

Foreword

Dr Mattia Pinto

Lecturer, York Law School

Academic Member, York Law Review Editorial Board

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the sixth volume of the *York Law Review*. Now in its sixth year, the *Review* continues to stand as a testament to the intellectual curiosity, rigorous legal analysis, and commitment to innovative, socially engaged research fostered within the York Law School.

At York Law School, we pride ourselves on cultivating a vibrant learning community where our students are active participants in the discovery, critical evaluation, and application of law as a social phenomenon – deeply embedded in cultural, historical, and political contexts. Through our problem-based learning approach (or the ‘flipped classroom’ used in some of our LLM programmes), our students do not passively receive knowledge but are directly called to analyse, discuss, apply, and criticise legal norms, principles, and theories. We encourage them to consider the real-world effects of law in action, guiding them to observe the reality of statutes and case law, to contextualise them, and to present and discuss what about law works (and for whom) and what does not (and who is mostly affected). The *York Law Review* embodies this ethos. Run by a dedicated team of undergraduate and postgraduate (taught and research) students, it offers a vital platform to showcase the very best scholarly work produced by their peers.

Publishing in a student-run academic journal like the *York Law Review* offers an invaluable opportunity. It allows students to develop their research and writing skills, engage in scholarly debates, and disseminate their work to a wide audience. Thanks to its open-access availability via the University of York’s website, White Rose Research Online, and HeinOnline, the *Review* ensures that the insightful contributions of our students – whether selected as the best undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations of the previous academic year or through our annual abstract competition – reach readers well beyond the university, placing their ideas on a more public stage. Equally important is the experience gained by those students who dedicate their time and skills to the editorial process itself. Serving on the editorial board develops crucial skills in critical analysis, collaborative work, and academic publishing standards. The

experience gained by running and editing an academic journal provides valuable preparation for future legal practice or an academic career. The *York Law Review* offers our students an environment in which they can build confidence in publishing, reviewing, critiquing, and, ultimately, improving legal scholarship.

The articles within this sixth volume reflect the impressive breadth and depth of our students' interests and their commitment to socially engaged, critical, and contextually aware (socio)-legal scholarship. The articles published tackle pressing contemporary issues, ranging from the jurisdictional and technical challenges of cybercrime investigation and the impact of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) on small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) development in England and India, to the intersection of disability and homelessness in shaping law and policy. Other articles examine the effects of Hong Kong's National Security Law on environmental human rights, explore the legal background of arriving irregularly in the UK through the story of Paddington Bear, and confront the tension between economic development and human rights in the context of natural resource extraction. These works demonstrate not just a strong command of legal doctrine but a passion for exploring how law affects diverse communities across different countries and contexts. They confront challenging, timely societal questions with analytical rigour and critical insight.

The successful production of this volume would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the student editorial team. My sincere thanks go to Senior Editors Malak Farag, Lewis Wells, and Isaac Mittoo, and Junior Editor Roma Beke. Their commitment to upholding the quality and vision of the *York Law Review* is commendable. A special and heartfelt thank you must be extended to the Editor-in-Chief, Eleana Kasoulide. Eleana's leadership, diligence, and vision have been truly exceptional, guiding the *Review* through some unexpected challenges, eventually steering it through another successful year – all while balancing her own PhD research and research assistant responsibilities. The York Law School is immensely grateful for her outstanding contribution and leadership.

It is with great pride that we present this sixth volume. We are confident that the articles contained within will stimulate thought and discussion, showcasing the talent, curiosity, and dedication of York Law School students.

Dr Mattia Pinto

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