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The Harvard Human Rights Journal held its 2009 Symposium "Responsibility to Protect" on February 20th at the Sheraton Commander hotel in Cambridge. The event included a keynote address by Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Dr. Edward Luck, on the January 2009 U.N. report "Implementing the Responsibility to Protect." () Dr. Luck drew particular attention to the successful implementation of **R2P** in Kenya last year and discussed how the U.N. might continue to utilize the doctrine in a manner respectful of both human rights and state sovereignty.

In a panel discussion following Dr. Luck's address, Professor W. Andy Knight of the University of Alberta began by providing a framework for thinking about the implications of **R2P** for the international order. Professor Mary Ellen O'Connell of Notre Dame Law School then offered a critique of the doctrine which sparked significant debate. Professor O'Connell expressed wariness over the possibility of

**R2P**

's use as a mechanism for ill-advised humanitarian intervention and suggested instead that states take up a "responsibility to peace."

Professors Balakrishnan Rajagopal of MIT and Professor Hurst Hannum of Tufts found himself in agreement with the majority of her concern also expressed skepticism about the establishment of **R2P** as a legal norm and questioned the added value of **R2P** in light of existing international norms and policies.

Ramesh Thakur of the University of Waterloo argued that the time for discussing **R2P** as humanitarian intervention has passed, and urged that the current debate expand to consider a broader range of possibilities for the doctrine. Professor Thakur and others, along with human rights specialist Roberta Cohen and Professor Sheri Rosenberg of the Cardozo School of Law, drew upon the January U.N. report to stress the potential role of

**R2P**

as a preventative strategy and post-conflict remedy, rather than as a mere tool for humanitarian intervention. ()

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