

## Editorial

The *Human Rights Law Commentary* is an online journal edited by students within the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham. It publishes outstanding academic work and offers its readers informed, articulate opinion on current international human rights issues. The *Commentary* is legally orientated; centred around human rights practices and related disciplines.

This is the Third Volume of the *Commentary*, and this edition, like its predecessors, is being published online. By publishing online, we hope that students, practitioners and academics alike can easily access the latest research and developments in the field of human rights law.

The first article takes a balanced approach towards the much-debated role of non-state actors in respecting and upholding international human rights law. However, the present edition of the *Commentary* also seeks to challenge preconceptions on topical issues that are not often associated with human rights and lack sufficient analysis in legal discourse. One such issue is the intensive training of child athletes addressed in an article that examines this growing trend in the context of treaty law and worldwide practice.

Another often-ignored problem is that of accountability for enforced starvation in peace and armed conflict. The author exposes the myths behind mass hunger helping the reader to see the real face of famine. A more detailed analysis of international humanitarian law is found in the critique of the International Committee of the Red Cross review on the customary rules which apply to internally displaced persons. Related to forcible relocation is a discussion on the increasing circumvention of the *non-refoulement* rule with the use of diplomatic assurances.

While the above articles are based on globally occurring phenomena, we also pay attention to region and country-specific situations. One author offers a timely analysis of how the European Court of Human Rights intends to deal with the backlog and new influx of cases in the light of the recent expansion of the Council of Europe. Finally, the last article explores the use of unconventional methods to promote human rights at a grass roots level to explain how female genital mutilation is being eliminated in Senegal.

Although this collection deals with issues as diverse as the backgrounds and areas of practice of their respective authors, they are all threaded together by their human rights orientated approach.

We, the members of the Editorial Board, also reflect a wide range of backgrounds and cultures. We strongly hope this commentary meets the ambitions and aspirations of our readers worldwide, and initiates or further stimulates existing discourse and debates around the issues touched on within.

Sincerely,

Marija Brackovic, Daniel Butler, Viral Kataria, Sylvia Maus, Violet Odala and  
Anna Tkaczynska