

Whereas I had always seen law as a set of abstract rules, reading Bingham's *The Rule of Law* revealed to me how deeply the central principles of a legal system are embedded in history and politics. I now realise that these principles are the outcomes of political and social struggles, and are thus constantly exposed to challenges. Shadowing a pro bono lawyer, I gained insight into the difficulties of the legal protection of vulnerable persons. I was intrigued by how the court would determine the amount of retribution in a case concerning child abuse, as it seemed impossible to me to quantify the damages suffered. I was also struck by the limited amount of court cases in Hungary in this area, and learnt that this is largely the result of the underfunding of social services leaving vulnerable children without anyone to turn to. This exposure to the injustices in the legal system led me to contact 'Hintalovon', a children's rights foundation with the mission to educate children about their rights and empower them to seek legal help if they are mistreated. Taking part in their child ambassador programme, I visited schools and orphanages to talk to children about their rights and bring those in need of help in contact with lawyers at the organisation. This experience showed me the personal side of the law for the first time, and seeing the impact lawyers can make in people's lives made me even more committed to pursue a career in law. As well as having enjoyed experiencing the application of law in practice, I am also interested in its moral foundations and the role it should play in society. Entering the Lord Toulson Essay Prize in Law allowed me to examine the difficult relationship between law and morality. My essay considered whether the commodification of certain goods should be prohibited, developing its arguments using a case study on the sale of human organs. The two questions I found particularly challenging were the potential conflict between common and individual morals, and the classic liberal dilemma of reconciling moral diversity in society. I argued that the prohibition of organ sale may rely on the values of human dignity and individual autonomy as fundamental moral benchmarks, and exclude transactions where the risk of coercion means individuals are unlikely to act as autonomous agents. When making this choice, the law is confronted with a challenging task; it must refrain from unjustifiably restricting individual liberties, whilst still duly protecting society's shared values. As a way out, I argued that law's prohibitions must pay attention to their broader context. Technological developments, for example, may alter current conceptions of commodification, thereby shifting moral boundaries. Writing my extended essay on the role of the Nuremberg Trials in denazification taught me to distill extensive research into its core components and build strong arguments. I also got an opportunity to apply my research skills when I entered the Staton Essay Prize at Oxford, where my essay on the role of social media in revolutionary movements was highly commended by the judges. Being a member of my school's debate club, I enjoy debating current issues with my peers and teachers. I have found that my interest in law has enabled me to see legal implications in various topics that we debate. I have also spoken regularly at model UN conferences, receiving an Outstanding Achievement award last year at the Karinthy Model UN conference. As I did not have the opportunity to study law at school, I attended modules about the subject offered at the Milestone Institute, having particularly enjoyed 'Legal Philosophy.' My experiences with law so far and the passion for the social issues it may positively influence have instilled in me a desire to pursue studies in law at university level. I want to be a leader in my chosen field and aim, therefore, to benefit from the exceptional education provided by your institution.