Preface

The compilation and editing of a research handbook on international human rights law is a daunting task, given the vast breadth of the subject matter and, alas, the sheer number of different human rights issues arising around the globe. We can assure readers that we know that many important topics have been missed – it is simply impossible to encapsulate them all in a single book. However, we are also confident that the chapters presented herein provide a first-rate grounding for scholars seeking to wrap their heads around most of the major topics within the discipline. The chapters are designed to be both accessible to the novice human rights scholar and yet of great interest to the seasoned human rights researcher.

This handbook brings together the work of 25 leading human rights scholars from all over the world. As the various chapters overlap in theme, it was not possible to organise the book into separate parts: rather we have chosen to organise the book into a logical order, though the chapters can of course be read in any order. The book begins with some chapters outlining general issues regarding human rights, such as the history of norm generation, institution building and enforcement at the global level (Chapter 1 – Sarah Joseph and Joanna Kyriakakis) and the state of play regarding economic, social and cultural rights (Chapter 2 – Manisuli Ssenyonjo). The book then moves to examine jurisdictional issues, such as human rights and extraterritoriality (Chapter 3 – Sigrun Skogly), and human rights in the non-state sphere (Chapter 4 – Robert McCorquodale). Chapter 5 (Peter Spiro) logically follows Chapter 4, outlining the crucial role of non-government organisations in enforcing and promoting human rights norms. The next six chapters cover overlaps between human rights law and, respectively, international economic law (Chapter 6 – Adam McBeth), development law (Chapter 7 – Stephen Marks), feminist theory (Chapter 8 – Anastasia Vakulenko), international refugee law (Chapter 9 – Susan Kneebone), international criminal law (Chapter 10 – Elies van Sliedregt and Desislava Stoitchkova), and transitional justice (Chapter 11 – Ronli Sifris). The following chapters then take a more institutional approach, focusing on the role of the International Court of Justice in the protection of human rights (Chapter 12 – Sandesh Sivakumaran), the protection of human rights within the European system (Chapter 13 – Virginia Mantouvalou and Panayotis Voyatzis), protection of human rights within the Inter-American system (Chapter 14 – Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón and Claudia Martin), and protection of human rights within the African Union

(Chapter 15 – Magnus Killander). Continuing the regional theme, Chapter 16 (Michael Davis) analyses human rights initiatives in Asia, while Chapter 17 (Mashood Baderin) captures human rights perspectives from the Muslim world. Chapter 18 (Peter Cumper) connects to Chapter 17, in examining human rights and religious rights. Like Chapter 18, the final three chapters examine human rights in relation to specific issues: namely Indigenous rights (Chapter 19 – Melissa Castan), terrorism (Chapter 20 – Alex Conte), and human rights education (Chapter 21 – Paula Gerber).

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