THE SECOND ANNUAL
JURISPRUDENCE LECTURE



Friday 20th January 2012

6.00pm

Venue

The British Academy, Lecture Hall

Carlton Terrace,

London, SW1Y 5AH

Chaired by Professor George Pavlakos

Baroness Onora O'Neill

will deliver a lecture entitled:

'Would Making Laws Better Make Better Laws?'

A reception will follow at 7.00pm in the Cornwall and Burlington Suite

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RSVP to

Jo Ledger by 11th January 2012

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(George Pavlakos and Sean Coyle, General Eds)

Would making laws better make better laws?

Baroness Onora O'Neill

A traditional story about making laws in democracies pictures a division of labour: a degree of agreement about standards of justice is sought through public debate; governments table laws for parliamentary consideration and scrutiny; Parliament enacts; the institutions implement; others comply; the Courts enforce. In the UK these processes are in place, but the laws that are enacted are often a source of despair. Common complaints are that there is too much new law, much of it hyper complex and incomprehensible to those who have to comply, and some of it dysfunctional. How much can we say about these problems or their solution? Have political philosophers, human rights advocates and their journalistic interpreters proposed impossible or inadequate standards of justice? Do governments table Bills prematurely and too casually? Does Parliament provide inadequate scrutiny? Do the institutions fail to implement? Are improvements feasible?

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