

DIGNITY

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Welcome to Dignity

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Welcome to Dignity

Keywords

Dignity, academic journal, violence, exploitation, democracy, rule of law, recovery, healing

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WELCOME TO *DIGNITY*

Donna M. Hughes

University of Rhode Island

D*IGNITY: A JOURNAL ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE* is an open access, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to publishing original articles on topics related to sexual exploitation, violence, and slavery.

Dignity's name is based on the universal principle that all people have the right to be valued and respected and that acts of violence and exploitation are extreme violations of those rights. *Dignity* is the founding premise of the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which begins: "recognition of the inherent *dignity* and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." Philosophers and the doctrines of the major world religions believe *dignity* is central to a person's agency and exercise of freedom.

Dignity's mission is to contribute to the global human rights movement by documenting and analyzing violations of human rights, bringing awareness, and formulating responses that successfully restore justice, rights, and dignity to those who have been dehumanized and degraded.

As an academic journal, *Dignity* is a forum for research and theoretical articles on how forms of violence and exploitation harm the dignity, rights, and health of individuals. Articles and reports in the journal will examine how uncorrected violence and exploitation of individuals subsequently undermine the love and trust of families, the integrity and security of communities, and the strength and character of nations.

Dignity is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary journal. We publish articles in the social sciences, health sciences, law, and the humanities, including memoir pieces. Photo-essays and videos are welcome.

Dignity is a publishing space for community organizers, advocates, and service providers to report on their experiences, campaigns and progress toward healing individuals, rehabilitating communities, and transforming states into actors where justice serves all people. Years ago, I learned that grassroots activists and service providers frequently have more knowledge and understanding about violence and exploitation—and their harmful influence on people—than the academics who often live and work at a distance from the community. The goal of *Dignity* is to create a journal where community activists and academics can share the same space and learn from each other.

Dignity will be a forum for articles on community and academic investigations and discussions into underlying causes—and solutions—to corruption, lack of rule of law, harmful cultural practices, and unjust policies that institutionalize inequality and exploitation. Articles in the journal will examine how individuals, civil societies, and states have responded to improve human and civil rights. *Dignity* aims

to contribute to evidence-based knowledge and theoretical development of these topics to give people the tools to end all forms of exploitation and violence.

Today, different forms of violence and exploitation are often divided into separate categories with different labels such as human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual abuse, genital cutting, pornography, sex selective abortions, child abuse, prostitution, forced abortion, sexual harassment, religious and ethnic persecution, forced sterilization, battering, surrogacy, hate crimes, honor killing, rape, and slavery. *Dignity's* mission is to publish articles that help people to understand how these different forms of exploitation and violence are interrelated and part of a continuum. Furthermore, *Dignity* is committed to publishing articles on healing people and communities from these types of harm.

Dignity is a non-profit publication hosted by the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons at the University of Rhode Island. The editorial board is the publisher. As an open access publication, the articles are freely available for downloading and can be shared with others. *Dignity* does not charge an author-processing fee (APC) for publication of an article.

As the Editor-in-Chief, I appreciate the time and effort members of the editorial board and the librarians at the University of Rhode Island have made to found this journal. In particular, I want to thank two people who I have relied on for advice. Dr. Pravin Patkar, co-founder and co-director of Prerana in Mumbai, India. During the 2015-2016 academic year, he was a Fulbright Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellow at the University of Rhode Island. He participated in the initial discussions on setting up *Dignity* through the library and provided ideas and feedback for the initial global call for participation in creating a community for the publication of this journal. I also want to thank Dr. Eleanor Kennelly Gaetan, writer, editor, and legislative expert for her ongoing professional advice.

I welcome the contributions of researchers, community activists, professionals, writers, editors, and reviewers to make *Dignity* a global success.

Donna M. Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

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