

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to let you know that issue 21.1 of *The Journal of Human Rights* has been published and is now available at our Taylor & Francis site. This issue features articles from some of the leading voices in the field grappling with some of its most pressing challenges.

David Kaye, the UN's former Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression & Opinion, reviews three books central to related debates: *Regardless of Frontiers: Global Freedom of Expression in a Troubled World* edited by Lee C. Bollinger and Agnes Callamard; *Hate Speech and Human Rights in Eastern Europe: Legislating for Divergent Values* by Viera Pejchal; and *Incitement on Trial: Prosecuting International Speech Crimes* by Richard Wilson. Kaye expansively explores how each of them "enters the fray" by offering respectively, "a high-altitude affirmation of the underlying principles of freedom of expression and the contemporary headwinds it faces, to a specific evaluation in democratic transitions, to a legal and empirical assessment of how the speech crime of incitement to genocide has been muddled by international criminal tribunals" (Kaye 2022, 111).

To read other articles previously published in JHR on hate speech, we recommend: [The chameleon of mens rea and the shifting guises of culture-specific genocidal intent in international criminal proceedings](#) (Volume 15, Issue 4); [Symbolic closure through memory, reparation and revenge in post-conflict societies](#) (Volume 1, Issue 1); [The internet and state repression: A cross-national analysis of the limits of digital constraint](#) (Volume 17, Issue 5); and Promoting the people's surrogate: [The case for press freedom as a distinct human right, \(Volume 15, Issue 3\)](#).

Leading scholars in the field of disability rights Michael Stein (Harvard Law), Minerva Velarde (University of Geneva) and Tom Shakespeare (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine) have together authored "Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration in Colombia: Lost Human Rights Opportunities for Ex-Combatants with Disabilities." This piece considers whether and how the circumstances of Colombian ex-combatants with disabilities were recognized in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) processes institute after the adoption of the 2016 peace agreement. For other work on disability rights published in JHR, see: [Mainstreaming disability in the United Nations treaty bodies](#) (Volume 17, Issue 1); [Securing rights in the twenty-first century: A comparison of the disability and older persons' rights conventions](#) (Volume 15 issue 4); and [Status-Differentiated Rights](#), and [Status-Differentiated Rights](#) (Volume 11 issue 3).

Finally, Megan Bradley and Mohamed Sesay's article on rights at risk in the wake of natural disasters ("When the ground opened": Responsibility for harms and rights violations in disasters – Insights from Sierra Leone) is already generating extraordinary attention. Based on interviews with survivors of the 2017 mudslides in Sierra Leone, the authors find that those who lived see the disaster as an "act of God" yet also want *accountability* from the state. For related work on human rights in the context of natural disasters, see: [Taking a Back Seat: The Uses and Misuses of Space in a Context of War and Natural Disaster](#) (Volume 12, Issue 1); and [Human Rights in the Context of Disasters: The Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council on Haiti](#) (Volume 10, Issue 1).

We encourage you to explore all the articles in JHR 21.1 and to follow our authors at [@JofHumanRights](#)

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