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Equality and Human Rights: Confronting Racial Discrimination Introduction

Claudia Martin
cmartin@american.edu

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón
drodrig@american.edu

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EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CONFRONTING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

INTRODUCTION

CLAUDIA MARTIN & DIEGO RODRÍGUEZ-PINZÓN*

We are delighted to present this year's special issue of the *American University International Law Review* and the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, which includes the two winning essays in English and Spanish recognized in the 2023 Human Rights Essay Award competition along with honorable mentions regarding the topic "*Equality and Human Rights: Confronting Racial Discrimination*." It is rewarding to realize that this competition allowed participants an opportunity to expound their thoughts on crucial human right issues that have an impact in the whole world. We hope these participants are able to use their articles as mechanisms for change.

The quality of the essays submitted was outstanding, making the final decision difficult. We would like to recognize everyone who participated in the competition and mainly the two winners, Louise Grégoire from France and Roxana Rosas Fregoso from México. In addition, a final decision would not be possible without the exceptional work of the members of the Honor Jury who read and evaluated the essays.

The goal of this publication and the essay competition is to provide an academic venue for scholarly legal writing by human rights experts and activists, particularly those in their early stages of their careers. By publishing their work, we seek to contribute quality legal writings on particular topics of relevance to the development of this dynamic area of the law. The book also reflects the diversity of cultures and

* Co-Directors, Academy on Human Rights & Humanitarian Law.

languages that characterize our interconnected world. By publishing articles in English and Spanish, we enhance and broaden the voices that shape international human rights and humanitarian law in the future.

We want to acknowledge the staff of the Academy of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, who makes the Human Rights Essay Award possible every year. The management of communications with all the candidates and ensuring the logistical aspect ran smoothly was a successful task that we achieved thanks to the dedication and commitment from Adriana Buenaventura-Martinez, Senior Coordinator; Gabriel Ortiz, Program Coordinator; and Mosi Meza, American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) LL.M. in Human Rights & International Humanitarian Law.

We also want to thank Cassandra Cooper, Editor-in-Chief, and Alejandra Ureta Melcon, Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Book Editor, of the *American University International Law Review* (AUILR), for their dedication and hard work, which made this project a reality.

Publishing in two languages is especially demanding and we would like to recognize the efforts put forth by the AUILR staff on this project. It is imperative to acknowledge the vision of its editors to foresee that the future of the international community rests on our ability to enrich our views with other people's ideas and cultures.

Finally, we want to thank the AUILR staff and volunteers, especially AUWCL LL.M. students and alumni, who diligently worked throughout this endeavor.