



Dear Woolf Friends,

Tomorrow (Monday 28 November) marks the launch of the Commission on the Integration of Refugees. Convened by the founder President of the Woolf Institute, Dr Ed Kessler, this independent Commission aims to improve refugee integration in the UK proposing practical reforms which command broad public and political support.

A former honorary PhD student at the Woolf Institute, I began working on the Commission in September. It's been a strange but exhilarating transition, from the quiet isolation of my doctoral research to the fast-paced environment of the Commission secretariat. But the welcoming environment of the Woolf, complete with a staff of supportive and experienced colleagues, made the change as smooth as I could have hoped for.

Chaired by Lord Alex Carlile, the Commission is composed of 23 commissioners from across civil society, the public sector, politics, faith communities and academia. Several have lived experience of life as a refugee in the UK themselves, including the Commission's Vice-Chair, Bishop Doctor Guli Francis-Dehqani.

It's the diversity within the commission that I find most exciting about the project.

All the commissioners have joined forces in the full knowledge that many of them disagree strongly about what should be done to reform the UK refugee and asylum system. They know that the Commission must be a space for building consensus and finding compromise. I can already see that it won't be easy.

Upcoming Events

30 November

Edward Said and the
Study of Religion



1 December

William Kessler
Essay Prize
Competition



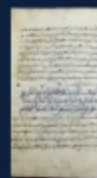
6 December

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible



13 December

Historiography and
Politics in the Late
Medieval Islamic
Mediterranean



16 & 17 January

Perspectives on
Judaism and Islam



26 January



But there's clear cause for optimism. All the commissioners agree that significant change is needed, not only to improve outcomes for refugees themselves, but also because they share a vision for a future UK society where everyone feels welcome and part of strong, cohesive communities.

You can stay up to date with the Commission's work by signing up to our mailing list below or following us on Twitter [@CIRRefugeesUK](https://twitter.com/CIRRefugeesUK).

Best wishes,

Chris Cooper-Davies

Research Associate, Commission on the Integration of Refugees

**CLICK HERE TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH
THE COMMISSION'S WORK**

London Patrons'
Tour



31 January

Making martyrs in
medieval Iberia



7 February

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible



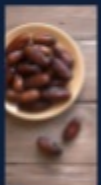
8 February

London Research
Day



30 March

Iftar



6 June

Woolf Institute
Garden Party



AN UNCOMMON LAWYER

Rt Hon Lord Woolf, CH



This week Lord Woolf launched his autobiography, *An Uncommon Lawyer*, at UCL Laws. A panel event celebrated the publication, with Frances Gibb (former legal editor of *The Times*) and Sir Jeffrey Jowell KCMG QC (Blackstone Chambers), UCL President and Provost, Dr Michael Spence

AC, and Professor Eloise Scottford, UCL Dean of Laws, joined by an audience of over 90 guests.

Considering the ebb and flow of changes over his remarkable judicial life, this book recounts his illustrious career providing a personal and honest perspective on the most important developments in the common law over the last half century. This pertinent account details his support of and commitment to the Woolf Institute.

Generously all profits from the book sales will be donated to the Woolf Institute to support our work. To order online click on the button below and use discount code **GLR CA3UK** at the checkout.



*From left to right:
Maggie Stevenson, Dr
Esther Miriam Wagner
and Lord Woolf*

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER THE BOOK ONLINE](#)

William Kessler Essay Prize Award Ceremony

1 December @16:00



The Woolf Institute invites you to the William Kessler Essay Prize Award Ceremony where the winner of the essay competition will be announced.

We received many excellent submissions this year and were impressed with the breadth of knowledge and experience students displayed in their essays.

We thank all those who submitted an essay for this year's competition and look forward to the announcement of the winner

[IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT FLORA MOFFIE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE SHORTLISTED ESSAYS](#)

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

ARE WE WITNESSING THE COLLAPSE OF THE
NHS IN REAL TIME?



Since the COVID pandemic, satisfaction ratings with the National Health Service have plummeted. Should we look to other countries for alternative models? And Social Services, which have never been properly integrated into the NHS system, are on the brink of collapse, despite the claims of politicians to have “sorted” the problem. Sarah Smith and Gurch Randawa tackle a thorny problem...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

TIME TO STOP TALKING

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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