

Foreword

With this volume, the Institute of Human Rights at the University of Deusto (Bilbao) presents the first edition of its Yearbook of Humanitarian Action and Human Rights. The aim of this publication is to provide space where the reflection on and exchange of the work, experiences and research in the sphere of Humanitarian Action and Human Rights is made possible for academics, professionals and other people connected to this field. The Yearbook is intended to be a new space for the creation of critical thought on this field, made accessible not only to the academic world, but also to the social agents involved, in both the national and international scene.

In the educational milieu, one of the main referents of the Institute is the Master's Degree in International Humanitarian Action, which has been running for 10 years in Bilbao, in coordination with another six European universities that are members of NOHA (Network on Humanitarian Assistance). During these 10 years, over 200 students, a considerable proportion of whom are linked to the world of humanitarian aid, the protection of human rights or cooperation with development, have taken the course at the University of Deusto. Throughout this period of time, the contents and structure of the course have been adapted to the needs being produced by humanitarian realities. These changes have been possible thanks to the networks available which allow close contact with reality through institutions directly involved in humanitarian activities, basically the most important Non-Governmental Organisations, as well as through various academic forums.

The contents of this first Yearbook are fostered by three types of contribution: some of the studies were carried out by

members of the Institute's team, whereas others are taken from research by people from outside the Institute who have direct experience in the field of humanitarian action; and finally, other studies incorporate and bring up to date research work done by graduates from the master's degree at the Institute. Most of the content is in the form of monographic studies or articles, although contributions in the form of interviews have also been included.

The Yearbook, which has been complemented with a description of the Institute's most relevant activities carried out over the previous academic year, has been published in collaboration with the Human Rights Office (Department of Justice, Employment and Social Security) of the Basque Government.

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