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Letter from the Editors

Madison Bingle

American University Washington College of Law

Nora Elmubarak

American University Washington College of Law

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Dear Reader:

As the world continues to navigate a global pandemic, we have observed human rights issues manifest and evolve in a variety of ways. Solutions to these issues must consider and integrate the complexity and diversity reflected in the people who experience them. This issue of the *Human Rights Brief* offers nuanced and critical analyses of the ways in which states perpetuate systematic human rights abuses through politics, judicial systems, and foreign policies. Through this issue, we seek to highlight enduring and emergent human rights issues, while exploring solutions to end cycles of violence, abuse, and deprivation of rights and to empower affected persons.

The issue begins with articles written by practitioners and professors who offer in-depth analysis of human rights situations relating to the education rights of persons with disabilities in Nepal, the rights of refugees in Nordic countries, and the state of social welfare in the United States in light of the ongoing global pandemic. Our student columns section features articles that explore, among other issues, how U.S. sanctions in Cuba violate international health rights and how a U.S.-backed fumigation program in Colombia violates people's right to a healthy environment and health. Further, we examine the United States' obligations related to technological exports affecting human rights abuses in China, and the gaps in domestic legal frameworks for corporate supply chain use of child labor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In our regional human rights systems section, we expand our targeted coverage beyond the Americas to examine developments in the African and European human rights courts for the first time in our institutional history. This section provides a review of recent developments in the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights regarding the treatment of states' vagrancy laws, and an overview of recent privacy and freedom of expression rights cases in the European Court of Human Rights.

We want to thank our dedicated staff of writers, editors, podcast producers, communications specialists, and symposium producers for their incredible work on this issue. This diverse group of students allows us to curate culturally competent and creative legal arguments that aim to reimagine human rights both locally and globally. Finally, as our reader, we want to thank you for your continued support in our quest as a publication to provide insightful commentary and explore new solutions to global human rights issues.

Sincerely,

Madison Bingle & Nora Elmubarak
Co-Editors-in-Chief
Human Rights Brief