

Editorial

This is the eleventh issue of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal. It consists of eight articles resulting from a special cooperation with the GC Human Rights Preparedness Blog which has provided a valuable platform for innovative and inclusive conversations within the Global Campus network and beyond. In this regard, this blog generally invites contributors to explain the ways in which protecting, respecting and fulfilling human rights is vital in meeting the challenges of pandemics and other emergencies, or to imagine how human rights could be better prepared for such challenges in view of where, how and why human rights have failed or done less well than anticipated.

Seven articles are based on shorter contributions previously published by Global Campus alumni acting as regional correspondents for the aforementioned blog after having been trained by Rosie Cowan, a member of the blog editorial team. The eighth article is written by the lead editor of the blog. All these articles provide insights into different topics from a rights-based approach taking into account that there are lessons to be learned from the past and preparations that can be made for the future.

Maria Koltsova considers that several anti-war movements have been organised in Russia or by Russian emigrants abroad since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. She focuses on the story of the activists from the organisation Feminist Anti-War Resistance (Fem Anti-War Resistance or FAR) and explains the key importance of feminist ideas in opposing the war. She highlights how feminist movements can create structure and spread ideas to prevent further tragedies, while establishing themselves as a pillar of Russia's future civil society.

Khadija Embaby considers two ways in which the politics of energy impacts human rights in the Middle East. First, she focuses on interstate dynamics and how this affects the distribution of energy production costs and benefits, given the new political. Second, she addresses the question of how Western foreign policy towards countries in the Middle East is shaped, given the current energy crisis and increasing dependence on oil in its fossil fuel-based economy. She reflects on these issues by defining energy justice and its relationship to human rights, understanding its implications for US and European foreign policy towards the Middle East and finally how it can be contextualised in regard to specific countries in the region. She highlights the need of the international human rights community to adopt an energy justice framework that acknowledges and considers compensation for harms committed by oil industry giants and

the violent politics of oil.

Johnson Mayamba focuses on the need for Africa to learn lessons from its past and plan for a better future in the field of healthcare. In particular, he underlines the need to increase government funding towards the health sector and to address other still-existing challenges to equitable healthcare. He recommends the building of resilient healthcare systems with more focus on primary healthcare, the adoption of individual and group participation in decision-making processes, as well as the establishment of Universal Health Coverage in order to guarantee the future for most Africans as a equitable, stable, peaceful and prosperous society.

Ana Funa addresses the issue of hydropower plants in the Western Balkans, arguing that activists and scientists across the Balkans have succeeded to some extent in highlighting the negative impact of HPPs, but governments in the region must do more to diversify into alternative renewable energy sources and to protect nature for future generations. In this regard, she analyses numerous studies and reports of relevant international institutions, reviews the numerous activist undertakings to protect the Balkan wild rivers and discusses viable environmentally friendly alternatives to hydropower.

Gema Ocana Noriega examines a series of United Nations reports and other research which contend that inherent economic gender bias and neoliberal financial austerity policies unduly damage women's socio-economic rights. She recommends that human rights principles be combined with comprehensive feminist economic analysis in order to achieve gender equality and afford women more financial security in preparation for future crises. She argues that one useful tool on the way forward could be the development of a gender-sensitive human rights impact assessment of economic reform policies.

Ezequiel Fernandez Bravo examines ongoing challenges of racism and discrimination through the lens of the long troubling history of xenophobic persecution of Haitians by the neighbouring Dominican Republic. He analyses the latter's prejudicial two-tier migration policy toward Haitians; on the one hand, ostensibly excluding them, on the other hand, admitting those it requires for cheap unregulated labour in sectors such as construction and agriculture but denying them and their descendants rights and citizenship. Setting this amid the worldwide context of the relationship between unequal distribution of wealth and a global hierarchy of migration based on race, his article calls on human rights activists inside and outside the Dominican Republic to stand together and renew efforts to dismantle the structural racism upon Haitians.

Chiara Altafin analyses selected litigation efforts relating to children deprived of liberty for migration-related reasons in Europe and Asia where various countries face persisting systemic issues and there are local practitioners working on them. The selective choice of cases draws heavily on the findings of her research for one component of the "Advancing

Child Rights Strategic Litigation” (ACRiSL) project under the auspices of the Global Campus of Human Rights and Rights Livelihood cooperation. She articulates concluding remarks for a children’s rights preparedness, reflecting on the importance of stakeholders’ approaches towards litigation strategies that are consistent with children’s rights and aim to advance children’s enjoyment of their rights, in order to contribute effectively to tackle such a harmful practice and bring changes against it.

The Global Campus of Human Rights consists of the Global Campus Europe, South East Europe, Africa, Asia Pacific, Caucasus, Latin America and the Arab World, with the participation of post-graduate students from their respective Master’s programmes in Human Rights and Democracy.