The International Law of Human Trafficking

Anne T. Gallagher

Although human trafficking has a long and ignoble history, it is only recently that trafficking has become a major political issue for states and the international community and the subject of detailed international rules. This book presents the first-ever comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the international law of human trafficking. Anne T. Gallagher calls on her direct experience working within the United Nations to chart the development of new international laws on this issue. She links these rules to the international law of state responsibility as well as key norms of international human rights law, transnational criminal law, refugee law, and international criminal law, in the process identifying and explaining the major legal obligations of states with respect to preventing trafficking, protecting and supporting victims, and prosecuting perpetrators. This is a timely and groundbreaking work: a unique and valuable resource for policymakers, advocates, practitioners, and scholars working in this new, controversial, and important field.
"In The International Law of Human Trafficking, Dr. Anne Gallagher uses her unique position as a scholar and practitioner to chart the extraordinary developments of the past decade. This carefully researched and well-written book provides a comprehensive and accessible insight into a new, complex but vital area of international law. It affirms the central place that international law, including human rights law, must play in any solution to the age-old problem of private exploitation. I recommend it to all those involved in working against trafficking and supporting the victims of this illegal and inhuman trade."


"Dr. Gallagher’s expertise in this field, particularly in the area of criminal justice responses to trafficking, is recognized and deeply appreciated throughout the ASEAN region. It is not wrong to say that the achievements that ASEAN, as a region, is enjoying in criminal justice response to the heinous crime of trafficking are in no small part due to Dr. Gallagher’s persevering effort and her compassion towards ASEAN. This meticulously researched book confirms her position as a leading international legal authority on the issue. While scholarly in approach, the book is straightforward in structure and clear in expression. It reflects an acute understanding of the politics of human trafficking and of the significant challenges involved in securing effective national implementation of international norms. The International Law of Trafficking is a valuable reference for policy makers, practitioners and all those working to end impunity for trafficking offences and to secure justice for those who have been trafficked."

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan Secretary General, Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

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