

Editorial

Public Legal Education - sharing best practice in changing times

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I hope that this editorial finds you safe and well. Undoubtedly these are scary and challenging times and the global pandemic has had far reaching and long lasting consequences for us all. In times of crisis, inequalities in our society are highlighted and it is increasingly important that individuals have access to legal information in order to be able to deal with legal issues they face, seek redress and know how and when to seek support. Public legal education plays a vital role in this. It is therefore important that our work continues and that we support each other by sharing best practice and resources in a time when we may have to revisit or reconsider our normal practice and programmes.

With this in mind, we begin this issue with an article by Amy Wallace. Amy explores the 'special partnership' between the Charter High School for Law and Social Justice and New York Law School providing a fascinating insight into its origins, development and future. This provides valuable food for thought about the viability and potential for ambitious PLE projects or models.

Our second article is by Frances Ridout who provides an excellent round up of the 4th UK and Ireland Best Practice Street Law conference which took place at Queen Mary University of London in the Autumn semester. This article provides a wealth of information about on-going work in the Street Law field and Frances captures the ideas, discussions, good practice and challenges explored by the delegates.

The final item in this issue is a handbook designed for the United Nations Development Programme Access to Justice Initiative, Afghanistan, 2017. It is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author, Dr Richard Grimes, as a potential resource for others who are encouraged to adopt or adapt it to meet their own needs.

Moving forward, many of us will be considering how and in what way we can continue to deliver our PLE programmes and activities in the current climate bearing in mind all stakeholders involved- participants, recipients and others. To name a few, we may potentially be preparing for:

- restrictions within our environment such as social distancing or less face to face contact;
- the need to use different resources or technologies;
- different modes of delivering legal education to the public; or
- increased demand from the public and/or in certain areas of the law;

We invite submissions for our next issue of the journal which will be a special issue focussing on these issues including your ideas, successes and challenges. Please submit proposals by 24/08/20 to sarah.morse@northumbria.ac.uk. Your proposal should include the following information:

- Title
- Name of author[s], including title[s], role and organisation
- Contact details: email, phone
- Abstract: 300 words maximum

We will then invite authors to submit full texts of their proposals.

As a final point, the 5th annual UK and Ireland Street Law Best Practice Conference scheduled to take place in September 2020 at the Law Society of Scotland has unfortunately been postponed until 2021. In the meantime, the conference organisers have planned an online roundtable entitled 'Delivering Streetlaw in a Socially Distanced World' which is scheduled to take place virtually on 3rd September 2020 – 2.30-4.30 p.m. For now, let us stay connected and safe and do let me know if any other events are taking place in the field of Public Legal Education.