

Shabina Begum made a Churchill Fellow by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust



Shabina Begum, solicitor at Dawson Cornwell, has been made a Churchill Fellow by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. She was awarded the Fellowship by Dame Mary Peters at Church House in London on 28 May 2014 in an event attended by Sir Winston Churchill's great-grandson, Randolph Churchill (pictured below).

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

The Trust has since 1966 awarded grants to a selected group of talented individuals across the UK in order to fund their research abroad concerning a subject of social importance. [Click here](#) for further information.



Shabina's project

Shabina's research took her to Sri Lanka, India and Cambodia in order to explore the issue of acid violence, defined as 'the deliberate use of acid to attack another human being.' By listening to the horrifying effects these attacks have on victims and through analysing the responses of foreign legislatures, Shabina's report ultimately deals with the approach that could be adopted in the UK to tackle this abuse.

Case studies

Shabina's report highlights the issues partly through her chilling interviews with victims. One victim, for example, had acid thrown at his face by his wife who suspected him of having an affair. Although blinded by the attack, he admitted that he could not sue his wife as he was dependent on her to take care of him and the children. In another case, a woman and child in Cambodia suffered an acid attack (pictured below) orchestrated by her ex-partner's girlfriend in France.



Recommendations and further campaigning

The report ends with a reminder that the number of acid attacks is growing in the UK. Shabina's proposal is not to introduce specific acid-violence legislation (a crime which already attracts a significant sentence either as an assault or attempted murder). Instead, the problem should be treated as an extension of domestic violence and that awareness needs to be raised amongst any sector which may have to deal with acid attacks, such as the police and medical professionals. Shabina continues to campaign by giving talks at seminars. She has also produced a documentary ([click here](#)) and has appeared on the Islam Channel. [Click here](#) to see the full report.



Contact Shabina Begum (shb@dawsoncornwell.com) for further information.