Without a doubt, women in the world today have greater rights and opportunities than ever before. As of January 2011, a remarkable nineteen countries around the globe have heads of state who are women—from Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the president of Liberia, to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh to the recently inaugurated Dilma Rousseff in Brazil—and the number of women leaders will only continue to grow. In a dramatic break from the male-dominated past, women today are out-achieving men in education, shattering glass ceilings, and closing gendered income gaps around the world. The momentum for women’s rights is such that the fight will continue until there are no more rights to be won.

Nevertheless, despite the extraordinary gains in rights and opportunities for women over the past few decades, there is still a long journey ahead. Most of the gains in equal rights have been achieved in developed countries, leaving behind many developing countries where women and girls are continually marginalized and too often exploited. In recognition of this disparity and the imperative to maintain momentum amid increasing gains, this issue of the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* features a special “Spotlight on Women.”

In our largest publication to date, this issue seeks to promote fresh perspectives and facilitate discussion on issues affecting women’s rights worldwide, particularly as a complement to the recent launch of UN Women, the United Nations’ newest organizational body that consolidates its efforts to achieve global gender equality, in January 2011. Among the fresh perspectives in this issue, we have an interview with Muhtar Kent, the CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, who has labeled the 21st century the “Women’s Century” in his efforts to bring women’s empowerment onto Coca-Cola’s business agenda. Other key voices who are featured include: Zainab Salbi, founder of Women for Women International; María Corina Machado, a leading opposition figure against President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela; and more.

Complementing the voices of the activists above are important articles by Isobel Coleman from the Council on Foreign Relations on bringing women into the global economy, Aziza Ahmed on HIV policies that have discriminatory criminal consequences for women, Jamila Taylor and Anu Kumar on the limitations of U.S. global health policies in promoting gender equality, and Ashley Belyea on the prospects and shortcomings of communications technology in advancing global women’s rights. This issue also features for the first time a film review of the fascinating documentary, *Courting Justice*, on the status of female justices in post-apartheid South Africa.

In addition to the “Spotlight on Women,” loyal readers of the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* will continue to find critical commentary on a breadth of issues of international import, including climate change negotiations with “one China,” the state of global budget transparency, the unfounded criticisms against AFRICOM, and the connection between animal health and global health, among others.

If you enjoy the contents of this issue, we encourage you to visit our exciting new online magazine, www.yalejournal.org, where you will find regular commentary by Yale University graduate students on a wide range of international issues, guest articles and interviews from influential policy makers and academics, and photo essays covering topics ranging from the 2010 Haiti Earthquake to drug use in Eastern India. Digital versions of recent editions of the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* can also be found on the new website.
Because of these recent initiatives and our commitment to satisfying our fast-growing readership, the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* has also been changing to meet its business and administrative goals. We are therefore pleased to announce our newly updated subscription process, which will take effect beginning with the Winter 2012 edition of the *Yale Journal of International Affairs*. For more information about how to renew your subscription, please look at the last page of this journal, or visit our website at [http://yalejournal.org/subscribe](http://yalejournal.org/subscribe).

Through this expansive Winter 2011 issue and our growth online and beyond, the *Yale Journal of International Affairs* endeavors to enhance scholarship and influence policy debates on the most pressing issues in international affairs of our time, with the hopes of making a significant contribution. We can only achieve this effort through our devoted readership; thus, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Mai T. Truong  
Editor-in-Chief, 2010-2011

Rayna Farnsworth  
Executive Director, 2010-2011

Alex Baum  
Publisher, 2010-2011