

CAJ 40th anniversary celebration

10.30am to 12noon, Friday 10 December 2021

Zoom

Register via Eventbrite: www.bit.ly/CAJ40th

Joining instructions will be sent to you the day before the event. Email events@caj.org.uk if you have any questions.



Founded in 1981 at the height of the Troubles, the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) has spent the last forty years striving to promote justice and protect human rights within Northern Ireland. During this time, NI has undergone a major transformation. Violence has given way to a fragile peace following the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, but the fight for human rights and the rule of law is as important and as necessary as it ever was. CAJ remains dedicated to supporting the advancement of NI into a peaceful society, based upon human rights and equality.

Join us for this online event as we celebrate CAJ's achievements over the last forty years and explore what can be done today to promote human rights locally, nationally, and internationally. Albie Sachs, freedom fighter and former Judge of the South African Constitutional Court, will provide a keynote address during which he will reflect on the role of human rights over the past decades. This will be followed by a retrospective panel chaired by Dr Anna Bryson, Chairperson of CAJ's Executive. Panellists will include Paddy Sloan, CAJ's first staff member, Martin O'Brien, CAJ's first Director, and Brian Gormally, CAJ's current Director.

Time will be set aside at the end of the event for a Q&A session with Albie and the panel.

SPEAKERS & PANELLISTS



ALBIE SACHS: Albie began his legal career defending people charged under South Africa's racist statutes and repressive security laws. Following sustained persecution, he went into exile in 1966. In 1988, he was blown up by a bomb placed in his car by South African security agents, losing an arm and the sight of an eye. After recovering, he devoted himself to preparations for a new democratic Constitution for South Africa. In 1990, he returned home and took an active part in the negotiations which led to South Africa becoming a constitutional democracy. After the first democratic election in 1994, he was appointed by President Mandela to serve on the newly established Constitutional Court.



PADDY SLOAN: In 1985, Paddy joined CAJ as its first member of staff. She went on to work in both the independent and statutory sectors - including eight years as Chief Executive of NIHR. Since 2007, Paddy has worked in various posts with BBC Children in Need.



DR ANNA BRYSON: In addition to chairing CAJ's Executive since 2020, Anna is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law and a Fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice.



MARTIN O'BRIEN: Martin is a seasoned activist for social change. From 1987 to 2004, he was Director of CAJ. Today he directs the Social Change Initiative (SCI), a Belfast based international NGO.



BRIAN GORMALLY: Brian is CAJ's current Director, having now been in post for ten years. Before this, Brian spent a decade as an independent consultant, specialising in human rights. He was also Deputy Director of NIACRO for a period of 25 years.