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EDITORIAL

The first paper is a timely and comprehensive contextual review of the policy and law in the UK with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Since the Enron and Worldcom problems in the USA the social and financial regulation of business has exercised the minds of legislators on both sides of the Atlantic. While the USA decided to legislate immediately, the European Member States took a much more cautious approach and considered a voluntary model first but, as the article indicates, moved toward a more legally based regulation to supplement the new Operating and Financial Review Regulations.

The second paper considers the provisions of the Gender Recognition Act 2004, which was the fruition of the work of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Transsexual People and comes into force this year. The new statute provides for those who consider themselves to have a different gender definition on their birth certificate to be able to have that changed so as to be eligible to get married to someone who is of the same gender as was designated on their original birth certificate. The UK statute differs somewhat from other jurisdictions inasmuch as the transsexuals in the UK only have to “live as another gender” rather than have surgery of any kind.

The third paper is of equal current significance as it discusses the differences between software contracts and the consequences of getting it wrong. The paper argues for legislation similar to the US Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act to provide for a new type of contract based on common law rules.

The final paper is a personal view and philosophical discussion on the justification for the use of violence for political purposes.

The case comment section analyses two recent cases of general interest. The first is a return to the nearest relative again and the second, being of interest to all as it involves the rights of employees who are long-term ill.

The final section of legal comment contains two comments from Alec Samuels with regard to the socio-political issues of the BNP and the law with reference to political freedom and the second comment concerns the lawfulness of Freemasonry in England.

Professor Patricia Park
Editor