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Human Dignity in European Legal Culture – A Systematic Survey

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As a reaction to the barbaric events during World War II, human dignity (*dignitas*) found its way into international law. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that “[a]ll human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Starting point for developing the concept on a national level was the codification of human dignity in article 1, paragraph 1 of the German Grundgesetz. Consequently, human dignity spread to other European states.

The present volume shall give a *systematic overview* of the legal concept and the meaning of human dignity for each European state and the European Union. The (1) *constitution*, (2) *legislation*, and (3) *application of law (court rulings)* will be scrutinized and, *inter alia*, the following questions shall be answered: what is the meaning of human dignity? What is the legal status of the respective human dignity norms? Are human dignity norms of a programmatic nature or do they establish an individual right which can be invoked before court? Is human dignity inviolable?

The contribution (10-20 pages) has to be submitted to the editors by **31 October 2014**.