Our cover and opening page is based on Township 13, a beautiful artwork by renowned artist Peter Sacks donated to Mansfield College to hang in the Bonavero Institute by Sir Paul Ruddock. Township 13 greets those of us who work at the Bonavero every morning when we arrive. It is an arresting composition of found fabrics, lace and printed cotton, paint, and poetry. This extraordinary artwork speaks to what we do and a recent New Yorker interview by Joshua Rothman with Peter Sacks perhaps explains why:

"In recent years, the poem Sacks has inserted most often into his paintings is “To Ryszard Krynicki – A Letter”, by the mid-century Polish poet and essayist Zbigniew Herbert. In it, Herbert, who lived through the Second World War, addresses the younger Krynicki, who came of age during the Cold War. “Not much will remain Ryszard really not much/ of the poetry of this insane century,” Sacks said, reciting it from memory. “Certainly Rilke Eliot / a few other distinguished shamans …” Herbert thinks of the grim political poems he has written – “We took public affairs on our thin shoulders” – and then wonders whether it was “worth it to lower holy speech to the babble of the speaker’s platform on the black foam of the newspapers”. “Too easily we came to believe beauty does not save,” Sacks continued. “In our poems Ryszard there is so little joy – daughter of the gods.” He paused. “What strength is needed to whisper / in the garden of betrayal – a silent night.”

We hope that in the months and years ahead, you will have a chance to see Township 13 when you visit us. Sincere thanks to Peter Sacks, Sir Paul Ruddock and Mansfield College for enabling it to be housed in our building.

Our third year of operation has been a busy one. Our team grew during the year: at the end of last academic year, the team numbered nine people and by the end of this academic year, our team numbered 15, when the academic staff included Professor Kate O’Regan, the Director, Dr Liora Lazarus, Head of Research, Dr Annelen Micus, Head of Programmes, and Dr Christos Kypraios, Programmes Manager who is on a one-year contract from January 2020 – December 2020, partly to replace Annelen who was on maternity leave from February. We also now have six post-doctoral fellows attached to the Bonavero: Dr Oliver Butler, Dr Michael Molavi and Dr Stefan Theil who have been with us for some time, and this year we welcomed three new post-doctoral fellows: Dr Richard Martin, Dr Leah Trueblood and Dr Ekaterina Aristova. Richard and Leah are British Academy Post-doctoral fellows, and Ekaterina (Katya) is the Oak Foundation Project fellow. This year too we welcomed Dr Shreya Atrey and Dr Nazila Ghanaee as members of the Bonavero academic team. Shreya and Nazila co-ordinate and present the M.St. in International Human Rights, offered by the Department of Continuing Education. Zoe Davis-Heaney leads our administrative team and she is supported by Sarah Norman, the Price Moot Co-ordinator as well as an Events Co-ordinator, a position held by Emma Pruszewicz until December 2019. We welcomed Rosie Finn in her place in April. In addition, we have two Research Assistants who support the events and programmes of the Bonavero, Sanya Samtani and Gayathree Thazhathuveetil, as well as several contract staff who support the Price Media Moot, notably Nevena Krivokapic and Camille Adair Morgan.
Research

Our research activities also grew significantly during the year. Highlights were the establishment of the Oak Foundation research project on civil liability for gross human rights violations and the development of the UKRI-funded Policy and Evidence Centre on Modern Slavery. Our Bonavero Report series has continued to grow in this academic year, we have published five reports. Bonavero Reports are often published when there is a public call for comment on human rights related policy or legislative proposals, such as Facebook’s proposed External Review Board (Bonavero Report 2/2019), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights invitation to submit comments on the scope of states obligations on the guarantees of trade union freedom from a gender perspective (Bonavero Report 1/2020) or the United Nations Human Rights Committee’s draft General Comment on Freedom of Association (Bonavero Report 2/2020). In May for the first time, we issued a report outside of a public consultation process. Under the leadership of Dr Liora Lazarus, we produced a Bonavero Report assessing the human rights implications of the responses to COVID-19 by eleven countries that has been widely disseminated (Bonavero Report 3/2020).

We continued to host a wide range of events during the year. A highlight was our hosting of the first Bonavero Annual Human Rights, lecture at Lincolns Inn in London. We were honoured that Róbert Spanó, now President of the European Court of Human Rights, accepted our invitation to deliver the lecture and that Lord Sumption agreed to respond. The lecture was chaired by Helen Mountfield QC.

Programmes

Our student programmes continued to develop. Our Summer Student Fellowship programme has grown significantly in the last few years, with 17 students having been placed in the summer of 2019 and we placed 17 again in 2020. All students are provided with living wage stipends to support them during their placements and we have a wide range of partners who host the students. An exciting initiative for the coming year is the Symposium on Strength and Solidarity to address issues of resilience in human rights organisations. The Bonavero Institute will be involved in the development of the syllabus for the symposium.

Of course, the last term of the year was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The University required staff to work from home shortly after the end of Hilary Term, and the Bonavero Institute has been working virtually since then. Where we could we moved events online. The first programme to be affected by the pandemic was the Price Media Moot as we had to cancel the in-person final round in Oxford. However, the Price Media Moot team worked tremendously hard to host the final rounds of the Moot online instead which they did with great success. 28 teams competed and the semi-final and final rounds were webcast live. We also shifted the Bonavero Discussion Group, and the Bonavero Network Series online and were pleased to have considerable attendance from across the globe. We have also hosted Team meetings and our weekly research seminar (Bonavero Perspectives) online and these have all proved successful. The experience gained in running online events may well have long term impact on our planning of events.

Professor Kate O’Regan, September 2020
The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights is a research institute within the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. Unlike the other research centres in the Faculty of Law that are housed in the university buildings, the Bonavero Institute is housed in Mansfield College.

The governance and structure of the Bonavero Institute is governed in terms of a Constitution approved by the Law Board and the Board of the Division of Social Sciences within the University. The Director of the Institute reports to the Dean of the Faculty of Law and to a Management Committee, established in terms of the Constitution, which meets termly. It is chaired by Professor Liz Fisher, a member of the Faculty of Law and a fellow of Corpus Christi College.
Founding Principles

The Institute studies and supports all fundamental human rights as they have been, or should be, protected in law, for example, those rights in the UDHR.

The Institute acknowledges and welcomes debates about the content, foundation, and best forms of protection for human rights. It supports vigorous and diverse scholarly discussion of all these issues.

Strategic Goals

A

The Institute will seek to establish a vibrant, collegial, global forum of human rights scholars and practitioners to foster collaboration between scholars and human rights lawyers in practice, including judges. In so doing, the Institute will widen the University's engagement with society on human rights issues. The establishment of a global forum of scholars and practitioners will be achieved in part by the use of modern information and communications technology, including Facebook and Twitter.

B

The Institute will foster collaborative, rigorous, multidisciplinary and innovative world class research on human rights issues and share the fruits of its research in a clear and accessible way with policy-makers, practitioners, and the broader public.

C

The Institute will expose students at the University to current issues in human rights. It will also enhance the experience of graduate research students working in the broad field of human rights in the Faculty of Law by providing them with a collegial working space, access to Institute events and exposure to a range of opportunities that will enable graduate students to think about the application of human rights law in practice. The Institute will provide opportunities to students who wish to develop careers in human rights law. The Institute will also promote the teaching of human rights law within the Faculty of Law at the University.

D

The Institute will seek to be recognised as a host (and co-host) that organises engaging intellectual events of both global and local importance relating to human rights law, including lectures, conversations, discussions, conferences and symposia, both in Oxford and elsewhere.

Benefactors

The Bonavero Institute would like to thank all its founding donors:
The AB Charitable Trust; the Bonavero Family; the Abu Nahl family; the Leventis Family; Sir Joseph Hotung; the Hands family; the Lisbet Rausing Foundation.

And all its current donors:
The Legal Education Foundation, Eric L Lewis, the McBain Family Trust, the Oak Foundation, the Global Fund for Human Rights, Yves and Anne Bonavero. With thanks also to the many friends who have continued to support us and wish to remain anonymous.
Advisory Council & Management Committee

Ms Alejandra Ancheita
Advisory Council

Lady Arden
Advisory Council

Mr Yves Bonavero
Advisory Council

Dame Linda Dobbs
Advisory Council

Lord John Dyson
Advisory Council

Professor Christof Heyns
Advisory Council

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC
Advisory Council

Mr Eric Lewis
Advisory Council

Ms Jennifer Robinson
Advisory Council

Dr Miriam Saage-Maass
Advisory Council

Sir Stephen Sedley
Advisory Council

Professor Chris Stone
Advisory Council

Dr Anup Surendranath
Advisory Council

Professor Rodrigo Uprimny Yepes
Advisory Council

Mr Vincent Warren
Advisory Council

Professor Liz Fisher
Management Committee

Mr Andrew Higgins
Management Committee

Professor Nick Barber
Management Committee

Professor Sandy Fedman
Management Committee

Helen Mountfield QC
Management Committee

Professor Dapo Akande
Management Committee

Professor Helen Margetts
Management Committee

Professor Cathryn Costello
Management Committee

*Professor Kate O'Regan, Dr Annelen Micus, Dr Liora Lazarus and Dr Michael Molavi are all full-time staff members who serve on the Management Committee, see staff directory.
Staff Directory

Professor Kate O'Regan
Director
Contact me

Dr Liora Lazarus
Head of Research
Contact me

Dr Annelen Micus
Head of Programmes
Contact me

Dr Christos Kypraios
Programmes Manager
Contact me

Dr Oliver Butler
Post Doctoral Fellow
Contact me

Dr Michael Molavi
Post Doctoral Fellow
Contact me

Dr Stefan Theil
Post Doctoral Fellow
Contact me

Dr Richard Martin
Post Doctoral Fellow
Contact me

Dr Leah Trueblood
Post Doctoral Fellow
Contact me

Dr Ekaterina Aristova
Post Doctoral Fellow
Contact me

Dr Shreya Atrey
Associate Professor
Contact me

Dr Nazila Ghanea
Associate Professor
Contact me

Ms Zoe Davis-Heaney
Institute Administrator
Contact me

Ms Sarah Norman
Price Moot Administrator
Contact me

Ms Rosie Finn
Events Officer
Contact me

Ms Sanya Samtani
Research Assistant
Contact me

Ms Gayathree Thazhathuveetil
Research Assistant
Contact me

Ms Lisa Hsin
Research Assistant
Contact me

Ms Nevena Martinovic
Price Moot Co-ordinator
Contact me

Ms Kamille Adair-Morgan
Research Assistant PMC
Contact me

*Associate Professor in International Human Rights Law - Bonavero Academic Affiliate. **Price Moot Competition.
Ever growing, our research programmes focus on Human Rights from many different perspectives, from Human Rights in the Digital World, to the Environment and Human Rights, Business and Human Rights, to Armed Conflict, Security and Human Rights. With five published reports, our Bonavero Reports series continued to grow, contributing to policy debates and consultation processes. Our Research Visitor, Early Career Fellow and Graduate Research Student Resident programmes continue to provide a strong foundation for collegial engagement at the Bonavero.
ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2019-20

Our Bonavero Report series has continued to grow in this academic year: we have published five reports.

Bonavero Reports are often published when there is a public call for comment on human rights-related policy or legislative proposals, such as Facebook’s proposed External Review Board (Bonavero Report 2/2019), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights invitation to submit comments on the scope of states obligations on the guarantees of trade union freedom from a gender perspective (Bonavero Report 1/2020), or the United Nations Human Rights Committee’s draft General Comment on Freedom of Association (Bonavero Report 2/2020).

We also produced a report assessing the human rights implications of the responses to COVID-19 by eleven countries that has drawn wide international attention (Bonavero Report 3/2020).

Click on a cover image to download a Report.
We continued to host a diverse and valuable array of Research Visitors. This year we welcomed: Abdullah Al Mutairi, Luis Franceschi (former Dean, Strathmore Law School, Nairobi), Mark Heywood (formerly AIDS Law Project and SECTION27, South Africa), Steven Jensen (Danish Institute for Human Rights), Nur Laiq (Global South Visiting Fellow, TORCH), Stephen Meili (University of Minnesota Law School), Harriet Moynihan (Chatham House), Jason Varuhus (Melbourne Law School) and Raquel Vazquez Llorente (international Bar Association).

This programme continues to be a success: providing selected graduate students with a dedicated desk in the Helena Kennedy Reading Room. We continued this programme in 2020, advertising at the end of 2019 for applicants and receiving many applications. 9 students were afforded Graduate Student Resident status: Ashleigh Barnes, Sameer Rashid Bhat, Gayathree Kalliyat Thazhathuveetil, Lama Karame, Titiksha Mohanty, Brigid O’Farrell White, Mónica Arango Olayo, Nomfundo Ramalekana and Alexander Wentker.

Together with the Asian Law Centre at Melbourne Law School and the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at the National University of Singapore, the Bonavero hosted this workshop in Melbourne in December 2019. It was attended by scholars from around the world (including Kate O’Regan and Liora Lazarus) and participants examined a range of questions relating to constitutional resilience in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It was a very successful event and we expect most of the papers to be published soon – sincere thanks to our partners in Melbourne for their excellent organisation.

Our Early Career Fellowship programme continued to develop well this year. It is open to early career academics who have positions at the University of Oxford and whose research interests lie in the broad fields of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Current early career fellows are: Elizabeth Stubbins-Bates (Merton), Udit Bhatia (Jesus), Ewan Smith (Christ Church), Nick Friedman (St Anne’s), Hadeel Abu Hussein (St Antony’s).

The Oak Foundation Research Project on Civil Liability for Gross Human Rights Violations seeks to compile a comparative study of civil liability across several jurisdictions. It is co-ordinated by Dr Katya Aristova under the guidance of an expert Steering Committee.

The Bonavero Institute is one of 6 partners in this five-year UKRI-funded project, led by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law. Two research projects are under way at the Bonavero under this project and we expect more in the years to come.

Members of the Bonavero Institute have produced a wide range of publications during the year. A complete list is annexed.
Over the past year, our programmes offering students insights into human rights research and practice have continued to thrive. We continued our Collaborative Legal Aid Clinic at HMP Huntercombe and ran Strategising Seminars on Health & Human Rights as well as Business & Human Rights. The global Price Media Law Moot and the Oxford Blackstone Human Rights Moot offered opportunities for students to engage with human rights through mooting. 17 students were awarded fellowships to pursue internships in human rights organisations, research institutions and courts around the world.
Since 2018, the Bonavero Institute and the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford have partnered with the Oxford-based law firm Turpin & Miller to run clinics for prisoners who are at risk of deportation at HMP Huntercombe.

Our legal aid clinic at HMP Huntercombe addresses an urgent local human rights need, while being an important example of collaboration between a small private human rights law firm, university-based researchers and graduate law and criminology students. The clinic is an innovative attempt, in the face of the sharp decline in the availability of legal aid, to ensure that prisoners at risk of deportation have access to in-person consultations with law students, paralegal advisers and a solicitor, followed by comprehensive legal representation, including litigation, if necessary to the Upper Tribunal. The consultations at the clinic form the basis, where appropriate, for applications for legal aid, which given the comprehensive assessment at the in-person consultations at the clinic, have nearly all been successful.

The clinics run on a fortnightly basis. Graduate law and criminology students assist in taking initial instructions from potential clients and gather information before the prisoners see the solicitor. Prisoners then have a brief interview with the solicitor who will advise them of their options and further steps. Students also support the follow-up work on the cases from the offices of Turpin & Miller. Many of the cases have resulted in litigation, which has given students an opportunity to observe and assist in litigation. It therefore assists students who wish to develop careers in human rights and immigration law to develop important skills.

After a successful first year’s operation in 2018-19, the clinic ran again this year with the participation of seven students. Importantly, although the outbreak of COVID-19 in March resulted temporarily in the suspension of the clinic, clients continued to be supported until the recommence of the clinic in the summer. We are delighted that we have secured the continuation of the clinic in the next academic year thanks to a new generous grant by the AB Charitable Trust, which has enabled us to establish and run the clinic over the past years.
In this, the 13th year of the Monroe Price Moot Court Competition, there were six successful Regional Rounds in Beijing (Asia Pacific), Budapest (South East Europe), Delhi (South Asia), New York (Americas), Kyiv (North East Europe) and (for the first time) Paris (Northern Europe).

At the conclusion of the regional rounds in early February, the stage was set for the final rounds in Oxford which were due to be held from 30th March – 3rd April. However, in mid-February we came to realise that the spread of COVID-19 constituted a real threat to our ability to host the final rounds in Oxford and so we consulted the members of our Price Moot Advisory Council and all qualifying teams for their views on how we should go forward. After this consultation, having looked at public health advice, we took the hard decision at the beginning of March to cancel the final rounds.

All was not lost, however. Within a week the new moot rules had been formulated, and teams had been invited to submit their arguments in a digital format for judging by panels of judges. 28 of the 40 qualifying teams entered the online moot.

Four semi-finalist teams were identified by our teams of volunteer judges, and two semi final moots were held online. This was followed by the Grand final, held on 3rd April, with Singapore Management University being the overall winner, and the University of Oxford runner-up.

That the moot continued to operate in these trying times was a mark of the dedication, not only of our wonderful organising team, who were awarded the Spirit of the Moot prize for 2020, but also the commitment of all the qualifying teams and their coaches, and all the volunteer judges who viewed the moot entries. A sincere thanks to you all.

The level of commitment and dedication shown by competitors, coaches, judges and the organisational team demonstrated, if it were necessary, that the Price Media Law Moot Court Programme is more than a moot court. It is a global community.

The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford is very proud to be the home of this wonderful mooting community, even if in 2020 for the final rounds at least, that was a virtual home. We are grateful for the spirit of co-operation and commitment shown by all those involved in this the extraordinary 13th year of the Price Media Moot. We look forward to a time when the Price Media Moot community can meet together in regional rounds all over the world and in the final rounds in Oxford once again but we remain delighted by the spirit of community that was so palpable during the virtual final rounds of 2020.
The aim of the Bonavero Institute Student Fellowship programme is to provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge of human rights law and develop careers in this field. Through this programme students have the opportunity to work with a range of organisations active in the field of human rights law and the rule of law. These include senior appellate courts, world leading NGOs and research institutions.

The Student Fellowship Programme gives our students a chance to explore their professional options in a variety of placements, both within the UK and across the world. Over the last year seventeen students were awarded Student Fellowships. The Bonavero also administers the Oxford Pro Bono Publico (OPBP) summer fellowships.

Although each Fellowship is unique, we try to ensure that all provide the following common outcomes:

- Experience of working with the chosen partner on a defined project or programme of work, creating real value for the host organisation and a valuable learning experience for the student.
- Interaction with an assigned supervisor or mentor within the host organisation.
- A bursary to assist with travel and/or accommodation (this is not payment for work).
I was awarded the 2019 Samuel Pisar Travelling Fellowship in Human Rights to enable me to intern with the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) Headquarters at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in East Jerusalem from July to October 2019.

Since visiting Israel and Palestine in 2017, I became interested in issues relating to and affecting Palestinian refugees and how international law can be used to protect and advance their human rights. I also became deeply interested in broader refugee, migrant and human rights issues in the region. This led me to apply to intern with UNRWA.

I am a current DPhil in Law Candidate at Oxford Law Faculty, writing a thesis on ‘Protecting the Right to Leave in an Era of Externalised Migration Control’. My research focuses on protecting the right to leave and related human rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants when migration control is conducted extra territorially and has been outsourced to States of origin and transit, private actors and international organisations...
I had the pleasure and privilege of working as an intern at the Supreme Court of Namibia through the Oxford Bonavero Institute for Human Rights Fellowship program from September 2019 to March 2020.

I am very grateful for the Bonavero Institute’s support in allowing me to undertake this work for a full six months, which allowed me to become truly immersed in the work and Namibian culture. I sat in all court hearings with the Chief Justice, the Honourable Peter S. Shivute, and prepared case summaries and speeches for the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Court. I was also encouraged to and did attend cases presided over by the other Judges, which exposed me to a broad variety of complex civil, criminal, and constitutional matters being heard at the court.

The variety and depth of my workload was one of the most rewarding aspects of my experience. In my first week, I was tasked with drafting a speech for the Chief Justice to deliver at a UNODC Judicial Symposium on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)...
I was selected to participate in the Bonavero Student Fellowship at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) in Berlin, Germany from July 2019 to October 2019. I had initially chosen ECCHR for its strong focus on strategic litigation and principled commitment to holding states and actors accountable for human rights violations.

Having studied modules in Comparative Human Rights, Comparative Equality Law, and Criminal Justice, Security and Human Rights during the BCL, I was eager to witness the working of the human rights and equality law on the ground. The fellowship at ECCHR surpassed my expectations in that it offered an incredibly inspiring peek into human rights in practice and armed me with a toolbox of innovative methods for strategic legal intervention. I worked with the International Crimes and Accountability program (ICA) and was immediately supervised by Alexandra Lily Kather while the program is headed by Andreas Schüller. The working environment was charged with an unwavering curiosity shared by fellow trainees and staff members...
We hosted more than 80 events during the course of the year. Events included conferences, roundtables, public lectures, law moots, the weekly Bonavero Discussion Group, films, cultural events, career events and our hosted network discussion groups.

The evening before the conference the Bonavero Institute, together with the Jurisprudence Discussion Group, hosted a conversation on African jurisprudence with panel members John Ambani (Strathmore Law School, Nairobi), Joel Modiri (Pretoria) and Khomotso Moshikaro (Cambridge), chaired by Achas Burin (Oxford). The conference considered three cases: The International Criminal Court decision in the appeal on the non-compliance by Jordan with the request by the Court for the arrest and surrender of Omar Al-Bashir (ICC02/05-01/09 OA2) of 6th May 2019, the Kenya Supreme Court decision in Raila Odinga and Another v IEBC and Others (2017) and the UK Supreme Court decision in R (Privacy International) v Investigatory Powers Tribunal [2019]UKSC 22.
A highlight of the year was our hosting of the first Bonavero Annual Human Rights Lecture at Lincoln's Inn in London. We were honoured that Róbert Spanó, now President of the European Court of Human Rights, accepted our invitation to deliver the lecture and that Lord Sumption agreed to respond. The lecture was chaired by Helen Mountfield QC.

Judge Spanó’s lecture was titled “The Democratic Virtues of Human Rights Law - a Response to Lord Sumption’s Reith Lectures” in which he argued that Lord Sumption had undervalued the value of human rights law in legitimising political outcomes in a democracy. He also argued that Lord Sumption’s account of the judicial process in human rights case did not fully account for the changing role of the European Court of Human Rights, and in particular had overlooked the recent development of its jurisprudence which sought to promote democratic engagement with human rights questions. Lord Sumption responded and a lively discussion between Lord Sumption and Judge Spanó followed with excellent questions from the audience. Our sincere thanks to Judge Spanó, Lord Sumption and Helen Mountfield QC for being willing to participate in our first ever annual Human Rights Lecture.
Bonavero Online

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic we have made every effort to continue our activities in line with the University of Oxford and UK government advice. From Trinity Term 2020 onwards all our staff has been working from home and our events and programmes have taken place online.

As mentioned previously, in April the Price Media Moot team hosted the final rounds of the Price Media Moot online with great success. Since then, our weekly Discussion Group and Network Series, as well as our other public facing events, have been held online, with a considerably higher attendance from across the globe than we normally have at events hosted in Oxford.

We have also hosted Team meetings and our weekly Bonavero Perspectives research seminars online, and these have also proved very successful. Although it still remains unclear how the next academic year will be affected by the pandemic, we consider we have made strides in working effectively in a virtual environment so that our events, programmes and research projects will continue successfully, even if the pandemic continues to disrupt our lives in the year ahead.
“Never, since 1945, has the defence of our human rights been more necessary. I’m proud that the Bonavero Institute has joined the fray, and delighted by the impact that it is already having.”

Yves Bonavero