

- ♦ the government provide the necessary protection and vigorously investigate the threats and bring to justice the guilty party in those cases where there is a threat to the physical integrity of a solicitor or barrister, irrespective of the source of the threat;
- ♦ both the Bar Council and the Law Society be more vocal in their defence of lawyers who have been subjected to such harassment and intimidation and enter into a dialogue with the RUC on how best to address the problem;
- ♦ lawyers themselves lodge formal complaints with the authorities;
- ♦ the RUC organize, as a matter of urgency and in conjunction with the Law Society and the Bar Council, training seminars for police officers to sensitize them on the important role that defence lawyers play in the administration of justice;
- ♦ the right to immediate access of counsel be respected and section 14 of the PTA be amended to prohibit deferral of access; the right to have a lawyer present during police interrogations be respected; the practice of closed visits in England and Wales be discontinued;
- ♦ the government install video and audio-recording equipment in all holding centres in Northern Ireland, as a matter of urgency, the tapes of such recordings be available to counsel upon request, and that the proposed legislation on this subject be speedily implemented once the legislation is passed by Parliament;
- ♦ the government appoint an independent judicial inquiry to investigate the outstanding questions that remain with regard to the murder of Patrick Finucane, and it invoke the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act to facilitate this process;
- ♦ the right to silence be immediately reinstated and the Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 be rescinded;
- ♦ the permissive EPA standard for admitting at trial confession evidence procured by psychological pressure, deprivation, or other non-violent forms of coercion be abolished;
- ♦ the right to trial by jury be reinstated, with safeguards put into place to protect the integrity of jurors;
- ♦ Part III of the Police Act, which allows for actions "with respect to property and wireless telegraphy", viz., "bugging", be amended to ensure that privileged communications between an attorney and client are scrupulously respected;
- ♦ the government ensure that the Police Ombudsman, once established, be provided the necessary human and financial resources to carry out its mandate; and

- ♦ the government implement for the judiciary, training programmes on international human rights standards and the jurisprudence of international human rights bodies such as the Human Rights Committee and the European Court of Human Rights.

Racism and racial discrimination, Special

Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/79, paras. 32, 36, 108)

The Special Rapporteur referred to a March 1997 report on the British army indicating that deep-rooted racism prevails among the military, mainly aimed at Blacks. The report cites an April 1997 incident in which a young black soldier was attacked by 11 of his regimental colleagues, who ill-treated him supposedly to make him "clean and white". In August 1997, a senior officer was almost court-martialled for denouncing such discriminatory practices and acts in the army, where Blacks are systematically accused of laziness. The report notes that after finding that such practices did exist, the government launched a campaign in October 1997 against racism and racial discrimination in the areas affected. The report also cites a study on Islam in the United Kingdom which indicated a resurgence of intolerance against individuals belonging to the Muslim community.

The Special Rapporteur's (SR) interim report to the 1998 General Assembly (A/53/269, para. 36) notes that Parliament recently passed an act on race relations in Northern Ireland. The act fills a lacuna by prohibiting racial discrimination with respect to employment, training, education, housing and the supply of goods and services. The SR also noted that a bill making the denial of the Holocaust a criminal offence was thoroughly debated but not adopted.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the:

(E/CN.4/1998/101, paras. 18, 44, 50, 60, 77, 101)

The report notes plans to give courts new powers to ban paedophiles from playgrounds, school entrances, and other public places frequented by children. The bans will be put in place through the granting of community protection orders which will prohibit the convicted sex offenders from specified areas where they may be liable to re-offend. The Special Rapporteur also noted that sex offenders, who have been released from jail since 1 September 1997, are required to register their addresses with police.

In commentary on the participation of children in the media, the report refers to concerns that related to the screening of a drama documentary entitled "No Child of Mine" that portrayed a 10-year-old victim of repeated sexual abuse. The documentary was commended for bringing the subject into the public arena, but concerns were expressed for the psychological well-being of the 13-year-old actress who portrayed the victim and had to act out graphic scenes of rape. Concerns were also expressed that the film might become soft-porn material for paedophiles, and that the use of a child actor by the mainstream media could be regarded as a societal validation of their sexual misconduct.