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## Foreword

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## FOREWORD

*Michael Hecker & Stefanie Svoren\**

This year's volume of the *Buffalo Human Rights Law Review* demonstrates the ever-changing landscape of the international human rights regime. As this regime has evolved over the past thirty years, so too has the understanding of core human rights. Within the scope of this volume, we have endeavored to offer a more present-day, comparative look at real-time issues in the human rights arena. The articles selected for this volume represent a global view, with the articles touching legal issues within six of the seven world continents. It is our hope that by doing a broader, comparative analysis, we will bring greater focus to the concept that human rights issues affect everyone. Globalization ensures that every state, regardless of economic and military power, is witnessing these issues emerge within their own borders. As the world continues to develop, new and dynamic human rights concerns will become more prevalent worldwide.

We have also tried to illustrate the importance of minority rights in today's international system. With minority related issues making headlines in Darfur, and the daily effects of globalization becoming more apparent, it is increasingly important for states to identify and respect minority rights. We think it is no coincidence that as power has shifted over the last thirty years, minority populations have become evermore vocal in their demand for rights and respect.

In selecting the articles for Volume 15 of the *Buffalo Human Rights Law Review*, the editorial board solicited pieces that reflected the principles already stated. We chose to open with an article discussing the power vacuum within the U.N. Security Council because of its fundamental importance within the international human rights enforcement regime. As the most well-known and influential international body, Noah Bialostozky discusses why certain fundamental human rights are not being adequately protected across the globe and how power relationships need to be properly allocated in order for this to happen. Our second article, by Puja Kapai and Anne Sy Cheung, provides a macro prospective on how two very particular, and often overlooked, rights intersect in a variety of world cultures: freedom of religion and freedom of expression.

Our last three articles take a more focused approach to analyzing their issues. Johan Van der Vyver, from the Emory University School of Law, looks at the international standards for the promotion and protection of children's rights, focusing on South Africa and the United States. Joshua

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Gessling takes a micro view of patriarchal preservation within Turkey through the use of their legal system. Lastly, Jorge Paoletti looks at how the various minority groups within Spain are dealing with the concept of self-determination.

Finally, as is our custom, we are publishing two articles written by graduating law students. We chose these articles because they highlight two very important on-going debates within the international community. The first article by Ming Zhu, a third year student from Harvard Law School, discusses the use of truth commissions in South America. By focusing on four key examples, Zhu posits that truth commissions are more likely to be implemented following conflicts that have ended without a clear and absolute winner. Anthony Reeves, a third year student from the University at Buffalo Law School, explores the history of homosexual and transgendered rights through a comparative analysis of state practice. With this topic moving to the forefront of the human rights dialogue, it is imperative that states be cognizant of the historical actions and policies in relation to the topic.

We hope that these articles adequately reflect the present dialogue within the system. Furthermore, we hope our readers will come away with a desire to continue the work of the authors and push for further study in these or other equally deserving topics.

On behalf of the entire *Buffalo Human Rights Law Review*, we would like to thank Dean Makau Mutua for his continued support. Dean Mutua has been vital in the development of the human rights program here at the University of Buffalo Law School. We would also like to thank all of our editors and clerks who worked so diligently throughout the year to ensure that this Volume was published on-time. Without their hard work and dedication, it would have been impossible to put out the high caliber publication that you have all come to know. We would also like to thank the journal's advisory board for the commitment to both the journal and the international human rights cause. Finally, we would like to thank the authors published in this volume. Their commitment and dedication to the causes written about should serve as an example for all as to how to continue and expand the dialogue.