

Preface

It is worth noting that the manuscript for this book is being submitted in the same month as the twenty-fifth anniversary of the world's worst industrial disaster. This took place in Bhopal, India and is estimated to have led to the deaths of over 20 000 people with a further 80 000 still affected by the aftermath. As in other major accidents, safety risks and defects had been reported well before the gas explosion occurred but those responsible chose not to deal with them. While it is not claimed that whistleblower protection laws would have prevented this catastrophe, it is asserted that effective confidential reporting policies and procedures which provide for external disclosures of information where appropriate can play a significant role in disaster management. It is hoped that this book will stimulate further debate about the value of, and mechanisms for, establishing a whistleblowing culture in modern society.

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