

## **Editor's Note Andrea Torres and Daniela Denyer**

This first term of the 2025-2026 academic year, we have had the opportunity to see amazing projects take shape. We got to meet curious researchers in September that turned to academic writers in five months of hard work, learning and daily improvements. Now we have an edition filled with insights into an area of research that protects our freedom and universal rights, where they have brought their contributions to show us how much work still needs to be done in the field and how they will certainly contribute to it.

Addressing topics that make many uncomfortable is crucial in the current global political climate and more and more urgent everyday, as human rights violations become more common, justified by politicians around the world, and as social justice movements are turned into a public circus of debate by the media and biased sources. The authors in this center braved the current divisive discourse of the world of politics and media and tackled disparities in race-based legislation and systems, international systems and law, and transitional justice mechanisms, among many other topics.

What distinguishes the research in this edition is not only its analytical depth, but its relevance beyond the page. These projects speak directly to policymakers, institutions, advocates, and communities affected by the issues studied. By bridging theory and practice, the authors demonstrate how academic research can inform legal reform, shape public discourse, and contribute meaningfully to the protection of human dignity in practice, not only in principle.

As editors, we are proud to present work that is both intellectually rigorous and morally engaged. At a time when truth is contested and rights are negotiable in public discourse, this edition stands as a reminder that careful research, critical thinking, and ethical scholarship still matter. The Social Justice and Human Rights Research Center remains committed to fostering research that confronts injustice head-on and to supporting the next generation of scholars who refuse to look away.

To all our writers, thank you for your work.

To our readers, we hope these works spark in you ideas to change the world too, to strive for equal human rights around the world in your day to day actions.

Your editors,

Andrea Torres and Daniela Denyer Malo