

# Initial Issue of the Mediterranean Human Rights Review

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The Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta has been publishing its own journal since 1996. It was in 2014 that we issued the last edition of the *Mediterranean Journal of Human Rights*. David E. Zammit, Head of Department of Civil Law, had served as its general editor throughout the period 1996 to 2014. This latter journal was published in print format. Now that we have discontinued its publication, the Faculty Board of Laws has decided to revamp its Faculty journal and publish instead a *Mediterranean Human Rights Review*. We still thought that the focus of the Faculty's journal should continue to remain Human Rights in the Mediterranean, though we are still receptive to contributions on human rights from other regions of the world as we aim to place human rights within a wider comparative context. With an open access electronic journal it is hoped to avoid the pitfalls of the previous journal – lack of visibility by the international community and a lack of foreign contributions. Naturally an online journal contributes to cutting down on costs and making the Review readily available for inspection and downloading by the whole international academic community with a keen interest in the evolution of human rights law in the Mediterranean region.

This first volume is as mixed as it can be, both as to the nature of the subject matters discussed as well as to the diversity of authors contributing their knowledge to posterity. As to the latter, the Review takes pride in having a sitting Judge of the European Court of Human Rights reflecting of Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights as well as, from a comparative perspective, writers penning articles on human rights in the South Caucasus (Tamar Zurabishvili and Tinatin Zurabishvili), Lithuania (Aida Kišūnaitė), Italy (Isolde Quadranti), Spain and Portugal (Sofia Oliveira Pais), and South Africa, France, Scotland and England (Kathleen Vella). Maltese authors are writing both on human rights in Malta (Evelyn Borg Costanzi), within Europe (Joseph Grech and Carl Grech) and on the international plane (Anne-Marie Callus and Amy Camilleri-Zahra). The topics range from domestic law, European Union Law, the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. Moreover, the papers in this collection analyse human rights both from the point of view of the substantive rights as well as from the angle of their concrete and effective implementation in practice.

To publish such a Review is no mean feat. I thus would like to thank the Human Rights Programme at the Faculty of Laws for all the work involved in the establishment of the *Mediterranean Human Rights Review* and the Review's Editorial Board for having made this dream come through during the Review's inaugural launch on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Sincere thanks are due to David E. Zammit, Head of Department of Civil Law, and Ivan Mifsud, Head of Department of Public Law who have co-authored the first issue of the Review. I cannot but not thank as well as the contributors to this inception edition who have made it possible for the Faculty of Laws to launch it for the benefit of academics and students desirous to research and study Human Rights Law.

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