March 2013

Talk is cheap and litigation is expensive.

INSIDE

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Horsemeat controversy: consumers should not forget their role in market

Mika Schröder

The recent horsemeat scandal has unearthed a dysfunctional and deceiving food industry. It has raised concerns as to what consumers actually purchase and what regulations control the flow of goods between EU Member States.

Although the mislabeling was clearly contrary to current legislation, the fact remains that government policy seems inadequate in its ability to control the market and ensure full transparency.

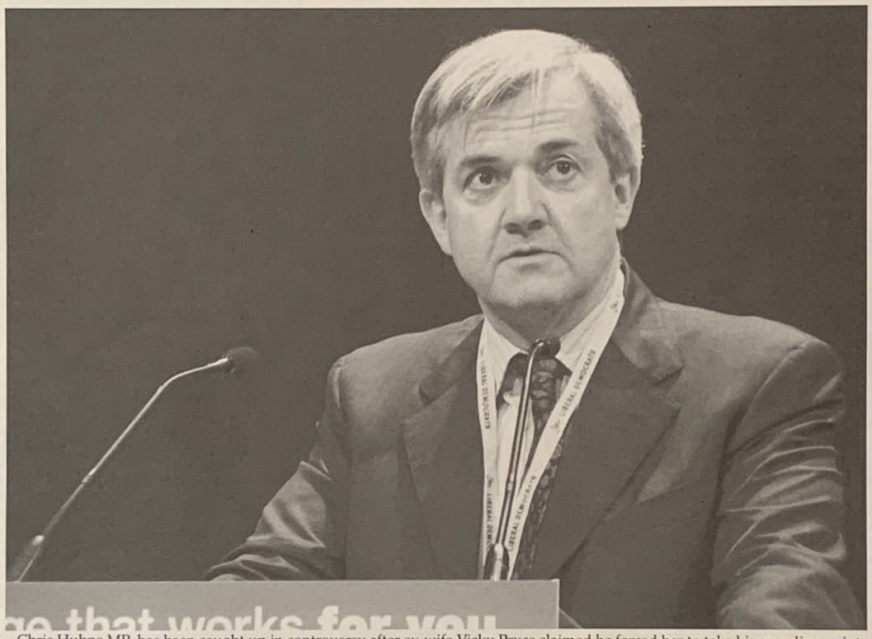
In their report from 2008, the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRAC) acknowledged the ultimate goal for establishing sufficient and sustainable food production is "making sure that people have access to sufficient, safe, sustainable and nutritious foods at affordable prices".

In light of the recent events, it is clear that these goals will not be achieved by current policies, especially if citizens, and in fact the government itself, is unaware of what is being imported into the country. In their report, the EFRAC discusses the complicated mess within meat and dairy production. NGOs such as the WWF have urged governments for years to support a decrease of meat and dairy consumption. First, they claim that it is a "wasteful" use of resources:

"It takes up to 2.6 kg of feed to produce 1kg of chicken meat, 6.5kg of feed to produce 1kg of pig meat and 7kg of feed to produce 1kg beef."

Continued on page 3

Public confidence in jury system shaken by Pryce trial



Chris Huhne MP has been caught up in controversy after ex-wife Vicky Pryce claimed he forced her to take his speeding points
Image: David Spender http://www.flickr.com/photos/dspender/4434030255/

Megan Jones

Following Mr Justice Sweeney's decision to discharge the jury in the first trial against Vicky Pryce, the ex-wife of Liberal Democrat MP Chris Huhne, questions have been raised about the role, and perhaps even the future, of the jury system in England and Wales.

In a retrial, after the first jury failed to reach a verdict, Pryce was found guilty of perverting the course of justice by taking speeding points in 2003 for Huhne.

In 2003, Huhne's BMW was caught by a speed camera speeding on the M11 as he made his way home from Stansted Airport to Clapham.

As he already had nine points on his driving licence, and would therefore face a driving ban if he were given any further points, it is claimed that Pryce falsely informed the police that it was she who was driving the car at the time.

During the initial trial, Pryce accepted that she had taken Huhne's points, but argued a defence of marital coercion, claiming that he had made her sign a form he had already completed in her name.

Whilst this may not seem to be a particularly complex case, the first jury had immense trouble in getting to grips with their role in the trial process. After more than two days of deliberations, the jury submitted ten questions to the judge which strongly suggested that they had little understanding of their purpose. These questions included:

"can a juror come to a verdict based on a reason that was not presented in court and has no facts or evidence to support it, either from the prosecution or defence?"

This question goes to the very heart of the role of a juror. Each juror will have taken an oath or affirmation that he or she will "faithfully try the defendant and give a true verdict according to the evidence". Therefore, to misunderstand the juror's role as a judge of fact based on the evidence presented in court, and that alone, is to misunderstand the very purpose of his or her being in the courtroom.

The confusion of the first jury was further evidenced by a question wholly unrelated to the case before them:

"would religious conviction be a good enough reason for a wife feeling that she had no choice i.e. she promised to obey her husband in her wedding vows and he had ordered her to do something and she felt she had to obey?"

Whilst this is, no doubt, a fascinating legal and philosophical question, which would be ripe for debate and discussion by legal academics and commentators, it had no place in the case as Pryce had not suggested or argued that such reasoning was behind her decision to take the points.

Continued on page 3

News Briefs

■ 31 alleged sexual abuse victims are suing the estate of Jimmy Savile and the BBC. The late Radio 1 DJ and the presenter of the Jim'll Fix It show on BBC One, who died in 2011, is alleged to have abused victims across the country. All victims are taking action against Savile's estate and eight are suing the BBC.

■ Prime Minister David Cameron has stated that those liable for passing off horsemeat as beef will face legal action. Recently, an EU meeting about the horsemeat scandal has taken place in Brussels. In addition to legal action, tougher inspection regulations are to be put in place.

■ President Obama's call for restricting some semi-automatic rifles and high-capacity magazines as well as reinstating the federal ban on military-style rifles that expired in 2004 has received mixed reactions. Some predict that he will face strong resistance in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, and possibly even in the Democratic-led Senate.

■ Christian British Airways employee Nadia Eweida, who claimed she suffered religious discrimination at work over wearing a visible cross, won her case at the European Court of Human Rights. Her Article 9 rights had been violated and the UK was ordered to pay her compensation and costs.

■ The question of who owns the fictional character Superman, and the right to make money off the character, has been the subject of ongoing court battles for years. The latest move in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan 10th (U.S.) awarded Warner Bros. (which owns DC comics) the victory.

Speak now or forever hold your peace

Is the UK ready to commit to gay marriage?

Megan Jones

On the 5th February 2013 the UK took a significant step towards the legalisation of same-sex marriage. The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill was passed by 400 votes to 175 at its second reading. This is undoubtedly a welcome development for equality in the UK, and a sign that attitudes towards the LGBT community are slowly, but surely, changing for the better.

For too long same-sex couples and their rights have been largely ignored by the state. Even the passing of the Civil Partnership Act in 2004, allowing same-sex couples to enter a civil partnership, only emphasised the difference in treatment between same-sex couples and heterosexual couples.

Same-sex couples were expected to be grateful for the crumbs left for them by those feasting at the wedding banquet. Soon, hopefully, same-sex couples will be able to enjoy all the rights that heterosexual couples have been free to enjoy for centuries, and will at long last be allowed to marry.

However, it is still far too early to book the venue, order the flowers or buy the wedding cake. Despite the bill passing with a substantial majority, it must now go to the committee stage, report stage and receive a third reading in the House of Commons, before moving to the House of Lords, and if all goes well, entering the statute book.

Whilst the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill was passed by a not unsubstantial majority of 225, it faced considerable opposition from Conservative MPs, despite being tabled by the Coalition government and being expressly supported by the Prime Minister. The voting figures show that 136 Conservative MPs of the 303 sitting in the House of Commons, voted against the bill, whilst approximately another 40 Conservative MPs either did not vote or actively abstained. This strong opposition to same-sex marriage amongst some Conservatives MPs was clear from the tone of the debate which took place before the vote. Tim Loughton, Conservative MP for East Worthing and Shoreham said:

"Who are we, this government or this country, to redefine the term marriage that has meant one man and one woman across cultures, across ages, across geographical barriers since before state and religion themselves?"

Whilst Sir Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Aldeshot said:

"I believe that marriage can only be between a man and a woman and I shall not surrender my principles. I believe this bill is wrong, the consultation process was a complete sham, it is opposed by the established church, it has caused deep and needless divisions within the Conservative party, there is no mandate for it, there are huge potential consequences, not least the prospect of endless legal challenge."

These speeches show a reluctance to embrace recent changes in social attitudes, and perhaps more importantly show that a large number of Conservative MPs are out of touch and old-fashioned. This inability to come to terms with change and adapt to developments was explained by Minister for the Cabinet Office and Conservative MP, Francis Maude who said:

"sometimes part of the Conservative party move but they move more slowly, or a few paces behind the centre of gravity of social attitudes which have changed and will probably continue to change in ways that is hard to predict. But we get there, maybe at different speeds."

It is doubtless better to get to the end destination late, rather than never to get there at all. It is nonetheless galling to expect same-sex couples to wait patiently for some Conservative MPs to catch up with the rest of society. After all, same-sex couples have already had to wait for far too long to enjoy the same rights as heterosexual couples.

However, all Conservative MPs should not be tarred with the same brush. Mike Freer, Conservative MP for Finchley and Golders Green spoke passionately in favour of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill and said,

"I say to my colleagues that I sit alongside them in committee, in the bars and in the tea room, and I queue alongside them in the division lobby. But when it comes to marriage, they are asking me to stand apart and to join a separate queue. I ask my colleagues, if I am equal in the house, to give me every opportunity to be equal." This emphasis on equality was also reflected in the speech of David Lammy, Labour MP for Tottenham: "let me speak frankly: separate but equal is a fraud. It is the language that tried to push Rosa Parks to the back of the bus. It is the motif that determined that black and white people could not possibly drink from the same water fountain, eat at the same table or use the same toilets."

Vladimir Yaitskiy
http://www.flickr.com/photos/kronny/5645494487/

This is the crux of the matter. Being treated differently under a veneer of equality is still inequality. Until same-sex couples have the option of marrying, rather than merely entering into a civil partnership, they will still be treated unfairly and unequally by the state. Whilst it may not please a proportion of the population to treat same-sex couples equally, there is a growing movement for the recognition of the equal rights of same-sex couples.

A little over a week after the vote in favour of passing the equal marriage bill in the House of Commons, on February 13th, France's National Assembly approved a measure allowing same-sex couples to marry. This measure must be approved by the Senate before coming into force, but as the Senate is dominated by Francois Hollande's Socialist party and their allies, it is very likely that it will become law by May or June.

It is clear, both from the vote in the House of Commons and the similar vote in the National Assembly, that social attitudes towards same-sex marriage have changed, and that at long last, politicians are reacting to this change, and, willingly or unwillingly, embracing it. However, until we see the first same-sex marriage in the UK, there is still a long way to go.

Fame, fortune and lawsuits

Paris Hilton registered her catch phrase "that's hot" as a trademark
Photo: Eva Rinaldi Celebrity and Live Music Photographer

Stacee Smith

On Tuesday, January 22nd 2013 the Queen Mary Centre for Commercial Law Studies hosted an intellectual property guest lecture on 'Publicity Rights and Celebrity Licenses in the U.S' at the Charterhouse Square Campus. Despite my limited knowledge of intellectual property law, having not studied the subject, the event seemed too intriguing to miss!

My instincts were definitely correct. The guest lecturer was Mr. Gary J. Rinkerman, partner at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP in Washington D.C.

He specialises in intellectual property law and has an immensely broad scope of experience and expertise.

To give you an idea of his accomplishments, he is former Senior Investigative Attorney at the United States International Trade Commission and he provides legal services in areas ranging from entertainment and retail systems to Internet services and medical equipment.

Mr. Rinkerman discussed cases regarding well-known celebrities, adding sprinkles of humour to his presentation from time to time. His visual and audio aids helped to paint a clear picture of the relevant legal issues.

Titled 'U.S. Rights of Publicity: Origins, Applications & Prospects - From Edison to Elvis to Paris and Every 15 Minutes in Between', his PowerPoint presentation began with a look at Mark Twain. Twain was widely associated with cigar smoking and was therefore featured on cigar boxes in the late 1800s and early 1900s, as well as other consumer goods.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

This early recognition of the value of celebrity endorsement only expanded with the invention of the camera, necessitating the U.S. Copyright Act to extend to photographs in 1865.

Photography and new image printing methods meant there were increased celebrity merchandising opportunities as well as opportunities to exploit non-celebrity images on a large scale.

It became common for illustrated publications such as 'Harper's Weekly' to find their place in many households within the U.S.

The portability of photographic equipment and inconspicuous product designs such as the 'detective camera', 'watch camera', 'concealed vest camera', 'book camera' and the 'deceptive angle graphic camera' quickly led to a concern for the protection of human dignity and privacy.

The invasive and pervasive nature of technology made it increasingly important for the common law to protect individuals from unwanted intrusions on their private life.

A plethora of intellectual property issues continued to develop over the years, creating a broad range of case law on the topic. Questions about what features constitute protectable identity such as a person's name, likeness or physical appearance, how long the right of publicity lasts and whether the right is transferable or descendible surfaced.

On the flip side, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which establishes a right to freedom of speech, had to be upheld. The term 'right to privacy' became a 'right of publicity' in the 1953 case of Haelan Laboratories, Inc. v. Topps Chewing Gum, Inc. where it was recognised that, contrary to any strong dislike for such exposure, many celebrities actually relish opportunities to receive money for authorising various advertisements.

Therefore, a right of publicity was created that would enable them to gain financially through an exclusive grant which prevented any other advertiser from using their pictures, for example.

The case of Hirsch v. S.C. Johnson & Son (1979) involved the use of a famous U.S. football player's nickname 'crazy legs' on a Johnson & Son women's shaving gel product. It was established that it does not need to be a person's actual name that is wrongly used for there to be a cause of action. All that is required is for the name to clearly identify the wronged person.

We learned that the time period permitted for statutory post mortem rights of publicity vary from state to state, and that such a right does not exist in the UK.

We were also informed that the extension of the First Amendment to the U.S. began with the case of Gitlow v. New York (1925). Mr. Rinkerman continued with a number of other cases, one of which involved the music group 'Outkast' and the civil rights icon Rosa Parks. Parks did not appreciate the fact that a song, laced with obscene lyrics on their 'Aquemini' album, was titled 'Rosa Parks'.

In this 2003 case (Parks v. LaFace Records), the issue was whether unauthorised third-party use of an individual's name in connection with a third party's artistic work was legitimate or merely an attempt to capitalise on the fame or commercial value of the name.

If it was not legitimate and did not reflect something about the work's actual content, then Parks' rights of publicity claim could trump an artistic freedom of expression defence. On April 14th 2005 the suit was settled, with Outkast, their producer and record labels paying Parks an undisclosed cash settlement and agreeing to work with the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in creating educational programmes about the life of Rosa Parks.

The case of Comedy III Productions, Inc. v. Gary Saderup, Inc. (2001) established a balancing test between the First Amendment and the right of publicity based on whether the work in question adds significant creative elements so as to be transformed into something more than a mere celebrity likeness or imitation.

It was held that 'Three Stooges' t-shirt images did not contain a transformative element sufficient to defeat the Three Stooges right of publicity.

Celebrity heiress and socialite Paris Hilton registered her catch phrase "that's hot" as a trademark with the United States Patent & Trademark Office. As a result, when Hallmark Cards used the phrase and her image on a card she sued for, inter alia, violation of her right of publicity.

In response, Hallmark argued that Hilton was improperly trying to stifle their freedom of speech. However, Hilton won the case (Hilton v. Hallmark Cards, 2009.)

Mr. Rinkerman concluded the evening with an outline of the 1993 Proposal of the Subcommittee on Right of Publicity International Trademark Association (INTA).

Following that there were chuckles in response to his final slide that was titled "THE 'BIG FINISH!' SLIDE".

When, if ever, should the ordinary demands of a fair trial give way to the needs of national security by the use of a closed material procedure?

Charlotte Seymour

'When, if ever, should the ordinary demands of a fair trial give way to the needs of national security by the use of a closed material procedure?'

The fair trial is prized, at least in theory. It is advocated by those with even the slimmest conception of the rule of law that fair trials are essential if the law is to reign supreme. The rule of law has long been regarded as a critical pillar of the UK constitution.

It is not an exaggeration to say, then, that an individual's right to a fair trial lies at the heart of our constitution.

While the fair trial is rarely defined per se, according to Lord Bingham there are three principles of fairness that apply to all proceedings. There must be 'equality of arms', judicial independence, and acceptance of the fact that the concept is 'evolving'.

Today the most notable legal guardians of the fair trial are the common law rules of natural justice and Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The Justice and Security Bill 2012-13 (JSB) threatens the conduct of fair hearings by proposing the introduction of closed material procedures (CMPs) into civil proceedings.

A CMP can currently be adopted in just a handful of legal contexts, such as immigration and employment tribunals. Under this procedure, where the disclosure of certain material to a party to proceedings would be 'contrary to the public interest', the material is retained as evidence, but the proceedings are split into a closed session and an open session. The closed session, where the 'closed material' is presented, is held in the absence of one of the parties and their legal representatives. The excluded party's interests may be represented by a security cleared lawyer or 'special advocate'.

Evidently, many of the 'ordinary demands' of a fair trial cannot survive under a CMP. These include a party's right to know the case against them, to present their own case in rebuttal, and to know the basis for a judicial decision.

Contrary to what the government suggests, CMPs are rarely used in response to the 'needs of national security'. Under the existing common law procedure of 'public interest immunity', where there is a public interest in the non-disclosure of material, it will not be disclosed and will be omitted from proceedings.

The role of a CMP is to enable one party to use material in proceedings without disclosing it to the other party.

The government has argued that CMPs may "benefit the interests of justice". CMPs do not reduce the risk of miscarriages of justice however, but actually increase it.

Even if a party is represented by a special advocate in the closed session, this lawyer is unable to challenge material effectively. The special advocate cannot realistically call on evidence to counter the claims of the closed evidence and has only limited contact with the person they are representing.

This is no small matter. Lord Macdonald cites his experience of seeing seemingly "persuasive, truthful and accurate" evidence 'disintegrating' under properly conducted cross-examination. Lord Kerr warns that "untested evidence" may "positively mislead".

The government contends that the inability to draw on a CMP may itself be a source of unfairness. This is where sensitive material would be likely to have an impact on the determination of civil proceedings.

Where the claimant is the party that wants to make use of sensitive material, the case may be struck out or some of the material excluded.

The status quo is arguably more unfair on the defendant, who has no power to withdraw from proceedings. If the case is not dropped or struck out, the party may either defend itself without reference to the material, or settle the case because it is unwilling to do so.

This unfairness must nevertheless be balanced against the inherent unfairness of the proposed 'solution'. Arguably a CMP would be less objectionable if the claimant party opts for it in preference to the case being struck out. With regards to the defendant, it is vital that the court understands when the exclusion of material is to their serious disadvantage, and in such a situation, the balance of fairness would be best served not by invoking a CMP, however, but by striking the case out.

Trials which make use of CMPs are unfair and are less likely to see justice done. Public interest immunity may be a sufficient safeguard against the disclosure of damaging material. Where the loss of a case by the government has national security implications and the use of a CMP reduces the risk of loss, the fact remains that an innocent individual could be stripped of basic liberties on the basis of unreliable evidence which they have no opportunity to contest. CMPs may appear to address some procedural unfairness at no great cost where the excluded party desires their use. However, the party may not be able to anticipate the impact that this will have on his or her case.

Crucially, where a trial adopts a CMP, it departs radically from our system of adversarial justice, with one party left ignorant and impotent. A CMP could only ever be justified in response to a situation of even graver unfairness. Yet, to quote the special advocates, "in our view, none exists".

This is an extract from the essay that won Charlotte the recent 'Blackstone Chambers Essay Competition' conducted in partnership with Queen Mary Student Bar Society.

Is anti-Semitism still a problem in society?

Anna Freund

Anti-Semitism is still very prevalent in society and omnipresent in the media. With the increasing success of extreme right-wing parties within Europe, it is obvious that racism is a current problem in Europe.

As William Irvine remarks, anti-Semitism has changed and is nowadays a "struggle against a race" and no longer solely connected to wealth or religion.

Anti-Semitism is a very complex form of racism and the issue of anti-Semitism is itself complex, as it is connected to the history of Europe. Germany, Austria and France in particular have faced many problems connected to anti-Semitism in the last few years, but anti-Semitism is also present in the United Kingdom.

According to the census of 2001, the Jewish population of the United Kingdom comprises of approximately 267,000 people.

It is assumed that the share of Jewish population in the United Kingdom is decreasing and in 2006, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz even talked about the "extinction" of the British Jewish community.

For him, this decline is a result of two causes: firstly, problems of assimilation and secondly, intermarriage. Perhaps a more obvious reason for the decline of the British Jewish population is the rise of anti-Semitic incidents within the United Kingdom.

CST, a British organisation aiming to protect the Jewish community, recorded 924 anti-Semitic incidents in 2009 and according to their homepage this is the "highest annual total" since they started recording incidents of anti-Semitism in 1984. According to its Anti-Semitic Incidents Report 2009, the organisation recorded the most attacks dealing with violence in the last year. Furthermore, it also links the number of anti-Semitic incidents with political events in the Middle East and remarks that political motivation is still an important reason.

The increase in anti-Semitic incidences demands a solution to the problem of anti-Semitism, in order to prevent the creation and distribution of this form of racism. It is important to consider that anti-Semitism affects the whole of society and therefore every part of society should be included in the process of minimising or preventing it.

The approaches to the problem can be divided into two main categories: educational solutions, and solutions connected to the government.

The first solution is simply the teaching of Jewish history in schools.

It is essential to introduce education of the Second World War and the Holocaust in schools in order to give children an understanding of the consequences that radical racism can have.

It is without question much more difficult to convince already prejudiced children that racism in general and anti-Semitism in particular is wrong, than children who are unprejudiced. Therefore, the teaching of Jewish history should be started as early as possible because, if it begins in elementary school, it is more likely to prevent prejudices occurring and therefore prevent anti-Semitism.

The problem with this solution is that the parents are excluded and they have the main influence on their children's education.

This links this solution to the second possible approach; the education of the public.

Several organisations commit themselves to the topic of minimising or preventing anti-Semitism. For instance, The International Institute for Education and Research on Anti-Semitism offers talks and presentations about past and current issues.

The Institute takes the Kreuzberg Initiative against Anti-Semitism (KIgA), which is also partly supported by the German Ministry of Youth and Family, as a positive example of co-operation.

The KIgA operates in two areas: education and research. In the first area, it focuses on schools and youth centres and tries to educate the pupils in Jewish history. In workshops, it deals with "various aspects of anti-Semitism" such as "conspiracy theories" or "myths about the foundation of the state of Israel".

As we are living in the age of the Internet, online platforms and archives of Jewish history are a good approach to address a wide public. Several websites provide a huge amount of information about the Holocaust such as the Holocaust Education Resources website.

The problem with the approach to educating the public is indubitably that the public must show an interest in the topic.

Not only is education important but also governmental support is essential in order to prevent anti-Semitism. It is important that the government works with other countries in order to exchange information and possible solutions to anti-Semitism.

Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director said in a press release in April 2003: "We are confident that through vigilance, security and deterrence, the governments of France and Germany will be able to ensure the future safety of their Jewish citizens".

In the same press release, the German Minister of Interior Otto Schily said that: "Germany continues to provide a high level of security for Jewish community institutions and Jews."

This can help to ensure the safety of the Jewish Community living there. The Parliamentary Committee against Anti-Semitism suggests the use of the Metropolitan Police Model in the United Kingdom to guarantee the safety of the Jewish community. Safety is of course essential for all citizens of the United Kingdom and should be guaranteed for all, which the government tries to guarantee for example with the use of CCTV.

Anti-Semitism is therefore still a very current problem and hard to tackle as it occurs in many different forms. Several approaches are necessary and in particular education presents one of the most important fields in which action can be carried out.

The government's task is firstly to ensure the security of the Jewish population and then to invest in various forms of education to prevent this form of racism. Education must start with the younger generation because children are likely to be less prejudiced.

It can be shown that by interacting with other children from different backgrounds, children become more open-minded later on and develop a better understanding of other cultures.

Nawal El- Saadawi and a life of oppression

Khalif P

"Writing: such has been my crime ever since I was a small child. To this day writing remains my crime. Now, although I am out of prison, I continue to live inside a prison of another sort, one without steel bars. For the technology of oppression and might without justice has become more advanced, and the fetters imposed on mind and body have become invisible. The most dangerous shackles are the invisible ones, because they deceive people into believing they are free."

Nawal El-Saadawi, an Egyptian radical feminist and activist, was born in 1931 in the small village of Kafr Tahla. Today, El-Saadawi continues to heavily criticise the Arab world and patriarchal society and has written several books focusing on women in Islam.

However, many do not know El-Saadawi's own story. This writer has experienced exile, imprisonment and death threats, but continues to advocate her radical views.

El-Saadawi grew up in a traditional and conservative Egyptian family. However, El-Saadawi was not one to follow tradition. She resisted becoming a child bride by blackening her teeth and spilling coffee over a potential husband.

Interestingly enough, her father was progressive, and encouraged his children to speak their mind. He especially insisted that his sons and daughters be educated, due to the fact that in those times women suffered from oppressive traditions, persecution and many other social and political pressures.

Nawal El-Saadawi graduated from the Cairo University Madison College in 1954, and later got a permit in Medicine from the University of Columbia in the United States, specialising in the field of respiratory diseases.

Through her education and career, she especially observed the physical and psychological problems that women faced due to oppressive cultures and traditions.

Photo: Duke Human Rights Center http://www.flickr.com/photos/rightsatduke/2413951265/

When working in her rural birth town of Kafr Tahla, she especially observed the oppression of women. El-Saadawi was herself circumcised and raped at a young age.

As a result of her literary and scientific writings, El-Saadawi lost her job as a doctor in the Egyptian Ministry of Health, especially due to publishing her book 'Women and Gender' in 1972. Religious and political authorities saw her views as controversial and extremely dangerous.

In some chapters, she particularly talked about prevailing taboos, including female genital mutilation. Furthermore, she linked sexual problems to political oppression. Moreover, in the period of the former Egyptian President, Anwar Al-Sadat, she was again imprisoned as a result of her views and her writings in 1981.

While El-Saadawi was subsequently held at Qanatir Women's Prison, she continued to write and defend women's rights as well as intellectual and social freedom. In prison, in 1983, she wrote 'Memoirs from the Women's Prison' on a toilet paper roll using eyebrow pencil which she been smuggled into her cell from a young woman from another cell.

After she was released from prison, El-Saadawi found The Arab Women's Solidarity Association, however, not too long after this, the government issued a decree to close it down. However, El-Saadawi did not give in to the radical fundamentalists, who tried to subsequently break her marriage. More shockingly, her life was threatened in 1988 when Islamists put her name on a death list, forcing her to flee from Egypt. She continued to educate others, and began to teach in North Carolina as well as Seattle.

Today, El-Saadawi continues to express her views, and she was amongst the protesters in Tahrir Square in 2011. Although El-Saadawi presently lives in Egypt, it remains to be seen what the future holds for her in the newly Islamist Egypt.