

General Principles of the European Convention on Human Rights

The European Convention on Human Rights is one of the world's most important and influential human rights documents. It owes its value mainly to the European Court of Human Rights, which applies the Convention rights in individual cases.

This book offers a clear insight into the concepts and principles that are key to understanding the European Convention and the Court's case law. It explains how the Court generally approaches the many cases brought before it and which tools help it to decide on these cases, illustrated by numerous examples taken from the Court's judgments.

Core issues discussed are the types of Convention rights (such as absolute rights); the structure of the Court's Convention rights review; principles and methods of interpretation (such as common ground interpretation and the use of precedent); positive and negative obligations; vertical and horizontal effect; the margin of appreciation doctrine; and requirements for the restriction of Convention rights.

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Contents

| 1 | The Basics of the Convention System | 1 |
|---|---|----|
| | 1.1 Introduction | 1 |
| | 1.2 Main Principles Underlying the Convention: Effectiveness and | |
| | Subsidiarity | 3 |
| | 1.3 The Double Role of the European Court of Human Rights | 9 |
| | 1.4 The Structure of Convention Rights Review | 11 |
| | 1.5 Typology of Convention Rights from a Perspective of | |
| | Possibilities for Justification | 19 |
| 2 | The Court's Overall Argumentative Approach – Mediating | |
| | Between the Abstract and the Concrete | 31 |
| | 2.1 Introduction | 31 |
| | 2.2 Object of Review: Legislation and/or Individual Decisions | 32 |
| | 2.3 Individual Redress or General Convention Interpretation? | 36 |
| | 2.4 The Role of Precedent in the Court's Case Law | 37 |
| | 2.5 Case-based Review, Incrementalism and the Search for a | |
| | Reflective Equilibrium | 41 |
| | 2.6 Legal Effect of the Court's Interpretations; 'Res Interpretata' | 44 |
| 3 | Principles Governing the Interpretation and Application | |
| | of Convention Rights | 46 |
| | 3.1 Introduction | 46 |
| | 3.2 The ECHR and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties | 47 |
| | 3.3 Evolutive Interpretation and the Convention as a | |
| | 'Living Instrument' | 51 |
| | 3.4 Meta-teleological Interpretation and the Underlying Values | |
| | of the Convention | 59 |
| | 3.5 Autonomous Interpretation | 67 |
| 4 | Methods of Convention Interpretation | 78 |
| | 4.1 Introduction | 78 |
| | 4.2 Textual Interpretation | 79 |
| | 4.3 Interpretation in light of the <i>Travaux Préparatoires</i> | 83 |
| | 4.4 Internally Harmonising Interpretation | 87 |
| | 4.5 Common Ground or Consensus Interpretation | 93 |



vi Contents

| 5 | Positive and Negative Obligations | 108 |
|---|--|-----|
| | 5.1 Introduction | 108 |
| | 5.2 Definition of Positive Obligations | 110 |
| | 5.3 Types of Positive Obligations | 121 |
| | 5.4 The Relation Between Negative and Positive Obligations | 132 |
| 6 | Vertical and Horizontal Effect | 136 |
| | 6.1 Introduction | 136 |
| | 6.2 Direct Responsibility of the State for Interferences with | |
| | Convention Rights | 138 |
| | 6.3 Indirect Horizontal Effect | 144 |
| 7 | The Margin of Appreciation Doctrine | 160 |
| | 7.1 Introduction | 160 |
| | 7.2 The Development, Function and Effects of the Margin of | |
| | Appreciation Doctrine | 163 |
| | 7.3 Applicability of the Margin of Appreciation Doctrine | 168 |
| | 7.4 Determining the Scope of the Margin of Appreciation | 172 |
| | 7.5 Continued Relevance of the Margin of Appreciation Doctrine? | 196 |
| 8 | Justification of Restrictions I – Lawfulness | 198 |
| | 8.1 Introduction | 198 |
| | 8.2 Autonomous and Substantive Interpretation | 199 |
| | 8.3 A Basis in Domestic Law | 200 |
| | 8.4 Accessibility | 203 |
| | 8.5 Foreseeability | 205 |
| | 8.6 Absence of Arbitrariness | 212 |
| | 8.7 Procedural Safeguards | 214 |
| 9 | Justification of Restrictions II – Legitimate Aim | 220 |
| | 9.1 Exhaustive Lists of Legitimate Aims and Their Importance | 220 |
| | 9.2 Application and Interpretation of the Legitimate Aim Requirement | 221 |
| | 9.3 Discrepancy Between Stated and Real Aims | 225 |
| | 9.4 Plurality of Aims | 226 |
| | 9.5 Interconnectedness of Legitimate Aim and Proportionality | 227 |



| | | Contents | vii |
|----|--|----------|-----|
| 10 | Justification of Restrictions III – Necessity, Proportionality and | | |
| | Fair Balance | 229 | |
| | 10.1 Formulas, Tests and Standards | 229 | |
| | 10.2 Necessity, a Pressing Social Need and the Least Restrictive | | |
| | Means Test | 233 | |
| | 10.3 The Relevant and Sufficient Test | 239 | |
| | 10.4 Fair Balance, Proportionality and Related Tests | 242 | |
| | 10.5 Procedural Review | 258 | |
| | Index | 261 | |