Special Issue

Refugees and International Law: The Challenge of Protection

Message from the Guest Editor

The escalating "refugee crisis," with 68.5 million people forcibly displaced, and, with over two-thirds of the world's refugees from only five source countries: Syria; Afghanistan; South Sudan; Myanmar; and, Somalia, it is time to acknowledge and to address the "root cause" of the overwhelming majority of the world's refugees, protracted armed conflict. Accordingly, it is prudent, if not essential, to consider how international law, in general, and international refugee law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law, in particular, can be applied in new and creative ways to strengthen refugee protection within the current environment that is hostile, more often than not, to those seeking asylum from abroad. This Special Issue of *Laws* will contribute to the scholarly legal literature that analyzes how these principal branches of international law, that are most relevant to asylum, either singly or combined, can strengthen refugee protection.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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