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Special Issue: The Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
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Introduction
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The papers collected in this special issue of the International Journal of Human Rights consider the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as it enters the second decade since its adoption by the UN General Assembly in 2007. The adoption of the UNDRIP was the result of years of resistance by Indigenous peoples to state, and state-sponsored dispossession, violence, cultural appropriation, murder, neglect and derision. It is an achievement with deep implications in international law and politics. But in many ways it also represents just the beginning – the opening of new ways forward that include advocacy, activism, and the careful and hard-fought crafting of new relationships between Indigenous peoples and states and their dominant populations and interests.

The papers collected here came out of a conference hosted at the School of Advanced Study (SAS), University of London, and jointly sponsored and organised by the SAS; the Centre for European and International Legal Affairs (CEILIA) at Queen Mary, University of London; the City Law School, City, University of London; and the University of Lapland, in October 2017. We aimed to bring together a multi-disciplinary group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars with a common interest in UNDRIP to reflect on the achievements, and assess the future challenges for Indigenous peoples, since the adoption of the UNDRIP in 2007.

While there is widespread recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples, there are still countless areas of conflict in which rights are violated, peoples are displaced and lands despoiled. Indigenous peoples everywhere face numerous challenges and remain some of the most marginalised individuals and communities on earth. The impact, and potential, of the UNDRIP remains contested, and Indigenous peoples and activists face new challenges – political, environmental, existential – while old problems, and their effects, persist. What role has the UNDRIP played in Indigenous struggles since its adoption? To what extent has it been implemented, and with what effects? How can the Declaration best be brought to bear for Indigenous peoples – for instance, as an instrument of international (soft) law, as a platform for advocacy, as a commitment of principle, or in yet other ways? What next steps are needed in international diplomacy, activism and law?

The papers in this volume address these questions in a number of ways. They are written by people from across the world, and shine a light on some of the regional challenges facing Indigenous peoples in their quest to realise the rights under UNDRIP and beyond, at the same time that a number of common themes emerge from the papers as