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Preface

Dear reader,

Having previously served as a copy editor for the Dundee Student Law Review (DSLR) from 2023-2025 with the previous Editor-in-Chief, Tom Edwards, I knew I wanted to run a special edition to echo the stellar works of his previous publications. Tom's intention was always to bolster and rejuvenate the Journal, which meant I needed to select a meaningful topic for our readers for Volume 12.

Given that the UK has been taking steps towards achieving net-zero by 2050, I decided that an environmental theme would be both engaging and practical. The theme inevitably spurred on a personal motivation to get more involved in other environment-related activities in the Dundee community.

Through my endeavours I was lucky enough to meet Dundee City Councillor, Kate Treharn, who lent me a book[1] when she discovered I was running a climate change theme for this year's Review. She happened to mention that though the book was now more than 10-years old, it's contents could be assumed to have been written today. The following is an excerpt of Klein's work:

> "We don't know exactly what a 4 degrees Celsius world would look like, but even the best-case scenario is likely to be calamitous. Four degrees of warming could raise global sea levels by 1 or possibly even 2 metres by 2100 (and would lock in at least a few additional meters over future centuries). This would drown some island nations such as the Maldives and Tuvalu and inundate many coastal areas from Ecuador to Brazil to the Netherlands to much of California and the northeastern United States, as well as huge swaths of South and Southeast Asia. Major cities likely in jeopardy include Boston, New York, greater Los Angeles,

[1] Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate* (Penguin Books, 2014).

> Vancouver, London, Mumbai, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.[2] Meanwhile, brutal heat waves that kill tens of thousands of people even in wealthy countries, would become entirely unremarkable summer events on every continent but Antarctica. The heat would also cause staple crops to suffer dramatic yield losses across the globe…this a time when demand will be surging due to population growth and a growing demand for meat. And since crops will be facing not just heat stress but also extreme events such as wide-ranging droughts, flooding, or pest outbreaks, the losses could easily turn out to be more severe than the models have predicted. When you add ruinous hurricanes, raging wildfires, fisheries collapses, widespread disruptions to water supplies, extinctions, and globe-trotting diseases to the mix, it indeed becomes difficult to imagine that a peaceful, ordered society could be sustained…"[3]

Without a doubt, we are now all, to some degree or another, experiencing the effects of climate change. This past summer, Toronto (a Canadian city close to my hometown) was subjected to the worst air quality among major cities globally, because of wildfires.[4] As ominously forecasted by Klein, UK farmers have noted that this past summer has been the driest farming season and crop yields are diminishing due to crop stress.[5] England has, in the past five years, seen successive droughts, which now makes it difficult to deny that patterns are emerging.[6] Even Nepal's foreign minister was recently forthright in

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[2] The World Bank, 'Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4 degrees Celsius Warmer World Must Be Avoided' (*A Report for the World Bank by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics*, November 2012) xviii <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/World%20Bank_Turn%20Down%20the%20Heat.pd> accessed 14 September 2026.

[3] Klein (n1) 13-14.

[4] Chris Fox, 'Smoke Does Not Check Passports: New Report Takes Closer Look at International Impact of Ontario Fires' (*CP24*, 14 August 2026) <Ontario wildfire smoke: How many were exposed to hazardous air?> accessed 10 September 2026.

[5] Verity Stevenson, 'Britain's 'Exceptionally Serious Drought Tests a Country Famous for its Rain' (CBC, 6 August 2026) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/united-kingdom-drought-9.7296651> accessed 10 September 2026.

[6] UK Government, 'Dry Weather and Drought in England: 28 August to 3 September 2026' (2026) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dry-weather-and-drought-in-england-2026-summary-reports/dry-weather-and-drought-in-england-28-august-to-3-september-2026> accessed 10 September 2026.

statements relating to climate justice.[7] With regard to the recent flood disasters in Nepal, Shisir Khanal candidly stated that developing countries, like Nepal, contribute less greenhouse gas emissions, while developed states are some of the world's biggest emitters and are slow to support the recovery of other nations…[8]

Amidst this madness I am proud of this year's Review, because such topics are discussed with immense passion and urgency by our own authors. From issues like statehood continuity and climate induced territorial loss to space debris mitigation and regulation (a wholly relevant discussion, especially since SpaceX recently launched a pair of lunar landers which eventually crashed into the moon), the authors cover significant issues, raise important questions and discuss a variety of very relevant topics.

From everyone at the DSLR, we sincerely hope you enjoy this special issue and become inspired to get involved in the fight against climate change.

Sincerely,

Katia Sher – *Senior Managing Editor & Chair*

[7] Hannah Ellis-Petersen, "Nepal Says Big Polluters Must 'Wake Up' Calls for Climate Compensation Over Flood Disaster" (The Guardian, 8 September 2026) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/sep/08/nepal-floods-climate-compensation> accessed 10 September 2026.

[8] ibid: Notably, Nepal contributes less than 0.1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, while its neighbours India and China are among the world's biggest emitters. The mountains of the Himalayas – which span across India, China, Nepal and Bhutan – have been warming at a rate nearly 50% faster than the global average.

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Appreciation to our talented cover artist, Wen Xi Kong, is also in order. Your proficiency will be admired by our readers for years to come!

Thorntons LLP has been very involved in this year's Review and everyone at the DSLR is thankful for the time and expertise offered by their generous staff. Daisy Johnston kindly agreed to provide information on how young leaders can get involved in the Climate

Action Leadership Programme. Iain Buchan (a well-known solicitor and litigator amongst Dundee University staff and students) thoughtfully introduced me to Nina Robertson and Paul Adams who subsequently agreed to assist the copy editors in the editing process. In short, the result of this publication could not have been done without all their contributions.

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Thank you, Andrew Iwanoczko, from the Wayfarer Programme for introducing us to one of our brilliant authors. Finally, I want to offer my appreciation to all of the committed and assiduous authors that form the joint effort of this important issue: Zain Bhatti, Joshua Goodland, Dr Akhilesh Kumar, Rohan Seenarine, Ellie Twist, and Arman Vaziri. Without you, there simply would be nothing to publish.

With all my gratitude,

Katia Sher – *Senior Managing Editor & Chair*