

Encouraging law students to consider a future in Social Justice:

lessons learned from a level 6
social justice module

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Agenda:

- Module conception
- Module structure, resources and assessment
- Expectations v Reality
- Highlights
- Changes and challenges

Why do I want to design Social Justice module?

A GAP IN THE CURRICULUM...

- Legal Aid
- Access to Justice
- Real life experiences of social justice lawyers and their clients

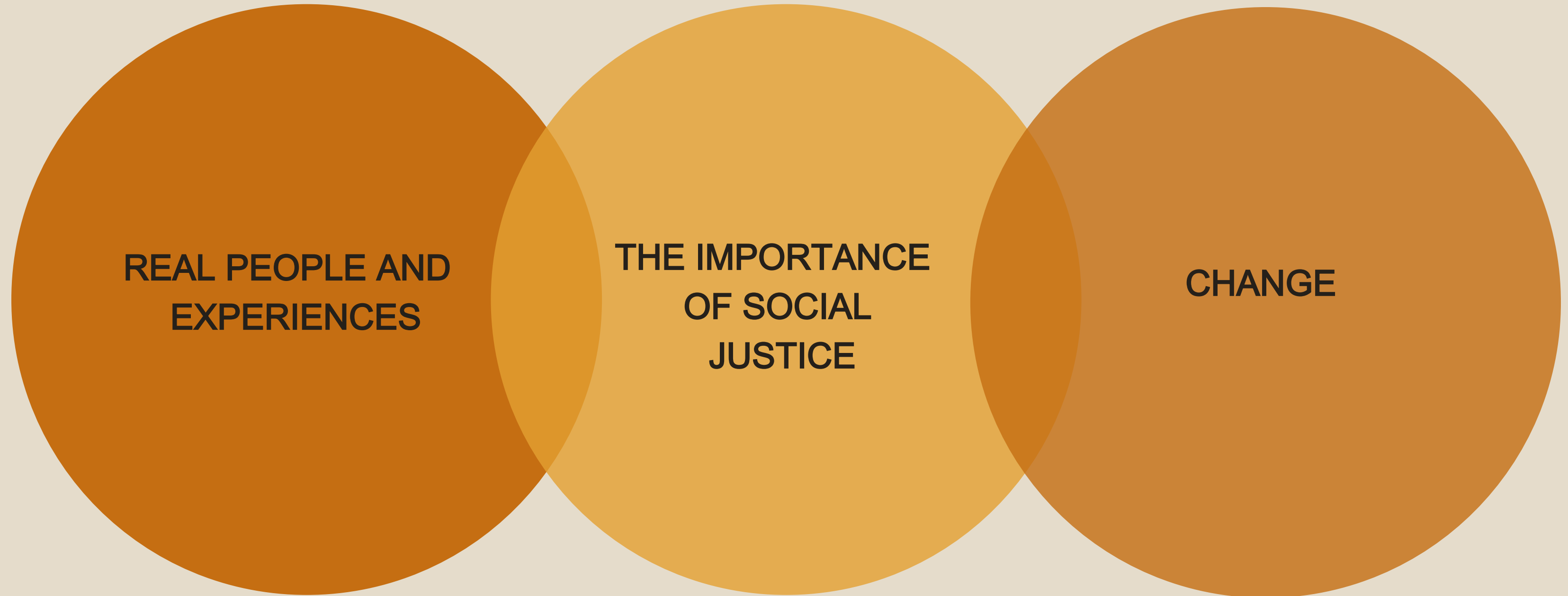


DUTY?

- Do we have a duty to expose students to careers in legal aid or other relevant roles?
- Do we have a duty to ensure our students have a better understanding of the real world?

How should I deliver a Social Justice module?

I want students to be exposed to...



THE MODULE AIMS TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO:

- ENGAGE WITH THE BROADER CONCEPTS OF 'SOCIAL JUSTICE';
- RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERS AND OTHER ADVISORS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY;
- UNDERSTAND THE WORK COMMONLY UNDERTAKEN BY SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERS AND OTHER ADVISORS; AND
- APPRECIATE THE CHALLENGES TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE FACED BY ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CLIENTS AND THEIR ADVISORS.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. CRITICALLY EXAMINE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERS IN TODAY'S LEGAL LANDSCAPE;
2. CRITICALLY ANALYSE THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERS IN ENGLAND & WALES;
3. DEPLOY TECHNIQUES OF ANALYSIS AND ENQUIRY TO CRITICALLY EVALUATE THE WAYS IN WHICH THE LAW IN ENGLAND & WALES COULD BE REFORMED TO FACILITATE GREATER SOCIAL JUSTICE;
4. RESEARCH, DEVISE AND DELIVER A PROFESSIONALLY PRODUCED PRESENTATION;
5. ANALYSE, SYNTHESISE AND CRITICALLY REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCES OF THE MODULE



Week commencing	Seminar	Live Lecture
24 Mar 2025	An introduction to Legal Aid	Kick off Lecture
31 Mar 2025	Access to Justice & LASPO	
7 Apr 2025	Pro Bono	The role of Pro Bono
14 Apr 2025	Student Vacation	
21 Apr 2025	Student Vacation	
28 Apr 2025	Housing	
5 May 2025	Asylum & Immigration	Guest Lecture
12 May 2025	Wills & LPAs	
19 May 2025	Benefits & Debt	Assessment Support
26 May 2025	Assessment Focus	



**BACKGROUND AND
CONTEXT
CRITICAL APPROACH**



**SPECIFIC AREAS OF SOCIAL
JUSTICE
REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES,
REFORM**

SPECIFIC AREAS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES, REFORM

Recorded interviews:

- What a typical day at work is like for them
- Who their clients are and why they need the support
- How they have felt the impact of sector issues
 - The change they want to see

Independent Research:

- Background and context
 - Impact of LASPO
 - Other sector issues
- Lived experiences/Case studies
 - Reform/Policy change

How should I assess a Social Justice module?

**PRESENTATION
LIVE VIA TEAMS**

YOU ARE A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE LAW COMMISSION, WORKING ON A PROJECT AIMED AT INCREASING ACCESS TO SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE AREAS OF:

- ASYLUM & IMMIGRATION
- DEBT & BENEFITS
- HOUSING
- PRIVATE CLIENT (LPAS & WILLS)

YOUR PRESENTATION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AROUND 5 MINUTES OF QUESTIONS THAT ENCOURAGE YOU TO REFLECT ON YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE MODULE

REFLECTION

Expectations

The students that choose this module are going to be students that have taken part in pro bono

The students are going to hate the idea of doing a presentation

The students that pick this module are going to be really engaged

Grades may be on the lower side, and I may see a high number of non submissions or deferrals

Reality

Only 9 of 31 students had any pro bono experience

There was some nervousness, but mainly the students were looking forward to the challenge – many said they would have preferred a live in person presentation

Attendance was a mixed bag – due to caps on module sizes, this module was not the first choice for everyone that took part

Student performance overall was excellent, there were some outstanding presentations and on the lower end, there were still some really good attempts – 29/31 students attempted, and all passed – 2 students deferred and have since passed

Highlights

"I was initially nervous about doing a live presentation, but the module helped me to **grow in confidence**"

"This was one of the **most engaging modules** I have studied during my degree, it felt like **we were all learning and researching together**"

"This module has made me **rethink what I want to do** when I finish uni as I am really resonating with the housing law materials"

"The recorded interviews were really **helpful and insightful**"

Highlights

The Assessment!

Changes and Challenges



CHANGES **(WORK IN PROGRESS)**

- LPAs AND WILLS TO BE REPLACED WITH EDUCATION
- LESS HAND - HOLDING
- SOME NEW SEMINAR/WORKSHOP ACTIVITES
- ENSURE THERE IS VALUE TO STUDENTS IN ATTENDING ALL SESSIONS



CHALLENGES

- NEW ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK...
- SOME PRESSURE TO MOVE TO A RECORDED PRESENTATION RATHER THAN LIVE

**Thank You
for Listening**