**Raha Bahreini**

D/2/C Avon Way House, Avon Way, Colchester, United kingdom CO4 3TZ [bahreiniraha@gmail.com](mailto:rbahre@essex.ac.uk)

**EDUCATION & AWARDS**

**L.L.M in International Human Rights Law(University of Essex)**

2012 - 2013

* 2012 Recipient of Mackenzie King Travelling Scholarship for “high academic achievements personal qualities, and demonstrated aptitudes”

**Certificate, Advanced Training on Monitoring Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

**(Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights)**

May 2012

**J.D. *(*Osgoode Hall Law School)**

2008 - 2011

* 2010 Recipient of John Yaremko, Q.C. Scholarship in recognition of “academic excellence in the study of Human Rights, Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law”
* 2009 Recipient of Osgoode Ian Scott Public Interest Internship Award
* 2008 Recipient of Ignat Kaneff Entrance Scholarship for Academic Excellence

**H.B.A. “Women and Gender Studies” (University of Toronto)**

2004 - 2008

* 2009 Recipient of John H. Moss Scholarship, awarded to a graduating student of the University of Toronto “for academic excellence and outstanding community leadership”
* 2008 Recipient of Victoria Reunion Award for “outstanding academic performance”
* 2007 Recipient of the City of Toronto Women’s Studies Scholarship “for outstanding contribution to studies on the status of women, community studies and public policy”
* 2006 Recipient of Professor William Kingston and Dr John Kingston Scholarship for academic excellence
* 2005-2006 Recipient of Helen Gregory MacGill Prize in Women’s Studies
* 2005-2006 Recipient of Canadian Institute of International Affairs Prize

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Legal Researcher** Feb 2011- ongoing

*Justice for Iran (JFI)*

* Represented JFI before the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in advance of Iran’s periodic review in May 2013, and engaged in relayed lobbying efforts
* Conducted legal and factual research in relation to such thematic concerns as forced marriage of children, marital rape, Afghan refugees and migrants, and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity
* Underwent training to conduct interview with victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence
* Interviewed former women political prisoners about their experiences of sexual violence in the prisons of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 1980s
* Provided research support to the JFI report ‘Crime and Impunity: Sexual Torture of Women in Islamic Republic Prison (Vol. I)’
* Authored the JFI’s submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran concerning the human rights situation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Iran

**Senior Associate** Oct 2012 - Apr 2013

*Human Rights in Iran Unit, University of Essex*

* Conducted extensive legal research, particularly on Iranian criminal and civil law, Shari'a law and international human rights law, to support the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran
* Authored a comprehensive research paper analyzing Iran's constitutional and electoral structure in light of Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
* Monitored relevant human rights developments in Iranian criminal and civil law
* Provided support to the Director of the Unit and other associates through preparation of draft memoranda, legal briefs and country situation reports

**Public Interest Law Fellow** Nov 2011 - Sep 2012

*Amnesty International Canada*

* Conducted legal research in relation to such thematic concerns as refugees and migrants, violence against women, indigenous rights, counter-terrorism concerns, discriminatory access to health care, extradition, fairs trial rights and international justice
* Provided legal support to Amnesty International's litigation teams through preparation of litigation proposals, legal memoranda and draft amicus briefs
* Led the work of researching and drafting Amnesty International submissions to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the UN Committee against Torture in advance of their periodic reviews of Canada*,* and engaged in relate lobbying efforts in Geneva
* Served as principal author for Amnesty International’s submission to the UN Human Rights Council in advance of the 2013 review of Canada’s human rights record under the Universal Periodic Review
* Prepared Amnesty International brief to Canada’s Parliamentary Standing Committee on Immigration laying out the organization’s serious concerns with Canada’s proposed reforms to its refugee and immigration system
* Conducted public education sessions about Canada’s international obligations toward refugees

**Legal Caseworker** Apr 2010 - Dec 2010

*Parkdale Community Legal Services (Immigration and Refugee Division)*

* Acted as counsel in twenty active immigration and refugee case files under the supervision of the clinic’ staff lawyer
* Provided summary legal advice, brief service and referral to new PCLS walk-in clients
* Prepared legal submissions in support of Pre-Removal Risk Assessment applications and applications for Permanent Residence on Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds
* Filed judicial review applications with the Federals Court of Canada
* Assisted with the preparation and presentation of the intervener factum of the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children to the Supreme Court of Canada
* Prepared clients and witnesses for examination in chief and cross-examination in spousal sponsorship appeal cases before the Immigration Appeal Division
* Assisted clients with family reunification applications
* Organized and conducted public education sessions on Canada’s immigration and refugee system for local organizations

**Coordinator (Iran UPR Campaign)** Aug 2009 - March 2010

*Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security*

* Liaised with local, regional and international human rights partners to implement a campaign for the first Universal Periodic Review of Iran, including logistics, administration and outreach
* Monitored the course of the Universal Periodic Review of Iran by the UN Human Rights Council and contributed to the production of press releases and highlights in the social media
* Produced letters and other advocacy materials targeted toward partner organizations, human rights activists, government missions and the general public
* Organised a day of action in front of the United Nations Office in Geneva on February 15, 2010
* Wrote a directed research paper on the subject of Universal Periodic Review and its strengths and weaknesses as an intergovernmental mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights

**Legal Intern** May 2009 - Sep 2009

*Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (IHRDC)*

* Conducted extensive factual and legal research on the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran and its qualification as a crime against humanity under international criminal law
* Documented human rights violations including extra-judicial executions, disappearances, torture and arbitrary detention in the Islamic Republic of Iran
* Prepared witness statements and affidavits based on the testimony of Iranian political and civil activists subjected to torture, arbitrary detention and other human rights violations

**Researcher and Writer** Jul 2009 - Aug 2009

*International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)*

* Led the work of drafting the submission of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to the UN Human Rights Council in advance of 2010 review of Iran’s human rights record under the Universal Periodic Review

**Research Assistant**  Nov 2009 - Jul 2011

*Centre for Refugee Studies, York University (Dr. Sean Rehaag)*

* Provided legal analysis of the unpublished decisions of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada involving gay, lesbian and bisexual refugee claimants
* Prepared an annotated bibliography of the academic literature on the intersection between forced migration and persecution on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity

**Legal Educator**  Nov 2009 - Apr 2010

*Immigration and Refugee Detention Center Project, Pro bono Students Canada*

* Conducted legal education workshops for refugee claimants and migrants held in detention centers across Ontario, Canada

**Community-based Researcher and Coordinator**  Sep2006 - Jun 2008

*Gendering Adolescent AIDS Prevention Project (GAAP), University of Toronto*

* Organized and coordinated five youth-driven art-based HIV/AIDS prevention education workshops catering to over one hundred students
* Attended participatory workshops that highlighted the micro and macro determinants of HIV risk including gender-based violence and poverty
* Designed photographs that reflected broader social understandings of HIV risk and presented them at the *XVI* International AIDS Conference
* Assisted with the development of a youth media toolkit on HIV/AIDS education, entitled *“TIGXpress - HIV/AIDS Teacher Toolkit”* for the Toronto District School Board

**Advocacy Officer**  Sep 2006 - Jan 2008

*Iranian Queer Organization (IRQO)*

* Conducted relevant research and prepared country condition reports, letters to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and governments, and other materials about the human rights violations experienced by members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in Iran
* Monitored daily news and other LGBT related developments in Iran
* Organized fund-raising events in support of Iranian LGBT asylum seekers in Turkey
* Developed relationships with regional and international advocacy and lobbying organizations working on the situation of LGBT persons in Iran and in countries of asylum
* Prepared advocacy materials and FAQs on sexual orientation and gender identity issues, targeted towards Iranian human rights activists and the general public
* Conducted public education sessions on the situation of LGBT persons in Iran in various cities in Europe and North America

**PUBLICATION**

“Denying Identities, Maiming Bodies: Human Rights Violations against Individuals of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Islamic Republic of Iran” (2012) UNICEF *"Addressing Inequalities"* Global Thematic Consultation, available at <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/287187>.

"Unbalanced Reforms: Recommendations with respect to Bill C-31"Amnesty International Canada and Amnistie internationale Canada francophone Brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration (April 2012).

“From Perversion to Pathology: Discourses and Practices of Gender Policing in the Islamic Republic of Iran” (2008) *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights*: Vol. 5(1), Article 2.

“Beyond Impoverished Rights: A Critical Reflection on Current Discourses of Human Rights in Iran” (2011) *IPY Essay Contest 2011 (3rd Prize Winner)*, available at <http://change.iranpy.net/w/item/112>.

“Compulsory Heterosexuality: The Future Challenge of Iranian Feminism” (2009) *The Iranian Women’s Studies Foundation in the Context of the Iranian Women’s Movement after Twenty Years: 20th International Conference of the Iranian Women’s Studies Foundation* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA: Iranian Women’s Studies Foundation).

Larkin, J., Lombardo, C., Walker, L**.,** Bahreini, R., Tharao, W., Mitchell, C., Dubazane, N. “Taking It Global *Xpress*: Youth, Photovoice and HIV/AIDS” *Putting People in the Picture: Visual Methodologies for Social Change* (the Netherlands: Sense, 2008).

“Gender Policing in the Islamic Republic of Iran” (2008) *The Seventh Iranian Studies Biennial* (Toronto, Canada: International Society for Iranian Studies).

**LANGUAGES**

English (fluent), Farsi (fluent) Arabic (intermediate)

**REFERENCES**

1. Alex Neve

Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada

312 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa

ON K1N 1H9

613 744 7667 ext 234

[aneve@amnesty.ca](mailto:aneve@amnesty.ca)

1. Geraldine Sadoway

Staff Lawyer, Parkale Community Legal Services

1266 Queen Street West, Toronto

ON M67 1L3

416 531 2411

[gsadoway@gmail.com](mailto:gsadoway@gmail.com)

1. Scott Sheeran

Director, Human Rights in Iran Unit

Senior Lecturer & Director, LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian L

University of Essex and Human Rights Centre

Colchester, CO4 3SQ, United kingdom

[ssheeran@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ssheeran@essex.ac.uk)