GLOBAL HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE CHALLENGE OF NEOLIBERAL POLICIES

Written by a respected authority on human rights and public health, this book delivers an in-depth review of the challenges of neoliberal models and policies for realizing the right to health. The author expertly explores the integration of social determinants into the right to health along with the methodologies and findings of social medicine and epidemiology. The author goes on to challenge the way health care is currently provided and makes the case that achieving equitable universal health coverage will require fundamental reforms of health systems and the integration of human rights norms.

Audrey R. Chapman currently holds the Healey Endowed Chair at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and is affiliated with the UConn Human Rights Institute. She previously served as the Director of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program and on expert committees appointed by the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and the UNESCO human rights program.
GLOBAL HEALTH,
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND
THE CHALLENGE OF
NEOLIBERAL POLICIES

AUDREY R. CHAPMAN
For Jack, Anja, Cooper, Tanner, and Kai
CONTENTS

Acknowledgments page ix

1 The Right to Health as an Emergent Human Right 1
2 Evaluating Interpretations of the Right to Health 29
3 Health and Human Rights in the Neoliberal Era 72
4 Private Sector Provision, Health, and Human Rights 115
5 Globalization, Health, and Human Rights 153
6 Achieving Improved Access to Medicines 200
7 The Social Determinants of Health, Health Equity, and Human Rights 248
8 Right to Health Perspectives on Universal Health Coverage 283

Index 327
I have long been concerned with health and human rights issues, initially during the years when I served as the Director of the Science and Human Rights Program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and then in my present position as a Professor of Community Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. During this time I have had the good fortune of working with a number of leaders in the health and human rights field, including Paul Hunt, Alicia Ely Yamin, Leslie London, Eibe Reidel, Ted Schrecker, Lisa Forman, and Gillian MacNaughton, who deepened my understanding of the right to health. I also have had the benefit of involvement with the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for more than a decade, membership in expert committees organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, and participation in UNESCO human rights initiatives.

This book could not have been completed without the assistance and contributions of a large number of people. I would like to thank colleagues and friends who provided insight, advice, and constructive criticism on draft chapters, particularly Professors Leslie London (University of Cape Town), Lance Minkler (University of Connecticut), Lisa Forman (University of Toronto), Everaldo Lamprea (Los Andes Law School, Bogotá), Carmel Williams (FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University), and an anonymous reviewer for Cambridge University Press. Their suggestions significantly strengthened and improved the book.

I have been stimulated and enriched by participating in two networks at the University of Connecticut, the Economic and Social Rights Group and the Research Program on Global Health and Human Rights. I am appreciative of the insightful comments I received in response to presentations of sections of this book and their discussions of related issues.

I have also been fortunate to have research assistance for some sections of the book from Salil Benegal and Caitlin Perucchio.
Acknowledgments

I have had the benefit of several sources of funding during the time I worked on this book. Support from the Healey Memorial Chair in Medical Ethics and Humanities at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine provided considerable freedom to engage in the research. I am also appreciative of the willingness of the UConn School of Medicine to grant a sabbatical leave that enabled me to complete the book. Support for the research that provided the basis for several of the chapters was provided by two projects funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), one led by Ted Schrecker (then at the University of Ottawa) on the role of human rights in promoting realization of the social determinants of health and a second one led by Lisa Forman (University of Toronto) that focused on core health obligations. The Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut provided some funding for summer research assistants.

I also appreciate the assistance I received from my editors John Berger and Helen Francis at Cambridge University Press and my production manager Ramesh Karunakaran at Newgen Knowledge Works.

Above all, I have been privileged to have the support, understanding, encouragement, and patience of my husband Karim Ahmed during the years I worked on this book and our dog Jamie who provided companionship as I wrote.