Foreword

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FOREWORD

James Cassar*

The year 2008 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That year also marked, for many of our senior members of staff, the end of their first year of law school. We are privileged to have found ourselves in such a position. It has been a great pleasure and an opportunity to study the movement at this point in its history. International Human Rights Law is sufficiently crafted so as to be a recognizable body of law, and yet undergoing such development so as to make it relatively young and fascinating, and worthy of study and advancement. Only now, half a century after Nuremberg, can we truly begin to look back and take an overall assessment of the relative impact of the International Human Rights Movement, and gain perspective of its direction. In this realm we find ourselves in the position, in publishing Volume 16 of the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review, to offer the work of distinguished scholars that express the present complexity and evolutionary nature of International Human Rights Law.

International law will always be subject to the inevitable obscurities that arise from the unique ways in which individual actors and nations can contribute to it, while at the same time drawing upon it to address their own agenda. This tension arises out of states and other entities employing international law to achieve domestic objectives internationally, while at the same time being subject to the objectives of other states and the international community at large. Here is where the human rights movement finds itself, and we witness the difficulty inherent in international resolutions and employing enforcement mechanisms at an international level. The movement is turning increasingly towards regional and local applications. Within this intricacy we find the more progressive advancements in human rights, and the wealth of our interests and rights that are embodied in human rights law.

This publication includes articles that touch upon the various aspects of human rights law across the spectrum — from international, regional, and domestic applications. To our readers, we hope that the articles will be as enjoyable and stimulating for you to read as they were for us to assemble and publish. Each of our authors provides fascinating commentary on the present direction of human rights law, its application and potential for change. We are proud to present to you Volume 16, and thank you for your interest and readership.

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