

The jury had a very difficult task at hand. All four candidates wrote impressive, thought-provoking, and insightful essays, in keeping with the spirit and objectives of the Kavian Justice Award.

**Fabian Haug** develops an interesting argument on how the persistent colonial mentality is embedded in international treaties and how, as a result, these treaties fail to adequately respond to climate change emergencies. The case of Tuvalu is very well illustrated by its struggle against coercive Australian policies, which render state's climate-induced vulnerability more severe and life-challenging.

**Idil Tok** builds a robust narrative on the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, criticizing member States for stigmatizing migrants, drawing boundaries between different ethnic and religious groups, and thus violating their fundamental human rights. She convincingly argues against the power imbalance and how power relations are reflected in legal praxis and discourse, which negatively affects migrants and portrays them as the "other".

**Antonia Till** carefully examines the interconnection between the socioeconomic status of Vienna's neighborhoods and the authorities' attention to green spaces. Drawing on a case study in Vienna's suburban area inhabited mainly by migrants, she strongly advocates for environmental justice in urban spaces, emphasizing the need for equitable and fair access to green spaces.

But we could only select one winner. And the jury has selected the capstone of Milena de Roode Torres Geogiades titled **Heritage Recognition as a Tool for the Territorial Protection of Quilombola Communities?**

#### **Reationale:**

In addition to its excellent academic quality, including its solid structure, clear methodological and theoretical explanations, extensive contextualized data and evidence, in-depth critical analysis that clearly addresses the research question, and a coherent conclusion, this essay is thought-provoking, innovative, relevant to the fundamental human rights of the communities concerned, and forward-looking.

The author analyses existing Brazilian legal instruments related to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, combining them with international conventions, and develops a convincing argument for the protection of land for Quilombola communities. She argues that the constitutional and legal rights of Quilombola communities to land protection in Brazil are rooted in the international legal context, particularly with regard to cultural heritage and territorial rights.

Milena deploys a socio-legal methodology to support her convincing argument aimed at establishing the link between Brazilian legal instruments related to cultural heritage and the right of Quilombola communities to territory and ownership. From this perspective, she critically examines the Brazilian legal and socio-political contexts, arguing that law enforcement could protect the territorial rights of Quilombola communities by respecting the Constitution and enforcing existing laws, enhanced by international conventions and treaties related to cultural heritage.

The field of law, human rights, and legal rights, is clearly emphasized: she advocates the intersection of three avenues for protecting Quilombola land rights and the recognition of their cultural heritage, including international conventions (ILO Convention No. 169 and UNESCO), constitutional rights relating to cultural heritage, and national laws. Implementing these legal avenues in Brazil's communities and their territory appears to be a perilous task, one that the author speculates upon.

Despite her young age, Milena advocates with established scholars, such as Pereira, to combat structural racism and the oblivion of memory in order to ensure justice and rights for Quilombola communities.

Finally, Quilombola communities are exemplary for their historical resilience and social and political resistance to colonial powers, structural racism, and politics of denial. This aligns with Kavién's philosophy and his lifelong struggle against human rights violations, injustice, and inequalities.

We congratulate Milena with this well-deserved award!