



University of
Nottingham
Human Rights Law Centre

Protecting Human Rights Defenders and Prisoners of Conscience in Bahrain

Scholars at Risk (SAR) 2022 Event

13 May 2022, 4:00 – 5:30pm UK time, Online – MS Teams

4:00 – 4:05	<i>Welcome</i> Aoife Nolan , Professor of International Human Rights Law and HRLC Co-Director, University of Nottingham
4:05 – 4:10	<i>SAR Student Advocacy Seminar 2022 – Dr Abduljalil Al-Singace</i> Elwira Slowinska and Lorien Lambert , SAR students
4:10 – 4:35	<i>A narrative about the champions of peaceful change in Bahrain</i> Khalid Ibrahim , Executive Director & Co-Founder, Gulf Centre for Human Rights
4:35 – 5:00	<i>Legal Strategies to protect Human Rights defenders in Bahrain</i> Sue Willman , Senior Consultant at Deighton Pierce Glynn; Assistant Director, Lecturer and Supervising Solicitor at King's College Legal Clinic
5:00 – 5:25	<i>Advocacy in Practise: What tools can you use to advocate for human rights?</i> Sayed Alwadaei - Director of Advocacy, Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy Josie Thum - Research and Policy Associate, Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy
5:25 – 5:30	<i>Closing remarks</i> Aoife Nolan , Professor of International Human Rights Law and HRLC Co-Director, University of Nottingham

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Khalid Ibrahim | Executive Director & co-Founder, Gulf Centre for Human Rights

Khalid Ibrahim is the Executive Director of the Gulf Centre for human rights in charge of management, programme development, fundraising and training. He is an Iraqi human rights defender with decades of experience in the human rights field, including more than ten years in Dublin with Frontline Defenders where he worked on human rights issues in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In 2011, he decided to focus on human rights in the Gulf region and neighbouring countries and thus co-founded the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR). A PhD researcher in digital protection for human rights defenders at Trinity College Dublin, Khalid is a certified specialist in the field of human rights with an interest in the use of new technologies to enhance the protection of human rights in the MENA region.

Sue Willman | Senior Consultant at Deighton Pierce Glynn; Assistant Director, Lecturer and Supervising Solicitor at King's College Legal Clinic

Sue Willman is a senior consultant and former DPG partner with over 30 years' experience of innovative public interest litigation and collaboration with non-profit organisations and campaigners. Sue established Pierce Glynn's public law and human rights law team, which has an impressive reputation, reflected in the Legal 500 and Chambers Directory rankings for both firms. In recent years, she has led DPG's international human rights work. She also works part-time at King's College where she has established a Human Rights and Environment Legal Clinic, the first in the UK. Sue has particular experience of using UK law to tackle torture. She is interested in using universal jurisdiction to seek prosecutions in the UK of those who commit acts of torture abroad. In the wake of the Arab Spring, she has supported the work of human rights defenders from the Middle East. She was instructed by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Rights Watch UK in a legal intervention in the Court of Appeal challenging arms exports to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. Sue is committed to using public and human rights law as a means of challenging social and environmental injustice.

Sayed Alwadaei | Director of Advocacy, Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD)

Sayed Alwadaei is the Director of Advocacy at the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD). Sayed is a Bahraini human rights defender who, after facing persecution and imprisonment in Bahrain for his participation in the 2011 Arab Spring pro-democracy movement, co-founded BIRD in London where he now lives in exile. Sayed is the winner of the 2020 Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression Award and has written for publications including the Guardian, the Independent, the Washington Post and the New York Times.

Josie Thum | Research and Policy Associate, Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD)

Josie Thum is a Research and Policy Associate at the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD). Josie is the Secretariat of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Democracy and Human Rights in the Gulf and drafted their recent report "The Cost of Repression" on secret UK government funding to the Gulf. Prior to her role with BIRD, Josie was Advocacy Manager at the child rights NGO, Humanium, handled cases for the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention as part of a legal clinic and worked in fundraising at Amnesty International.