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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers:

Over the last nine years, the *Notre Dame Journal of International and Comparative Law* has developed into a strong platform for important international issues, featuring prominent international law scholars. It has lived by the mission to continuously grow from one Issue to the next. This Issue serves as evidence of this continuous growth.

The theme of Volume 9, Issue 1—our Symposium Issue—is the Human Right to a Healthy Environment. Each article in this Issue advocates for the importance and realization of this human right—whether in the workplace, prison, or in the environment as thought of in the traditional sense.

We begin Issue 1 with an article that discusses the right to disconnect from the workplace. Professor Paul M. Secunda's article observes that U.S. workers are increasingly finding it difficult to escape from work and that after looking to France and Germany, the U.S. safety and health law under OSHA should be used to respond to this employee disconnection problem. The next two articles address the importance of a healthy environment in prison. Juan E. Méndez, former U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture, highlights the international law obligation to provide prisoners adequate healthcare and lays out the Nelson Mandela Rules as an applicable international standard. Meanwhile, Professor Erica Zunkel demonstrates that even with international law, domestic regulations are essential to provide individuals with proper treatment after criminal convictions. She shows that U.S. federal district court judges have to follow 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)'s command to consider what sentence will provide the defendant with necessary rehabilitation and treatment in "the most effective manner." The next article then discusses the rising issue of climate refugees. Michael S. Talbot uses sources of Catholic Social Teaching to speculate on possible moral arguments to fill in the gaps in the international legal framework around climate induced migration. Volume 9, Issue 1 ends with student notes written by myself, Lara Thiele, and Josephine Suchecki. Our notes propose solutions to ease the problematic situations surrounding the Rohingya crisis and human-trafficking. And while these are two vastly different topics, they convey a single theme: A healthy environment cannot exist where human dignity is denied.

On behalf of the *Journal*, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Eck Institute of Global Health, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, ND Gain, and numerous Notre Dame Law organizations, including the Environmental Law Society, International Human Rights Society, Future Prosecuting Attorney's Council, Health Law Society, International Law Society, and ACLU, for their generosity; without their support the Symposium would not be possible. I would also like to thank our faculty advisors, Professor Mary Ellen O'Connell and Sadie Blanchard, for their constant support as well as the *Journal's* Executive Board and Editorial Staff for their dedication to the *Journal*. Finally, I want to thank our readers for supporting us as we enter our ninth year of publication.

Yours in Notre Dame,



Lara Thiele
Editor-in-Chief, Volume 9