

# Human Rights Brief

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## Front Matter/Letter from the Editors

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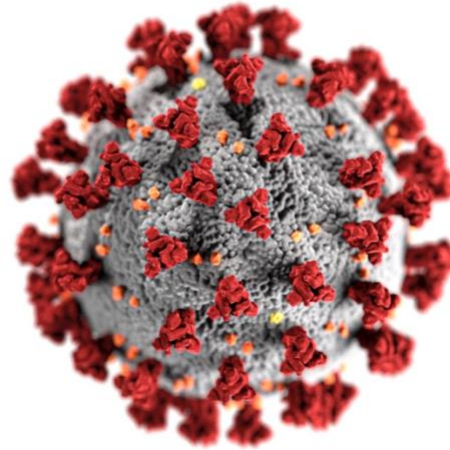
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*This issue is dedicated to frontline workers, essential workers, and all those hurt by the pandemic around the world.*

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

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Dear Readers:

When we first discussed working on a joint issue to address the COVID-19 pandemic in early May, our biggest concern was that by the time we finished the production process, the issue would be less relevant to our daily lives. As we begin a new school year virtually, COVID-19 has kept courts, businesses, and governments from returning to “normal.” The pandemic has both demonstrated and exacerbated massive inequalities in our global system; it has provided an excuse for governments to claim authoritarian powers, and it has caused vulnerable communities to suffer disproportionately. This issue aims to provide both an overview of a few responses to the pandemic as well as a few legal frameworks in which to begin to address the underlying problems.

As editors, part of our goal in this joint issue was to create a space where public health law and human rights legal systems could freely intermingle. The result — an examination of criminalizing infection; an analysis of state powers in states of emergency; a detailed look at Hungary’s authoritarian power grab; an exploration of the relationship between access to community resources and managing health conditions; a proposal for an inclusive and just approach to future advocacy efforts; and an overview of COVID-19 responses in the Inter-American human rights system — both helped us understand the gaps in our domestic, regional, and international legal systems and the ways that legal systems can provide some stability and accountability in times of global crisis.

We hope that you find the interdisciplinary nature of these issues as thought-provoking as we have, and that we leave you with further questions to explore. In the meantime, stay safe, stay well, and take care of each other.

Sincerely,  
Samira, Kate, Cale, and Elizabeth

Samira Elhosary & Kate Morrow  
*Co-Editors-in-Chief, Human Rights Brief*

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