

CAFAS Update No. 88

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Council for Academic Freedom & Academic Standards

Website: www.cafas.org.uk

AGM & Meeting:

Saturday 30 September 2017

2.00-5.00 pm

The Magdalen Hall

St Mary's Church

Eversholt Street

London NW1 1BN

Underground & Mainline: Euston, Euston Square, Mornington Crescent

What Principles Do We Hold Today and How Do We Defend Them?

Janet Collett 10 September 2017

The following piece is taken from a Letter to the Editor of a New Hampshire newspaper, but if for "Democrats", read "democrats" and if for the first amendment of the US Constitution, read the principles of academic freedom and all that follows from these principles in a democratic government, the message of the letter also applies to the current political quagmire of Britain. In short, a sustainable peaceful world now requires a lot more of basic education in enabling the perpetuation of satisfactory human existence, and that must be a major CAFAS concern about the status of education.

"Most pressing is the need for wide understanding of the principles and practices of the strengths of democracy and of ours, in particular. The urgency of this is clear as we witness the disintegration of the capacities of our governments, both federal and in states, to respect democracy's fundamental principles of integrity, discipline and living by the rules of commonly established law and order.

While many Democrats recognize this problem, too few, perhaps, realize that for many, these principles are no longer part of the common national concept of democracy. Democrats need to find their voice in articulating how these principles and consequent practices establish and enable government to provide the multitudinous services now expected of government in allowing and providing the quality of life to which most of us aspire.

So Democrats need to spell out how integrity, discipline and appreciation of commonly agreed law allow this democracy to flourish and why, together with the companion principles laid out in the first amendment as the 5 freedoms, these are an integral part of

enabling and adapting social stability. But these are more than simple rules of existence. They require understanding and that understanding requires good basic education about many aspects of this complex world:

- How governments succeed and fail, and how the checks and balances written into the US Constitution also depend upon a responsible citizenry.
- A good sense of the history of the earth and life and the complex interdependence of life with the limited resources of the planet.
- Understanding of the socio-economic circumstances of employment, income, education and good health and the use of natural resources for the public good.
- How science contributes to advances in medicine, understanding the dynamics of earth processes and the utter dependence of humans upon the quality of environments and the value of its developed discipline in distinguishing fact from fiction in establishing a framework of knowledge.
- How human rights, as embodied in the Constitution, are also a natural progression from understanding human history.
- Insuring that every school leaver offers a skill that enables a productive contribution to society.

These elements of a good basic education further define the necessity of the disciplined separation not only of church and state, but of corporate interests, national and international, from the processes of a democratic government for and of the people. These also need careful articulation.”

[Our citizens need an understanding of democracy, by Janet Collett](#)

Letter to the Editor, *The Keene Sentinel*, Keene NH, 13 March 2017

We, each of us, must be struggling with these issues in our own professional spheres. The piece below by Amir Majid, a longtime supporter of and contributor to CAFAS, coming from his experience as an academic, barrister and judge offers a different take, but is about the same fundamental issues.

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CAFAS Update seeks to provide an open forum for opinion and discussion. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council.

A new Referendum is desirable

Amir Majid
Professor of Human Rights and Disability Law

4 July 2017

The result of the 2017 election is widely known. The Conservative Party has the largest number of MPs but the Media have not missed the point that Jeremy Corbyn's policies were worth supporting, and therefore the Labour Party has been acknowledged by the UK voters. Since the arguments in favour of proper recognition of Mr Corbyn's policies are desirable, that is given here. The author offers his view on the USA, the UK and its 2016 referendum on the EU.

The USA

Introduction

In a BBC World Service programme “Interview,” broadcast on 6 October 2008, a world-renowned American, one of the great sages of our time, Prof Noam Chomsky (7 December 1928 -), said that the world at present faces two most important threats, global warming and nuclear war which may lead to its “extinction.” It is rather interesting that the present fiscal problem, widely categorised as the “Credit Crunch”, did not feature as one of the threats in his wise estimation but Donald Trump is proving to be a bad development for the USA. To say that he has been elected by the American voters and he should be accepted as a democratic choice may be right in some cases. However, what he is uttering to ruin the image of the American Superpower is making his election appalling. His supporters cannot say that his presidency is a massive success because he has been elected “democratically” by the US voters. President Trump does not seem to take back what may be regarded by others to be outrageous statements and is inflicting grave damage on America by some of his actions which seem to be deplorable. In this context the following controversies may be highlighted for the citizens of America:-

1. One of the major threats to the existence of the world identified by Prof Chomsky was climate change. Totally denying the scientific

realities sometimes produced by recognised eminent experts the Americans refuted this threat (particularly under the Bush Republican administration) and were definitively refusing to participate in allaying this menace. The American refusal to participate in the measures to abate the serious threat was indeed undermining the solution identified by major global figures like Prof Chomsky.

2. The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) was established by the Republican Party and it is terrible to say that President Trump had attacked it and seriously undid the work by the Bush regime not caring viz the political imperative involved in it. An eminent American lady hated this action and said that the president does not care even about the Republican concessions protected by this institution.

3. It is the good fortune of America that the ridiculously maintained American refusal in the above regard whereby the EPA was deprived of budgetary support was removed by another president. President Barack Obama clearly and with appropriate emphasis created an atmosphere of optimism in this respect. He fully appreciated the seriousness of the threat, highlighting this problem and ensuring that the US will make every effort to make effective any steps recommended by the Paris Climate Conference.

4. The Conference on 12 December 2015 was convened to overcome this threat and the 196 participating States adopted the Paris Agreement. About this Declaration President Obama said, "I believe this moment can be a turning point for the world," calling the Agreement "the best chance we have to save the one planet that we've got."

5. It is correct that the Paris conference was a turning point in this issue and the most significant development for making it successful was the change in the attitude of the United States. President Obama, Prince Charles and the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon were included in the eminent speakers in the Conference and all of them highlighted that climate change would be a significant risk to the survival of the world. Without taking proper remedial steps to remove this threat they said "We will be leaving a poor world behind for our children."

6. Many informed observers have condemned the Trump regime for blatantly ignoring the scientific ideas openly based on proper detailed research. America has been considering the climate issue very seriously. According to a survey 97% of Americans believe that climate change is indeed a major threat.

The UK

7. The former leader of the Conservative Party and the Coalition Foreign Secretary of State, Lord William Hague, in his speech in the House of Lords on the participation of the UK in Syria was conscious of the fact that the UK was always punching above its weight and said that we should behave with "imagination" in matters where we earn a lot of prestige and status among the elite States of the world. His wise precept has been acted upon by the current regime. The BBC programme "The World at One" of 14 December 2015 had the relevant person giving comment on this Agreement on behalf of the present regime. She said that the British Government was "completely committed" to implementing this Agreement and it had decided to double the financial outlay.

8. Lord Hague is actively participating in the affairs of the UK and has recently written an article in the Daily Telegraph of 27 February 17 in which he said "Britain will be plunged into its biggest turmoil in over a century if peers attempt to thwart Brexit. He suggested in clear language the holding of "a new referendum" to make sure that this country is not put to an economic loss. The economic loss in the UK is feared by him because the previous referendum in the UK bringing it out of the European Union will undermine issues like climate change which need the EU support and particularly the members in France because the Paris Conference was held there. Other people are also talking about a new referendum, which, though admittedly marginal, affects the global climate controversy. In this context Lord Heseltine may be mentioned. This author was not a fan of Lord Heseltine when he read in his article that he had clearly stated that he never paid his business debts to any creditor unless the bailiffs reached him to collect them. However his demand for a new referendum must be commended.

9. When Lord Heseltine was in the Cabinet of PM Margaret Thatcher he had a dispute with her. She wanted the British Air Force to buy helicopters from Europe but with the support of some other Cabinet members Mr Heseltine (Secretary of State for the Department of Environment) preferred to buy from America which was prepared to sell them at a better price. As is well known, Lord Heseltine "leaked" the minutes of the Cabinet meeting. However a secretary called 'C' refused to comply because she was worried about her job. She was advised that she should do what she was told. The helicopter story

came out and the Under Secretary of State who published it in the Times was duly promoted by the Thatcher regime to the higher rank of Deputy Secretary of State – the work of the Establishment indeed! Talking about the Establishment, one may like to know what happened when this kind of pressure was applied to someone not as vulnerable as ‘C’. The then Lord Chancellor, Mr Havers, did not like the appalling manner in which the leak was effected and the law officers (Director of Public Prosecutions, Solicitor General and Attorney General) were blamed for that. He spoke to the Principal Secretary of Mrs Thatcher about it and when he realised that he was not getting anywhere he requested him to tell Mrs Thatcher what he was saying. The Secretary then called the PM to see him and told her that the Lord Chancellor had said that if the internal investigation was not held and blame against the law officers was not retracted then he would call in the person at the door of 10 Downing Street. The person at the door was the Police Inspector of the Metropolitan Police. Mrs Thatcher duly approved the investigation.

10. PM Theresa May wants the Leave Camp to have Brexit. MPs elected Mr Hilary Benn leader to chair the Commons Select Brexit Committee, knowing very well that his father Mr Tony Benn was against the EU and Hilary had gone on record in very clear language that his father wanted to come out of the EU. However in the flagship BBC programme “Any Questions” on Friday 31 March 2017 Mr Benn reacted to the PM’s idea that no Brexit deal is better than a bad one. He said that for everyone’s benefit he profoundly disagreed with her and would say that no deal would be a disaster because the other EU states would not give the UK what it wants. Mr Benn quoted a very interesting example; he said if you go to a restaurant and ask for X and Y to be provided for breakfast, taking into account the current statement of the EU President re the Brexit deal, those ingredients may not be available and we may be told “Sorry we don’t have them.” The EU President when making his statement about the negotiations was the picture of diplomacy and had said that the remaining EU States will not be punitive towards the UK and negotiations will be conducted with full respect for the individuals living in the EU.

11. Mrs May, is not forthcoming to let people know that she is identified as the second influential woman in the U.K. by “Women’s Hour.” This author is grateful to the BBC for

inviting him to this programme and for providing him with a wheelchair.

12. Actually, the author was interested in the position, which may be obtained by his friend, Mrs Hodges the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, in the list identified by the Women’s Hour programme. He was gravely disappointed to note that his friend was not even in the top 10 while he was surprised to see that Mrs May was announced to be second with the first woman in 2012 being the Queen.

13. It will not be correct to say that PM May is not short of any occasion to promote herself and for her to keep this information secret looked very puzzling. To be identified as the second most influential woman in 2012 in the U.K is a great attribute to be spread around and not to do so is indeed greatly surprising. What is disappointing is that Mrs Hodges was not even one of the top ten influential women in the UK during 2012.

14. The author was also watching the identification of the wife of the former Prime Minister who had openly criticised the Guantanamo Bay prison and was never in favour of the attack on Iraq. Madam Cheri Booth QC was not in the top 20 in this list which is widely available on the Internet.

15. In 2016 LBC changed its name to “Leading Britain’s Conversation.” If one has to regard any other media channel to be No 2 after the world famous BBC, it would be proper to say that LBC is the second most significant media channel in the UK. Accordingly the Authorial Note above embraces these media particulars to say that the media includes all of the elements: radio, television and all of the newspapers.

16. Having regard to the robust presenters of LBC who always speak with a lot of responsibility supported by their cogent evidence, this author is always persuaded to believe their assertions as being fully believable. One of the presenters, Mr Ian Dale, a former Conservative MP has supported the BBC practice that every argument has two sides and both have to be explored. The LBC informed this author that the Conservatives in their present regime have borrowed more money than any comparable political party at that time. A caller to the programme criticised the LBC channel for doing unfair damage to the image of Mrs May but Mr Dale said that the caller might find his view to be ridiculous but freedom of expression demands that all views should be aired in LBC. PM May cannot expect this author to believe that she is wrongly accused by the President of the EU speaking on behalf of the remaining 27 EU

members that the UK is suffering from a delusion and that she is living in a different galaxy to expect that she will get a Brexit deal in which the remaining EU members will not worry about their national interest – PM May should remember that EU members are genuinely concerned about their own interests.

17. This author mourns the departure of PM Cameron because he sent him a personal reply whilst others did not bother to engage. The author cannot but say that the result of the first referendum inflicted a personal loss on him.

18. PM David Cameron's loss is to be regarded as a national misfortune imposed on the nation due to the referendum and his good points can be highlighted thus:

a) He has the personal experience of disability and therefore his policies re disabled people were indeed a benefit to this nation.

b) He is a true devotee of multiculturalism and his dedication to this principle is cogently substantiated by his prompt meeting with the mayor of London immediately after his election.

c) He was keen to announce after the meeting with Mayor Sadiq Khan that the mayor had come from a working class background and his father was a bus driver. PM Cameron left no-one in doubt that he appreciated the contribution of people like the mayor. This author must join Mayor Khan who has often publicly stated with pride including in the LB of Waltham Forest Assembly Hall that if one has the merit then he can expect in British Society that the sky can be the limit; he can expect to become anything and in his case this was Privy Councillor and the Mayor of London despite his declared religion of Islam.

19. This author is keen to speak to his CAFAS colleagues with utmost clarity without any ambiguous assertions due to the inhibition of politeness. In a business like manner he is keen to indicate that he is utterly against May-ism. He is against it because that would mean that Thatcherism is used as a laudable benchmark and this is not correct at all. Thatcherism can have many defects but some can be emphasised as follows:-

(a) When all of the World was celebrating, Mrs Thatcher went on record saying that unification of West Germany with East Germany was not good for "peace in the world" and that unification was dangerous.

(b) As is apparent from the BBC World Service "Interview," broadcast on 6 October 2008 mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, American President Reagan and Russian leader Gorbachev had agreed to get rid

of all nuclear weapons and for the first time the world was going to see disarmament but Mrs Thatcher using her special relationship with President Reagan said that "unilateral" disarmament should not take place because it would render the UK and US bereft of any threat to the other major powers like the Soviet Union.

(c) PM Thatcher was not keen to help disabled people with benefits and wanted them to live without any official support. The Carer Allowance benefit (CA) had the policy of payment to support disabled people. The Legal and Parliamentary Committee of RADAR (Royal Association for *Disability Rights*) – this author knows the story because at that time he was a member of that committee – wanted disabled people to be spared paperwork and the benefits to go to the helpers who would take care of form-filling. RADAR's demand backfired and Mrs Thatcher made a condition for the helpers to be available for a number of hours during the day, forgetting that people could arrange to give their help for the requisite number by arranging their schedule around their work and at weekends.

20. The BBC Radio 4 programme "Any Questions" on 12 May 2017 dealt with the new election to be called on 8 June 2017. Excellent individuals were invited to give their wise replies for the benefit of the listeners and one of them was the former Liberal Democrat leader, the Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP who was retained by the Coalition Government as the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Mrs May was comprehensively analysed and this author feels enriched by the views of the participants in the programme. For the first time the panellists were absolutely frank in expressing their views about the Prime Minister. Dr Cable said that he must let people know that PM May is "arrogant" and she is totally adamant not to modify her stubborn adherence to her view that Brexit will be pursued without modification – British citizens have been told that those supporting EU membership should not expect any concession by her. One sad fact that had come to the surface in this programme is that PM May insists on not participating in any televised debate to give answers to the direct questions of the British voters. Some people in the programme were brave enough to say that she repeats some points as if she is a "parrot." It is important for this author to bring to the notice of the readers of this update that one of the invited audience listening to the programme shouted that when the Tory government and its PM May told him

the lie that it would never hold a general election but acted to the contrary that was it and he had decided not to trust the Tories in any respect. This author must put on record that researching this article has given him some very interesting facts. He now knows that the former Deputy PM and former leader of the Lib Dem Party, Nick Clegg, is married to a Spanish girl and Mr Jonathon Dimpleby is from Poland.

21. Having been married to an Irish lady, this author has a special interest in that part of the UK. An Irish Constitutional Law expert Prof Harry Calvert wrote a book on the British Constitution and this was on the reading list for the author's Constitutional Law students. The author had about 7 Constitutional tutorials because the subject in which he was an expert (Public International law) produced very little teaching and Constitutional and Administrative subjects required a lot of teaching. The book was on the list because it had made a rare point whereby Prof Calvert told that in the UK there is a Monarchy rule during an election. Thus it may be said to students that the UK is ruled by the monarchy during an election; the existing PM calls and the new PM with a large number of MPs in the House of Commons is recognised and invited by the Queen to take charge of the affairs of the nation. Prof Calvert's book was very important to this author and when he was advised by the university to restrict the reading list to essential reading he ordered 5 copies of this book for the students – they were duly ordered and he was always able to make the above point with reference to this Constitutional Law book.

22. The Rt Hon Dr Cable MP of the Liberal Democrat party was elected to be an MP and is expected to become the leader of his Party. Mrs May has been accused by many observers that the new election caused by her has impoverished the House of Commons and many remarkable and honest people were not elected and the Back Benches of the House of Commons are no longer as they use to be. Included in the unelected members are the Lib Dem leader, Mr Nick Clegg and Mr Alex Salmond of the SNP. One observer has said that if PM May has any self-respect she should resign rather than be branded as an author of the grave impoverishment of the UK democratic system of government.

23. During the election campaign PM May decided to attack the Human Rights Convention 1950 ignoring the fact that many people were wrongly accusing the Convention of causing damage to the supremacy of the

British Parliament – one cannot fail to note that any British PM cannot omit being informed by the security services and her behaviour can be assessed in light of that fact. She said that if it comes to her notice that the Human Rights Convention is causing delay in the deportation of a person there may be sufficient evidence to find someone dangerous but the authorities do not have the “beyond reasonable doubt” evidence to convict the person then she would change the Convention. 24. So much was her dislike of the Convention that she said that she will “rip off” the ECHR provisions hampering the authorities taking action against the person regarded as dangerous to the security of the UK. Mrs May has been given the memorising phrase by George Osborne of a 'dead woman walking' because he was the well-known victim of her “arrogance” and he has been suitably angered by her failure in the election which seems to be doing irreparable damage to the Conservative Party. She will also be remembered for inflicting a miserable manifesto on the British nation in this election, which was called by her with utter ignorance. She is known to be arrogant and still not communicating in a clear manner; her lack of transparency is widely reported as she is not willing to tell the truth to UK citizens and again and again the phrase is repeated that she did not tell the truth even though she was asked by the citizens “shouting through the letterbox.”

25. My CAFAS readers should be told that Mrs May has been called thoroughly arrogant by the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Dr Vince Cable. True to her parrot-like manner of repeating herself such as her being better than anyone else to be the PM of the UK and she will be the best to look after the interest of her citizens in any Brexit negotiations, this will also be memorable to those who will look critically at her Prime Ministership era. This author is shocked to hear that she is asserting that “no deal is better than a bad deal” and she would walk away with “no deal” - would she not learn from the wise assertion of Mr Hilary Benn, that no deal would be a disaster indeed. Her supporter Mr Michael Gove has asked her to listen to other people for the benefit of her Party – he is utterly disgusted by her insistence to change his monetary policies with raw arrogance. It does not give me pleasure that PM May will also not listen to her benefactor Mr Cameron who was the person who made her what she is today. She received a telephone call from him to acquire the experience of Home Secretary and join the Cabinet, totally impressing

everybody that he was totally committed to equal opportunities and was keen to enrich his Cabinet by having women in it.

26. The former Conservative PM, Sir John Major, was sufficiently motivated to intervene on these deliberate but untrue assertions placed at the disposal of the British citizens to inspire them to leave the EU. Most disappointingly, Sir John Major's wise views on the issue were totally ignored by PM Theresa May who had the additional responsibility to respect his views because he was Conservative. It is worth mentioning that Mrs May has not been listening to the views of anyone whatever may be their status. Despite the widely held views about the lack of integrity of individuals like the former London Mayor, Boris Johnson, American President Trump and the former leader of UK Independence Party, Nigel Farage, Mrs May depends on their advice and one has a great problem in locating any statement made by her against them.

27. Mr Corbyn should not be overly upset by the media misconduct in his case; in fact when a Conservative supporter of the PM kept giving an evasive answer he was forced to say to the BBC interviewer in the "Today" programme that the media were indulging in "tittle tattle" and were insisting on getting answers which could damage the Conservative Party.

28. The LBC presenter, Mr Nick Abbot, completely sold me his intelligent presentation when he said to a caller that they were saying that they had voted to leave the EU to have British sovereignty back but this is not correct because they failed to answer his question "Who took the sovereignty from the UK?"

29. Ms Geraldine Thorpe and Mr Patrick Brady cannot omit to note my warm gratitude for enabling me to convey my views to the eminent CAFAS colleagues - whatever may be their editorial need for contributions of my kind I always take my CAFAS Update very seriously. Thus today (3 June 2017) I was carefully listening to the BBC Moneybox programme in order to make my contribution as good as possible. The BBC presenter Mr Lewis was totally adamant to have an answer from a cabinet minister who supports PM May's outrageous view and, since the guest would not give a straight answer Mr Lewis concluded by saying "So it is correct that you are suggesting that rich people will have more and it cannot be true to say that the working class will be looked after."

30. The Right Honourable Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Justice until 2016 (known to be rewarded by PM Cameron because he regarded him to be a close friend)

was incorrect when he said that he wanted the British citizens to be first in line and not have to wait for the EU to enter the European area. This statement motivated the author to write to PM Cameron to express his support for his goal to remain in the EU. Since he knew the EEA Regulations inside out, the author wrote to him that there was every reason for his goal to be realised and Mr Gove's assertion that British people would be first to enter the European area was incorrect. The reality was that the author's sister in law was living in Spain and she would indeed be the first to enter the EU because she would not need a visa to go there. PM Cameron should have noted that all EU citizens are entitled to travel in Europe without a visa and insofar as this author was concerned he had no doubt about how he would cast his vote in the election relating to the referendum. Further he indicated ex-PM Major's intervention in his letter so that Mr Cameron could look at the issue from that political angle as well.

31. As an academic, the author was approached by a student for a reference. He did not want to be a spy for anyone, absolutely aware that spies work in secret and it is their professional need to lie. Logically knowing this attitude, the author's students don't approach him for a reference for any application for an MI5 post. However there have been a few exceptions to this rule and this was one of those students. The author made an exception in his case as he was seeking such employment because he was very perturbed by young Muslim women crying that their sons had been radicalised and were no longer with us. This kind of approach is always worth appreciating. An LBC presenter on 3 June 2017 could not but merit my appreciation when he said that extremism should not be connected to atrocities such as what has happened in Manchester otherwise extreme views cannot be uttered in any newspaper or radio. One should not forget if a prophet of Islam were portrayed as a paedophile there would be a genuine anger on the part of the people who respect the prophet.

32. In compliance with this author's practice, he would attend famous cases to bring fresh information to his students. One of these cases was "Spycatcher" This resulted in the writing of a book Spycatcher: The Candid Autobiography of a Senior Intelligence Officer written by Peter Wright a former MI5 officer. When the author attended the hearing of the case it had reached the predecessor of the UK Supreme Court, the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords. The case

was against the Conservative regime of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the people in the line of fire were the major media channels like the BBC, the Guardian and Sunday Times, which were accused of not keeping the content of the book confidential but spreading it around causing detriment to the UK security. The editor of the Sunday Times, Mr Andrew Neill, appeared in the House of Lords on behalf of the famous London Times. Waving the book in the air, he said to the five law lords that they should look at the book; he had gone to New York the previous week and had bought it from the high street. He said that they should be aware that British citizens are not able to access the content of the book while it was freely available to Americans. Of course being a liberal person the author appreciated Andrew Neill's gesture profusely. However what he has to say about him is the next paragraph will show that he cannot give the benefit of his appreciation to him without question.

33. Andrew Neill (always looking after his personal interests) has achieved many more important things in his life. Now he is a premier interviewer on BBC television and is asked to interview great figures like PM Theresa May and Mr Jeremy Corbyn. A few days ago he interviewed Mr Corbyn and left no doubt that it was a terribly biased interview. The BBC has secured this author's admiration for tackling matters with proper impartiality and its instruction to its interviewers was that everything has two sides both of which should be covered so that the BBC is not accused of bias.

34. It took a female contributor to the BBC "Feedback" programme to notify it that Andrew Neill was certainly biased against Mr Corbyn and the BBC management should have stopped him from repeating his questioning whereby he was keen to get the Labour leader to answer that he supported the IRA and other terrorist organisations. He was told by the Labour leader in a clear and resounding manner that he had every sympathy for innocent victims and never had supported any such outfit.

35. Unfortunately, the media are not changing their colours and are putting Mr Corbyn under pressure. However, keeping in mind the talent of British citizens, this author is hopeful that there is a good chance that Mr Corbyn will come into power for the benefit of people who need jobs, human care etc. Many of Mr Corbyn's supporters do not pull punches and support him well. A lady reacted to the allegation that he was "naked" and was likely to be outmanoeuvred by EU supporters in the Brexit negotiations – it would be better that

PM Theresa May is chosen to look after the interests of the UK. The lady focused on the word "naked" and rather humorously said that she has met Mr Corbyn many a time and has never found him naked!

36. On Friday 2 June 2016 the BBC programme "Any Questions" on Radio 4 had as usual distinguished personalities including the former DPP Sir Keir Starmer, KCB, QC. He was exceptionally good in his remarks. This author wants to share his knowledge of Mr Starmer with his readers and is grateful to his university colleague Dr. Jacqueline Laing for bringing to his notice that his talk reputed to be the first after his appointment to be DPP, under the author's presidency of the Mansfield Law Society, was covered in the media particularly the London Times. Mr Starmer had agreed to give his talk in the university when the author had mentioned to him that the university had a large number of black students from the Caribbean and Africa. Such was the influence of Mr Starmer that the author made a special effort to reach him in the Institute of Advanced Studies in respect of another event where he was going to talk on the issue concerning the DPP. The author must indicate that he was treated very well by Mr Starmer and was fully looked after in the meal provided later on. Mr Starmer was fully appreciative of immigrants coming to the UK and particularly appreciated the good work of a questioner on Any Questions who was contributing as a nurse to keep the NHS working. He said that the beneficial role of immigrants should always be admired and as a negotiator for the new referendum on behalf of the Labour camp he gives prominence to the people who have come to the UK as immigrants. He specifically has indicated that no-one should lose the rights they have already acquired to membership of the EU and has used the word "Congratulations" aimed at another panellist who had dealt with the same questioner and had admired her work. She had said that she was a doctor and wanted to return to Germany if the people who wish to leave the EU with the impression immigrants like her are not welcome.

37. What is covered in this submission has inspired me to make the following major points:-

a) I have spoken above about Andrew Neill. Mr Neill was utterly arrogant in displaying the Spycatcher book in court and at that stage this author had not fully understood the status of judges and the level of respect to be afforded to them in the courts – of course the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords

was the highest court of the UK. When he waved the book at the 5 member Bench, one Law Lord (Lord Bridge) said to him “Be careful. You must remember that this court can convict you of treason with the penalty of death.” Thereafter Mr Neill behaved himself! I must say that Lord Bridge was a very arrogant judge who demonstrated this when a distinguished QC tried to say something and he was told “Shut up and sit down; you have had your turn.”

b) On 3 June 2017 there was a special edition of “Any Questions” on Radio 4. PM May was asked some questions after she had refused to face any debate where an opponent was invited. The programme presenter, Mr Jonathan Dimbleby conducted the interview in a very polite manner, all the time trying to get the truth out of PM May who is now known to be repeating totally misleading statements. It did not do any good for her when she refused to answer some straight questions whilst Mr Jeremy Corbyn responded to the questioning separately without any difficulty.

c) It is important to point out that Mr Corbyn’s life has been complicated with some new developments like the behaviour of US President Trump in respect of the major issue faced by the world due to climate change. In a programme on BBC World Service this issue was covered fully and it came through that President Trump was withdrawing the US from the Climate Change Accord signed in Paris. The United Nations and many other informed observers condemned this withdrawal particularly saying that the US leadership should help the world to solve this major problem – this author has given a lot of good points in respect of climate change and has particularly made the point that, deeming it to be in the interests of America, after a lot of diplomatic efforts and negotiations the US had decided to solve the problem and had signed the Accord. Listening to the media carefully this author can comfortably communicate to his eminent CAFAS readers that another billionaire (Mr Michael Bloomberg the former eminent mayor of New York) had said that he would act upon the UN advice and, using the language framework of the US, some US States would join him to undo the odd assertions of President Trump with regard to climate the issue.

d) Mr Corbyn’s life has been complicated by the terrorist attacks at the House of Commons, the concert in Manchester and the London Bridge attack. Referring to the latest at London Bridge PM May said that “extremism” has to be tackled and one should say, “enough is enough”. When she says this

she is not concerned about the “Beyond reasonable doubt” criterion so no innocent person is wrongly imprisoned – this author has learned a lot of law and in every course he was told that to keep the British end up one should not forget that the “Beyond reasonable doubt” burden of proof standard is there to ensure that only criminals are sent to prison remembering that 10 guilty persons can go free to save one innocent person.

e) When Mr Andy Burnham, Mr Corbyn’s Shadow Home Secretary until 2016, was Labour Health Secretary, he made an address to people including the author. Advancing the government policies his speech focused on catching the wrongdoer and lacked proper concern for innocent individuals. The author reminded him that he was repeatedly told in his law classes that in the British system 10 guilty persons can go free to save one innocent person. PM May’s “Enough is enough” statement has been criticised helped by the liberal tone of this principle. She should remember that freedom of expression (within proper bounds) entitles British citizens to utter opinions which may not be liked by everyone. 38. Again this author seeks the forgiveness of the Editors of Update for letting them know that at the time of his teaching of the subject in which the European Union featured significantly, the institutions of the EU were discussed by him and the most significant topic at that time was sovereignty of the Member States – the students did not realise that British sovereignty was not taken away by any other member of the EU but was shared to the advantage of Britain. This author was a researcher in law and his research tended to be guided by the priorities of his university which wanted it to be linked to his teaching. Accordingly, based on his research he published an article which definitively dealt with sovereignty in the context of the European Union. The reference for the article (printed below) is given at the beginning and all of the sovereignty issues were comprehensively detailed in it hoping that students would have it (short indeed covering 4 pages).

39. To complete this article, the author must give the conclusion of the article printed below. In that article it was brought to the students’ notice that it had been assumed that the UK lost sovereignty by joining the EU but that is fallacious if one looks at the references given there including a White Paper which specifically dealt with the sovereignty issue and pointed out that those who opposed the supporters of EU membership, PM Heath and others, were not correct. Indubitably

the UK was not in danger of losing its sovereignty.

Article Refereed

Did the Factortame ruling cut United Kingdom sovereignty further?

By Dr Amir A Majid, LL.M, DCL, Barrister, City of London Polytechnic

Abstract

On 25 July 1991, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) decided that some parts of the United Kingdom Marine Shipping Act 1988 were invalid because they were contradictory to the European Community Law and, thus, should be removed from the United Kingdom statutes. [1] This is the first time when a body outside Parliament has definitely pronounced that the United Kingdom Parliament has acted improperly.

Dr Amir A Majid (1992) 'Did the Factortame ruling cut United Kingdom sovereignty further?', *Commonwealth Law Bulletin*, 18:2, 746-749

<http://tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03050718.1992.9986199>

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To access the full article please use the link or the library.

Comment

The two main contributors in this issue have offered their views and suggestions on problems facing us in a changing world. As Janet Collett says, all those who are working in education, and we would add, the public sector generally, in the current climate will be feeling the need for developing the principles that provide the best service for those using it.

How this affects you may differ in content but less, if at all, in principle. We invite readers to continue the discussion on academic freedom, standards and democracy, and the context needed for them.

A recent letter to The Guardian, 'University sector faces blight of neoliberalism' is from a diminishing number of those in higher education prepared to speak publicly. (Thursday 14 September 2017, p36)

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/sep/13/university-sector-faces-blight-of-neoliberalism>

UCU members at London Metropolitan University have an Academic Boycott in place. A significant number of their union leaders have been sacked for reasons of 'redundancy'. This university, once one of the largest in London due to the merger in 2004 between London Guildhall and North London Universities (pre-1992 City of London and North London Polytechnics) is now in size a tiny rump of them. A number of former campuses have been sold, particularly those that comprised London Guildhall University. For information, please see: the UCU website: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/londonmetdispute>.

For background please see UCU London Met's website at <https://uculondonmet.wordpress.com>

We look forward to hearing from you. The next printed Update will be late March early April 2018. Changes are being made to the website to enable publication and discussion of articles in the interim, on that. See www.cafas.org.uk.

PB, GT

NOTICES

Postponed AGM & Meeting

Saturday 30 September 2017, 2.00-5.00 pm

The Magdalen Hall, St Mary's Church, Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BN

AGM 200-2.30

Reports and elections

Please send nominations for all committee positions to the Chair, John Fernandes.
johnfernandes500@gmail.com

Ordinary Meeting 2.30-5.00

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Academic Freedom
4. Casework
5. AOB

CONSTITUTION

CAFAS' aims are outlined on the membership form. The full constitution can be obtained from the Chair or www.cafas.org.uk.

CAFAS was founded in February 1994. It depends on subscriptions and an active membership. It meets in March/April, June and September/October.

Have you paid your SUBSCRIPTION?

Please send your cheque or standing order to the Membership Secretary, Kirit Patel, 19 Greenhill Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1LD
kiritone@live.co.uk, Tel: 0208 427 9770

Next deadline: 28 March 2018

Please send letters, news items and articles to:
Pat Brady
patrick.brady28@googlemail.com &
Geraldine Thorpe
thorpegm@gmail.com
You can also send us items at any time for earlier publication on the website.

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Michael Cohen

Colwyn Williamson

Defending-Academic-Freedom JISCMail List

All members are encouraged to participate in the CAFAS discussion list. It can be accessed through the CAFAS Website:
www.cafas.org.uk
or directly through the JISCMail website.

DO YOU BELIEVE

- That academic standards have been dumbed down throughout the higher and further education sector?
- That this decline has been accompanied by the escalating rhetoric of 'excellence' and 'world-class'?
- That the number of contact hours between teachers and students, which the Dearing Report described as a proper measure of the quality of education, has been reduced across the board?
- That there are all sorts of pressures on examiners to pass candidates who would previously have failed?
- That it is far easier to obtain Firsts and Upper Seconds than it used to be?
- That practices which used to be treated as academically unacceptable, or even as cheating, are now widely regarded as normal and inevitable.
- That the effect of the RAE and other pressures on academics is to increase the quantity of research, not the quality, and to restrict innovative and critical thought?
- That there are pressures, often of a commercial nature, to avoid certain areas of research, or to falsify results or to distort their conclusions and significance?
- That, despite lip-service to the importance of teaching, universities and colleges take little account of this in career advancement?
- That academic values have been largely displaced by market values?
- That the stated 'mission' of universities to serve the community has been abandoned in favour of commercial priorities?
- That education in the UK no longer has the status of a right bringing social benefits, but is instead treated as a commodity to be bought and sold?
- That discrimination against women and ethnic minorities is still rife in the employment and promotion practices of

tertiary education, despite the multicultural community it is supposed to serve?

- That the work of the union in fighting discrimination and victimisation can usefully be supplemented by specialised advice and support from an organization which focuses on issues of academic freedom and standards?

If you believe that many or most of these propositions are true, you ought to be a CAFAS member and your UCU branch ought to affiliate.

Membership Secretary & Treasurer: Kirit Patel,
Tel: 0208 427 9770, kiritone@live.co.uk
If you would like a speaker from CAFAS to address a branch meeting, contact: John Fernandes, johnfernandes500@gmail.com

Digital Newsletter

CAFAS needs to try and identify areas for reducing its expenditure as it is run by volunteers and on a shoestring budget. We can minimise costs by e-mailing you the newsletters thus making savings on postage. If you would like to receive a digital copy (exactly the same as the hard copy) please e-mail us your full name to cafasonly@gmail.com stating that you would be happy to receive digital copies rather than hard copies. The e-mail address you provide will only be used to send newsletters.
Thanks.