

EDITORIAL

Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to change the world.
- Nelson Mandela

The aforementioned quote most aptly captures the essence of scholastic contributions published in the latest edition of the *NALSAR Student Law Review*. While the problems of social change are more complex than implied, an attempt has been made to tailor the responses to such social change in an erudite fashion. It has been the primary goal of the NSLR to strive to bring together articles dealing with the most contemporary and contentious issues both at the Indian as well as the global fore. The editors for Vol.8 of the NSLR have solicitously reviewed articles dealing with changing legal landscapes and bearing reflection on the steady metamorphosis of the established legal order we conform to.

It has been hotly debated that piracy lies at the bottom of the Italy-India dispute and has also emerged as a 'business' for many located in the Horn of Africa. Anindita Pattanayak & Kartikeya Dar have critiqued the Indian legal framework pertaining to the issue of piracy. Alongside analyzing the loopholes in the Piracy Bill introduced before the Indian Parliament, the authors have adopted an interdisciplinary approach towards the issue of piracy and made references to the provisions of UNCLOS as well as the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation.

Divyanshu Agrawal has ventured to provide an informed answer to the question - '*do international human rights treaties protect the poor?*' The author has selected four situations which evidence how different human rights interact with different stakeholders – he critically examines the engagement of the *citizen*, on one hand, with the Host State, other states, international financial institutions, and multinational corporations, on the other.

In his article *Mandatory CSR in the Companies Bill, 2011 - Are we there, yet?*, Arpit Gupta studies the change of Corporate Social Responsibility from a mere 'voluntary' initiative to a 'mandatory' one, and illustrates the large number of problems which have been left unaddressed by the legislators in framing this particular clause. He critiques a seemingly 'socialist' Companies Bill and discusses the issue of constitutional validity of the same.

Malavika Prasad and Devdeep Ghosh have raised jurisprudential justifications for the latest and most controversial amendment to the Income Tax Act, 1961 - the General Anti-Avoidance Rule. This is done in the backdrop of the *Vodafone* case and the theoretical foundations supporting such a rule have also been examined.

In his note, Rishabh Shah has explored, in a rather unusual and satirical fashion, the tendencies of students studying the law at national law schools located in India. While tracing the academic life of a student, the author undertakes an interesting analysis using the Lockean theory as well the 'idea-expression' dichotomy as discussed in the US Supreme Court case of *Baker v. Seldon*.

Rupali Samuel critiques the doctrine of '*Responsibility to Protect*' in her article and she focuses on the concept of sovereignty alongside examining the problematic situation in Syria. Her analysis of the situation in Syria exposes the redundancy of the doctrine.

The State's unnecessary encroachment of the private domain of its citizens has caused much furore in social media. Anees Backer's article critically examines the law relating to obscenity in India. He makes an informed argument for the rejection of moral harm by focusing on the most aggravated form of obscenity – pornography.

Finally, three articles dealing with environmental law have also been published in this edition. The issue of environment protection is a pressing matter and hence NSLR is delighted to publish the same. We have maintained our policy of dedicating the annual issue to student authors and sincerely hope that Vol.8 is well received as an impassioned contribution to the contemporary legal developments.

Editorial Board