

Dear Colleagues:

We are once again excited to share an overview of some of the most recent work published in *The Journal of Human Rights*. The upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in July 1998 served as a prompt for the development of a *Special Issue, Volume 22 Issue 1*, published in advance of the anniversary. As guest editors M. P. Broache, Kate Cronin-Furman, David Mendeloff, and Jacqueline R. McAllister together note, the contributions focus on two related themes: (1) the ICC's relations with states, and (2) its effectiveness in ending impunity and mitigating violence. As a treaty-based intergovernmental organization established by states, the ICC relies on states for funding and cooperation to conduct investigations and execute arrest warrants. The ICC's effectiveness therefore depends, to a significant extent, on its relations with states.

Different aspects of ICC-state relations are explored e.g. by Oumar Ba re-examining the role of African states in the negotiation of the Rome Statute and the development of the broader international justice regime and Lucrecia García Iommi examining state support for the ICC since its establishment. A data-focused piece by Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm and Kirsten Ainley discusses new data on funding for the Court and a case study by Genevieve Bates and Shauna N. Gillooly describes ICC-state relations in Colombia.

For the second theme: the Court's effectiveness in ending impunity and mitigating violence, Courtney Hillebrecht and Hanna Roesch Read introduce new data on ICC actions "beyond the courtroom," including prosecutorial statements and site visits, whose impact has been largely unexamined. M. P. Broache and Juhi Kore analyze the ICC's effects on conflict-related sexual violence, and Jacqueline R. McAllister provides an updated assessment of the ICC's impact on violence against civilians, focusing on armed conflicts in Africa.

The most recent issue of JHR (*Volume 22 Issue 2, Spring 2023*) explores broader debates over international law and humanitarian crisis. We especially note that Rodwan Abouharb's piece on war and infant mortality rates has generated significant policy attention, which you can track at our JHR Twitter site (<https://twitter.com/JofHumanRights>) and see referenced in a recent follow-on piece in *The Conversation* (<https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-the-devastating-effects-of-conflict-on-infant-mortality-rates-new-research-203187>). Separately, Sinjae Kang, Sangmin Lee and Taehee Whang discuss the relationship between economic sanctions and human rights conditions of target countries; Angélica Cocomá Ricaurte explores women's mobilization against enforced disappearances; and Daniel Connolly, Seunghyun Nam & Kirsty Goodman's article analyses the novel use of blockchain technology to help refugees.

Finally, additional articles in this issue explores justice in multiple country contexts (e.g., Kenya's unfinished democratic "revolution"; responses to natural disasters in Guatemala; constraints on educators in Myanmar; and Belgium's post-colonial truth commission). We welcome your engagement with it all.

Best wishes,
Rachel Chambers (Social Media Co-Editor)