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## Review of: World Health Organization, Legislative Responses to Organ Transplantation

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## Book Review

**World Health Organization, Legislative Responses to Organ Transplantation** (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers 1993). Bibliography. LC 92-48521; ISBN 0-7923-2147-2. [534 pp. Cloth \$174.00. P.O. Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands.]

This book contains the organ transplant statutes from fifty-eight countries, in addition to statements and resolutions of the Council of Europe, European Parliament, World Health Organization, World Medical Association and the Transplantation Society. The legislation has been translated into English and arranged alphabetically by country.

To the extent that any piece of legislation reflects the underlying values of a given society, this compilation of statutes provides insight into the level of sophistication with which countries deal with issues such as the spread of the HIV virus, determination of death, informed consent and with whom rests the authority to consent. However, the book contains no annotations or commentary; any inferences must be drawn by the reader.

A note to the table of contents<sup>1</sup> states that materials appearing in this volume were obtained through WHO's Health Legislation Unit in Geneva and indicates that it is limited by what was available to that Unit at the time of printing. The incompleteness of the collection is underscored by the absence of state statutes from within the U.S.

**Legislative Responses to Organ Transplantation** would not be an exciting read for most people, but it provides an important resource to anyone interested in either locating a specific piece of legislation or doing a comparative study. Many libraries will want to acquire it. However, it must be cautioned that it is remarkable for its variety of fonts and formats, expensive by U.S. standards and, as mentioned above, incomplete.

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<sup>1</sup> At xxvii.

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