

---

# *Special Anniversary Article*

## *Preface*

It is a felicitous coincidence that as this issue goes to print the United Nations General Assembly is revisiting the issue of Responsibility to Protect for the first time since its adoption in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. As debate in the General Assembly has highlighted, the Responsibility to Protect is not only a politically fraught issue but also an academically and normatively difficult subject. The emerging norm of R2P is still in its infancy. Whilst there has been

much debate regarding the norm's scope and the problems attendant on its actualisation, the conceptual foundations of the approach represented by R2P remain less explored. In our third Special Anniversary article, Anne Peters confronts the conceptual lacuna. The Peters thesis is challenging. We have decided to publish it accompanied by four responses and a rejoinder. We believe that this format does justice to the interest in, and importance of, the subject.