

National Security, Criminality and Exclusion from Refugee Protection under the EU Qualification Directive: Expanding the grounds of exclusion by the back door?

This paper considers exclusion from refugee status on national security grounds under Article 14 of the EU Qualification Directive, and examines how the provision has been interpreted and applied in the UK and a number of EU Member States. It is argued that, by importing national security considerations that rightfully lead only to loss of protection from *refoulement* under Article 33(2) of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention), the provision is in breach of Member States obligations under the 1951 Convention and therefore primary EU law.