

CWI

Feedback from Migration Law Visit

“Participation in the project has made me see migrants’ problems in a different way and realise that they are the most vulnerable group of the population not just because of their legal status (or, more correctly, its absence) but also because they are stressed and find it hard to adapt, many of them have been in a difficult life situation, and most of them need more attention than other clients.”

“I wish we had organisations like the Refugee Forum of Nottingham in Russia, as it would help migrants integrate and find their place in the new country.”

“Practical advice on how to apply provisions of international documents in human rights protection, which barristers and solicitors shared with us giving examples from their cases, as well as understanding the work style and tactics of British professionals will be useful in my future work.”

“The attitude of the judges who address legal problems of individuals (in particular, migrants), the way they do it, and the criteria they rely upon, made it clear that they truly respect the international law requirements and standards of evidence.”

“The most interesting aspect of the study visit for me was observing trials, as this was the first time I saw a trial in another country with my own eyes, and it was held in a language I understood. It is always interesting to see a different procedure and approach.”

“I can use the experience I have gained directly in my work. As a practising lawyer, I want to include the new arguments that one of the lecturers shared with us, into a current case of mine that relates to protection of a foreigner who has been deported from Russia but has a family in Russia.”

“We were deeply impressed by the judges of the Magistrate who are not lawyers and are not paid for their work, and yet function effectively as they administer justice, handle about 95% of all the cases, and are deeply respected in the society.”

“I believe that the successful experience our British colleagues have gained in providing legal assistance to children, refugees, and migrants can be used intensively in Russia.”

“It was very interesting to see for the first time how trials take place in the UK, to get acquainted with the organisation of the work of the courts, to communicate with judges, to learn lots of new things about the functioning of the judicial system in the UK and the work of barristers and solicitors.”

“I was interested to learn about human rights and charity work done in the UK by charities whose representatives we met; to hear about rehabilitation of migrants, their socialisation in the community, treatment, legal assistance and other forms of help available for them.”

“I was particularly struck by the independence and impartiality of the judges toward all those involved in legal proceedings. The justice system in Russia needs to aim to achieve this level.”

“Observing the hearings at the Immigration Tribunal, we were able to understand clearly which facts were considered and to see that even subtle issues concerning human rights or the interests of family members, especially elderly parents and children, were clarified in court. These matters are seldom discussed in the Russian proceedings.”

“I was interested to hear about the approaches barristers use in their work with migrants with children, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its applicability to the migration legislation.”

“I would like to express particular gratitude for the opportunity to meet with English lawyers in an informal atmosphere. We felt like important guests when London’s best barristers and solicitors met with us. This also gave us a feeling of legal solidarity, support and help when we discussed human rights issues in Russia.”

“The program was put together at an excellent working pace, it wasn’t overloaded and this enabled us to exchange impressions in the group and visit some of London’s main attractions which broadened our impression of the country.”