

I'm Cristina Stamatescu. I am a solicitor in Ireland since 2013.

I stumbled into this area of law with my first job in Ireland in 2008, but little did I know that I had actually carried with me on my travel from Romania to Ireland this little book that says, "My Fundamental Rights in the European Union." So, there you go, the Convention of Human Rights has always been with me. Little did I know that this would be the main part of my career in Ireland.

Well, it means the freedom of thought, the freedom of acting as a lawyer. Human rights are in every area of law. It is something that you have as a skill and as a freedom of mind to look at a legal point and to do your job the best way possible.

My main practice area is human rights law; however, I bring human rights law into every area that I practice in—immigration law, refugee law, family law, crime. Every area of law that I practice, and I'm specialized in and have worked in for the past good few years has a human rights aspect to it.

The issues that are faced today are different than the ones tomorrow, or in a year, or in 10 years. For example, look at 10 years ago, or 50 years ago, or even 100 years ago in terms of our rights, where we were, and what our values were.

The most prized achievement—there are so many, and I would like not to stop at one. For example, recently landing this cool job as Head of Immigration and Human Rights Department in one of the big firms in Dublin. Not having had the experience of human rights and the expertise, I do not believe that this would have been an opportunity for me to start with. I have not been able to move countries, come to Ireland, sit the exams with the Law Society, and become a solicitor. At the time, which was the most amazing thing that happened in my life.

Oh, just go for it. It is amazing and it does not restrict you to having studied certain subjects. As I was saying and as I believe, you bring human rights into everything—into your day-to-day life, your family, friends, and your clients. For example, do you know what? Love who you want to love. Be free and fight for your freedom and for everyone's freedom that you believe is infringed. Just open the Human Rights Convention, have a read of it. It is there, it's in your eyes, in your face, it's in your life. Enjoy.