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NEW HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLICATION

“Human Rights: a Guide to the Law in Scotland” by Professor Jim Murdoch with Simon Collins, Advocate.

Only £4.50 plus 20% p&p = £5.40

The law applicable to the European Convention on Human Rights (“Human Rights Law”) can be overwhelming. The European Convention itself is brief in the extreme: but the Courts can, have regard to relevant cases from not only every country in Europe but also from much of the rest of the world!

People also can confuse the subtleties of the European Convention with more absolutist traditions. Proportionality is a difficult concept.

“Human Rights: a Guide to the Law in Scotland” is a brief, straightforward introduction to the law making reference to up-to-date relevant case law.

The main author is Professor Jim Murdoch of Glasgow University who is one of the most prestigious commentators on this area of law. Brief though his comments are in this booklet, they deserve attention.

The preface on the “Current Context” by Simon Collins, Advocate demonstrates how human rights law should be seen as a continuation of many much older Scots law traditions. It illustrates the point that, in protecting the “worst and the weakest among us”, the law ensures that all of us can be secure that our own rights will be protected. The marginalisation of the most vulnerable is a threat to us all: human rights law is a protective shield.

In short, the guide is intended to help the reader understand how the originators of the European Convention on Human Rights thought that democracy can only operate in a society which observes human rights, whilst those human rights are themselves the foundation of justice and peace.

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