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ILO100

# LAW for SOCIAL JUSTICE

Edited by

George P. Politakis

Tomi Kohiyama

Thomas Lieby

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LAW<sup>for</sup>  
SOCIAL  
JUSTICE

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George P. Politakis  
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## PREFACE

As the International Labour Organization's centenary year draws to its close, this commemorative volume arising from the 'ILO100 – Law for Social Justice' academic conference, which took place in April 2019, recalls the indelible mark of law in the Organization's life and action. The rich contributions show that the ILO remains a captivating research field for the academic community as well as a powerful vehicle for advancing social justice globally.

Law can help normative institutions like the ILO to guarantee institutional continuity as well as to lead change when needed. The publication bears testimony to this. All the important choices made by the ILO during its first hundred years link the past, the present and the future of the Organization in varying degrees. Law has played its part in this process.

In this spirit, the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work – adopted at the Centenary Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2019 – is an instrument which reaffirms the ILO's values and priorities and steers it in the context of the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The concept of a human-centred approach to the future of work, which is at the core of the Declaration, translates in contemporary terms, the commitment to 'humane conditions of labour' set out in the original Constitution of the ILO. The ILO's responsibility for maintaining a clear, robust, up-to-date body of international labour standards is reaffirmed together with the fundamental importance of adopting, promoting, ratifying and supervising those standards. Likewise, the call for full, equal and democratic participation of constituents in ILO's tripartite governance is recognized as a precondition for the realization of social justice everywhere.

The Centenary Declaration is not meant to be merely a manifesto of good intentions. What matters first and foremost is that it should serve as a catalyst for action by the ILO's constituents and the multilateral system. It is significant that a little more than three months after its adoption, the

UN General Assembly adopted a resolution encouraging its implementation. As the UN Secretary General stated, ‘the ILO Centenary Declaration is much more than a statement of wishes or intent. It proposes a shift in the paradigm of how we look at development [...] This is an ambitious Declaration, but setting ambitious goals and achieving them is part of the ILO’s history [and] thanks to [our] efforts, it will also be part of its future’.

This collection of essays offers a wealth of expert knowledge on the ILO, international labour law and the broader human rights framework. It confirms our common responsibility to help shape the international rules and institutions of the multilateral system of tomorrow based on the unwavering conviction that universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice.

Guy Ryder  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL



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