

Special Issue

Religion and Human Rights: Complementary or Contrary?

Message from the Guest Editor

Human rights law is supposed to direct all social forces towards enhancement of the autonomy and equality of all citizens. It needs the support of various forces in civil society. These forces are called upon to prevent the subordination of human rights law to ideological interests and to improve its interpretation and application in order to promote the principles of human dignity, freedom and equality. Religions are influential social forces in societies. Like human rights, they have a concept of a just and good life. Religions claim that the ethical aspirations and moral duties they share contribute to welfare of individual human beings, groups and communities. This applies particularly to the principle of universal reciprocity (golden rule), which also can be seen as the very basis of all human rights law. But to what extent religions contribute to the realisation of human rights to legislate, positivise and universalise the moral codes they espouse, or at least help to prevent and counteract the violation of human rights. Theoretical and empirical studies from different disciplines are welcome that reflect certain aspects of the complex relationship between them.

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Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

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