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Preface

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PREFACE

While a prisoner in the Birmingham jail in 1963, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This eloquent statement illustrates the special theme for this issue of the *Journal*. The tyranny of prejudice, intolerance, and inequality continues to oppress mankind. Even now the prisoners of this oppression plead to have essential freedoms like liberty, justice, and equality granted, restored, or extended.

Our reply to those who are oppressed cannot yet trumpet victory over this tyranny, but it can herald the renewal of our effort to secure basic human rights for all. Men and women of courage and dedication once again must proclaim their unwillingness to witness or to allow the gradual erosion of those human rights to which all people are entitled. This issue reaffirms the belief that we ought to be committed to granting, preserving, and extending those fundamental freedoms wherever possible.

The diverse expertise and experience of the authors in this issue makes them especially qualified to write about their topics. Their perspectives range from theory to policy, and from law to sociology, history, and philosophy. Our fervent hope is that this issue will inspire those who participate in the ABA Institute on International Human Rights Law and Practice (Washington, D.C., April 1978). This issue is dedicated to them and to people everywhere who lack basic human rights, in the hope that we all can share in the experience of freedom.

MIKE J. HOOVER

