

Human Dignity for Everyone Everywhere: Founding Figures, Foundations, and the Uses of Human Dignity

Co-sponsored by:

The International Center for Law and Religion Studies, BYU

The Oxford Journal of Law and Religion

The Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Oxford Centre for Christianity and Culture, Regents Park, Oxford

Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, University of Oxford Faculty of Law

Christ Church College, Oxford University August 3-4, 2018

December 2018 marks the 70th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Preamble begins, “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world” and continues in Article 1 to proclaim, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

This simple idea—*human dignity for everyone everywhere*—is the central idea of human rights.

Human Dignity for Everyone Everywhere will explore the ideas that motivated and illuminated the human rights project 70 years ago.

- Can the idea of human dignity for everyone everywhere help with the implementation of human rights, through progressive measures?
- Can it enable the vision of human rights to become a common standard of achievement for all people and nations?
- Can the idea of human dignity help reconcile competing human rights claims, and resolve tensions with other important national and social interests?
- Can the idea of human dignity provide insight into the nature of dignitary harms and identity politics in the midst of the conscience wars?

Answers to such questions may hold the key to finding solutions for building stable and just communities in an inevitably highly pluralistic world.

Friday morning’s sessions will focus on the founding figures of the UDHR and their views on human dignity, and the afternoon will include presentations on religious and other philosophical views of human dignity. Saturday will include panel discussions of various uses of human dignity in practical contexts, as well as group discussions and reports on draft materials from the planned Declaration on Human Dignity for Everyone Everywhere.

Thursday, August 2

9:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

For those who arrive in time, you are invited to join the following roundtable discussion.

Religious Voices and Human Rights, Round Table Organized by Religion, Law and International Relations Programme at the Centre for Christianity and Culture, Regent's Park College, Oxford, at 1 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU

Friday, August 3

Morning Sessions: *Founding Figures of the UDHR: Motivations and Observations*

These sessions will focus on the thinking about human dignity of several of the key founding figures of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Charles Malik, and PC Chang.

9:00—10:30 AM

Welcome and Introduction, Ján Figel', Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief Outside the EU; Former European Commissioner for Education, Training & Culture; Former State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bratislava, Slovakia

Eleanor Roosevelt (USA)

Presented by Professor Brett Scharffs, Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies and Rex E. Lee Chair and Professor of Law, Brigham Young University Law School

Charles Malik (Lebanon)

Presented by Professor Peter Petkoff, Director of the Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Regent's Park College, Oxford; Managing Editor of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion; Senior Law Lecturer, Brunel Law School

10:45 AM—12:15 PM

Pen-Chun Chang (China)

“The Role of Human Dignity in PC Chang's Thought about Human Rights”

Presented by Professor Pinghua Sun, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, China

“PC Chang, Human Dignity and the UDHR”

Presented by Professor Hans Ingvar Roth, Professor of Human Rights, Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS), Stockholm University, Sweden

12:30 PM Lunch at Christ Church

Afternoon Session: *Conceptual and Ideological Foundations of Human Dignity: Including Religious Approaches of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim and Non-Religious Approaches*

2:00—3:30 PM

“Human Dignity and Vatican II”

Presented by Professor Alberto Melloni, Professor of the History of Christianity, University of Modena-Reggio Emilia, and Unesco Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace

“Pope Francis on Dignity and Rights”

Presented by Dr. Joel Harrison, Senior Lecturer, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia; Visiting Fellow, Foundations Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, University of Oxford

“Human Dignity and Jewish Law”

Presented by Professor Haim Shapira, Professor of Law, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

3:45 – 5:30 PM

“A Common Word: Conceptions of Dignity”

Presented by Professor Paul Fiddes, Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Oxford; former Principal of Regent’s Park College and Chair of the Faculty of Theology, Oxford

“The Foundations of Human Dignity to Abrahamic Religions: A Comparative View”

Presented by Professor Joseph David, Visiting Professor (Adjunct) of Law, Yale Law School and Visiting Professor, Program in Judaic Studies, Yale University; Associate Professor of Law, Sapir Academic College, Jerusalem, Israel

“The Conception of Human Dignity Underlying the Indonesian Concept of Pancasila”

Presented by Professor Dicky Sofjan, Core Doctoral Faculty in the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS), Graduate School, Universitas Gadjadara (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia (read by Professor Jane Wise, Associate Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, BYU Law School)

“Materialistic and Atheistic Foundations of Human Dignity”

Presented by Dr. Grégor Puppink, Director General of the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ); Member of the OSCE Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief

7:00 PM Dinner at The Folly, riverside restaurant

Saturday, August 4

Morning Session

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Welcome and Introduction, Ján Figel', Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief Outside the EU; Former European Commissioner for Education, Training & Culture; Former State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bratislava, Slovakia

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Five Panels of three or four participants organized around various topic groupings (listed below) will have each participant present for five to 10 minutes.

Our hope is that presenters will choose one or two of the bullet points below and elaborate or discuss how human dignity can be helpful in one or two of the following ways. In particular, we are hoping to share concrete, specific examples of the ways that human dignity can be a useful concept in actual situations.

Panel 1: Foundations, Objectives and Criteria for Facilitating a Deeper Understanding of Human Rights

Chair: Brett G. Scharffs, BYU Law School

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the *foundational idea* of human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the key *objective or goal* of human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the most useful *criteria* for evaluating laws, policies, and government actions for how well they accord with the goal of human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere reminds us that human rights are *universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated*.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is an idea that **can help depoliticize**, or perhaps even more importantly, **de-tribalize**, human rights.

Focusing concretely on human dignity for everyone everywhere can help *identify specific content* for a right that often seems quite abstract, or even empty.

Panelists: Professor Hans Igvar Roth, Professor of Human Rights, Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies, Stockholm University, Sweden

Professor Joseph David, Visiting Professor (Adjunct) of Law, Yale Law School and Visiting Professor, Program in Judaic Studies, Yale

University; Associate Professor of Law, Sapir Academic College of Law, Jerusalem, Israel

Professor Smillen Markov, Visiting Fellow, Oxford; Assistant Professor in Christian Philosophy, Theological Faculty, University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria

Professor Renata Uitz, Chair (Director), Comparative Constitutional Law Program, Department of Legal Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Professor Paul Fiddes, Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Oxford; former Principal of Regent's Park College and Chair of the Faculty of Theology, Oxford

Panel 2: Finding Common Ground among Different Conceptions of Human Rights

Chair: Ján Figel', Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief Outside the EU; Former European Commissioner for Education, Training & Culture; Former State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bratislava, Slovakia

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the most promising *point of departure (or entry point)* for exploring and understanding the meaning of human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is a mechanism for facilitating *discussions between different conceptions* of a common concept.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the most promising basis for *finding common ground* regarding human rights and achieving an overlapping consensus, or finding incompletely theorized agreements, about the content and meaning of human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere can *help build bridges* between various normative justifications of human rights, including religious and secular theoretical foundations for human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the best basis for *teaching and educating* “to promote respect for these rights and freedoms.” (UDHR, introductory proclamation)

Human dignity for everyone everywhere can *help overcome hostility towards or suspicion of* human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere can help *reduce the volume and heat* that often accompany controversies that involve human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere makes it *more difficult for advocates and opponents of human rights to be dogmatic and rigid* in their understanding of human rights.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere helps emphasize the underdeveloped concept in the UDHR that rights include *accompanying responsibilities*, not just of states, but of right holders, and of all human beings with respect to the rights of others.

Panelists: Dr. Chris Seiple, President Emeritus, Institute for Global Engagement; Advisor, Templeton Religion Trust; Senior Fellow, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington

Professor Robin Fretwell Wilson, Roger and Stephany Joslin Professor of Law, Illinois College of Law; Director, Program in Family Law and Policy; Director, Epstein Health Law and Policy Program; Professor, Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, Champaign, Illinois

Professor Pinghua Sun, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, China

Professor Haim Shapira, Professor of Law, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Panel 3: Implementing and Realizing Human Rights

Chair: Peter Petkoff, Director of the Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Regent's Park College, Oxford; Managing Editor of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion; Senior Law Lecturer, Brunel Law School

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the key to *implementing* human rights.

Protecting the human dignity of everyone within its jurisdiction is the fundamental human rights *obligation of states* and other divisions of government.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the best basis for *finding “progressive measures, national and international, to secure”* the universal and effective recognition and observance of human rights. (UDHR introductory proclamation)

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is the best mechanism for *realizing human rights “as a common standard of achievement* for all peoples and all nations.” (UDHR introductory proclamation)

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is powerful mechanism for *moving beyond narrowly legal solutions* to human rights conflicts.

Panelists: Dr. Eugenia Relaño Pastor, Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology, Department of Law and Anthropology, Halle, Germany

Dr. Merilin Kiviorg, Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law, University of Tartu, Estonia; President of the European Consortium for Church and State Research; member of the OSCE advisory panel on religious freedom.

Professor Paul Yowell, Associate Professor of Law, Oxford University; Fellow and Tutor in Law, Oriel College, Oxford

Professor W. Cole Durham, Jr., Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law and Founding Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University Law School, Provo, Utah

Short Break

Panel 4: Reconciling and Adjudicating Human Rights

Chair: W. Cole Durham, Jr., BYU Law School

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is a concept that can help *reconcile* competing human rights claims, as well as claims between human rights and other important national and societal interests.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is a useful principle for *balancing* competing rights claims.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere can be especially helpful in reconciling and mutually vindicating competing claims between *equality (non-discrimination) and freedom (liberty)*.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is an important constitutional and legal principle for *adjudicating* rights claims.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is a strategy moving towards balancing and towards an ideal of the *mutual vindication* of competing rights claims and other important interests.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere will help set the *boundaries of permissible limitations* of human rights and freedoms.

Panelists: Mark Hill QC; Honorary Professor of Law, Cardiff University; formerly Visiting Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Extraordinary Professor, The University of Pretoria

Professor Catherine Dupré, Associate Professor in Comparative Constitutional Law, Director of Doctoral Studies, University of Exeter Law School, UK

Dr. Grégor Puppinck, Director General, European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ); Member, OSCE Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Professor Peter Petkoff, Director of the Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, Regent's Park College, Oxford; Managing Editor of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion; Senior Law Lecturer, Brunel Law School

Panel 5: Responding to Distortions, Abuses and Hostility towards Human Rights

Chair: Renata Uitz, Chair (Director), Comparative Constitutional Law Program, Department of Legal Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Human dignity for everyone everywhere *helps avoid the distortion and avoidance of human rights* by authoritarian governments or others.

[OR: Human dignity for everyone everywhere can help states focus on their obligations to all people within their jurisdiction *and make it more difficult for authoritarian or oppressive states* to avoid their obligations to protect fundamental human rights of all people at all times.]

Human dignity for everyone everywhere *helps us evaluate claims involving dignitary harm*, or the right not to be offended.

Human dignity for everyone everywhere is a powerful mechanism for *understanding and evaluating "identity politics."*

Human dignity for everyone everywhere helps *avoid the instrumentalization* of human rights.

Panelists: Professor Nazila Ghanea, Associate Professor in International Human Rights Law, University of Oxford; Associate Director, Oxford Human Rights Hub and Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford

Professor Alberto Melloni, Professor of the History of Christianity, University of Modena-Reggio Emilia, and Unesco Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace

Professor Brett G. Scharffs, BYU Law School

Dr. Joel Harrison, Senior Lecturer, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia; Visiting Fellow, Foundations Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, University of Oxford

1:00 – 2:00 PM Box Lunches Provided

Afternoon Sessions

2:00—3:30 PM

Five discussion groups will be formed with five - seven participants each to discuss one of five topic groups (the same as the morning topic groups) with a group representative designated who will present the group's discussion points in the second afternoon session.

1. Foundations, Objectives and Criteria for Facilitating a Deeper Understanding of Human Rights
2. Finding Common Ground among Different Conceptions of Human Rights
3. Implementing and Realizing Human Rights
4. Reconciling and Adjudicating Human Rights
5. Responding to Distortions, Abuses and Hostility towards Human Rights

3:45—5:15 PM

Group representatives will report back on discussion points.

5:15-5:30 PM

Closing Remarks: Ján Figel', Peter Petkoff, Brett Scharffs

Dinner on own