Introduction

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Buffalo Human Rights Law Review

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/bhrlr/vol13/iss1/2

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INTRODUCTION

Azra Zaidi
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Every generation has its defining moments, the moments that will alter history and change radically our perception of the world. For our generation those moments were the falling of the twin towers, the subsequent wars waged on Iraq and in Afghanistan, as well the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur. As we struggle to identify and understand the complexities of the situations that led to these points of conflict, it has become apparent that we are caught in a war of ideologies. Fundamental Islam versus Secularism versus the Middle East versus the West versus the South versus the Whites versus the Blacks versus the Arabs; it is an ongoing battle, and the resulting chaos matters only to those who stand to gain from the havoc that it wrecks on the masses.

Growing up as a Pakistani Muslim immigrant, the bleak consequences of human rights violation stemming from cultural practices perpetuated in the name of the Muslim faith have been ever-present. More than just propelling my involvement in helping to encourage a dialogue within the human rights corpus, this exposure has given me insight to help define such a dialogue. This is important more now than ever given the implication of the Muslim religion in 9/11, the war on Iraq and the genocide in Darfur. Serving as Editor-in-chief, alongside Patricia Sandison, of the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review has offered me the opportunity to become involved and help define and clarify that discussion. I have been honored to do my part in this publication.

The current conflicts bring to the forefront the dire need for leading minds to understand and delineate a human rights discourse. It is with these thoughts in mind that the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review continues to advance an agenda of equal rights and responsibilities as part of our rubric. Our mission has been to remind the world of its shortcomings and to facilitate a discussion of the imperative of change. The tumultuous times in which we live obligate us to listen to the voice of humanity and compassion that thrives within each of us, ensuring that the wrongs of these times will be countered by empathy and the tenacity to stop injustice.

As Volume 13 publishes, I am grateful for the scholarship in this issue and its attestation to the consistent work that is done to continue the endeavors of the human rights movement. I am assured that as long as there are violations of rights there will be those who will stand against them, and
with the victims to advance their cause. It is my hope that the successive board of this journal continues to help propel this movement with just as much vigor and sense of investment in its success as did their predecessors.