

Editorial

In this first (regular) issue of 2022, JHEC presents four important and timely contributions on human trafficking, enslavement and conflict-related sexual violence, written by a number of academics and practitioners from different backgrounds.

The first article 'Exploring Legal Accountability of Global Technology and Social Media Companies for the Cyber Exploitation and Online Human Trafficking of Yezidis and other Minorities by ISIS' is co-authored by Emmanuel Didier, Angelika Hellweger, Robert Jeffrey Powell, and Catherine van Kampen. They argue that as technology infiltrates every aspect of public and private life on a global scale, new legal and regulatory challenges are emerging. While social media has benefits, it can also facilitate crimes, such as cyber exploitation, sexual terrorism, enslavement, sexual torture, and online human trafficking, that especially harm socially marginalized and economically vulnerable people living in conflict areas. The growing dominance of largely unregulated global technology and social media companies presents grave concerns for international and national lawmakers and regulators grappling with these health, safety and security issues. Another serious challenge relates to the biases and discrimination programmed into artificial intelligence and how global technology and social media companies are using powerful algorithms to expand their global audiences without having the necessary competency to enforce their community standards prohibiting the dissemination of hate speech, illegal content and unlawful activities on their platforms. Their law article takes the example of the Yezidi women and children and other religious and ethnic minorities during the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS, ISIL, IS or the Islamic State) and shows how global technology and social media and its connection to terrorism financing enable cyber exploitation, sexual terrorism, enslavement, sexual torture, and online human trafficking of these minorities. Their article also explores the legal frameworks in the United States, Europe and Iraq that might allow victims of cyber exploitation to pursue criminal and civil accountability against corporate actors.

The second contribution is from Horace A Bartilow and deals with women political representation and international compliance with anti-human trafficking legislation. In his article Bartilow argues that recent years have witnessed the emergence of an international regime to combat human trafficking, but that little is understood about the determinants of states' compliance with international agreements against human trafficking. The compliance literature does not directly speak to this issue but offers generalized theoretical explanations of states' compliance that feature the importance of hegemonic power, international institutions, and domestic political processes. Bartilow's study considers the effects of women representation on states' compliance with international human trafficking legislation by analyzing data for 146 countries using fixed effects and three-stage-least-square estimators that address issues of endogeneity. After controlling for alternate theoretical explanations, the finding suggests

that while increases in the proportion of women Legislators and Cabinet Ministers are positively associated with states' compliance with anti-human trafficking rules, the opposite is true regarding their male counterparts. Increases in the proportion of men legislators are only positively associated with states' compliance when women's parliamentary caucuses are present in countries' legislative deliberations and when such deliberations are influenced by the women's movement. Hence the article underscores the importance of women at various stages for state compliance with countertrafficking legislation.

The third article in this issue is written by Júlia Battistuzzi Penachioni. Her contribution deals with conflict-related sexual violence in Kenya following the 2007-2008 general elections. These elections were followed by a period of organized and spontaneous violence. According to the International Criminal Court (ICC), crimes against humanity such as murder, deportation or forcible transfer of population, persecution, rape, and other inhumane acts took place in the country. Widespread conflict-related sexual violence reached high levels during the conflict, in both top-down and bottom-up dynamics. Penachioni's article analyzes the forms of post-electoral violence and the notion of sexual violence as political violence: an 'organizational policy', as suggested by the ICC, or as a practice that is 'tolerated'. She further investigates transitional justice mechanisms applied in the country after the episode, including the work of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and the ICC's prosecution strategy. Finally, the article discusses the impact of such transitional justice measures regarding conflict-related sexual violence, not only concerning victims and witnesses, but the entire Kenyan society. The article concludes by saying that the TJ processes (national and international) in Kenya was overall not satisfying: the factors influencing this outcome could possibly (positively) inform future TJ processes.

The final article is written by Kate Perry and Sam R Bell. Their article focuses on sex trafficking and the proliferation of HIV in Africa, and more specifically on the role that human trafficking might play in the spread of HIV. There is a growing amount of research examining the connection between international security issues and HIV. Their work has mostly focused on conflict dynamics and shows that political instability in the form of international and domestic conflict leads to increases in the prevalence of HIV in Africa. Further, current literature on sex trafficking suggests that this practice may be directly connected to the spread of HIV. However, there is little exploration of this connection beyond case studies of individual countries. In their article, the authors address this research deficit by unpacking the link between sex trafficking and the spread of HIV. Perry and Bell develop a theory and conduct an empirical test to assess whether there is any link between trafficking and HIV in a sample of 45 countries in Africa from 2001 to 2016. They find that places that are destinations for sex trafficking have a higher prevalence of HIV. This research contributes to the literature on human security and epidemiology by revealing important im-

plications for understanding the consequences of human trafficking and the spread of HIV.

We hope you will enjoy reading this new JHEC issue.