

## DOING PEACE THE RIGHTS WAY



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Essays in International Law and Relations  
in Honour of Louise Arbour

*Edited by*

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## FOREWORD

Lasting peace on Earth remains one of humankind's most earnest aspirations. As our population grows and our collective impact on this "pale blue dot" (to borrow Carl Sagan's imagery) is felt with increasing urgency, human societies must strive continuously to find new paths toward prosperous and peaceful coexistence. The manner in which we rise together to meet the ongoing challenges of our time – war, terrorism, environmental degradation, inequality and oppression – will ultimately determine the future of our species. It is only through multilateralism, dialogue and coordinated action that we can one day achieve the peaceful planet that our poets have imagined and that our children dearly deserve.

The edifice of this fairer, more peaceful world must be built on the pillars of security, inclusive development, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Together, these pillars mutually reinforce one another, all while remaining ends unto themselves. They also provide the United Nations with its *raison d'être*, grounded in the spirit of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. No country can develop in the long term without security and stability, nor can one remain stable without inclusive development that lifts up the people and ensures their welfare. But these must in turn be based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. An edifice of peace and prosperity is always weakened when public power is left unchecked and human dignity is forfeited for security or profit.

In a thought-provoking examination of these themes comes this new collection of texts: *Doing Peace the Rights Way*. Dedicated to Louise Arbour, it explores an impressive variety of issues and perspectives on the enforcement of human rights and the pursuit of peace. Throughout the various posts that she has held during her remarkable career, Louise Arbour has always championed the cause of human rights, framing her analyses and arguments to applicable law, urging nations to cooperate and unite by complying with their international human rights obligations. I came to see this first hand when I nominated her to serve as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights during my tenure as Secretary-General.

The chapters in this collection of essays, written by leaders from various fields who interacted with Louise Arbour at different times of her life, touch on themes she cares about. They touch on themes I care about. They touch on themes we all care – or should care – about. Louise Arbour's life's work powerfully illustrates

how the rule of law is essential to the building of a fairer, more peaceful world. This book is a tribute to the outstanding contribution she has made toward that goal and an authoritative companion to our efforts to realize the noblest of humanity's collective ideals.

Kofi A. Annan  
May 2017, Geneva

# CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i> .....	v
<i>List of Contributors</i> .....	xiii

<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
---------------------------	---

## PART I. OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

### **Human Rights Obligations for Non-State Actors: Where Are We Now?**

Andrew CLAPHAM .....	11
1. What Do We Mean by Non-State Actors? .....	12
2. The State of the Debate .....	13
3. The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers .....	32
4. Final Thoughts on Corporations .....	33
5. Concluding Remarks .....	35

### **The Right to Truth: When Does it Begin?**

William SCHABAS OC MRIA .....	37
1. The “Procedural Right to Truth” at the European Court of Human Rights .....	40
2. The Spanish Civil War and the Special Rapporteur on Truth .....	42
3. Katyń at the European Court .....	44
4. Temporal Limits on the Genocide Convention .....	48
5. The Passage of Time .....	49
6. Conclusion .....	51

### **Corruption, Inequality and Boko Haram in Nigeria**

Tity AGBAHEY and Gilles Olakounlé YABI .....	53
1. From a Sectarian Movement to Monstrous Violence: Boko Haram as a Reflection of Nigeria’s Contradictions .....	54
2. Turbulent Politics, an Unlikely Nation and the Oil Curse: History Matters .....	56
3. Elites Were Busy Stealing While the Frustrated Boys Were Getting Ready .....	58

4. Did Corruption and Extreme Inequality Actually Lead to Boko Haram? .....	61
5. Back to Good Old Ideals: Freedom, Equality and Justice Do Matter .....	64

**Social and Economic Rights and the Legal Imagination**

Alana KLEIN. ....	65
1. Introduction .....	65
2. What Creativity and Why? .....	68
3. Common Themes in Context .....	79
4. Judicial Stagnation in Canada .....	81
5. Conclusion .....	84

**Building a Culture of Inclusivity in a Diverse Society**

Hina JILANI .....	85
1. Introduction .....	85
2. Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Security in a Troubled World .....	86
3. Litigation and Popular Mobilization as Means to Social Change .....	91
4. Conclusion .....	101

**Made in Canada: A Failed War on Drugs**

J. Michael SPRATT .....	103
1. A Failed War .....	104
2. Throwing Away the Key .....	106
3. Insite: The Politics of Harm Reduction .....	111
4. Medical Heroin and Poisoned Politics .....	115
5. An Appetite for Change .....	118

**Unaccompanied Children Out of Their Country of Origin: Trapped in the Administrative Net**

Pablo ESPINIELLA .....	121
1. Children or Migrants? .....	126
2. Concrete Challenges: The Respect of Their Best Interests, Including in Age Determination Processes .....	133
3. Conclusions .....	142

**PART II. OF PEACE AND JUSTICE**

**The Deterrence Rationale in a Criminal Justice Accountability Regime**

James K. STEWART .....	147
1. Introduction .....	147



2. The Deterrence Rationale in the Rome Statute of the ICC . . . . .	149
3. Establishing the Truth . . . . .	152
4. The ICC Criminal Accountability Regime . . . . .	153
5. To Deter Whom? . . . . .	160
6. Prevention Strategies of the ICC Prosecutor. . . . .	161
7. Will Effective Prosecution Deter the Future Commission of Crimes? . . . .	166
8. Conclusion. . . . .	170

**Peace and Justice: Human Rights Fact-Finding in Raging Conflicts**

Mona RISHMAWI . . . . .	171
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1. Introduction . . . . .	172
2. Approaches to Fact-Finding . . . . .	173
3. Types of Fact-Finding. . . . .	176
4. Louise Arbour and UN Human Rights Fact-Finding: Telling the Story . . .	186
5. Human Rights and Justice: Some Dilemmas When Investigating . . . . .	189
6. Conclusion. . . . .	196

**“Exceptional Measures” in Times of Crisis: Terrorism, National Security and the Rule of Law**

Lisa N. OLDRING . . . . .	199
---------------------------	-----

1. The Rule of Law in a National Security Context. . . . .	202
2. Exceptional Measures in Times of Crisis. . . . .	204
3. Conclusions . . . . .	218

**When the End Lacks the Means: National Prosecutions of International Crimes and Canada’s Paper Tiger Approach**

Fannie LAFONTAINE . . . . .	221
-----------------------------	-----

1. Introduction . . . . .	221
2. Where From: The Historical Context of the Canadian Approach . . . . .	224
3. Where At: Prosecute Little and Expel a Lot . . . . .	233
4. Where To: Rethinking the Approach . . . . .	240
5. Conclusion. . . . .	249

**The Independence of International Prosecutors: Where Law Meets Realpolitik**

Luc CÔTÉ . . . . .	253
--------------------	-----

1. The Independence of the International Prosecutor in the Statutes . . . . .	256
2. The Independence of the International Prosecutor Beyond the Statutes: The Role of States . . . . .	262
3. Conclusion. . . . .	272

**Torture, Jurisdiction and Immunity: Theories and Practices in Search of One Another**

François LAROCQUE ..... 277

- 1. Introduction ..... 277
- 2. Torture ..... 280
- 3. Jurisdiction and Extraterritorial Torture ..... 286
- 4. State Immunity and Torture ..... 302
- 5. Conclusion: Finding a Way Through to Tomorrow ..... 313

**Revisiting Challenges to International Humanitarian Law**

Tim MCCORMACK ..... 317

- 1. A Global Contributor ..... 318
- 2. International Criminal Institution Building and More Effective Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law ..... 320
- 3. Spectacular Technological Advances and the Adaptability of International Humanitarian Law ..... 333
- 4. The Complexity of Operational Environments and More Effective Implementation of International Humanitarian Law ..... 345
- 5. Future Challenges: “The Erosion of Humanity” and Recapturing the Motivation for International Humanitarian Law ..... 349

**PART III. OF WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP**

**Leadership in the United Nations and the Challenge of Courage**

Fabrizio HOCHSCHILD ..... 355

- 1. On Courage in Leadership ..... 356
- 2. On Courage and UN Leadership ..... 361
- 3. Louise Arbour and Conclusions on Courage in UN Leadership ..... 370

**The World Bank as a Human Rights-Free Zone**

Philip ALSTON ..... 375

- 1. The World Bank’s Key Role ..... 376
- 2. The Human Rights Policy of the World Bank ..... 377
- 3. Explaining the Aversion of the World Bank to Human Rights ..... 385
- 4. Time for Change: Why the World Bank Needs a New Approach to Human Rights ..... 390
- 5. What Difference Would a Human Rights Policy Make? ..... 394
- 6. Conclusion ..... 396

<b>Come a Long Way and a Long Way to Go: UNSCR 1325 and Women’s Participation in Peace-Making</b>	
Antonia Potter PRENTICE and Camille Marquis BISSONNETTE . . . . .	401
1. Why Should Women Be Included in Peace-Making? . . . . .	404
2. What is UNSCR 1325 and What Was it Meant to Be? . . . . .	407
3. How UNSCR 1325 Has and Hasn’t Been Used Throughout the Years . . . .	408
4. Recommendations: How to Up the Game on UNSCR 1325 . . . . .	415
Appendix . . . . .	419
<b>Why are Women Canada’s Fastest-Growing Prison Population and Why Should We Care?</b>	
Kim PATE . . . . .	423
<b>Moving Beyond Facial Equality: Examining Canadian and French Niqab Bans</b>	
Natasha BAKHT . . . . .	443
1. The Canadian Context . . . . .	446
2. Case Study: <i>Ishaq v. Canada</i> . . . . .	448
3. The French Context . . . . .	454
4. Case Study: <i>SAS v. France</i> . . . . .	456
5. Resistance: The Stories of Niqab-Wearing Women . . . . .	459
<i>Select Bibliography</i> . . . . .	463
<i>Appendix</i> . . . . .	467
<i>In Memoriam – Asma Jahangir</i> . . . . .	507



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