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## Preface

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**P**RAXIS: *The Fletcher Journal of Human Security* examines the most pressing global issues by addressing them through an interdisciplinary lens, considering responses from the fields of international development, conflict resolution, human rights, and humanitarian aid. While the fields are traditionally compartmentalized, the human security paradigm allows practitioners and scholars to acknowledge the interdependent nature of these challenges and utilize a broader approach to addressing global vulnerabilities. Our articles aim to engage with critical concerns of human security, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

Human security emphasizes the protection and empowerment of vulnerable individuals and communities. In times of conflict or social tension, these groups are often overlooked in favor of more immediate concerns, such as national security or political and economic stability. Our 2009 issue focuses on those at the margins of society, often left behind by international protection mechanisms. We shed light on several key gaps in the international community's approaches to conflict resolution, social cohesion, and reconciliation. In each article, our authors bring challenges encountered in the field together with recommendations for changes at the institutional level. These insights are crucial to more holistically and sustainably addressing issues of human security.

In our first article, Evelyne Schmid explores the extent to which economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCR) are largely ignored by transitional justice processes. Using the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) preliminary report as a case study, she compares the diagnosis of the root causes of conflict to the TRC's initial recommendations, which essentially disregard ESCR violations. Schmid identifies the frequency with which transitional justice and reconciliation mechanisms overlook ESCR, analyzes the challenges this gap presents to comprehensively addressing the causes and repercussions of war, and then offers recommendations for incorporating ESCR into the next Liberian TRC report.

Marc Sommers' article analyzes the critical challenge of meeting educational needs in times of conflict and displacement. He explores the limited access to education by conflict-affected youth, and the obstacles that this problem creates. He also considers how education, when it is available, can act as a double-edged sword, either perpetuating conflict or building peace.

Our third article by Neil Grungras, Rachel Levitan, and Amy Slotek continues to address violations of economic, social, and cultural rights, by examining the doubly-marginalized population of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) asylum seekers and refugees in Turkey. The authors examine the threats to this population's physical safety, psychological health, and economic livelihoods encountered through-

out the process of seeking asylum and resettlement. The article concludes with practical recommendations to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Turkish government regarding how to better protect the rights of LGBT asylum seekers.

In our book review, Kirby Reiling analyzes the latest texts on the nexus between corruption and conflict: Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel's *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations* and Misha Glenny's *McMafia: A Journey through the Global Criminal Underworld*. These books are evaluated as a channel through which to understand the relationships between corruption, transnational crime, poverty, and violence. A more nuanced understanding of the causes of corruption and its effects on violence and poverty can create more appropriate mechanisms to address these problems.

From here, we move to a local exploration of two case studies—the Buduburam refugee camp in Ghana and the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) in Mali. Dana Binnendijk's view into the Buduburam refugee camp examines the situation of Liberian refugees who now find themselves in limbo, with the cessation of UNHCR's formal repatriation process and the impending closure of the camp. Andrea Walther's insights into AFRICOM reflect on the increasing involvement of the military in humanitarian aid from a more traditional security perspective.

In an interview with Cynthia Enloe, we then explore the critical gaps in standard conflict analyses, highlighting how overlooking the gender dynamics of conflict results in inadequate international responses. Furthermore, Enloe reflects on the tremendous impact of implicitly gendered military responses and the increasing militarization of humanitarian aid.

We would like to thank Peter Uvin, Academic Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the director of the Fletcher Institute of Human Security, for his guidance and support. We also thank all our authors for their contributions to the 2009 issue of *PRAXIS: The Fletcher Journal of Human Security*. Last but not least, we thank all our editors and our layout, website, finance, and marketing staff for their dedication and hard work.

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