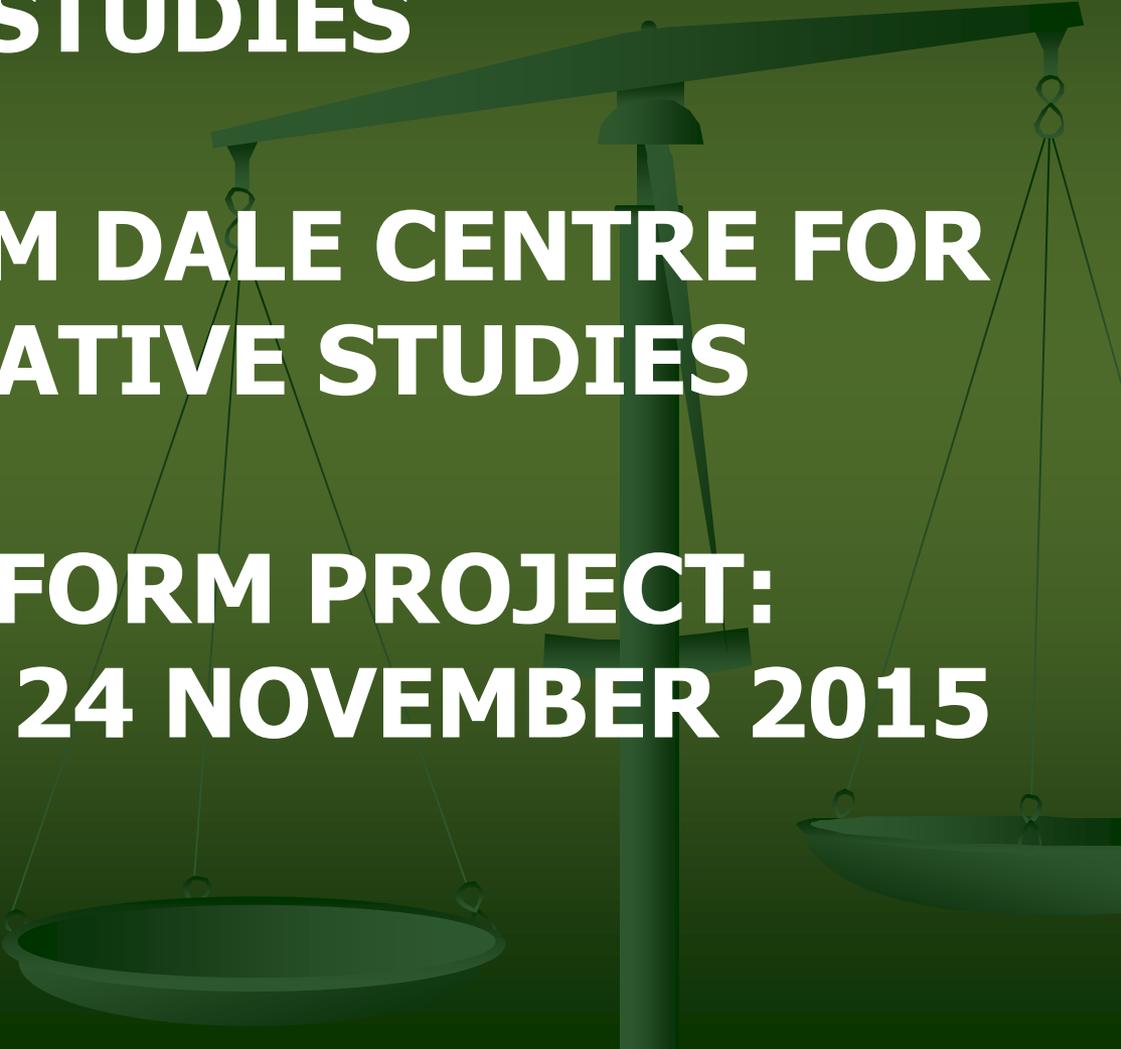


INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES



**SIR WILLIAM DALE CENTRE FOR
LEGISLATIVE STUDIES**

**LAW REFORM PROJECT:
WORKSHOP 24 NOVEMBER 2015**

LAW REFORM THE WORLD OVER

What is it?

Who does it?

Why is it needed?

How does it work?

What are the advantages of independence?

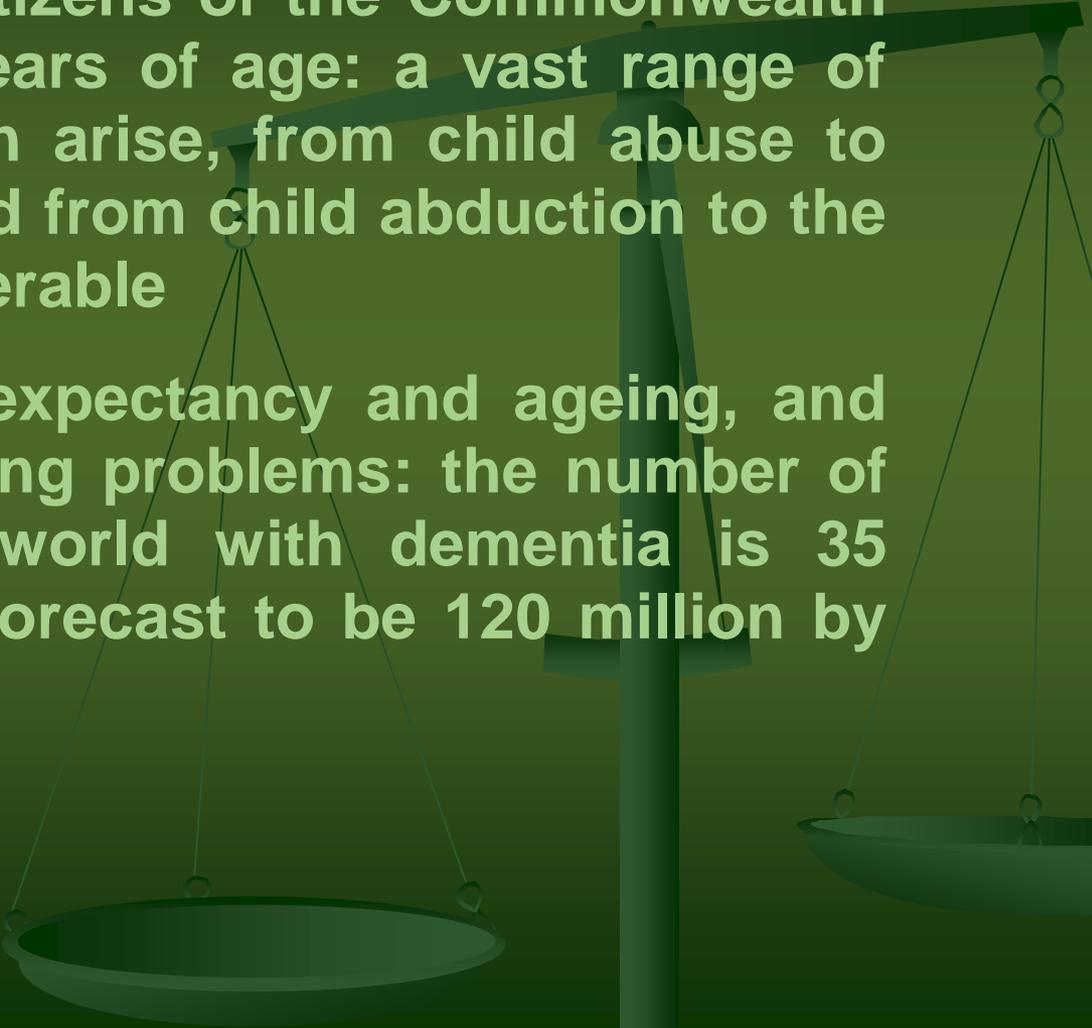
How do the recommendations become law?



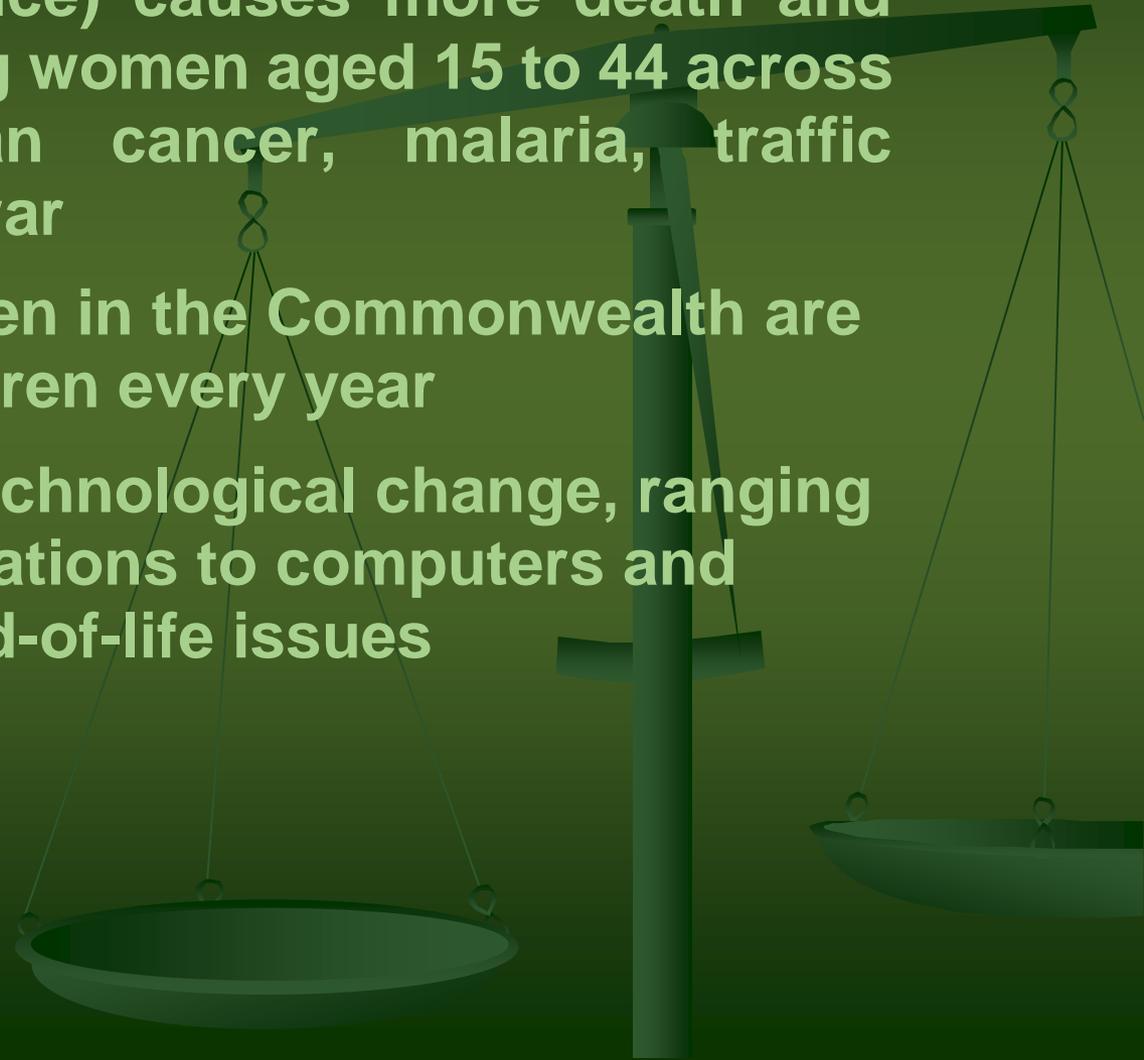
LAW REFORM: WHY IS IT NEEDED?

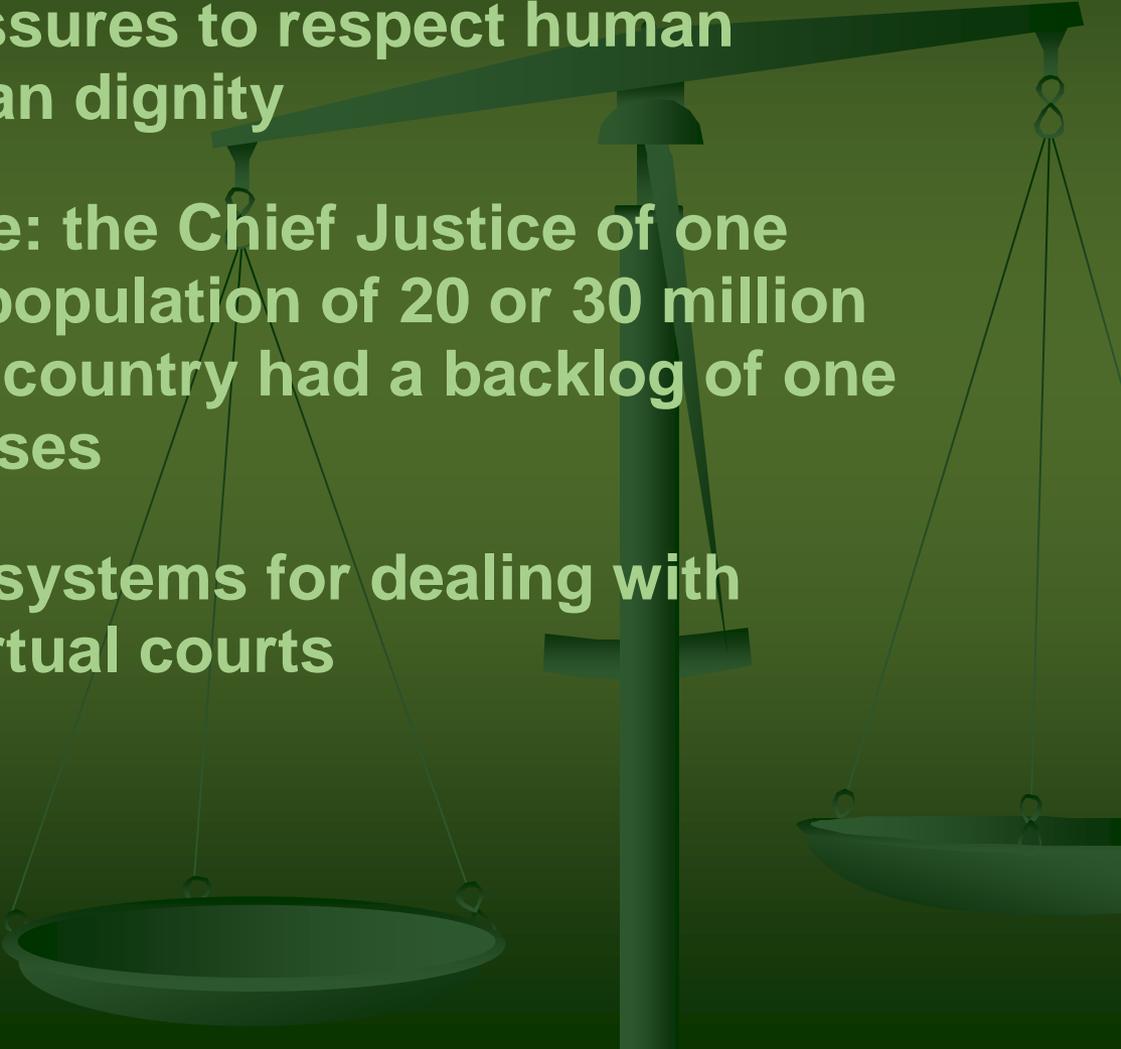
A very few examples of key areas of life worldwide, in each of which the law can be a contributor, large or small:



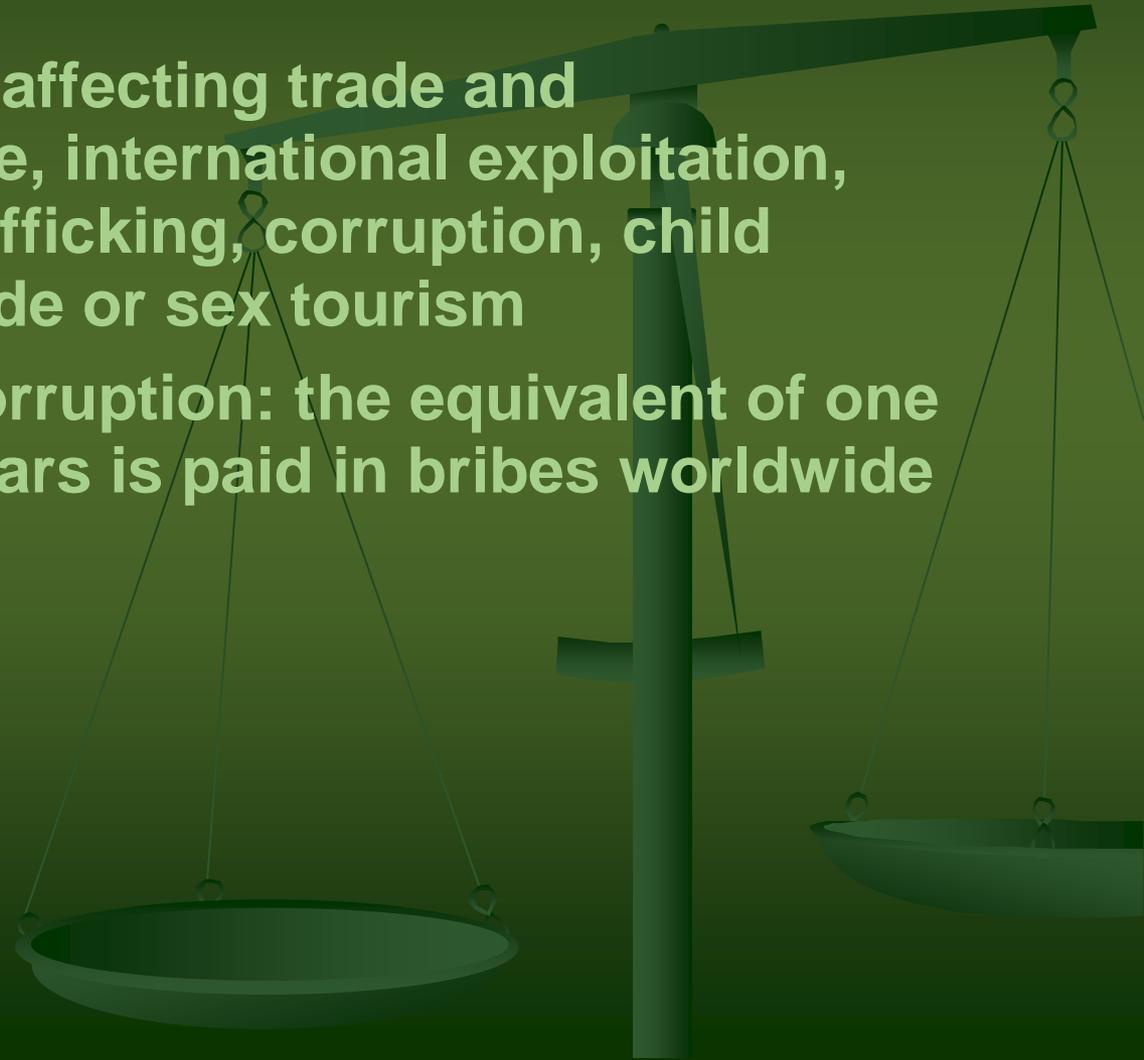
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- **Over half the citizens of the Commonwealth are under 25 years of age: a vast range of legal issues can arise, from child abuse to youth crime, and from child abduction to the care of the vulnerable**
 - **Increasing life expectancy and ageing, and the accompanying problems: the number of people in the world with dementia is 35 million, and is forecast to be 120 million by 2050**

- **Gender-based violence (sometimes known as domestic violence) causes more death and disability among women aged 15 to 44 across the world than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war**
- **8.8 million women in the Commonwealth are married as children every year**
- **Scientific and technological change, ranging from communications to computers and from DNA to end-of-life issues**



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- **Increasing pressures to respect human rights and human dignity**
 - **Delays in justice: the Chief Justice of one country with a population of 20 or 30 million people said his country had a backlog of one million court cases**
 - **Updating court systems for dealing with disputes e.g. virtual courts**

- **Globalisation, affecting trade and commercial life, international exploitation, e.g. human trafficking, corruption, child abuse, sex trade or sex tourism**
- **Bribery and corruption: the equivalent of one trillion US dollars is paid in bribes worldwide every year**



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- **Climate change and the environment, including water shortages, global warming, disposal of nuclear waste, dumping and deforestation: Christine Lagarde (IMF): “Unless we take action on climate change, future generations will be roasted, toasted, fried and grilled”.**



**LAW REFORM:
SOME BENEFITS OF
INDEPENDENT LAW
REFORM AGENCIES**

EXPERTISE

FOCUS

CONTINUITY

OBJECTIVITY



LAW REFORM: WHY IS IT NEEDED?

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MICHAEL SAYERS

Michael Sayers took his law degree at Oxford University. A barrister, he mainly worked in the public sector and, during several parts of his career, worked on improving the law – as well as e.g. the working of tribunals and the appointment of Judges. He was the Chief Executive of the Law Commission (the official law reform body for England and Wales) for about ten years until his retirement.

His work has since concentrated on capacity building for law reform. He leads training courses and workshops; he has acted as a consultant on law reform for the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the British Council, the Canadian International Development Agency and the European Development Fund, among others – in, e.g. Bangladesh, Brunei, Chile, Indonesia, Malawi, Malaysia, Northern Ireland and Uganda. He is the Director of Studies for what is believed to be the first international training course in law reform methodology; it has taken place annually since 2008. He has also spoken on law reform and/or co-organised law reform conferences, in many countries, e.g. Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Trinidad and Turkmenistan. He co-founded the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRAs), is its first General Secretary and has represented CALRAs at several Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meetings.

He has many other interests, such as his family, his church, in sport and until recently as long-term Chairman of Governors of a school.