

Children's Rights Alliance for England

Strategic Litigation for the Rights of Children (SLRC)

A professional network to foster and promote the use of strategic litigation to improve respect for children's human rights and equality in England

SLRC network statement of aims

The network has adopted the following statement of aims:

To foster and promote the use of strategic litigation to improve respect for children's human rights and equality in England.

SLRC membership

For our latest membership list, go to: <http://www.crae.org.uk/networks/legal.html>

The purpose of the network

SLRC is a professional network whose purpose is to foster and promote the use of strategic litigation to improve respect for children's human rights and equality in England.

Policy experts and lawyers in private practice have distinct and complementary areas of work and expertise and – particularly where strategic litigation is concerned - often have common aims. The network provides a forum for lawyers and NGOs to establish closer working relationships and share information and expertise, to help further the above aims.

The concept of this network derives from an earlier project launched by CRAE's national co-ordinator, Carolyne Willow, in 2005 - the 'Children's Rights Legal Advocacy Network' (CHRLAN). Despite interest from professionals, the network could not be maintained by CRAE due to a lack of capacity within the organisation at the time.

The establishment of CRAE's legal department allowed us to re-launch the network in May 2008 for a pilot one-year period, with these aims in mind. The pilot was very successful and the network is now entering its second year following the re-launch.

How the network operates

CRAE's legal director facilitates the network by:

- Organising quarterly themed seminars, including opportunities for members to share information as a group and meet informally after seminars over refreshments
- Creating, circulating and keeping up to date a list of network members, including contact details and brief information on areas of specialism, to help facilitate direct contact between members

Criteria for SLRC membership

Organisations and individuals may become members of the network, and membership is not required in order to attend seminars. Where organisations become members, they should have a nominated individual as their network contact. The only criterion for membership is that the individual or organisation signs up to SLRC's mission statement.

Steering group

A small steering group has been established from among the membership, chaired by CRAE's legal director, with the following terms of reference:

1. To determine the strategic direction of the SLRC network and its programme of activities.
2. To hold meetings at least quarterly, such meetings to be open to any network member who expresses an interest in attending.
3. Membership of the steering group will be open to any network member who expresses an interest in joining.

Relevant areas of expertise

Below are some examples of relevant areas of expertise for network members.

Policy

Anti-social behaviour
Armed conflicts (children in)
Criminal justice
Education, leisure and cultural activities
Equality

- age
- race
- religion
- sex
- sexual orientation and transgender
- disability

Exploitation (children in situations of)

- economic exploitation
- drug misuse
- sexual exploitation and abuse
- sale, trafficking and abduction

Family environment and alternative care
Health and welfare

- poverty
- access to health care

Refugees and asylum seekers

Legal

Anti-social behaviour
Armed conflicts (children in)
Child law

- family law
- child abuse

Criminal law
Education law
Equality law (discrimination)

- age
- race
- religion
- sex
- sexual orientation and transgender
- disability

Housing and homelessness
Human rights
Immigration law
Public law
Mental health law

Further information

For further information, or to join the network, go to:

<http://www.crae.org.uk/networks/legal.html>

Or contact Katy Swaine (kswaine@crae.org.uk; 020 7278 8222 ext. 30).