

## Foreword

This is the fourth edition of the Humanitarian Action & Human Rights Yearbook presented by the Institute of Human Rights at the University of Deusto. The aim of this publication is to provide academics, professionals and other people involved in the field with a space for reflection and the exchange of experiences and research in Humanitarian Action and Human Rights. It is intended that, with this edition, this space for the creation of critical thought in the abovementioned field will be maintained and made accessible not only to the academic world, but also to the social agents involved on both a national and international scale. In coherence with our aim to provide a high quality review, and in the search for a scientific recognition, several changes have been introduced.

In the sphere of education and training, the Institute offers to main reference points, being the first one the MA in International Humanitarian Action, which has been running for twelve years now, in coordination with another six European universities forming part of the Network on Humanitarian Assistance (NOHA). To complete the network, two years ago agreements with universities from other continents have been signed in the umbrella of the Erasmus Mundus programme. The second reference is the European Master in Human Rights and Democratization, which also forms another network of European universities, in this case over thirty-six centres. Over these twelve years, more than 250 students have attended one of these courses, many of them currently engaged in humanitarian assistance of some kind, the protection of human rights or cooperation in development projects. Throughout this decade, the content and structure have been adapted to the changing needs of humanitarian realities. These changes have been possible thanks to the networks available, which enable close contact with the real situation by means of institutions that are directly involved in hu-

manitarian action—basically the major Non-Governmental Organizations—as well as through several academic forums.

The content of this the fourth edition of the Yearbook is made up of three types of contribution. Firstly, a number of studies by members of the Institute themselves. Secondly, articles that are the result of research carried out by people from outside the Institute, people with experience straight from the field of humanitarian action and human rights. And lastly, other studies incorporating and updating research work conducted by graduates from the European MAs run by the Institute. Most of the content is in the form of monographic studies or articles, although a new type of contribution has been included, made up of testimonies and reflections from former students who are and have been doing humanitarian work in the field.

As regards future editions of the Yearbook, this edition includes information on our publishing conditions, so that it will continue to be a tool for generating debate and enriches itself by publishing a wider variety of contributions. Many forms of the latter will be considered, whether they are articles, case studies and/or reviews of books or other publications concerning the corresponding themes. Therefore, we invite those of you reading this copy to put forward your proposals, which will be greeted with open arms. The articles included in this edition have not been peer-reviewed, but it will be done in further editions.

This Yearbook, accompanied by a description of the most significant activities of the Institute during the last academic year, has been produced in collaboration with the Basque Government Department of Human Rights, that is, the Department of Justice, Employment and Social Security.

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