Choosing a Future: The Social and Legal Aspects of Climate Change

The issue is no longer whether climate change is happening; it is rather what we should now be doing about it. Drawing together key thinkers and policy experts, this unique volume – also a Special Issue of the Journal of Human Rights and the Environment – engages with the human dimensions of climate change, offering a timely intervention into contemporary debates about the challenging relationship between law and society in a time of climate crisis. The book addresses: climate change as a crisis of human hierarchy; climate justice; the complicity of law in climate injustice; the rights of future generations; the nature of climate duties; the interplay between trade law and climate change strategies; and the nature of the policy responses now required to address the crisis. The result is an imaginative, well-informed and provocative collection of contemporary engagements with the greatest challenge of the age, concerned not only to understand the current crisis but to offer perspectives on how it can be addressed. At the heart of this volume is the conviction that change is urgent, possible and morally imperative.

Contributors: John Knox, United Nations Independent Expert on Climate Change; Mary Robinson, Director of the Mary Robinson Institute: Climate Justice; Oliver De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food; Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action; Conor Gearty, Director of the Institute of Public Affairs, London School of Economics; Henry Shue, Senior Research Fellow Merton College, and Professor of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford; Marcus Hedi, Dahrendorf Postdoctoral Fellow; Anna Grear, Dahrendorf Visiting Fellow and Director of the Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE); Stephen Humphrey, Associate Professor of International Law, London School of Economics.

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