served on a range of Boards and advisory committees of other funders

such as Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Wellcome Trust. Currently Paddy is a Governor and incoming Chair of the Legal Education Foundation.



DR ANNA BRYSON: Anna is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law and a Fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. Her research has developed along three closely related lines: modern Irish history, socio-legal studies and transitional justice. Since completing her PhD at Trinity College Dublin in 2003, Anna has been involved in a series of research projects exploring various aspects of the history and legacy of conflict. Her publications include four books and more than twenty articles or book chapters. Anna has a particular interest in oral history and has to date conducted more than 200 substantial interviews with a wide range of individuals including ex-combatants and former prisoners, victims and survivors,

former security force personnel, lawyers, politicians and senior government officials. She is the Northern Ireland representative for the Oral History Society and provides accredited training on behalf of the organisation. In 2020 Anna was elected as Chair of the independent human rights organisation, the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ). Since 2014 Anna has been working together with colleagues from QUB and CAJ to inform key debates on dealing with the past. Outputs from the collaboration include writing over 30 policy documents and blogs, providing evidence to parliamentary committees, drafting 'model legislation', writing responses to government consultations and providing free technical legal and policy advice to key stakeholders including the Council of Europe, US Congress and the United Nations. See further: www.dealingwiththepastni.com.



BRIAN GORMALLY: Brian Gormally has been Director of CAJ from 2011 onwards. Before that, he spent more than a decade as an independent consultant, based mainly within the voluntary and community sector and specialising in justice, human rights, and equality issues. For 25 years, until 2000, he was Deputy Director of NIACRO, working with communities, alienated young people, ex-offenders, and prisoners' families. Brian has published and presented extensively on justice, community policing, and conflict resolution issues. He has been involved in international peace related work in South Africa, Israel/Palestine, the Basque Country, Italy, and, more recently, Colombia. Additionally, he has worked with the NI Human Rights Commission on the Bill of Rights and with the trade union movement on a number of projects on equality and human rights.