

INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES OF THE STATE OF QUERETARO

For several years we have had a productive academic and editorial relationship with the UNAM Legal Research Institute. Each work represents a contribution to the necessary scientific, critical, creative and proactive analysis and debate, particularly this book coordinated by Diego Valadés, one of the most renowned constitutionalists in Ibero-America, and by the Argentine jurist Antonio María Hernández, in dealing with one of the central problems faced by many countries, complex and multi-causal: corruption. The United Nations Convention against Corruption states that “Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive consequences for society. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, gives rise to human rights violations, distorts markets, undermines the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish”.*

This book offers us elements to understand, define and identify the causes that originate it, but also the contradictory factors that allow it to be installed as a way of public and social life, i.e., it is known that this phenomenon deepens inequality, generates distrust in institutions, threatens governance, sustainable development, democratic processes and fair corporate practices, but its practice is encouraged or tolerated.

The essays included in the book provide an account of national, regional and comparative visions and experiences. Some of the works show the relationship between corruption and the detriment to the effective safeguarding of human rights and how this has hindered the construction of democratic societies in the region. Others reveal the role of public and private actors and their incidence in the violation of rights. There are also voices that point to the gradual but progressive configuration of anti-corruption standards and institutions. These contributions, taken together, help us to cat-

* United Nations Convention against Corruption, Preamble, párr. 1, [https:// www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50026_E.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50026_E.pdf).

egorize the phenomenon under at least three headings: the perception of its extent and frequency; participation or exposure to behaviors; attitudes and values in the face of acts of corruption. With the conviction that this work represents a relevant contribution aimed at tackling corruption in its different dimensions, as a complex social, political and economic phenomenon, I join in the celebration of its publication.

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