



Global Health Law Interest Group 2025 Student Essay Contest

Congratulations to **Pramita Parwani**, winner of the 2025 Global Health Law IG Student Essay Prize for her paper *BEYOND HUMAN RIGHTS: Reframing Vaccine Access through a framework of 'States Capabilities'*.

Ms. Parwani is a Ph.D. candidate at the Law Centre for Health and Life and the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG) at the University of Amsterdam Law School.

Here is a synopsis of the paper:

Global vaccine inequity still remains a persistent concern, as demonstrated once again during the Mpox outbreak. While international human rights law places an obligation on states to ensure access to 'essential' medicines (including several vaccines), a narrow rights-based focus often misses the influence of global economic and political structures which perpetuate this inequity. This paper proposes a novel framework of 'states capabilities', as a complementary framework to international human rights law. Drawn from the human capabilities approach, the states capabilities framework facilitates an examination into the genuine and effective opportunity available to countries to guarantee their peoples' human rights – for instance, by procuring vaccines.