

# Leah Rachel Rea

A scholarship PhD Researcher undertaking research in the areas of constitutional law, parliamentary procedure, and human rights with previous employment experience in the constituency office of Nichola Mallon MLA and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. Employment experience in political research, parliamentary/legislative monitoring and PR/communications. Member of the FEPS Young Academic Network, 8<sup>th</sup> Cycle (2022-2023). Washington Ireland Program Class of 2021; interned with the Embassy of Ireland in DC. Alumna of UNITAR'S GDI Fellowship (2022), Global Diplomatic Forum's Young Diplomats Forum (2021).

## Personal Details

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## Education

Sept 2020 - ongoing	Transitional Justice Institute, School of Law, Ulster University <b>PhD Candidate (Law)</b>
Sept 2019 – May 2020	Queen's University Belfast <b>MA in Violence, Terrorism and Security (Distinction)</b>
Sept 2016 – May 2018	Queen's University Belfast <b>MA in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice (Distinction)</b>
Sept 2012 - May 2016	Queen's University Belfast <b>Bachelor of Laws/L.L.B. (2.1 Hons)</b>

## Employment Experience

Sept 2020 - ongoing	<b>PhD Researcher (Full time)</b> Transitional Justice Institute, School of Law, Ulster University Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undertaking a PhD (Law) as a Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland Executive) scholarship recipient. Research examines the operation of constitutional conventions arising from devolution settlements and their relationship with the progression of human rights standards in Northern Ireland.</li><li>• Conference experience includes presenting at the: Law and Society Association Annual Meeting 2022; PSA ECN Annual Conference 2022, 2021; Notre Dame Student Peace Conference 2023, 2022; PSA Parliaments Annual Conference 2022, 2021; and SLSA Annual Conference 2023, 2021.</li><li>• Work as a Teaching Assistant in area of Political Theory (2021-ongoing).</li><li>• Completed the First Steps To Teaching Course; achieved <i>Associate Fellowship of the HEA (AFHEA)</i> in June 2022.</li><li>• Accepted to the <i>FEPS Young Academic Network</i> for its 8th cycle (2022-2023); serve in the "Digital Democracy" working group.</li><li>• Accepted to the <i>European Student Think Tank's Working Group on Human Rights</i> (Oct 2022-ongoing).</li></ul>
Nov 2022-ongoing	<b>Deputy Director, European and Asian Chapters</b> European Horizons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appointed to post to provide engagement and development support to University Chapters across Europe and Asia.</li><li>• Undertake communications support including leading on the development of a Communications and Engagement plan.</li><li>• Provide assistance in strategic development including outreach and expansion.</li></ul>
Sept 2022 – January 2023	<b>Fellow, Global Diplomatic Initiative Fall 2022 Cohort</b> UNITAR, New York Office (virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selected as a Fellow following an application and selection process.</li><li>• Engaged with policy experts, political representatives, diplomats, and academics on key topics and issues in current affairs, multilateral diplomacy, the UN organs and bodies, international relations, and foreign policy.</li><li>• Undertook a research paper on the role of civil society engagement within UN Treaty monitoring cycles.</li></ul>
Dec 2021	<b>Delegate, Young Diplomats Forum</b> Global Diplomatic Forum, London UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selected as a delegate to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Young Diplomats Forum (6-14 Dec 2021).</li><li>• Engaged with policy experts, political representatives, diplomats, and academics on key topics and issues in current affairs, international relations, and foreign policy.</li><li>• Led on the development of a policy paper on preserving the cultural rights of indigenous persons. Undertook research and project management and presented before the cohort.</li></ul>

May - Jul 2021

**Member of the Class of 2021 including internship**  
Washington Ireland Program

- Selected to participate in the Class of 2021; placed within the Diplomacy and Advocacy stream. Worked within a group to produce a policy paper; undertook research, data collection, and analysis and task management. Served as copy editor and proof reader for the final group paper.
- Selected to intern with the Embassy of Ireland in DC; served as project manager for my group. Undertook research, data collection and analysis within a stipulated project scope. Led on creation of final project paper and presentation, and presented before Embassy staff.

Jul 2019 - Oct 2020

**Constituency Caseworker**  
Nichola Mallon MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly Northern Ireland

- Assisted in the management and administration of the office including overseeing the email correspondence and diary organisation of Nichola Mallon MLA.
- Undertook constituent support and advocacy in a variety of casework namely in housing, social security, education and healthcare issues.
- Provided communications support through management of social media platforms and production of communications plans.
- Maintained a casework database and casefiles.

Oct 2018 - Jul 2019

**Policy and Research Assistant**  
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Belfast Northern Ireland

- Assisted the Senior Policy Officer in both ongoing research areas and ad hoc research, including in the collating of data, updating of papers, and tracking of policy, legislative and political developments.
- Undertook parliamentary and political monitoring including introducing and overseeing weekly monitoring reports and produced briefing papers in advance of meetings with political representatives.
- Provided research support for the development of the Annual Human Rights Statement.

Nov 2017 - Sep 2018

**Communications and Public Affairs Assistant**  
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Belfast Northern Ireland

- Assisted in the management of the Commission's social media platforms, production of communications plans, and in the writing and distribution of press releases and accompanying publications on the Commission's website.
- Introduced and oversaw a system of parliamentary and political monitoring for senior staff.
- Assisted in the organisation of the Commission's visits to the UK Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly. Organised meetings between Commission staff and political party leaders/representatives, and produced briefing papers for same.
- Assisted in the review and redrafting of the Commission's Political Engagement Strategy.
- Developed Communications Plans, including engagement strategies.
- Assisted in the organisation and management of events including the Annual Human Rights Lecture 2018.

May 2016 - Oct 2017

**Political Researcher and Monitoring Assistant**  
Chambré Public Affairs, Belfast Northern Ireland

- Undertook parliamentary and political monitoring in the production of weekly/monthly monitoring reports, and contributed towards research for client briefs.
- Produced briefing papers and research notes for clients in advance of political meetings.
- Assisted in the organisation and management of events.
- Oversaw the recruitment of interns, including organising interviews, and management of intern workload, including copy editing and proof-reading intern reports.

Feb 2016 - May 2016

**Intern**  
Chambré Public Affairs, Belfast Northern Ireland

- Interned on a part-time basis in a monitoring and research capacity. Provided assistance in producing weekly monitoring reports and briefings, recording and processing information in relation to Assembly business and administrative work.

Oct 2014 - May 2015

**Intern**  
Viner Law Firm, Cedar Rapids, IA USA.

- Interned three days a week in both Criminal and Civil/Family departments.
- Undertook memo and letter writing, research, proof-reading and editing tasks.
- Carried out administration work, attended court hearings and client meetings.

June 2014 - June 2014

**Intern**  
Clyde and Co. LLP, London UK

- Interned in the Contentious Litigation Department. Undertook case research, memo and report writing, proof-reading and editing tasks.
- Attended court and tribunal hearings and acted as scribe.

Aug 2013 - Aug 2013

**Intern**

Law Centre Northern Ireland, Belfast Northern Ireland

- Interned in the Employment and Immigration departments. Attended an industrial tribunal hearing and two appeals against deportation hearings.
- Shadowed solicitors and trainee solicitors, undertaking research tasks and proofreading/editing tasks.
- Observed meetings with clients and engaged in administration work.

June 2013 - June 2013

**Intern**

Linklaters LLP, London UK

- Awarded a City Scholarship and placed at Linklaters to undertake work experienced. Interned in the Corporate and M&A departments.
- Shadowed solicitors and trainee solicitors, undertaking research tasks and proofreading/editing tasks.
- Produced narrative summaries.

### **Other Relevant Experience**

- Facilitator for the Secretariat overseeing the Padova Model UPR Simulation Programme 2023 at request of senior academic staff in the Human Rights Centre of the University of Padova (Mar 2023-).
- Member of the Secretariat, helping to devise and implement the Human Rights Centre, University of Padova's Model UPR Programme 2022 (Mar 2022 -Mar 2023). Served in Managerial role and reported to senior academic staff in the Human Rights Centre of the University.
- Volunteered at the Ulster University Doctoral College's Festival of PhD Research (Feb 2022-May 2022) including serving as contact/organiser for poster submissions and the arrangement of poster displays, and chaired a panel at the Belfast Campus.
- Selected for the Human Rights Centre, University of Padova's Model UPR Simulation Programme 2021 (Oct-Nov 2021); served as the Lead Delegate and Team Manager for the delegation of the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain.
- Selected as a Forum Fellow of the Washington Ireland Program Forums (2020-2021); selected to work as a Forum Facilitator for the second Forum in April 2021 and served as a Lead Facilitator during the third Forum in September 2021.
- Member of a student working group on human rights, researching the necessity for a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland under the guidance of Professor Colin Harvey (2017-2018). Produced briefing papers and position papers. Served as copy editor and proof reader for individual papers and the overall group paper.

### **Honours**

- *Scholarship*, IAPSS; to participate in the World Congress 2023 (May 2023).
- *Bursary*, UCD Centre for Constitutional Studies, School of Law, UCD; to participate in the 'New and Emerging Voices in Constitutional Law' Symposium (March 2023).
- *Writers' Council Fellow*, Volunteer International (2022).
- *Richard Chapman Prize for Best Doctoral Paper*, Public Administration Committee's Annual Doctoral Workshop (Sept 2022).
- *Best Contributor*, PSA ECN's Conference 2022 (July 2022).
- *Best Presentation for the Belfast campus* at the Ulster University's Festival of PhD Research 2022 (May 2022).
- *Participant*, the Birkbeck, University of London's virtual London Critical Theory Summer School 2022; 2023.
- *Best Contributor*, PSA ECN's Conference 2021 (July 2021).
- *Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland Executive) PhD scholarship* recipient (2020-2023).
- *Awarded an internship* with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (10 July 2017 - 20th Oct 2017).
- *Best Business Plan Award*, 2015-2016 InnovateHer business programme; was one of the 25 students awarded a place on the programme.
- *2015 Class of Inspiring Leaders programme*, William J Clinton Institute at Queen's University Belfast.
- *Study USA scholarship*, British Council Northern Ireland, 2014-2015. Attended Coe College, IA USA; majored in Business Management, minored in Political Science/Communications (Cumulative GPA of 3.5/A- average).
- *Bursary*, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast; selected to represent the School at the Utrecht Network Summer School in Croatia (July 2013).
- *London (Law) City scholarship*, Queen's University Belfast School of Law (June 2013).

### **Professional Development**

- Accepted on the joint FSU-IBA executive course on *International Criminal Law* (Jan - April 2023).
- *European Diplomacy workshop, Diplomatic Skills Masterclass*, European Academy of Diplomacy (Nov 2022).
- Accepted on *Professional Development Diploma in Sustainable Development and Human Rights* with the Human Rights Centre of the University of Peace (Mar 2022 - Feb 2023).
- *Human Rights Council Training Programme*, UNITAR (Sept – Oct 2022).
- Participant in the *Advanced Research Seminar in Constitutional Change programme* hosted by the International Forum on the Future of Constitutionalism, led by Professor Richard Albert (Apr-May 2022).
- *Fordham University School of Law's Summer Institute* (5 Jul-4 Aug 2022).
- *Certificates in Parliamentary Diplomacy, Chinese Foreign Policy*, Global Diplomatic Forum (Feb 2022; April 2022).
- Accepted on "*Nonviolent Transformation of Conflicts*" course with the University of Peace (Jan-Feb 2022); awarded an A grade.

## **Additional Attributes**

- *Board Member* of Abbey Sure Start (2018-ongoing) and Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey (2019-ongoing).
- *Advisory Board member*, IAPSS (May 2022 - ongoing).
- *Representative for PhD researchers* within the School of Law at Ulster University on the Doctoral College's PhD Forum (2021-ongoing) and appointed to the Student Panel (2022- ongoing).
- Elected as *Course Representative* for Second Year Full Time PhD Researchers in the AHSS Faculty (Oct 2021- May 2022).
- Elected as *School Representative* for School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (Oct 2019 – Jul 2020) and elected as *Course Representative* for MA Violence, Terrorism and Security (Oct 2019 – Dec 2020).

## **References**

Academic and professional references are available upon request.