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Press Notice

BRITISH-ISRAELI LEGAL EXCHANGE 2010

From 7-10 June 2010, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (UKSC) was delighted to host the seventh triennial British-Israeli Legal Exchange.

This Exchange is part of a series between United Kingdom Judges and lawyers, and those from other countries. Other Exchanges involve the United States, India, Canada, France and Germany amongst others. Exchanges offer members of the judiciary and lawyers the opportunity to strengthen their relationships and discuss topics of mutual interest. This was the first such Exchange hosted at the UKSC. The previous British-Israeli Exchange took place in 2007 in Jerusalem.

The United Kingdom team was led by Lady Hale, a Justice of the Supreme Court and the Israeli team by Dorit Beinisch the President of the Supreme Court of Israel.

The members of the delegations were:

Israeli Delegation

President Dorit Beinisch
Justice Edna Arbel
Justice Elyakim Rubinstein
Justice Esther Hayut
Justice Hanan Melcer
Justice Uzi Vogelmann
Professor Barak Medina
Professor Daphne Barak-Erez

UK Delegation

Lady Hale
Lord Collins
Sir John Dyson
Sir Declan Morgan, Lord Chief Justice Northern Ireland
Lady Paton, Court of Session, Scotland
Lord Pannick QC
Professor David Feldman
Professor Jeffrey Jowell QC
Dinah Rose QC
Shami Chakrabarti CBE (Liberty)
Lisa Giovannetti (Barrister)

During the formal proceedings, the delegates discussed the following issues:

Procedural fairness for people suspected of involvement in terrorism

Religion and the Courts

Dignity and Equality

Constitutional limits to privatisation

The delegation also had the opportunity of sitting in on part of a hearing in the Supreme Court in the case of R (Electoral Commission) v City of Westminster Magistrates' Court and the United Kingdom Independence Party; and had a tour of the House of Lords and House of Commons hosted by Lord Woolf.

In welcoming the Israeli delegation on 7 June **Lord Phillips**, President of the UKSC said:

“We have much in common with your Court. We apply a law that has its basis the common law and we have no written Constitution, although we have laws that have constitutional impact. In recent times the activities of those who are hostile to our regimes have posed particular problems to Courts dedicated, as both our Courts are, to upholding the rule of law.”

Lady Hale said: “We learn so much from these exchanges. Legal systems the world over face very similar challenges but in the common law world, which includes both the United Kingdom and Israel, we share common legal values which shape our solutions to these challenges. We have greatly enjoyed hosting the British-Israeli Legal Exchange in the Supreme Court, where we have discussed some difficult legal issues in a friendly, frank and constructive atmosphere.”

President Beinisch said: “On behalf of the Israeli delegation to the British-Israeli Legal Exchange we are heartedly grateful to our hosts for extremely fruitful and stimulating discussions and for the warm and friendly hospitality extended to us.”

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Contacts:

Sian Lewis
Tel: 020 7960 1886
sian.lewis@supremecourt.gsi.gov.uk

Robert Boyland
Tel: 020 7960 1887
robert.boyland@supremecourt.gsi.gov.uk