

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Will Wilder, [wpw2108@columbia.edu](mailto:wpw2108@columbia.edu) or (205)540-0372**



## *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*

### **Announcing “Human Rights Destabilized: Critical Perspectives on the Commission on Unalienable Rights”**

The *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* is pleased to announce the launch of a *HRLR Online* essay series examining the human rights implications of President Trump and Secretary Pompeo’s Commission on Unalienable Rights.

Established in July 2019, the Commission purports to review the United States’ understanding of the scope of recognized human rights. This move was met with immediate concern that the Commission will undermine, rather than bolster, fundamental rights. With this series, *HRLR Online* seeks to provide a range of perspectives on the Commission’s impact on global human rights norms and discourse.

*HRLR Online* will publish four essays throughout the month of October:

- Risa Kaufman of the Center for Reproductive Rights will analyze the Commission in light of the Trump Administration’s repeated attempts to destabilize reproductive rights.
- Akila Radhakrishnan and Elena Sarver of the Global Justice Center will explore the right to abortion as a focal point for examining the Trump Administration’s pattern of regressive attacks on the human rights system and framework, including the creation of the Commission.
- JoAnn Kamuf Ward of the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute and Catherine Coleman-Flowers of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice will discuss how the Commission is poised to narrow the understanding of human rights at the expense of economic and social rights, with a significant impact on racial justice.
- Mary Hansel of the U.C. Irvine School of Law will contextualize the Commission as yet another instance of the co-option of human rights language, by states and other actors, in furtherance of ends corrosive to human rights.

The *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* is proud to join the discourse surrounding the Commission at this important moment, and thanks our authors for their contributions. We hope this work can be used to inform media coverage, advocacy, and practice about Trump Administration policy and human rights more broadly. Publication will occur periodically throughout the month of October. The pieces can be found on [our website](#).