

## **EDITORIAL**

We are delighted to publish the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Plymouth Law Review, headlined by the inspiring Mayflower lecture delivered on 9 November 2023 by Sir Andrew McFarlane PC, President of the Family Division, on the topic of adapting adoption to the modern world.

In the staff reports, Goodtime Okara provides an intriguing analysis of unitisation, a practice within the petroleum industry that seeks to solve the challenges of competitive drilling, economic waste and poor management of oil and gas reservoirs, yet has created new complications in its implementation.

The graduate articles, drawn from the highest-scoring dissertations, examine a wide range of highly topical issues. Jake Aston adopts a human rights lens to provide a critical evaluation of pornography law, analysing in depth the disparate approaches taken by leading scholars and arguing for reform of the existing law. Poppy Jarvis highlights various cases relating to accidents in theme parks which caused serious injuries or loss of life due to inadequate health and safety law, that requires further reform and more detailed guidance. Freya Manning-Crisp focuses upon the law relating to psychiatric harm caused by negligence, arguing the current legal restrictions do not strike a fair balance between compensating claimants and relevant policy considerations. Shalini Nandilath investigates the adequacy of the current law on assisted suicide, appraising a number of landmark cases to demonstrate the increasing importance of this issue and the failure of the law to provide exceptions to the general prohibition.

The undergraduate student reports provide fascinating insights from an astonishing array of student experiences. Sonia Gardi explores the influence of popular, glamorous legal dramas in film and TV that inspire many students to study law, whilst wryly commenting on strikingly different cultural perceptions of law in the UK and Kurdistan. Chloe Giacalone presents a droll account of how success and self-realisation often comes from a series of unfortunate events and failures, along with a telling reminder that the world will not fall apart if you decide to take a break after graduation. Florence Hawker relates her teenage years spent working on a farm in the rural South West, before making the transition to study law and still maintaining a close link with agriculture. Isabelle Stephens offers advice on the contentious issue of how to balance part-time work and study, recounting her experience of working in retail and achieving a high level of responsibility, as well as the transferrable skills that she developed along the way. Christian Boonyoung Wachs writes about racial identity and dealing with difficult challenges by developing self-belief, a positive mindset and celebrating

being a part of two diverse cultures.

Finally, I would like to thank the contributors and wish you all the best for 2024.

Hugo de Rijke, Editor-in Chief

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