



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 17 MAY 2019

Harassment and bullying

[Politics Home](#), [Times Online](#), [The Barrister](#) – Bar leaders have urged senior lawyers to call out aggressive behaviour after a survey found widespread bullying and sexual harassment in the legal profession.

The report by the International Bar Association said that 62 per cent of women and 40 per cent of male lawyers had been bullied at work, and 40 per cent of women and six per cent of male lawyers had been sexually harassed at work.

In a joint statement Richard Atkins, QC, and Amanda Pinto, QC, respectively the Chair and Chair-Elect of the Bar Council, said that the report was a reminder that more needed to be done to tackle unacceptable behaviour.

“We continue to encourage members of the profession, particularly those in senior positions, to call out inappropriate behaviour,” they said.

Politics Home also reports on the Bar Council’s reaction. Sam Mercer, Head of Diversity & Inclusion and CSR at the Bar Council, said: “We have made clear that this behaviour is unacceptable, and are keen to see greater adoption of anti-bullying and harassment policies and uptake of training across the legal profession to address these issues.

“The Bar Council is proactive on this agenda and we must continue to invest time and effort into tackling these issues. Leadership is key. We have developed a full programme of work designed for the chambers context - policies, guidance, training, and working with the regulator to support reporting, and those making a complaint.”

Law Reform Essay Competition

[Times \(The Brief\)](#), [Politics Home](#), [The Barrister](#) – The media report that, this week, the Bar Council opens its long-standing Law Reform Essay Competition, which

offers a total of £10,000 prize money to winners. The competition has been running for over 10 years and has helped contribute to the costs of qualification as a barrister for many aspiring barristers.

Court ID app

[New Law Journal](#) – NLJ reports that the Bar Council's ID app that lets barristers beat the queues at court is to be rolled out nationally.

Richard Atkins QC, Chair of the Bar, said: "A lot of hard work and investment has gone into developing this scheme."

Lady Justice Macur, senior presiding judge for England and Wales, said: "Security officers identify and confiscate numerous dangerous items every year. They carry out an important, and often difficult, role and should be treated with the respect and courtesy that all court users should expect in return."

Immigration

[HR Magazine](#) - Laura Godfrey, a solicitor at Ashfords, writes for HR Magazine on the Law Commission's consultation on immigration rules and points the Bar Council's response to the consultation.

Godfrey writes: "The UK's Immigration Rules, spanning 1,100 pages, are complex and difficult to follow. On 3 May 2019, two days after MPs referred the Home Office to the Equality and Human Rights Commission over the Windrush scandal, the consultation on the UK's Immigration Rules was closed.

"The Law Commission has been warned by the Bar Council of England & Wales that the UK could face another Windrush scandal unless the Immigration Rules are urgently reformed."

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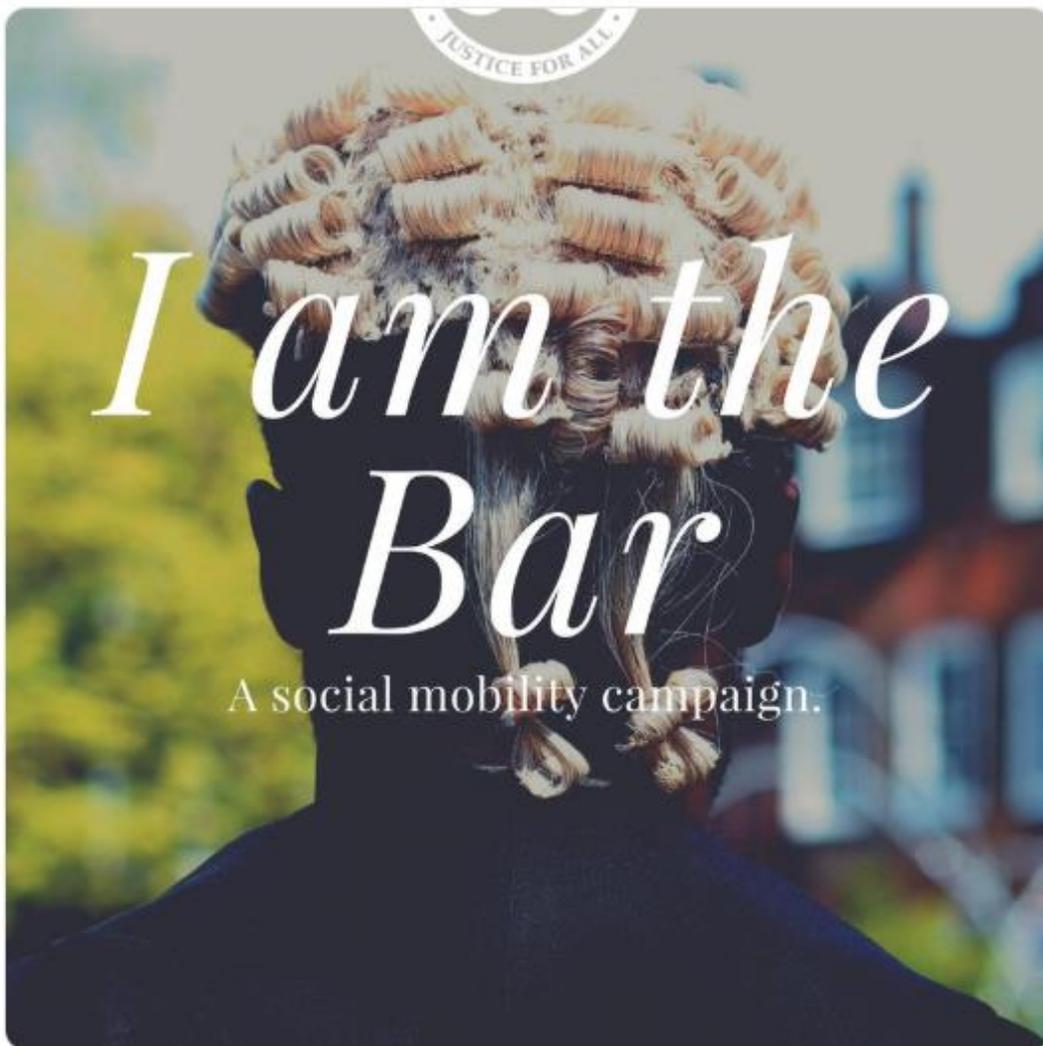


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We've been overwhelmed with interest in the next phase of [#IAmTheBar](#). If you're interested in getting involved with the campaign, email Campaigns@BarCouncil.org.uk with a bit more info as soon as possible...



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