

## Lord Shawcross



In 1958 Hartley Shawcross was part of the group of initial signatories who set up BIICL.

He served as chair of the BIICL Public International Law advisory board until 1972 and continued to be a member of the BIICL Council of Management until 1979.

Hartley William Shawcross, Baron Shawcross (1902 – 2003) was a British barrister and politician, probably most famous for his role as the lead British prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes tribunal.

Hartley Shawcross joined Grays Inn in 1923 but shortly afterwards moved to Liverpool working as a barrister and lecturer at Liverpool University. He was medically exempt from military service during World War II and instead held a range of key roles including Regional Commissioner for the North West.

After the war he became MP for St Helens (1945 – 1958) and was appointed Attorney General in Atlee's post war government. Head of the British prosecution team at the Nuremberg war trials he played an important part in obtaining convictions against the remaining Nazi leadership and highlights of his two day long speech can still be found on YouTube. (link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtCuO27FQHM>).

As Attorney General, he also prosecuted William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw"); John Amery for treason, Klaus Fuchs and Alan Nunn May for giving atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, and John George Haigh, known as "the acid bath murderer".

In 1957, he was among a group of eminent British lawyers who founded JUSTICE, the human rights and law reform organisation and he became its first chairman. A lifelong advocate of press freedom in 1961 he was appointed the chairman of the second Royal Commission on the Press and later he would become chairman of the Press Council (1974 – 78).

Lord Shawcross continued working until late in his life as a board member and presiding officer of a broad range of leading companies, such as Hawker Siddeley, Shell, EMI, Rank-Hovis-McDougall and Times Newspapers. However he is probably best remembered for his important work at the Nuremburg trials in prosecuting senior Nazi figures at the end of World War II.

**References:**

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<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1435769/Lord-Shawcross.htm>

Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartley\\_Shawcross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartley_Shawcross)

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