

Crisis as a challenge for human rights

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Introduction

Crisis situations cause stress, evoke reactions, but are also a stimulus to act.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which affected most countries of the world in 2020, caused faster or delayed reactions from international organizations, mainly UN WHO and state governments.

In situations of special threats to the state and society the legislator and executive authority is obliged to take actions aimed at preventing and combating the effects of these threats. Currently, COVID-19 is such a particular threat.

Public administration responsible for the stable functioning of states and societies had to face the threat to the sustainability of states: health care systems, social welfare and public safety resulting from the global epidemic. The state authorities introduced numerous administrative restrictions, as well as changes in the functioning of institutions and public offices. Restrictions on the right to travel and access to public services have been imposed on residents.

The crisis caused by the pandemic had a wide repercussions in society, it caused disturbance in the sense of social security. Many scientists indicated that greater emphasis should be placed on the actual realization of the right to education. Home lockdown also had a negative impact on interpersonal relationships, increased cases of domestic violence.

The situation related to the global health crisis, as well as rapidly developing technologies, including artificial intelligence, the fourth industrial revolution, are undoubtedly a challenge for human rights.

In our time, there is no doubt that new technologies, mathematical algorithms and social networks have a significant impact on the development of law. New tools, documents in the form of electronic and digital files, personalization and signatures with trusted profiles, electronic signatures, jurisprudence databases are now necessary for lawyers: judges, prosecutors, but also for parties to the proceedings.

In this context, it is necessary to rethink and often redefine and update the content of rights belonging to individuals, consider the issue of legal subjectivity and the universality of human rights.

Contributions presented in this book are the result of discussions from the conference “Human rights in the time of crisis: state – society – technology – security” that was held on 22nd June 2020, despite the Covid-19 Pandemic. Thanks to used ICT tools the participants had the feeling of being face to face in the same auditorium. This book deals with the topic chosen for the congress and gathers contributions presented in sessions and it aims to be an academic reference in the study and research of law, in its historical, current and comparative perspective.

Finally, we must point out that the publication is framed within the Eurofur European research group, which will refer to typical problems of the European Union, individual EU countries and associated countries, taking into account all aspects that affect the law, from its roots to present times, also promoting sharing knowledge, good practises and possible legal solutions.

Editors