



## Lethal Force, Policing and the ECHR: *McCann and Others v UK* at Twenty

Doughty Street Chambers, London, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Convenor: Dr Stephen Skinner, University of Exeter, Centre for European Legal Studies

*When the State kills during a policing operation we are faced with a challenge to the foundations of democracy. Freedom, rights, security, balancing individual and collective interests under the rule of law, and the legitimacy of State power are all called into question. These issues were central to the European Court of Human Rights decision in McCann and Others v United Kingdom in 1995, the Court's ground-breaking judgment on the use of lethal force and the right to life under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Arguably one of the Court's most important decisions, this judgment established the interpretation of Article 2 in terms of its substantive (resort to force, legal control, planning and conduct) and procedural dimensions, and paved the way for an ever-increasing body of case law on these issues. In the light of recent high-profile lethal force cases both in the UK and before the European Court of Human Rights, and in a context of challenges to the European Convention and its relevance, this workshop provides an opportunity to reflect on the significance of McCann and its influence over the past twenty years.*

- 9.15 Arrival and registration
- 9.50 Welcome
- 10-11.15 **The McCann Judgment**, Chair: Dr Stephen Skinner
1. Sir Keir Starmer QC, Doughty Street Chambers  
*McCann – 20 Years On*
  2. Jonathan Cooper, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers  
*McCann v UK: The Stories behind the Case*
- 11.15-11.45 Break
- 11.45-1 **Lethal Force Cases and Investigations**, Chair: Professor Brice Dickson
3. Daniel Machover, Partner, Hickman & Rose Solicitors  
*McCann and Lethal Force Cases in the English Courts*
  4. John Wadham, Associate, Doughty Street Chambers  
*Effective, Independent Investigations and the Challenges: UK to Ukraine*
- 1.15-2.15 Lunch
- 2.30-3.45 **Policing since McCann**, Chair: Dr Vicky Conway
5. Detective Chief Superintendent Brian Dillon, Metropolitan Police Service  
*Challenges and Dilemmas in Armed Policing*
  6. Deputy Chief Constable Simon Chesterman, National Lead for Armed Policing  
*Striking a Balance in Post-Incident Procedure*
- 4-5.15 **McCann and Democratic Standards**, Chair: Professor David Mead
7. Tanja Rakusic-Hadzic, Head, Criminal Law Co-Operation Unit, Council of Europe  
*McCann, the Council of Europe and the Dissemination of ECHR Standards*
  8. Stephen Skinner, University of Exeter  
*Lethal Force and Democracy since McCann*
- 5.15-6 **Roundtable discussion**
- 6 Close