

**GENEVA
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international
humanitaire et de droits humains
Academy of International
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Annual Report 2021

 UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE
FACULTY OF LAW

**GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE**

INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET D'ÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Annual Report 2021



FOREWORD

The ‘new normal’ was the 2021 buzzword. The COVID pandemic and the measures to fight it integrated our lives and shaped the way we worked, socialized and lived. Humanity has this incredible capacity for adaptation and what once seemed almost unthinkable became our daily routine. Adaptation should not, however, lead to indifference. Continuous restrictions on freedoms, inequalities in accessing life-saving healthcare and shocking death tolls amongst the most vulnerable shall never be considered ‘normal’. In the same way, we should never get used to protracted armed conflicts and occupations and the human suffering that accompanies them, the proliferation of armed non-state actors using terror as a strategy, lack of respect for the most basic humanitarian considerations or impunity for atrocity crimes. We – as a society – should not turn a blind eye to these issues even if they have unfortunately been part of our landscape for too long.

The Geneva Academy’s mission is precisely to ensure that the protection of individuals – in times of war and peace – remains a central preoccupation of the international community. As I write these lines, the current conflict in Ukraine is a stark reminder of this necessity and the challenges of upholding it.

This task may, at times, seem daunting but we contribute to it every day in a meaningful way. By educating the humanitarian leaders of tomorrow, researching contemporary issues in the field of international humanitarian law (IHL), human rights law and transitional justice and spreading knowledge through conferences, expert meetings and training for professionals, the Geneva Academy contributes to enhancing the legal protection of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and ensuring respect for human rights.

In 2021, we pursued our evolution in professionalizing our activities, optimizing our resources and streamlining our projects. The year started with an important addition to the team: Maud Bonnet joined the Geneva Academy as Executive Director and seconds me in the direction of the institution. With more than 10 years’ experience in international organizations and NGOs, she brings with her a wealth of managerial and financial expertise. Her arrival has considerably strengthened our management team: in this new and essential position, she contributes to the smooth running of the Geneva Academy, and ensures the sustainability and solidity of our various activity areas in close cooperation with our two parent institutions, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

On the education side, we continued to reinvent ourselves and maintain our high level of attraction. With more than 130 students from 43 countries, our master’s programmes thrived despite the COVID-19 restrictions. While the pandemic constituted a constant challenge, it also pushed us to devise new and innovative teaching solutions that proved effective thanks to the dedication of professors, students’ eagerness to learn and the motivation of our staff. This exceptional situation also opened new doors and highlighted the relevance of our move to offer online programmes for professionals. In its new hybrid format – in Geneva and online – our Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict attracted

exceptional participants from all around the world. Regarding our two full-time programmes – our LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – we expanded elements aimed at preparing our students for their future professional life by offering a new set of extracurricular activities and further developing internship opportunities. To ensure the participation of talented students from all around the world in these two programmes and help overcome economic barriers, we allocated 29 scholarships – including a new crowdfunded



scholarship – for the 2021–2022 academic year, thanks to the generous support of both institutional and individual donors. And last but not least, we developed a partnership with the *International Review of the Red Cross* to promote the academic work of our students via the publication of the Henry Dunant Prize-winning article in this major publication on IHL, humanitarian policy and humanitarian action.

In terms of research, we continued to focus on four priority areas – digitalization and new technologies, non-state actors, implementation and accountability and sustainable development – which all raise crucial legal, policy and protection questions. With 17 research projects and 22 publications, we tackled crucial protection challenges and provided recommendations and guidance to states, organizations, civil society and the private sector on topical issues such as: What are the protection needs in the context of military cyber operations? How do we incorporate human rights in the regulation of artificial intelligence? What are the

interpretations and perceptions of key IHL rules by armed non-state actors? How do we ensure respect for IHL by United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations? How do we integrate a disability perspective into military manuals? How do we integrate peasants' rights in the future revision of EU rules on seeds? These questions are not only fascinating from an international-law perspective, but also crucial in terms of policy. Proper answers require academic rigour, but also an understanding of the space in which decision-makers operate and the constraints they face in order to make sound and realistic recommendations that go beyond the realm of wishful



thinking. This is exactly the type of research we engage in. Additionally, we offer tools that can be of direct use to policy-makers, diplomats, practitioners and researchers. Remarkably, our Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) online portal provides a unique independent and public classification of more than 110 armed conflicts around the world and allows anyone interested in IHL to know where and to whom it applies, and what the applicable law is.

Beyond researching substantive international law rules, working on implementation is also key. Our Geneva Human Rights Platform plays this role with respect to human rights monitoring by contributing to the improvement of the functioning of human rights bodies at the universal level as well as to better implementation of human rights treaties at the national level. The platform supports Geneva-based human rights mechanisms by ensuring connectivity amongst experts and facilitating exchanges on essential issues like the impact of UN special

procedures or novel and more effective ways of work for UN treaty bodies. Moreover, it builds bridges between Geneva and local realities by bringing members of UN treaty bodies to the field and addressing, at its annual conference, the links between national human rights actors and Geneva-based mechanisms. Improving respect for human rights law requires bringing recommendations from human rights bodies home.

Breaking silos and bringing people together is also part of our mission. The Geneva Academy, located in the historical Villa Moynier in the middle of international Geneva, has a unique convening power. In 2021, we organized more than 70 events in person and/or online. Such events facilitate discussion of key issues, situations and challenges. Listening to others' ideas and confronting divergent perspectives is integral to the construction of a better world – a world where victims are heard, diversity is a strength, international law matters, novel solutions are found to current challenges and truth and expertise are the most powerful weapons.

When looking back at 2021 and at what we have achieved, I am filled with a sincere sense of gratitude. I would like to wholeheartedly thank the Geneva Academy staff, our parent institutions, our Board, our Master's Committee, our faculty, our numerous partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, numerous NGOs and individual experts and our donors. Their work, professionalism, energy, enthusiasm, trust, generosity, dedication and support have been fundamental. It is only with you that the Geneva Academy can make a difference.

Gloria Gaggioli
Associate Professor, University of Geneva
Law Faculty
Director, Geneva Academy

HIGHLIGHTS

- p. 12 Institution
- p. 12 Masters
- p. 13 Research
- p. 15 Geneva Human Rights Platform
- p. 16 2021 in Figures

MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

- p. 21 LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- p. 23 Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law
- p. 25 Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict
- p. 26 Scholarships

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

- p. 30 Training Courses on Cutting-Edge Human Rights Issues
- p. 31 Short Courses on International Law in Armed Conflict
- p. 31 Customized Courses

RESEARCH

- p. 36 Digitalization and New Technologies
- p. 38 Non-State Actors
- p. 40 Implementation and Accountability
- p. 44 Sustainable Development
- p. 49 The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict Online Portal

THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

- p. 54 A Mechanisms Lab
- p. 58 Building Capacity
- p. 59 Breaking Down Silos
- p. 59 Key Facts and Figures

PUBLICATIONS

- p. 63 Books
- p. 63 Briefings
- p. 64 Working Papers
- p. 66 Research Briefs
- p. 66 Others

EVENTS

- p. 70 Dedicated Series
- p. 72 Events in 2021

RESOURCES

- p. 82 Expenditure
- p. 83 Income
- p. 84 Donors

ABOUT US

- p. 88 Our Mission
- p. 88 How we Work

OUR PEOPLE

- p. 92 Supervisory Committee
- p. 92 Board
- p. 93 Master's Committee
- p. 93 Faculty
- p. 95 Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law
- p. 95 Swiss Human Rights Chair
- p. 96 Team



HIGHLIGHTS

p. 12 Institution

p. 12 Masters

p. 13 Research

p. 15 Geneva Human Rights Platform

p. 16 2021 in Figures

Institution

Maud Bonnet Joins the Geneva Academy as Executive Director

As Executive Director, Maud Bonnet works closely with our Director, Professor Gloria Gaggioli, and is in charge of the institution's financial and administrative management. An alumna of our LLM in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights, she brings extensive experience in both the management of large institutions and the humanitarian issues we address.

IHL Monitoring and Compliance at the United Nations General Assembly Ministerial Week

Our Senior Research Fellow Dr Annyssa Bellal discussed IHL monitoring and compliance at a high-level side event organized by the European Union, the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic during the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Ministerial Week.

Along with the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, she discussed ways to improve the monitoring and analysis of IHL violations.

Masters

Our Alumni: The Emerging Voices in International Humanitarian Law, Policy and Action

Of the 20 articles published in the 'Emerging Voices' edition of the *International Review of the Red Cross* (no 914, December 2021) – which features emerging voices in the field of humanitarian law, policy and action – 10 are written by former Geneva Academy students. This exposure in a leading publication reflects the calibre of our student body and the continuous involvement of our alumni in policy and legal debates pertaining to the protection of the most vulnerable during and following armed conflicts.

The published articles touch upon a variety of issues, including the protection of cultural heritage under IHL and Islamic law, armed escorts to humanitarian convoys from an IHL perspective and engaging armed groups for the protection of the environment.

Winning Article of the Henry Dunant Research Prize Published in the International Review of the Red Cross

Every year, a student of our LLM in IHL and Human Rights receives the Henry Dunant Research Prize – awarded by the Geneva Academy and the Foundation Prix Henry Dunant – for an original and didactical LLM paper that deepens, strengthens and renews the ideals and commitments of Henry Dunant.

From now on, recipients of this prize will have the opportunity to publish their paper in the *International Review of the Red Cross*. As the 2021 winner, Harriet Macey is the first to benefit from this significant exposure with her LLM paper '*Safe Zones: A Protective Alternative to Flight or a Tool of Refugee Containment?*'.

Crowdfunding for a Scholarship

A one-month crowdfunding campaign carried out in February 2021 allowed us – thanks to the generous support of our alumni, partners and individual donors – to raise funds for a scholarship for the 2021–2022 academic year.

This partial scholarship – covering tuition fees – was allocated to LLM candidate Andrea Lafuente. It complemented the 28 scholarships, funded by our generous scholarship donors, that allow students with limited financial means to come and study at the Geneva Academy and ensure a broad diversity in our student body.

Research

The Rights of Peasants in the New European Union Rules on Seed Marketing

In the European Union and EU Member States, seed laws and regulations have been designed to cater to the needs of the agricultural industry, and the rights of peasants have been largely neglected.

As the EU revises its legislation on seed marketing, our *Practical Manual on the Right to Seeds in Europe* – addressed to representatives of EU institutions and EU Member States, peasant organizations and seed networks – discusses how this right shall be taken into account in this revision. Its key findings are summarized in the Research Brief *The Right to Seeds in Europe* (also available in French and Spanish) and presented in a Geneva Academy submission to the European Commission.

The Role of UN Peacekeeping Operations in Ensuring Respect for IHL

From Mali to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo or Cyprus, the UN is leading 12 peacekeeping operations across the globe.

The UN Security Council and Common Article 1: Understanding the Role of Peacekeeping Operations in Ensuring Respect for IHL – part of a larger study on IHL at the UN Security Council (UNSC) – assesses how peacekeeping operations contribute to ensuring respect for IHL in the sense of common Article 1 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. On this basis, the paper formulates a series of recommendations for

prospective or current UNSC members contemplating the use of peacekeeping to promote respect for IHL.

Guidance to Incorporate Human Rights in the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence

Disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced robotics pose significant societal challenges and specific threats to human rights. Better regulating these fast-paced technological advances requires placing international human rights law at the centre of regulatory and policy frameworks developed by states and tech companies.

Our research – carried out in partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights B-Tech Project and the Geneva Science-Policy Interface – has developed precise guidance for policy-makers and the technology sector on how to incorporate human rights in AI regulation.

Applying International Law to Military Cyber Operations

New military technologies have a profound impact on how wars are fought. While IHL is applicable to all technological developments in warfare, the speed, scale and transformative impact of today’s technological advances require a constant (re) assessment of whether new means and methods of warfare are compatible with existing IHL rules.

Three working papers published in 2021 map the contentious issues related to the application of IHL to military cyber operations in relation to three key areas: the protection of societies, the protection of the global information space and the protection of data. By identifying the applicable law and challenges, they lay the groundwork for our future research on these matters.

Guiding Armed Forces to Integrate a Disability Perspective into their Operations

Building on our path-breaking research on disability and armed conflict, our *Military Briefing: Persons with Disabilities and Armed Conflict* provides practical advice and guidance to the armed forces on how to integrate a disability perspective into military manuals, the training of their militaries and, ultimately, their military operations. It responds to a crucial need to ensure that key IHL provisions that serve to minimize the impact of armed conflict – such as the proportionality assessment and advanced effective warnings – are applied in a disability-inclusive manner.

The Role of National Human Rights Systems in the Implementation of International Human Rights Standards

At a time when Geneva-based human rights mechanisms are under pressure – battling with budget cuts, staff shortages and accessibility/connectivity problems linked to the COVID-19 pandemic – it is all the more crucial that domestic human rights structures are in place and function effectively.

Launched in 2021, the publication *National Human Rights Strategies: The Role of National Human Rights Systems in the Implementation of International Human Rights Standards* analyses institutional cooperation initiatives at the domestic level designed to strengthen human rights implementation. Based on collected evidence from three national contexts – Costa Rica, Mongolia and Morocco – it provides a classification of national monitoring and implementation strategies and identifies best practices.

RULAC: A Unique Reference

An online survey conducted in 2021 highlighted the relevance of our Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) online portal – the only independent and public classification of armed conflicts – for policy-makers, diplomats, practitioners and researchers.

With an ever-increasing audience, RULAC currently monitors more than 110 armed conflicts involving at least 55 states and more than 70 armed non-state actors, constituting an essential tool and first step to monitor violations of IHL. Besides the updates to existing entries, five new non-international armed conflicts – taking place in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo Ethiopia, Mozambique and Somalia – were added in 2021.

Geneva Human Rights Platform

Pilot Exercise Brings UN Treaty Bodies from Geneva to the Field

In December 2021, the Geneva Human Rights Platform, with the Commonwealth Secretariat, conducted in Sierra Leone a pilot of a UN treaty body (TB) focused review – a review carried out between the reporting cycles at the national level and designed to discuss how countries implement specific recommendations issued by UN TBs. This first test was, in the opinion of all participants, a success, showing the benefits that such a mechanism could bring to both the work of TBs as well as to the implementation of their recommendations.

New Series: Human Rights Conversation

This new series of events addresses contemporary issues and challenges related to the promotion and protection of human rights in Geneva and beyond. Aimed at diplomats, policy-makers, experts, civil society representatives and staff from the UN and other international organizations, the six Human Rights Conversations held in 2021 discussed key contemporary issues like the United States’ return to the UN Human Rights Council, lessons learned from the former UN Human Rights Commission, digital human rights tracking tools, the human rights implications of COVID-19 certificates and the domestic institutionalization of human rights.

2021 in Figures

- 30 staff
- 38 professors and lecturers
- 2 Chairs
- 3 master's programmes
- More than 130 students from 43 countries
- 29 scholarships
- 30 training and short courses attended by 177 participants
- 17 research projects
- 22 publications
- 9 initiatives of the Geneva Human Rights Platform
- 71 events
- More than 80 partnerships around events, research and training courses





MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

- p. 21 LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- p. 23 Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law
- p. 25 Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict
- p. 26 Scholarships

Uncertainties and travel restrictions related to the pandemic did not prevent talented students from all over the world applying to our master’s programmes. Indeed, we received a record number of applications for the 2021–2022 academic year, a testament to the quality of our programmes and their relevance for addressing today’s challenges in the humanitarian and human rights fields.

The selection of 10 alumni as the new ‘emerging voices’ in international humanitarian law (IHL) and policy by the *International Review of the Red Cross* is one indication of this excellence and of our students’ skills.

To remain flexible during the pandemic and allow all students to attend classes, we maintained our system of hybrid teaching that has been in place since March 2020 for our two full-time programmes, delivering courses simultaneously in class and online. Accordingly, our teaching techniques have evolved tremendously, adopting new tools that enrich our programmes and our students’ learning experience. The introduction of distance learning for our part-time Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict – allowing professionals based in the field to follow the programme – also proved successful with the majority of students participating online for the 2021–2022 academic year.

To say that it has been an easy journey would, however, be an overstatement. Our students, professors and staff have had to work harder and make additional efforts in a context that was far from ideal. Nevertheless, the results are evident.

The start of the 2021–2022 academic year also saw the launch of a new format for our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ) – celebrating its fifth birthday – and a novel offer of extracurricular activities for our LLM in IHL and Human Rights and MTJ.

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Gloria Gaggioli
Associate Professor, University of Geneva
Law Faculty
Director, Geneva Academy

‘Equipping the future generation and tomorrow’s practitioners with the legal tools to protect the most vulnerable in times of war and peace is one of the most efficient contributions to a better world.’

LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Our LLM is one of the most innovative and intellectually challenging programmes in IHL and human rights offered worldwide today. It focuses primarily on all rules applicable to armed conflicts, and their interaction, and promotes both academic excellence and independent critical thinking.

Eliška Mocková
Human Rights Officer, United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

‘Thanks to the LLM, I can orient myself easily in the international landscape, I understand the relevant instruments, mechanisms and their limits, the actors, and the right language of international law. All of that would be much more difficult without the Geneva Academy.’

2021–2022 LLM Class

The 2021–2022 LLM class is tremendously diverse – both in terms of students’ professional and disciplinary backgrounds as well as their countries of origin. The 46 students enrolled in the programme come from the following 25 countries: Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Republic of Belarus, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Edward Millett
2021–2022 LLM Student

‘Studying alongside a diverse group of fellow students has been an incredibly enriching experience, giving me invaluable exposure to their lived experiences of contemporary human rights challenges in Belarus, Bangladesh and everywhere in between!’



LLM Students: Geographical Representation

- Europe 29
- Middle East and North Africa: 1
- Africa 3
- South America 3
- Asia 7
- North America 3

2020–2021 LLM Class

46 students successfully completed the programme and graduated in October 2021.

Internships: First-Hand Professional Experience

Forty-one students carried out a research internship during the second semester with leading human rights and humanitarian actors including Geneva Call, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Small Arms Survey. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of these internships took place remotely.

‘As an intern with the International Commission of Jurists Business and Human Rights Division, I conducted legal analysis in support of ICJ’s interventions before national courts and represented the ICJ before the UN working groups on private military companies. Through these experiences, I enriched my understanding of international law and advocacy, while working to protect the human rights of people facing the consequences of unchecked business activities.’

Jean-Pictet Competition: A Memorable Face-to-Face Learning Experience

Mina Radoncic, Stephanie Mutasa and Tamara Aburamadan represented the Geneva Academy at the 35th Jean-Pictet Competition in Durrës, Albania. Through real-life situations, they gained a better and practical understanding of the debates surrounding rules governing the conduct of hostilities, the treatment of persons in detention or engagement with armed non-state actors. Mina, Stephanie and Tamara notably played the roles of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) humanitarian workers negotiating access to a refugee camp under the control of an armed group, military legal advisors of a hypothetical state and political officials trying to ensure the compliance of government detention facilities with IHL and international human rights law.

‘The past months taught us how much you can individually grow through being committed to a team. The importance of a common effort and built friendships is engraved in every element of the competition’s leitmotiv ‘Meet, learn, enjoy’. Also, the roles we were assigned throughout the Pictet week showcased not only learning the law but also learning how to ‘speak the law’.’

LLM Awards: A Publication in the International Review of the Red Cross

As of 2021, recipients of the Henry Dunant Research Prize – awarded by the Geneva Academy and the Foundation Prix Henry Dunant – have the opportunity to publish their paper in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, a leading publication on IHL, humanitarian policy and humanitarian action. Harriet Macey received this prize in 2021 for her LLM paper ‘Safe Zones’: A Protective Alternative to Flight or a Tool of Refugee Containment?.

Andrew Botz

2020–2021 LLM Student

Mina Radoncic

2020–2021 LLM Student

Maxime Nijs received the 2021 Best LLM Paper Prize for *Humanizing Siege Warfare: Applying the Principle of Proportionality to Sieges*.

Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law

One of the very few programmes on this subject worldwide, our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ) combines theoretical and practice-oriented perspectives. It equips students with the knowledge, tools and critical mindset to assist countries, societies and victims emerging from periods of conflict and repression and address complex transitional justice issues.

Charlotte Volet

Programme Officer, Lawyers without Borders
Canada

‘The programme sharpened my critical point of view on justice and my analytical skills to assess post-conflict contexts, two skills that now help me grasp quickly the many components to take into account when dealing with transitional contexts.’

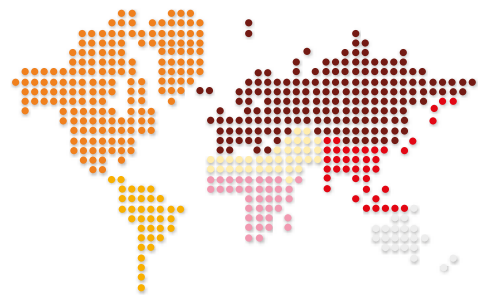
2021–2022 MTJ Class

The 2021–2022 MTJ student body represents a great diversity of profiles, backgrounds and countries of origin. The 42 students enrolled in the programme come from 29 countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Colombia, Eritrea, France, The Gambia, Georgia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the Netherlands, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela.

Diana Cristina Corredor Gil

2021–2022 MTJ Student

‘After almost two years of virtual interactions, I very much enjoy sharing the classroom with a diverse group of colleagues and new friends. Our debates and different positions allow me to contrast my own views, strengthen my critical thinking and share my experiences of post-conflict processes. I am also enjoying being challenged with new tools, methodologies and concepts from different disciplines like international and human rights law.’



MTJ Students: Geographical Representation

- Europe: 18
- North America: 3
- Africa: 7
- South America: 7
- Middle East and North Africa: 1
- Asia: 6

2020–2021 MTJ Class

28 students successfully completed the programme and graduated in October 2021.

Research Internships: First-Hand Professional Experience in Transitional Justice

Ten students carried out a research internship during the second semester with leading human rights and transitional justice actors, including the International Center for Transitional Justice, Justice Rapid Response, swisspeace and the International Federation for Human Rights. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most internships took place remotely, as did the seminars that provided peer-to-peer support around this activity.

‘My experience at the International Center for Transitional Justice allowed me to explore human rights in the Middle East. My research focused on the Yazidi community in Iraq and prospects for a sustainable peace in the region. I explored the relationship between international humanitarian law, international human rights law, transitional justice tools and political challenges in this context.’

The Mandela Moot Court: Delving into Complex COVID-Related Human Rights Issues

Anh-Thu Vo and Bettina Roska represented the Geneva Academy at the 2021 Mandela Moot Court. Reaching the oral rounds, they argued – both for the applicant and the respondent – on issues relating to the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, including lockdown measures, compulsory vaccination, electoral rights, digital monitoring and online hate speech.

‘During practices, the guest judges and coaches asked difficult questions regarding the case law, international human rights law and facts surrounding the case. These helped me improve my public speaking skills, and I learned how to think quickly on my feet. Outside the oral practice, I spent countless hours researching more case law and tracking the constantly evolving COVID-19 crisis as one of the core issues at the 2021 Mandela Moot Court.’

Rida Alji
2020–2021 MTJ Student

Anh-Thu Vo
2020–2021 MTJ Student

Best MTJ Paper Prize: Expanding the Horizons of Transitional Justice

Dasha Reddy received the 2021 Best MTJ Paper Prize for her paper *Post-Conflict Rehabilitation for Victims of Micro to Macro Health Violence*, which extends the boundaries of how we think about rehabilitation and expands the horizons of transitional justice.

Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict

Our Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict is one of the few part-time, innovative and intellectually challenging programmes in the law of armed conflict offered today in Geneva and online.

Designed for professionals with demanding jobs and responsibilities, it provides strong theoretical and practical knowledge and responds to the growing need for specialists to address complex humanitarian and human rights issues and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

Collins Odhiambo
Captain in the Kenyan Air Force

‘This master’s programme is uniquely designed to make it easy – even for those like me who do not have a law background – to grasp its content. The programme surpassed my expectations, sharpened my knowledge and turned me into an international humanitarian law teacher at my workplace.’

2021–2023 Executive Master Class

The 2021–2023 class has 45 participants coming from 33 countries. Twelve follow the programme in Geneva and 33 do so online. They work for Amnesty International, the ICRC, the International Organization for Migration, MSF, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the UN Satellite Centre, the World Food Programme or as diplomats for several permanent missions in Geneva.



Executive Master Students: Geographical Representation

- Europe: 21
- North America: 3
- Asia: 10
- Africa: 4
- South America: 5
- Middle East and North Africa: 2

Executive Master Students: Professional Background



Executive Master Students: In Geneva and Online



2020–2022 Executive Master Class

The 38 participants are currently working on their thesis and will graduate in October 2022.

2019–2021 Executive Master Class

Ten participants successfully completed the programme and graduated in October 2021 alongside four participants from the 2018–2020 cohort.

Scholarships allow talented young people who otherwise could not afford it to follow our LLM and MTJ and subsequently pursue a career in the human rights, humanitarian and justice sectors.

For the 2021–2022 academic year, we allocated 27 full scholarships – covering the tuition fee and living expenses in Geneva – and 2 partial scholarships – covering the tuition fee – across these two programmes. These were allocated thanks to the generous support of a Geneva-based foundation, Fondation Ernst et Lucie Schmidheiny, Mr Jenö Staehelin, the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute and the generous support of our alumni, partners and individual donors who contributed to our crowdfunding campaign for a scholarship in January 2021.

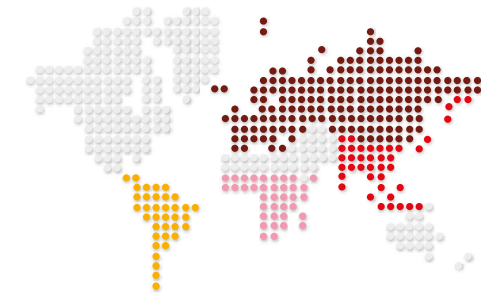
Following graduation, students who received a scholarship generally go back to their country or regions where they work in the judiciary, NGOs, international organizations and governmental agencies, addressing human rights, IHL, transitional justice and rule of law issues. Scholarship alumni, once engaged in professional life, also become key ambassadors for international Geneva and its humanitarian, human rights and peace values.

Scholarships

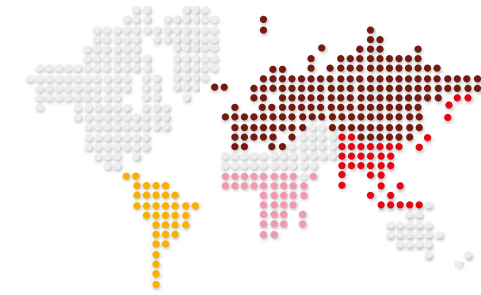
Andrea Lafuente
2021–2022 LLM Student and Recipient of the Crowdfunded Partial Scholarship

'I feel very grateful because, thanks to the crowdfunded scholarship, I have been able to become an LLM student, as I would not have been able to attend this programme without it. I find it fundamental that leading institutions such as the Geneva Academy help students to overcome financial barriers in order to access high-quality education in human rights and IHL.'

Partial and Full Scholarships: 29



LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights: 14 Scholarships



Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law: 15 Scholarships



Diana Cristina Corredor Gil
2021–2022 MTJ Student

'The scholarship I received allowed me to extend my professional skills, develop substantive knowledge in the field of transitional justice and meet inspiring new friends, classmates, professors and professionals. Furthermore, after completing the programme, this opportunity will enable me to effectively support the development of vulnerable communities by applying my knowledge of human rights, psychosocial approaches and international humanitarian law.'

A photograph of a workspace featuring a silver laptop, an open notebook with a grid pattern, and a black pen resting on the notebook. The scene is set against a dark background, creating a professional and focused atmosphere.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

- p. 30 Training Courses on Cutting-Edge Human Rights Issues
- p. 31 Short Courses on International Law in Armed Conflict
- p. 31 Customized Courses

Addressed to diplomats, humanitarians, human rights advocates, lawyers, NGO staff, professionals working in emergency and post-conflict situations, lawyers and journalists, our Executive Education aims to equip professionals with the legal tools to address contemporary humanitarian and human rights issues.

Our offer includes a diversity of formats: intensive human rights training courses, short courses on international law in armed conflict and customized courses in Geneva or in the field. Most can be followed in person or online. An Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict (see the Master's Programmes section above) completes the offer.

Courses in 2021: 30

- Training courses on cutting-edge human rights issues: 3
- Short courses on international law in armed conflict: 21
- Customized courses: 6

Attendance: 177

- Training courses on cutting-edge human rights issues: 34
- Short courses on international law in armed conflict: 82
- Customized courses: 61

Training Courses on Cutting-Edge Human Rights Issues

Our intensive training courses address contemporary human rights issues and provide participants with substantive knowledge and the practical skills to use United Nations (UN) human rights mechanisms to tackle them.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals

This online training course explored the relationship between economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provided participants with the practical tools to include ESCR and the SDGs in their work, with a focus on the rights to health, food, water, sanitation, housing, education, work and social security, and the SDGs related to these rights.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants

This online training course provided a comprehensive overview of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, from its adoption to its content and implementation, as well as tools to protect

and promote the rights of peasants, rural women, fisher, pastoralist and nomadic communities and agricultural workers.

The Universal Periodic Review and the UN Human Rights System: Raising the Bar on Accountability

This training course co-organized with UPR Info – online and in Geneva – explored the origin and evolution of the Universal Periodic Review and its functioning. Using examples of different stages of implementation, it provided participants with the tools to use this mechanism for human rights implementation at the national level.

Short Courses on International Law in Armed Conflict

Our short courses – six sessions of two hours each that can be followed in Geneva or online – allow participants to deepen their legal knowledge and expertise on a specific issue or branch of international law relevant to armed conflicts. They range from introductory courses on international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law (IHRL) and international criminal law to addressing more specific issues and topics like international refugee law, the responsibility to protect, preventing and combating terrorism or accountability for atrocity crimes.

Participants can either choose one specific course or follow several, starting with the introductory courses and then moving on to more specific ones. As we offer these courses every year, this can be spread over several years.

In 2021, 82 practitioners – from Geneva and in the field – participated in one or more of our 21 short courses and acquired the necessary skills to address the multiple legal questions and challenges they face in their daily work.

Customized Courses

We organize customized training courses for international organizations, NGOs, governments, national human rights institutions, judges and lawyers and the media on issues related to IHL, IHRL, transitional justice and the work of UN human rights mechanisms.

Provided by our experts, they are tailored to the needs of our partners. They can run from one day to a full week and take place at our headquarters, Villa Moynier, at the partner's location or online.

UN Human Rights Mechanisms

This online customized training course on UN human rights mechanisms was conducted for staff of the Moroccan Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights, in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Promoting and Protecting Women's Human Rights

This online customized training course – carried out in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung – provided professionals working on human rights issues in Asia with substantive and procedural knowledge of UN human rights mechanisms and their role in guaranteeing effective promotion and protection of women's human rights, in particular their economic, social and cultural rights.



Protecting Human Rights and the Environment

This online customized training course for Latin American NGO representatives – conducted in Spanish and carried out in partnership with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung – explored the different UN human rights mechanisms pertinent to advancing environmental issues and protecting environmental human rights defenders. The training course also addressed the synergies and tensions between IHRL and international environmental law.

UN Human Rights Mechanisms

This annual training course on UN human rights mechanisms – carried out in collaboration with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights – provided academic representatives from Malaysia, China and Vietnam with practical insight into the work of UN human rights mechanisms. The course was designed to facilitate their active participation and engagement in the implementation and follow-up of recommendations emanating from the Universal Periodic Review and treaty bodies.

Annual Seminar on IHL for Diplomats Accredited to the UN in Geneva

This annual seminar for Geneva-based diplomats, co-organized with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), addressed the main concepts and contemporary challenges of IHL, and focused on cyber operations and autonomous weapon systems, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, international legal obligations of non-state armed groups, as well as on climate, armed conflict and the natural environment. Due to the COVID-19 situation, it took place online.

14th Advanced Seminar for Academics and Policy-Makers

Co-organized with the ICRC, this advanced seminar for academics and policy-makers aimed to enhance the capacity of lecturers and researchers to teach and research IHL and contemporary issues arising during armed conflict, while also equipping policy-makers with an in-depth understanding of ongoing legal debates and their relevance to decision-making. Due to the COVID-19 situation, it took place online.



RESEARCH

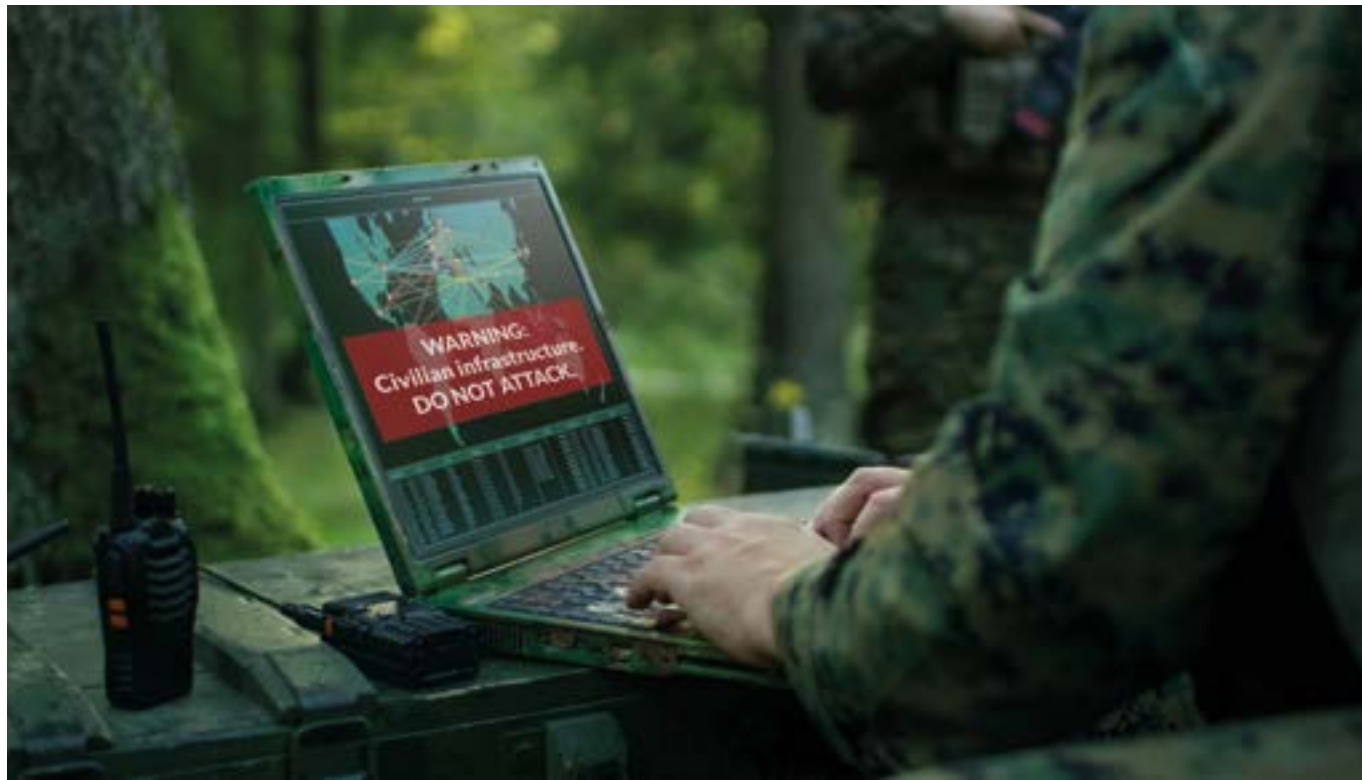
- p. 36 Digitalization and New Technologies
- p. 38 Non-State Actors
- p. 40 Implementation and Accountability
- p. 44 Sustainable Development
- p. 49 The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict Online Portal

Our research examines issues that are under-explored, need clarification or are unconventional, experimental or challenging. It thus advances understanding and stimulates debate in the academic community and in policy-making institutions, government and the private sector.

We currently focus on four priority areas – digitalization and new technologies, non-state actors, implementation and accountability and sustainable development – which all raise crucial legal, policy and protection questions.

Digitalization and New Technologies

New technologies, digitalization and big data are reshaping our societies and the way they organize. While technological advancements present tremendous opportunities and promises, rapid developments in artificial intelligence (AI), automation or robotics raise a series of questions about their impact in times of peace and war.



Our research in this domain explores whether these new developments are compatible with existing rules and whether international human rights law (IHL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) continue to provide the level of protection they are meant to ensure.

Digitalization of Conflict Joint Initiative: Humanitarian Impact and Legal Protection

New military technologies have a profound impact on how wars are fought. Significant advances in the fields of cyberspace, AI, robotics or space technology are at the forefront of contemporary geopolitical power struggles and current protection questions during armed conflicts.

Via a multi-disciplinary approach, this research project – carried out in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – assesses the continued relevance of IHL in this context in order to develop law and policy recommendations aimed at mitigating the identified risks and addressing new protection needs.

In 2021, the research team carried out a mapping of these risks and protection needs. At the expert workshop Societal Risks and Potential Humanitarian Impact of Cyber Operations during Armed Conflict, around 30 cyber experts discussed in detail the impact of military cyber operations and addressed their potential human cost and societal risks.

An undergraduate student essay competition on the technical, policy and legal measures that states should put in place to avoid, or at least reduce, the risk of civilian harm from military cyber operations during armed conflicts enabled the younger generation to contribute ideas on ensuring the continued relevance of IHL in these contexts. The winning essay, *Digital Safe Havens: Sheltering Civilians from Military Cyber Operations* – written by Isabelle Peart – adapts the little-known concept of demilitarized zones to the cyber context and makes a compelling argument for the establishment of international digital safe havens.

Disruptive Military Technologies

This project aims to stay abreast of the various military technology trends, promote legal and policy debate on new military technologies and further the understanding of the convergent effects of different technological trends that shape the future digital battlefield. Developments in the fields of cyberwarfare, cybersecurity and emerging military applications of AI constitute the core focus area of this research.

Three working papers published in 2021 map the contentious issues related to the application of IHL to military cyber operations in relation to the protection of societies, the protection of the global information space and the protection of data. By identifying the applicable law and challenges, they lay the groundwork for future research in these areas. The main findings and key points developed in these papers have been presented by the authors in leading international law journals and blogs.

At a workshop, experts in cybersecurity discussed the key issues presented in these papers and both the challenges and regulatory demands for humanitarian protection in the context of the future digital battlefield. Taking a holistic perspective, they addressed the combined impact of technological advancements in the fields of cyber, AI, robotics and sensor systems on the future of warfare.

Disruptive Technologies and Rights-Based Resilience

Disruptive technologies such as AI and advanced robotics pose significant societal challenges and specific threats to human rights. They can be used, for instance, to exacerbate ethnic conflict, fuel hate speech, undermine democratic processes, facilitate state surveillance and perpetuate discriminatory narratives and practices. Better regulating these fast-paced technological advances requires placing IHRL at the centre of regulatory and policy frameworks developed by states and tech companies.

This research – launched in 2021 and carried out in partnership with the Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights B-Tech Project and the Geneva Science-Policy Interface – facilitates a multi-stakeholder process to identify gaps, generate new evidence and design tools to support regulatory and policy responses to human rights challenges linked to digital technologies.

Tools produced in 2021 include guidance on incorporating human rights in the regulation of AI and an analysis – coupled with specific recommendations – of how to best place human rights and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights at the centre of regulatory frameworks and legislation on online harms.

Non-State Actors

Non-state actors – whether armed groups or large multinational business companies – are important players in contemporary international relations. Most armed conflicts today are of a non-international character, involving numerous armed groups who can control a territory or a population, and thus raising issues about the suitability of the existing protection framework afforded by IHRL and IHL. Similar challenges arise in relation to the activities of businesses or transnational companies, notably when they operate in conflict zones or situations of armed violence.

Our research in this domain explores the extent to which these actors are bound by international law, asks whether the existing legal framework provides adequate protection and proposes concrete solutions to address these contemporary challenges.

Business and Human Rights: Towards a Decade of Global Implementation

On 29 November 2021, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UNWG) launched *UNGPS 10+: A Roadmap for the Next Decade of Business and Human Rights*, aimed at providing strategic orientation to better translate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) from policy-level commitments to concrete changes in government and business practice.

This research project accompanied the entire process that led to the development of the roadmap. The research team notably supported the stocktaking analysis, the roadmap drafting and the coordination of the consultation and research

process that generated more than 200 written submissions from states, business organizations, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, law firms and UN entities.

In addition to these direct inputs into the roadmap, a working paper – to be published in 2022 – will detail the avenues for accountability related to corporate complicity in human rights abuses.



A follow-up project will analyse the existing offers – and related gaps and shortcomings – that provide advice to businesses on how to implement the UNGPs. This research will also provide concrete guidance on how to develop an authoritative help-desk function for business actors that will enhance implementation support.

Business, Human Rights and Conflict-Affected Regions

In 2020, the UNWG launched the report *Business, Human Rights and Conflict-Affected Regions: Towards Heightened Action*, which clarifies the practical steps that states and business enterprises should take to implement the UNGPs in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

Building on this report, this research project will spell out the concrete steps that business enterprises should take across the full ‘conflict cycle’ in order to avoid

human rights violations, mitigate negative impacts and participate in remedial efforts in post-conflict settings. It will also scope pathways for UN actors and states to better link business, peace and security, and identify the contributions that the business and human rights debate can bring to peacebuilding efforts.

From Words to Deeds: A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms

This research project – led by the Geneva Academy in collaboration with Geneva Call, the American University in Cairo and the Norwegian Refugee Council – examines armed non-state actors' (ANSAs') practice and interpretation of core IHL norms via field research and interviews with selected ANSAs in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippines, Myanmar, Lebanon and Syria.

The project also conducts a global analysis of ANSAs' commitments and unilateral declarations in relation to specific IHL rules like the protection of civilians from attacks, the use of landmines and other explosive devices, humanitarian access, the protection of cultural property and the environment and the administration of justice. Its key findings are presented on a dedicated website (words2deeds.org), launched in early 2021.

By increasing our knowledge of how ANSAs perceive their international obligations, the project aims to provide tools to humanitarian organizations and other relevant actors for better engagement with ANSAs, as well as inform future humanitarian protection strategies and international law-making processes.

In 2021, the research team published the two first case studies on armed groups present in Mali (the MNLA) and Colombia (the FARC-EP), which provide a unique insight on how these two ANSAs perceive IHL and some selected rules contained therein.

The research team also carried out a field mission to northeast Syria – in the areas administered by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) – to collect first-hand information and documentation about how the AANES and its armed branches perceive and implement their obligations under IHL.

Implementation and Accountability

Although different in substance and varying in terms of compliance mechanisms, all international law frameworks – IHL, IHRL, international criminal law and transitional justice – raise challenges in terms of implementation and accountability.

The proliferation of international, regional and domestic human rights standards has led to a multitude of actors and procedures dedicated to their implementation. In turn, this has crowded existing regulatory regimes. For IHL on the other hand, dedicated monitoring mechanisms are rare and many are either not used or otherwise ineffective. International criminal law courts and tribunals

provide partial solutions as they focus on individual criminal responsibility. Our research in this domain aims to accompany existing mechanisms and their stakeholders, ongoing policy discussions, negotiations, reforms and new developments in order to ensure the ongoing relevance of the international legal framework for the most vulnerable, along with accountability and redress for victims.

International Humanitarian Law and the UN Security Council

In light of the UN Security Council's (UNSC's) increased dealing with IHL, this research project critically assesses this organ's practice and consistency – or lack thereof – in relation to IHL.



After having addressed the UNSC's recent engagement with IHL and accountability, the research assessed in 2021 whether – and, if so, how – UN peacekeeping operations contribute to ensuring respect for IHL in the sense of Article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The UN Security Council and Common Article 1: Understanding the Role of Peacekeeping Operations in Ensuring Respect for IHL examines how current peacekeeping operations with multidimensional mandates engage in activities aimed at – or amounting to – promoting compliance with IHL and formulates concrete recommendations for prospective or current UNSC members.

It completes a series of publications on the subject of IHL at the UNSC in the lead-up to the potential Swiss membership of this UN body in 2022–2023.

Disability and Armed Conflict

Our publication *Disability and Armed Conflict*, released in 2019, highlights that key IHL provisions that serve to minimize the impact of armed conflict – such as the proportionality assessment and advanced effective warnings – are not being applied in a disability-inclusive manner, resulting in persons with disabilities being killed, seriously injured or left behind as families flee armed attacks. These findings and our specific recommendations triggered a movement in humanitarian and policy-making circles to address these shortcomings.

Building on this momentum and launched in 2021, our *Military Briefing: Persons with Disabilities and Armed Conflict* translates the research into practical advice and guidance to the armed forces on how to integrate a disability perspective into military manuals, the training of their militaries and ultimately their military operations.

This military briefing was discussed with military stakeholders and military legal advisers, members of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities at an online expert seminar co-organized with the ICRC and Diakonia.

The Role of National Human Rights Systems in the Implementation of International Human Rights Standards and Recommendations

At a time when Geneva-based human rights mechanisms are under pressure – battling with budget cuts, staff shortages and accessibility/connectivity problems linked to the COVID-19 pandemic – it is all the more crucial that domestic human rights structures are in place and function effectively.

This research project analyses the role of national human rights systems (NHRs) in implementing international human rights standards and recommendations, each NHRS consisting of a unique set of interacting actors, forming official and unofficial synergies that serve the purpose of integrating and monitoring human rights domestically.

Launched in 2021, the publication *National Human Rights Strategies: The Role of National Human Rights Systems in the Implementation of International Human Rights Standards* analyses institutional cooperation initiatives at the domestic level designed to strengthen human rights implementation. Based on collected evidence from three national contexts – Costa Rica, Mongolia and Morocco – it provides a classification of national monitoring and implementation strategies and identifies best practices.

In 2021 the research team also initiated reflection, among academics and practitioners, on a possible standardized set of guiding principles for the effective functioning of NHRs. Such principles would represent a useful set of tools for

national human rights actors when devising their monitoring and implementation strategies. They would also be of practical use for international human rights monitoring bodies, as benchmarks in their assessment of states' legislative, institutional and policy measures.



Promoting and Protecting the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association and Civic Space Worldwide

This project provides substantive support to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément Voule, a mandate that plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting these rights worldwide. By hosting Clément Voule at the Geneva Academy in our research team, we support him in addressing emerging issues affecting civic space and developing tools and materials to allow various stakeholders – states, civil society organizations, lawyers and human rights defenders – to promote and defend it.

In 2021, we supported the Special Rapporteur substantively and logistically, notably via the organization of closed and public meetings to discuss thematic issues related to his reports – peaceful protest and use of force by states in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate justice.

We also supported the launch of his *Guidelines for Lawyers in Support of Peaceful Assemblies* which provide a set of key principles on the role of lawyers in upholding the rights to freedom of assembly and of association. We also co-organized the launch of his thematic report presented to the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to advance climate justice.

The Universality of Human Rights: Developing Narratives to Help Overcome Polarization

Universality – the notion that IHRL protects all individuals worldwide – has been a key human rights principle since its integration in the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. By way of illustration, most states have ratified at least one international or regional human rights treaty. However, in multilateral fora such as the UN, states have never ceased challenging this principle on both normative and political grounds.

Designed as an inclusive and debate-oriented project, this research aims to take stock of and contribute to a better understanding of the challenges to the principle of universality of human rights while also questioning their validity.

The research team developed in 2021 the background and methodological papers that prepare the ground for a series of debates with key stakeholders – diplomats, policy-makers, academics and civil society experts. The first debate held in 2021 focused on minority rights and will be followed, in 2022, by discussions on the so-called Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL), gender questions and the enabling nature of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. The outcomes and reflections stemming from these debates will flow into a final briefing on the issue, to be published in 2022.

Sustainable Development

Human rights and sustainable development are intrinsically linked and mutually reinforcing. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – which aim to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and reduce all forms of violence – incorporate most of the core elements of civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). The degradation of the environment and environmental factors can also be at the origin of conflicts or human rights violations, which in turn cause severe setbacks for development.

Our research in this domain aims to explore the linkages between sustainable development, the protection of the environment, climate change and the branches of international law that protect the rights of the most vulnerable. It also focuses on those who are left behind – including peasants, who represent 70 percent of people living in extreme poverty and 80 percent of the world's hungry – and their specific rights.

Two Research Projects on the Right to Food

The Geneva Academy coordinated the human rights component of two research projects on the right to food funded by the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme), a joint initiative of the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. While both projects are coming to an end, their outcomes are still being published and presented in major journals and peer reviews.



The first project, Land Commercialization, Gendered Agrarian Transformation and the Right to Food (DEMETER), examined the degree to which the right to food and gender equality play complementary roles in ensuring food security in the context of land commercialization in Cambodia and Ghana. In 2021, the research team presented project findings related to women's human rights in food and agricultural systems in several policy briefs – including on the reception and transformation of feminist food sovereignty demands within the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. Members of the team also produced various peer-reviewed publications, including a forum in *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, an article on the gendered transformation of the Cambodi-

an commons in *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* and a number of contributions to edited books on the rights of peasants and the rights to food and land. Several training courses on the rights of rural women, feminist perspectives on food sovereignty and the right to food were also held.

The second project, *Towards Food Sustainability: Reshaping the Coexistence of Different Food Systems in South America and Africa*, developed a framework (FoodSAF) for assessing the sustainability of food systems on the basis of five pillars: the realization of the right to food, food security, the reduction of poverty and inequality, environmental performance and socio-ecological resilience. During the first six years of the research (2015–2020), studies on different food systems were carried out in Latin America and Africa. In 2021, the project published a *Manual for Participatory Food System Sustainability Assessments and Transformation (FoodSAT) – Steps Towards Food Democracy*, with the contribution of the Geneva Academy. This guide offers an introduction to the multidimensional assessment of food systems. It describes how to conduct analyses in participatory ways, how to assess the degree to which food systems are sustainable and democratic and how interested food system actors can engage in co-designing and implementing ‘transformative actions’ for food sustainability and democracy.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals

Time is running to implement the SDGs – a situation aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis, its impact on the most vulnerable and inequalities rising across the globe. Placing human rights at the centre of the SDGs strategy and ensuring that they provide substantial guidance during the crisis and for long-term recovery is even more important than before.

Building on more than 10 years of expertise in this area, our research focused in 2021 on the COVID-19 crisis and on how to place the SDGs and human rights at the centre of short- and long-term responses to the need to build more fair, resilient and sustainable societies that leave no one behind.

Consultations and exchanges with states, civil society representatives, experts and UN human rights mechanisms – including at the HRC’s third inter-annual meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda – allowed us to present research outcomes and address this question with key stakeholders.

The research team also analysed how UN human rights mechanisms have responded to the COVID-19 crisis and how they have linked ESCR to the SDGs in these responses. An expert seminar co-organized with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung enabled direct consultation with UN special procedures and treaty bodies on this question.

The results will be presented in 2022 in a research brief and in the practical manual *Building Back Better: UN Human Rights Mechanisms, ESCR and SDGs in a Post-Covid Period*, which will guide states on the best ways to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to build back better, with human rights and the SDGs at the centre.

The Rights of Peasants

We pursued in 2021 our work on promoting the implementation of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) by contributing to key discussions and processes touching upon the recognition of the rights to seeds and land – which are both central for peasants and still neglected. Building on previous research, we also focused on a concrete case scenario: UNDROP’s implementation in Switzerland’s foreign policy.



Regarding the right to land, our publications on UNDROP and this specific right were instrumental in guiding the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights’ elaboration of a general comment on land and ESCR.

Regarding the right to seeds, we had the opportunity to explain at a meeting of parliamentarians from the European Free Trade Association countries – Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein – how these countries can better protect the right to seeds in their free trade agreements with developing countries. We also supported, via the organization of an expert seminar on the right to seeds and intellectual property rights, the drafting by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food of his report on this issue, presented in March 2022 at the HRC.

Our online event on UNDROP and Switzerland's Foreign Policy – co-organized with HEKS/EPER and the Swiss NGOs coalition The Friends of the Declaration and building on our 2021 publication on this issue – allowed us to discuss with relevant stakeholders how Switzerland can ensure that its policies relating to trade, intellectual property and development cooperation are in line with UNDROP. Participants at this event also welcomed the fact that, as a result of the collaboration with the Geneva Academy, Switzerland was the first country to push for UNDROP's implementation in a recommendation it addressed to Mozambique at the Universal Periodic Review in May 2021.

The Right to Seeds in Europe

In the European Union (EU) and EU Member States, seed laws and regulations have been designed to cater to the needs of the agricultural industry, and the rights of peasants have been largely neglected. Peasant seed systems and traditional knowledge have not been recognized, and therefore not adequately supported. This has discouraged, and in some cases hindered, the continuation of peasant agricultural activities.

As the EU is revising its legislation on seed marketing, this research project examines the protection of peasants' right to seeds in Europe. It aims to raise awareness – via targeted publications and expertise, key events and the facilitation of exchanges with various stakeholders – about the importance of using UNDROP to promote changes in European laws, policies and trade agreements to ensure that they do not infringe, but rather facilitate, the realization of peasants' right to seeds.

The *Practical Manual on the Right to Seeds in Europe* – aimed at representatives of EU institutions and EU Member States, peasant organizations and seed networks – precisely discusses how UNDROP's Article 19 on the right to seeds shall be taken into account in the future revision of EU rules on seeds, with concrete examples on the path forward.

Its key findings are summarized for policy-makers and those involved in the negotiations and drafting of the EU rules on seeds in the research brief *The Right to Seeds in Europe* (also available in French and Spanish). They were also presented in a Geneva Academy submission to the European Commission in response to its call for feedback on its inception impact assessment related to the revision of the EU seed marketing legislation.

Both publications have been presented to and discussed with representatives of European seed networks, peasants' organizations, the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States.

The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict Online Portal

The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) online portal provides a comprehensive classification of all situations of armed violence that amount to an armed conflict under IHL.

For each conflict, this unique resource details the factual and methodological basis for its classification, and identifies the parties and the applicable international law. The portal also includes sections on the definition and categories of armed conflict under IHL and the legal framework governing armed conflicts.

An online survey conducted in 2021 highlighted the relevance of RULAC – the only independent and public classification of armed conflicts – for policy-makers, diplomats, practitioners and researchers.

Five New Armed Conflicts

The research team added five new non-international armed conflicts (NIACs) in 2021:

- The NIAC in Burkina Faso between state armed forces and a number of jihadist groups, notably Ansaroul Islam, the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) and the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM)
- The NIAC in Mozambique between governmental forces and splinter groups of RENAMO, such as the RENAMO Military Junta, and the so-called group Al-Shabab
- The NIAC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Ituri) between the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) and the Cooperative for Development of the Congo
- The NIAC in Ethiopia between the Ethiopian armed forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)
- The NIAC in Somalia between the Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) and Al-Shabab

With these additions, the portal currently monitors more than 110 armed conflicts involving at least 55 states and more than 70 armed non-state actors, constituting for its ever-increasing audience an essential tool and first step in monitoring violations of IHL.

Updates

Each conflict analysed on RULAC is regularly updated to incorporate recent developments including peace negotiations or agreements, clashes between the parties or criminal proceedings before national and international courts.

In 2021, all the conflicts were updated. In particular, and given the important developments related to these situations, the following armed conflicts have been revised: the non-international armed conflict (NIAC) in Afghanistan, the international armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia and the military occupation of Azerbaijan by Armenia.

Monitoring Armed Violence Situations

Because it is crucial that our interpretation of IHL continues to reflect realities on the ground, we also closely monitored other situations of armed violence to assess whether they could amount to an armed conflict according to IHL criteria. This notably concerned the following theatres:

- Tensions in Belarus and Ukraine
- A series of jihadist attacks conducted in Benin against state forces
- Armed violence in Jammu and Kashmir between a number of armed groups and the government
- Armed violence in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon between Cameroon's armed forces and Anglophone separatist groups
- Armed violence between Turkish armed forces and the TAK (a Kurdish youth organization and a splinter group of the PKK)
- Armed violence in Venezuela, especially between governmental forces and the National Liberation Army (ENL)
- Armed violence between El Salvador armed forces and criminal organizations
- Armed violence between Honduras armed forces and criminal organizations
- The involvement of mercenaries and private military companies in armed conflicts

The 2021 Current Issues in Armed Conflict Conference

The Current Issues in Armed Conflict Conference builds on RULAC and aims to tackle complex issues and questions related to the classification of armed conflicts.

As an annual encounter, it provides a space for experts and practitioners, diplomats, academics and civil society representatives to discuss the legal and policy issues that arise in relation to armed conflicts situations.

The 2021 conference addressed two contemporary challenges related to armed conflict: the classification of NIACs in which a myriad of ANSAs – who might fight against a common enemy or create coalitions and umbrella organizations – are involved, and cyber conflicts.



A black and white photograph showing a person's hands writing in a notebook. The notebook is open, and the text 'GENEVA RIGHTS PLATFORM' is visible on the page. The person is holding a pen. The background is blurred, suggesting an office or meeting environment.

GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

- p. 54 A Mechanisms Lab
- p. 58 Building Capacity
- p. 59 Breaking Down Silos

The Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP) provides a neutral and dynamic forum of interaction in Geneva for all stakeholders in the field of human rights – experts, practitioners, diplomats and civil society – to debate topical issues and challenges related to the functioning of the Geneva-based human rights system. Relying on academic research and findings, it works to enable various actors to be better connected, break down silos and, hence, advance human rights.

A Mechanisms Lab

In 2021, the GHRP further developed its key supportive role – as a ‘mechanisms lab’ – to Geneva-based human rights mechanisms via a series of targeted initiatives.



With the Commonwealth Secretariat, the GHRP notably introduced and tested in Sierra Leone a pilot – the first of a longer series – of a United Nations (UN) treaty bodies (TBs) focused review. It also assisted UN special procedures to assess their impact, created a new space – GHRP Fridays – to discuss novel ways of work for UN TBs and developed an online platform for members of UN TBs. Its new Human Rights Conversation series addresses crucial human rights issues and challenges at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and beyond.

Bringing UN Treaty Bodies from Geneva to the Field

In December 2021, the GHRP conducted in Sierra Leone, with the Commonwealth Secretariat, a pilot of a UN TBs focused review – a review carried out between the reporting cycles at the national level and designed to discuss how countries implement specific recommendations issued by UN TBs. Members of the

NGO network TB Net, in particular the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre), assisted in ensuring civil society participation in this exercise.

The GHRP team travelled to Freetown to discuss the implementation of the latest recommendations issued by four TBs – the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – with national actors. It was accompanied by a TB delegation composed of one member (or former member) of each selected committee, one staff member of the Commonwealth Secretariat, staff of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and diplomats from the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone in Geneva.

This first test was, in the opinion of all participants, a success, showing the benefits of such national follow-up between the full-scale Geneva-based reviews. Further pilots are scheduled in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and the Pacific in 2022.

GHRP Fridays: A New Space to Discuss Novel Ways of Work for UN Treaty Bodies

GHRP Fridays, launched in November 2021, allow diplomats, TB members, academics, OHCHR staff and civil society to discuss the outcomes of the 2020 TB Review. Co-organized with the Permanent Missions of Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Morocco, Switzerland and Uruguay, they provide an informal setting to exchange ideas about novel approaches and ways of work for these central pillars of the international human rights protection system.

The GHRP Fridays addressed key issues for the future work of UN TBs: harmonized COVID working methods, predictable review schedules and the nomination, election and membership of TBs, informed by the working paper *Promoting Quality, Independent and Diverse Treaty Body Membership*.

Connecting Experts in UN Treaty Bodies and Beyond

Via our Treaty Body Members Platform (TBMP), we connect TB members with each other as well as with Geneva-based practitioners, academics and diplomats, providing a unique space to share expertise, exchange views on topical questions and develop synergies and cooperation.

Despite the difficult situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions on in-person gatherings, six meetings took place in 2021, varying in shape and format to continuously adapt to the sanitary situation and fluctuating presence of TB members in Geneva.

Most focused on enforced disappearances in relation to the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Other thematic meetings addressed the links between international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law, notably in the context of the work of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as in relation to the role of armed non-state actors in enforced disappearances.

A new online tool for TB members, the TBMP 2.0, was launched in 2021 to provide a community of practice platform for continued cooperation and communication between TB members.

Exclusively accessible to TB members and the UN committee secretaries, it provides a private space for communication within and across all committees. Its main features include live chats, media and document libraries and the creation of forums and discussion groups on specific issues.

The Annual Conference: Identifying the Crucial Links between National Human Rights Actors and Geneva-Based Mechanisms

With over 500 registered participants in Geneva and online and 24 partners, the annual conference focused on the capacity of domestic actors to mutually engage with each other and liaise with Geneva-based international human rights bodies in the context of implementation, monitoring and follow-up of UN human rights recommendations.



Sima Samar, former Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, delivered an inspiring keynote speech that set the tone for the conference.

Throughout the day, representatives of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), mayors, parliamentarians, diplomats, TB members, experts from OHCHR, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), NGOs and academia discussed their mutual engagement and devised strategies to increase the effectiveness of their cooperation and ensure respect for human rights at the local level.

Evaluating the Impact of UN Special Procedures

The special procedures of the HRC are a unique mechanism of independent expert advice and monitoring in the UN human rights system.

The working paper *Towards Transversal Standards to Evaluate the Impact of UN Special Procedures* – based on an expert meeting with more than 20 UN special procedures and a focus on the work of three mandate holders – discusses the impact of UN special procedures, reviews progress made to measure it and existing best practices and proposes avenues to improve this assessment.

Human Rights Conversations: Exchanges on Topical Human Rights Questions at the HRC and Beyond

Launched in 2021, this new series of events addresses contemporary issues and challenges related to the promotion and protection of human rights in Geneva and beyond. Aimed at diplomats, policy-makers, experts, civil society representatives and staff from the UN and other international organizations, the six conversations held in 2021 discussed key contemporary issues like the United States' return to the HRC, lessons learned from the former UN Human Rights Commission, digital human rights tracking tools, the human rights implications of COVID-19 certificates and the domestic institutionalization of human rights.

Addressing UN Treaty Bodies' Individual Communication Procedures

TBs' individual communication procedures are a major instrument for enforcing the rights enshrined in the corresponding human rights treaties and providing victims with an effective remedy before an international body. They also represent a key entry point for victims of human rights violations to the UN human rights system.

Building on our 2019 publication *Treaty Bodies' Individual Communication Procedures: Providing Redress and Reparation to Victims of Human Rights Violations*, we pursued our collaboration with OHCHR to implement our key recommendations for improving the system, notably by creating a judicial-like registry to provide substantive legal support to TBs.

In this context, we organized an expert meeting with NGOs and OHCHR's Petitions and Urgent Action Section on the new OHCHR communications template that aims to harmonize and streamline the way to submit communications.

Local Implementation of International Human Rights Norms

The GHRP initiated collaborations with a series of actors to reflect on the implementation of international human rights norms at the local level and propose solutions to improve the local uptake of recommendations and decisions taken by Geneva-based human rights bodies.

In partnership with UN-Habitat, OHCHR and the Geneva Cities Hub, the platform organized in 2021 a series of discussions around the implementation of human rights in cities and the role of various actors. At the Association of Human

Rights Institutes (AHRI) annual conference, the GHRP also co-organized a panel discussion on the role of national human rights systems in the implementation of IHRL.

This topic was equally pursued in the collaboration with Pretoria University to build a database collecting evidence of the national implementation of UN human rights treaties.

Building Capacity

The GHRP supports the international community in engaging more effectively with the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms and bodies and addressing current human rights challenges.

In 2021, the platform launched a new Training Hub and a dedicated newsletter, published short policy papers on current human rights challenges or processes and briefed diplomats, experts and civil society representatives on intergovernmental debates or discussions.

The Training Hub: A Central Place to Build Capacity on UN Human Rights Mechanisms

The newly created Training Hub aims to become a central hub and federating structure for human rights training courses in Geneva. By generating increased visibility, this structure will constitute a new entry point for civil society and other interested partners to learn about and build capacity on the Geneva-based international human rights system, its use and impact on various policy areas.

Besides offering practical training courses on issues related to IHRL and the work of UN human rights mechanisms, it also intends to provide customized courses for international organizations, NGOs, governments and NHRIs.

In the first constituting phase, the GHRP initiated partnerships with NGOs, foundations and NHRIs and sharpened the concept of this new Training Hub.

A Dedicated Newsletter: A Reference for Anyone Interested in the Work of Global Human Rights Mechanisms

The GHRP monthly newsletter – launched in January 2021 – provides information not only about the platform and its activities, but also about the key human rights discussions to follow, the work of UN and regional human rights mechanisms and scholarly debates around them. Its mission is to become a key reference for anyone interested in the work of global human rights mechanisms, current human rights challenges and topical human rights debates.

Accompanying and Informing Key Discussions

The GHRP accompanies and informs key discussions and processes notably via targeted briefs on policy discussions. These included, in 2021, targeted briefs on

TB membership, the work of TBs during the Covid-19 pandemic, the work of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the impact of UN special procedures.

Breaking Down Silos

All the platform's activities not only facilitate exchanges among human rights actors in Geneva and beyond, but also with other fields of practice relevant to the promotion and protection of human rights, including development, the environment and climate change and the fight against corruption.

In 2021, the platform further developed its network of key partners as well as its audience – which now go well beyond the human rights domain, creating new synergies, exchanges, outcomes and opportunities for collaboration.

In fulfilling its mandate, the GHRP collaborated closely with more than 50 governments, NGOs, UN human rights bodies and academic institutions. These include: OHCHR, UNDP, UN Environment Programme, UN-Habitat, Geneva Cities Hub, Geneva Environment Network, Geneva Internet Platform, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, AHRI, CCPR Centre, Center for International Environmental Law, Commonwealth Secretariat, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Diakonia, Earthjustice, FIAN International, Franciscans International, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Global Land Tool Network, Habitat International Coalition, Human Rights Cities, HURIDOCS, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, International Disability Alliance, International Service for Human Rights, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Paris Human Rights Center, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, TB-Net, Universal Rights Group, UPR-Info, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, as well as a number of permanent missions in Geneva.

Key Facts and Figures

- 28 Events
- 8 Initiatives
- 4 Targeted briefs on policy discussions
- 1 Annual conference
- 1 Advisory board



PUBLICATIONS

- p. 63 Books
- p. 63 Briefings
- p. 64 Working Papers
- p. 66 Research Briefs
- p. 66 Others

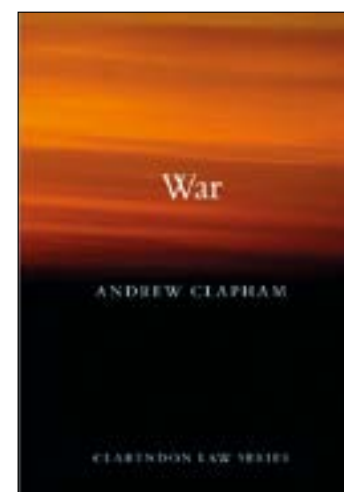
Our publications address current issues and challenges and stimulate debates in the academic community and in policy-making institutions and governments.

They mainly come under four distinct series:

- Books – published by major editors, these are the outcome of fundamental research carried out at the Geneva Academy
- Briefings – elaborate policy advice with academic depth and rigour
- Research Briefs – give targeted policy advice in a short and accessible format on on-going projects and summarize the main messages of longer academic publications
- Working Papers – discussion pieces that can develop into peer-reviewed papers, these contribute to the debate in their field.



Books



War
Oxford University Press/Clarendon Law Series,
2021
Andrew Clapham

Briefings



*National Human Rights Strategies:
The Role of National Human Rights
Systems in the Implementation
of International Human Rights Standards*
January 2021
Domenico Zipoli



*Practical Manual on the Right
to Seeds in Europe*
February 2021
Christophe Golay and Fulya Batur

Working Papers



Protecting the Global Information Space in Times of Armed Conflict
February 2021
Robin Geiss and Henning Lahmann



Protection of Data in Armed Conflict
February 2021
Robin Geiss and Henning Lahmann



Protecting Societies: Anchoring A New Protection Dimension in International Law in Times Of Increased Cyber Threats
February 2021
Robin Geiss and Henning Lahmann



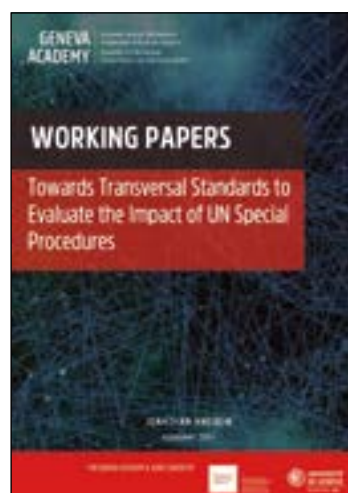
The United Nations Treaty Bodies in a Transition Period – Progress Review March–December 2020 Chronicle
June 2021
Olivier de Frouville



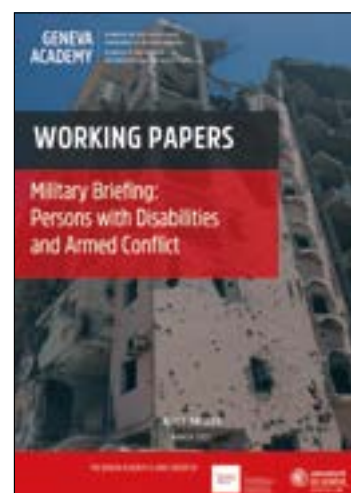
Non-State Actors and Enforced Disappearances: Defining a Path Forward
September 2021
Ana Srovin Coralli



The Relevance of the Smart Mix of Measures for Artificial Intelligence – Assessing the Role of Regulation and the Need for Stronger Policy Coherence
September 2021
Ana Beduschi and Isabel Ebert



Towards Transversal Standards to Evaluate the Impact of UN Special Procedures
February 2021
Jonathan Andrew



Military Briefing: Persons with Disabilities and Armed Conflict
March 2021
Alice Priddy



Preventing and Addressing Enforced Disappearances in the Context of International Migration – The Contribution of International Human Rights Mechanisms
May 2021
Britta Nicolman



The UN Security Council and Common Article 1: Understanding the Role of Peacekeeping Operations in Ensuring Respect for IHL
October 2021
Emilie Max



Promoting Quality, Independent and Diverse Treaty Body Membership
November 2021
Claire Callejon

Research Briefs



The Right to Seeds in Europe
October 2021
Christophe Golay and Fulya Batur



Le Droit aux Semences en Europe
October 2021
Christophe Golay et Fulya Batur



El Derecho A Las Semillas En Europa
October 2021
Christophe Golay y Fulya Batur

Others



Case Study: Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army, FARC-EP)
March 2021
Annyssa Bellal, Ezequiel Heffes and Pascal Bongard



Case Study: The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad, MNLA), Mali
March 2021
Annyssa Bellal, Ezequiel Heffes and Pascal Bongard



Le Cas du Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA), Mali
March 2021
Annyssa Bellal, Ezequiel Heffes and Pascal Bongard



The Work of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances
August 2021
Maria Clara Galvis Patiño



Women Are Peasants Too: Gender Equality and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants
December 2021
Coventry University Policy Brief
Joanna Bourke Martignoni



EVENTS

p. 70 Dedicated Series

p. 72 Events in 2021

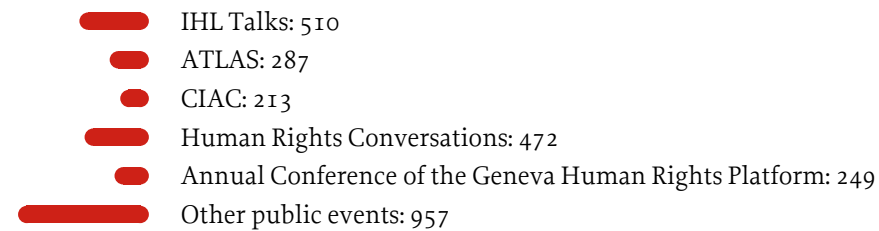
Our events – expert seminars, conferences and public lectures – form a key part of our activities. They provide a critical and scholarly forum for experts, practitioners and policy-makers to discuss and debate topical human rights and humanitarian issues, as well as the outcome and content of our research.

Our series – IHL Talks, Human Rights Conversations, Current Issues in Armed Conflict Conference (CIAC), ATLAS and Military Briefings – are key references in their respective fields and attract an ever-increasing audience in Geneva and beyond.

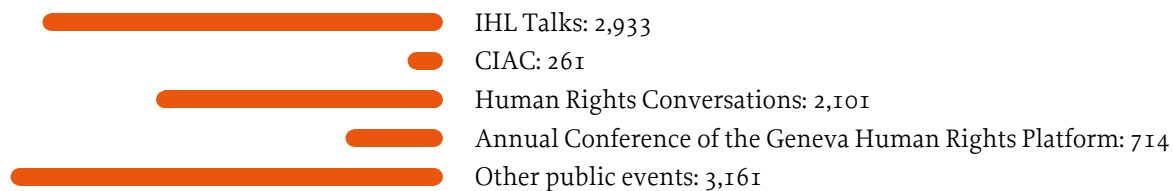
In 2021, we ran more than 70 private and public events with more than 80 partners. Most of them took place online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They allowed participants to discuss legal questions related to current conflicts like those in Afghanistan or Israel/Palestine, launch new academic research and books and present key concerns or proposals to the UN and policy-makers.

Via the recording and publication of videos on our website and social media channels, interested audiences can also watch important public debates and discussions afterwards.

Online Attendance of 2021 Events: 2,688



Views on Facebook and YouTube of 2021 Events: 9,170



Dedicated Series

IHL Talks

The IHL Talks are a series of events on international humanitarian law and current humanitarian topics. Every two months, academic experts, practitioners, policy-makers and sometimes journalists discuss burning humanitarian issues and their regulation under international law.

The seven IHL Talks organized in 2021 addressed the situation in Afghanistan, resurging violence in Israel and Palestine, the administration of justice by armed non-state actors, Covid-19 vaccination in armed conflict, IHL at the UN Security Council, the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in *Georgia v Russia no 2* and how humanitarian issues are addressed in New York versus Geneva

Human Rights Conversations

Launched in 2021, this new series of events by our Geneva Human Rights Platform addresses contemporary issues and challenges related to the promotion and protection of human rights in Geneva and beyond. Aimed at diplomats, policy-makers, experts, civil society representatives and staff from the UN and other international organizations, the six conversations held in 2021 discussed key contemporary issues like the United States' return to the Human Rights Council, lessons learned from the former UN Human Rights Commission, digital human rights tracking tools, the human rights implications of COVID-19 certificates and the domestic institutionalization of human rights.

ATLAS Network

Inspired by the ATLAS series of online profiles, these events, co-organized with the Geneva branch of ATLAS Network, feature prominent women who share their experience and advice regarding a career in international law.

The three events organized in 2021 enabled open discussions with eight women with various profiles who have pursued a career in international law.

CIAC

The Current Issues in Armed Conflict Conference builds on our Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) online portal and aims to tackle complex issues and questions related to the classification of armed conflicts.

The 2021 conference addressed two contemporary challenges related to armed conflict: the classification of non-international armed conflicts in which a myriad of armed non-state actors – who might fight against a common enemy or create coalitions and umbrella organizations – are involved and cyber conflicts.

Military Briefings

This unique series of events relating to military institutions and the law aim to improve knowledge of military actors and operations and build bridges between the military and civilian worlds. Military guests – on active duty, retired or from the reserve – discuss military institutions, their missions and the operational and legal challenges they face in their daily work.

Events in 2021

Geneva Academy

Date	Event	Type	Partner (s)
28 January	Sisyphian Task: Promoting International Law While at the United Nations Security Council	IHL Talk	
2 February	Opportunities and Obstacles in the Implementation of the Right to Seeds in Romania	Panel Discussion	Eco Ruralis Peasant Association
17 February	Women's Perspectives on a Career in International Law	Panel Discussion	ATLAS Network
24 February	The Right to Seeds in Europe	Panel Discussion	European Coordination Via Campesina
26 February	Contexts of Chaos: Decoding the European Court's Judgement in <i>Georgia v Russia no 2</i>	IHL Talk	
3 March	Stop Enforced Disappearances	Panel Discussion	UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances; UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances
5 March	Human Rights Responsibilities of Armed Non-State Actors	Side event at the 46th Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Geneva Human Rights Platform; UN special procedures; Switzerland
17 March	Reparation for Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Grave Breaches of International Humanitarian Law	Conference	American University Washington College of Law Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
15 April	The UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants: A Tool to Protect the Right to Land	Panel Discussion	International Land Coalition
19 April	Tactical Decision-Making on Targeting: A Comparative Overview of Counter-Insurgency and Near-Peer Scenarios	Military Briefing	

Date	Event	Type	Partner (s)
20 April	Women's Perspectives on a Career in International Law	Panel Discussion	ATLAS Network
21 April	Enforced Disappearances: Applicable to Political Organizations?	Geneva Academy Wednesday	
12 May	Colombia's Special Jurisdiction for Peace in an Increasingly Illiberal Context of Misinformation and Backlash	Geneva Academy Wednesday	
9 June	Applicable International Humanitarian Law to International Armed Conflicts by Proxy	Geneva Academy Wednesday	
15 June	Against the Clock: Covid-19 Vaccination Campaigns During Armed Conflict	IHL Talk	
16 June	Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict	Open House	
17 June	Implementing Article 11 of the CRPD in Armed Conflict: Making Persons with Disabilities More Visible	Side event at the 14th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	International Committee of the Red Cross
17 June	Virtual Launch: UNGPs 10+ Stocktaking Report on Institutional Investment	Panel Discussion	UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights; Norges Bank Investment Management; Corporate Human Rights Benchmark
24 June	Resurging Violence in Israel and Palestine	IHL Talk	
6 July	The Right to Seeds and Intellectual Property Rights	Panel Discussion	APBEBES
16 August	Social Mobilization for the Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants in Palestine	Panel Discussion	Bisan Center for Research and Development; HEKS/EPER
28 August	National Human Rights Institutions	Panel Discussion at the Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes	Association of Human Rights Institutes; Danish Institute for Human Rights

Date	Event	Type	Partner (s)
22 September	<i>The Occupation of Justice: The Supreme Court of Israel and the Occupied Territories</i>	Book Launch	
23 September	<i>Expert Consultation on the Role of Business in Transitional Justice Contexts</i>	Expert Seminar	UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
24 September	<i>War by Andrew Clapham</i>	Book Launch	
28 September	<i>Study on Emerging Good Practices from the UPR</i>	Panel Discussion	UPR Info; OHCHR; GANHRI
29 September	<i>Women's Perspectives on a Career in International Law</i>	Panel Discussion	ATLAS Network
5 October	<i>Building Back Better with Human Rights and SDGs at the Centre: The Role of UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies</i>	Expert Seminar	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
15 October	<i>Civic Space and Climate Justice: Launch of the UNSR Thematic Report on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association</i>	Side event at the UN General Assembly Third Committee	Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales; EarthRights International; European Center for Not-for-Profit Law; Greenpeace International; International Center for Not-for-Profit Law; International Service for Human Rights; OHCHR; Solidarity Center
19 October	<i>Respect for International Humanitarian Law in the 21st Century: Utopian Dream or Pragmatic Reality?</i>	Opening Lecture of the Academic Year	
25 October	<i>A Tale of Two Cities: Humanitarian Affairs and Multilateralism in New York and Geneva</i>	IHL Talk	International Peace Institute
27 October	<i>Responsibility for Omissions and Atrocity Crimes</i>	Geneva Academy Wednesday	
28 October	<i>Afghanistan</i>	IHL Talk	
29 October	<i>Graduation Ceremony</i>		
19 November	<i>Current Issues in Armed Conflict Conference</i>	Conference	

Date	Event	Type	Partner (s)
22–26 November	<i>The 2021 Human Rights Week</i>		University of Geneva; OHCHR; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Republic and State of Geneva; Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights; Martin Ennals Foundation; SOS Méditerranée; Les Créatives
24 November	<i>Restorative Justice, Accountability and International Human Rights Law</i>	Geneva Academy Wednesday	
25–26 November	<i>Human Rights Week Scientific Colloquium: Discrimination and Inequalities</i>		University of Geneva; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
30 November	<i>Building Blocks for Tech Regulation – A Business and Human Rights Approach</i>	Panel at the 2022 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights	OHCHR B-Tech Project
1 December	<i>Book Launch: Rebel Courts</i>	IHL Talk	
3 December	<i>UNDROP in the Future EU Seed Marketing Reform</i>	Panel Discussion	
9 December	<i>Emerging Technology and the Future of International Humanitarian Law</i>	Military Briefing	
10 December	<i>Putting Peasants' Rights Into Practice</i>	Panel Discussion	HEKS/EPER; Swiss NGOs coalition The Friends of the Declaration
10 December	<i>Ending Coercive Interrogation: The New Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering</i>	Panel Discussion	Association for the Prevention of Torture

Events in 2021

Geneva Human Rights Platform

Date	Event	Type	Partner (s)
26 February	The US's Return to the UN Human Rights Council	Human Rights Conversation	
3 March	Stop Enforced Disappearances	Panel Discussion	UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances; UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances
5 March	Human Rights Responsibilities of Armed Non-State Actors	Side event at the 46th Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Geneva Academy; UN special procedures; Switzerland
18 March	Lessons Learned from the Commission for the HRC Status Review	Human Rights Conversation	
16 April	Possible Priorities for the Next UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy	Panel Discussion	
22 April	Enforced Disappearances in the Context of Migration	Treaty Body Members Platform	
28 April	UN Human Rights Council at 15 – Role and Perspectives	Panel Discussion	Polish Institute of International Affairs; Embassy of Switzerland in Poland
30 April	Digitalization in the Cities and Privacy for Citizens	Panel at the 2021 World Summit on the Information Society Forum	Geneva Cities Hub
11 May	Draft General Comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Panel Discussion	UN-Habitat; Global Land Tool Network; Geneva Cities Hub; Habitat International Coalition
18 May	The TBMP 2.0: A New Online Tool for UN Treaty Body Members	Treaty Body Members Platform	

Date	Event	Type	Partner (s)
26 May	The TBMP 2.0: A New Online Tool for UN Treaty Body Members	Treaty Body Members Platform	
3 June	Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools	Human Rights Conversation	
9 June	The New Individual Communications Template	Expert Meeting	
24 June	Defending Human Rights Lawyers in Authoritarian Times	Panel Discussion	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute; Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders; Ordre des avocats de Genève
5 July	Peaceful Protest: Use of Force by States in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic	Side event at the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council	Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Costa Rica to the UN in Geneva
6 July	Covid-19 Certificates: What are the Human Rights Implications?	Human Rights Conversation	
7 July	The Legal Aspects of the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment	Side event at the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council	Permanent Missions of Austria, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Fiji, Germany, Maldives, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Panama, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and Uruguay to the UN in Geneva; OHCHR; UN Environment Programme; Center for International Environmental Law; Earthjustice; Franciscans International; Universal Rights Group
9 July	Draft General Comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Panel Discussion	UN-Habitat; Global Land Tool Network; Geneva Cities Hub; Habitat International Coalition
7–8 September	IHL and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Treaty Body Members Platform	Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre
18 September	Retreat for the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances	Treaty Body Members Platform	
20 September	Human Rights Obligations of Armed Non-State Actors: An Exploration of the Practice of the UN	Treaty Body Members Platform	

Date	Event	Type	Partner (s)
28 September	The Domestic Institutionalisation of Human Rights	Human Rights Conversation	
28 September	Study on Emerging Good Practices from the UPR		UPR Info; OHCHR; GANHRI
12 October	The Connectivity Between National Human Rights Actors and Geneva-Based International Mechanisms	Annual Conference	Centre for Civil and Political Rights; Center for International Environmental Law; Danish Institute for Human Rights; Earth-justice; European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; FIAN International; Franciscans International; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Geneva Cities Hub; Geneva Environment Network; Geneva Internet Platform; GANHRI; Human Rights Cities Network; HURIDOCS; IMADR; International Disability Alliance; International Service for Human Rights; Norwegian Centre for Human Rights; OHCHR; Paris Human Rights Center; Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; UN Development Programme; UN Environment Programme; UN-Habitat
12 November	Harmonized COVID Working Methods	GHRP Friday	Permanent Missions of Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Morocco, Switzerland and Uruguay to the UN in Geneva
26 November	Predictable Review Schedule	GHRP Friday	Permanent Missions of Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Morocco, Switzerland and Uruguay to the UN in Geneva
1 December	Minority Issues and Universality	Human Rights Conversation	
3 December	Nominations, Elections and Membership	GHRP Friday	Permanent Missions of Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Morocco, Switzerland and Uruguay to the UN in Geneva





RESOURCES

p. 82 Expenditure

p. 83 Income

p. 84 Donors

Ensuring our financial sustainability is a high priority and a constant challenge for us.

We closed the year with a positive financial result of 233,407 Swiss Francs. With an initial 2021 budget of 4.5 million, we attained a total operational result of 4.6 million at the end of the year following the implementation of our activities.

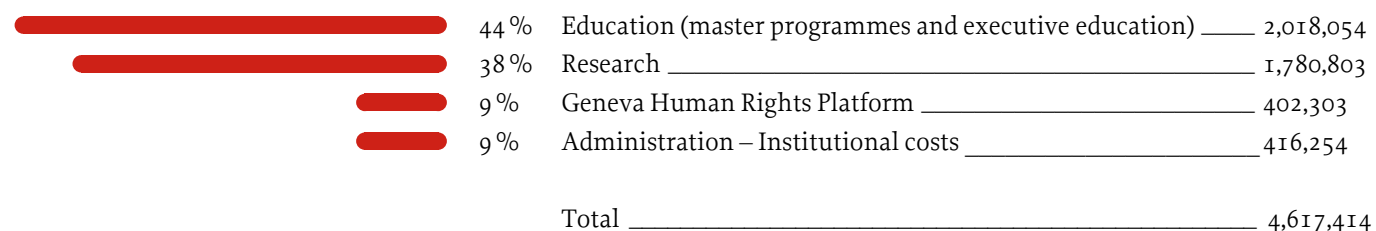
This development is mainly due to the gradual lifting of the sanitary measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which enabled us to engage in additional activities and welcome more students.



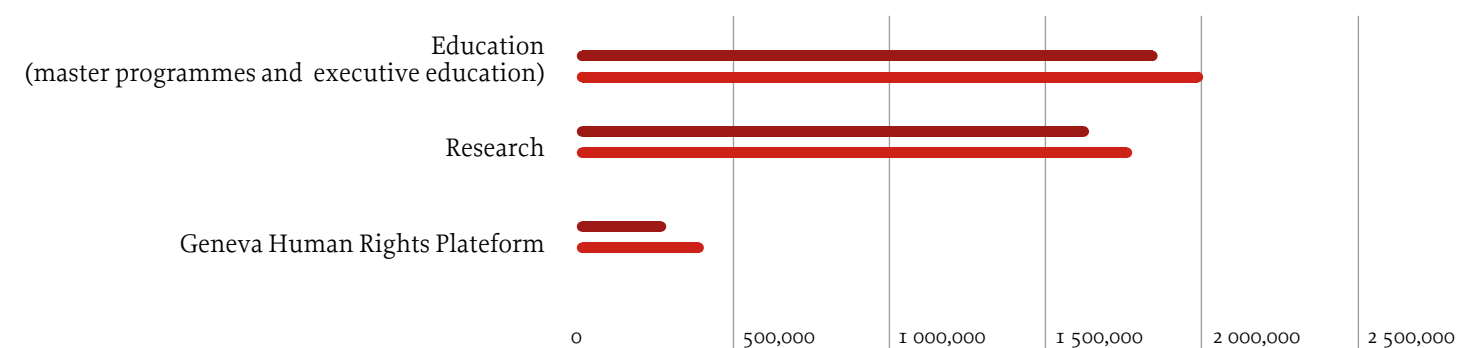
Expenditure

Our expenditure for 2021 increased to 4.6 million Swiss Francs, compared to 3.9 million in 2020. As illustrated by the diagrams below, our education programmes and research activities remain the two main pillars of our institution.

Proportion of Expenditures per Activity



Evolution of Expenditures per Activity

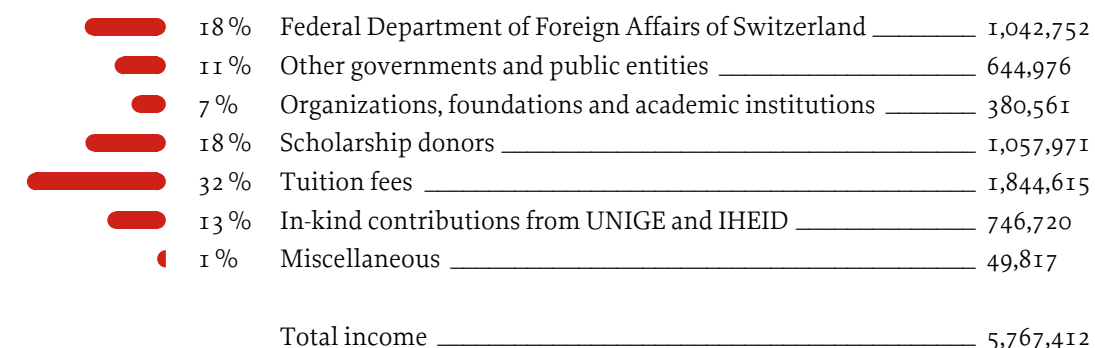


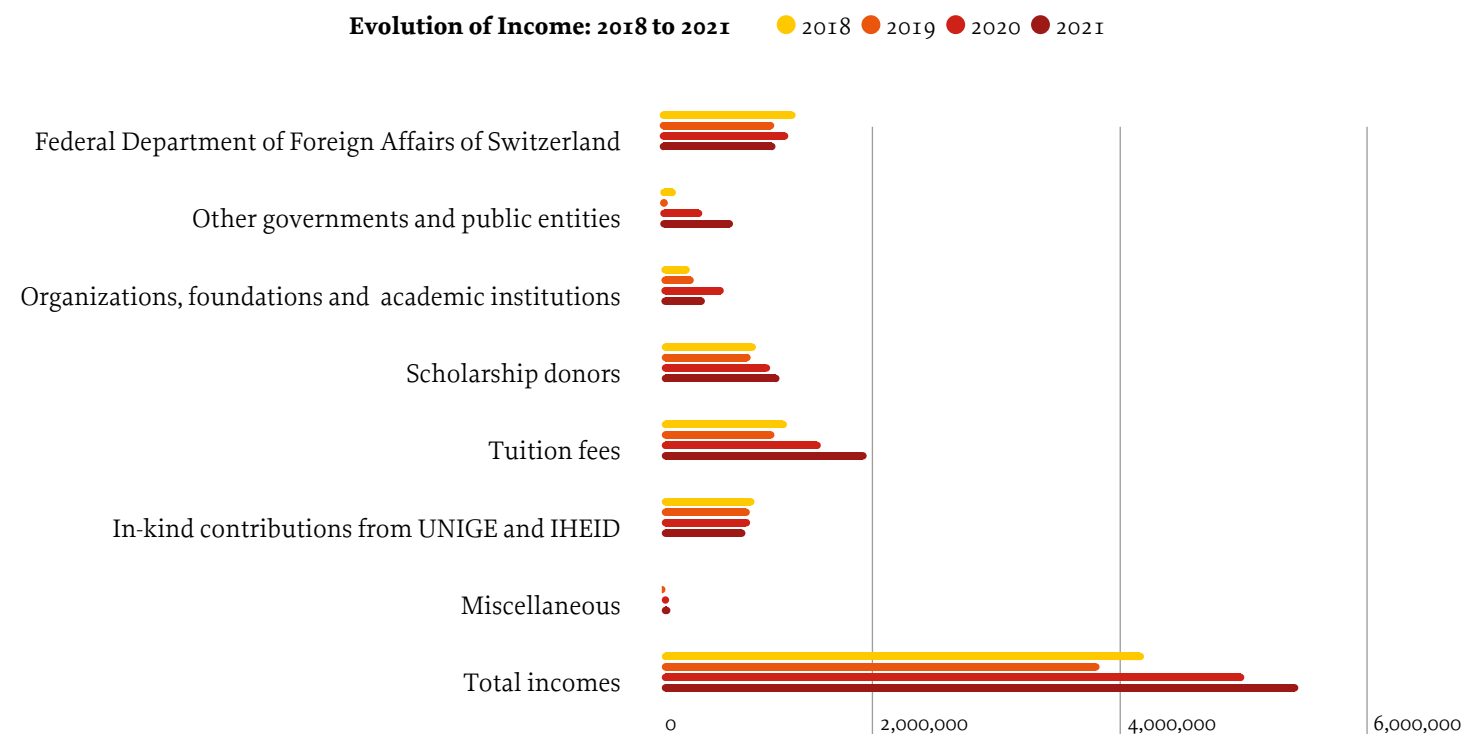
Income

In 2021, the Geneva Academy's total income was 5.7 million Swiss Francs, compared to 5.2 million in 2020.

This increase relates to three main factors: (1) a significant growth of participants in our master's programmes and executive training courses; (2) new donors supporting our research; (3) a growth in terms of the number and value of scholarships for our master's programmes.

Income in 2021





Other Organizations and Academic Institutes

- Brot für die Welt
- Fastenopfer
- International Bar Association
- Norwegian Centre for Human Rights
- World Rural Forum

Private Foundations

- Fondation Ernst et Lucie Schmidheiny
- Fondation Salvia
- Ford Foundation
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- Private Geneva foundation

Private Donors

- Jenö Staehelin
- Rabaa Al-Juma

Donors

The Geneva Academy is deeply grateful to all the donors who generously supported our work in 2021. Thanks to their contributions and commitment, we were able to promote, through our research and education, better respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Institutional Donors

- City of Geneva
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, in particular:
 - Directorate of Public International Law
 - Peace and Human Rights Division
 - United Nations and International Organisations Division
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Geneva Science-Policy Interface
- Government Offices of Sweden
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN-Habitat
- Republic and State of Geneva, in particular:
 - International Solidarity Service
- UK Research and Innovation



ABOUT US

p. 88 Our Mission

p. 88 How we Work

Our Mission

The Geneva Academy provides postgraduate education, conducts academic legal research and policy studies and organizes training courses and expert meetings. We concentrate on branches of international law that relate to situations of armed conflict, protracted violence and protection of human rights.

Established in 2007 by the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the Geneva Academy has acquired a global reputation for excellent teaching and research, and it attracts exceptional students to its master's and training programmes. Our graduates are employed around the world, promoting and protecting international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights in governments, NGOs, international organizations and academic institutions. The Geneva Academy thus contributes to the dissemination of legal knowledge in these crucial sectors.

Our scientific research focuses on clarifying IHL, strengthening human rights protection and developing the areas of complementarity between IHL and international human rights law (IHRL). In these areas, the Geneva Academy makes a specific contribution to policy development and debate, in government and among scholars and practitioners.

The Geneva Academy is a cosmopolitan community located in the heart of Geneva, an international city and humanitarian hub. Through close interaction with international organizations, NGOs, experts, governments and the private sector, we actively participate in global discussions on IHL, human rights, international criminal law and transitional justice.

How We Work

Training Experts and Practitioners

Our three master's programmes and various training and short courses disseminate legal knowledge in IHL, IHRL and transitional justice. Our teaching enables specialists to apply these legal frameworks to complex situations – Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Syria – and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, political transitions, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

Informing Policy

Our research examines issues that are under-explored, need clarification or are unconventional, experimental or challenging. It thus advances understanding and stimulates debate in the academic community and in policy-making institutions and government.

The findings of our research regularly inform policy recommendations and support practitioners working on issues such as IHL, human rights or transitional justice.

Our Convening Power

The Geneva Academy regularly convenes expert meetings, seminars, conferences and events. This provides a critical and scholarly forum for experts and practitioners to discuss and debate topical issues in IHL, human rights and transitional justice. For example, the right to life, the duty to investigate, reparations for past mass crimes, new trends and developments in international law in armed conflict or the work of United Nations human rights mechanisms.

Promoting Diversity

We are committed to promoting diversity in all respects: cultural diversity, diversity in the geographical origin of students, staff and speakers, as well as gender diversity. This is implemented through all kinds of measures: our pursuit of diversity in recruitment and invitations to guest speakers, and our adoption of a social policy aimed, in particular, at assisting young parents. We also promote diversity in the events we convene. In particular, we will not convene or participate in the organization of events where none of the speakers are women.



OUR PEOPLE

p. 92 Supervisory Committee

p. 92 Board

p. 93 Master's Committee

p. 93 Faculty

p. 95 Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law

p. 95 Swiss Human Rights Chair

p. 96 Team

Supervisory Committee

The Supervisory Committee is our main supervisory body. It nominates the Geneva Academy's Director, approves our annual budget as well as all decisions related to the financing of the institution.

Yves Flückiger

Rector, University of Geneva

Marie Laure Salles

Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Board

The Board is composed of independent individuals representing our founding institutions – the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the University of Geneva – and main partners. Major management decisions and the Geneva Academy's strategy are discussed with, and approved by, the Board.

Vincent Chetail

President of the Board; Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Director, Global Migration Centre

Madeline Garlick

Chief of the Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Etienne Kuster

Senior Adviser for Relations with Academic Circles, International Committee of the Red Cross

Andrea Bianchi

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Joost Pauwelyn

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Andreas Ziegler

Professor of International Law, University of Lausanne

Bénédict Foëx

Professor of Law and Dean, University of Geneva Law Faculty

Maya Hertig Randall

Professor of Constitutional Law and Vice-Dean, University of Geneva Law Faculty

Master's Committee

The Master's Committee oversees our three master's programmes, including study plans and the faculty.

Vincent Chetail

President of the Board; Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Director, Global Migration Centre

Andrea Bianchi

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Maya Hertig Randall

Professor of Constitutional Law and Vice-Dean, University of Geneva Law Faculty

Robert Kolb

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva Law Faculty

Faculty

Resident Faculty

Resident faculty for the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 academic years.

Andrea Bianchi

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Andrew Clapham

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Gloria Gaggioli

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Robert Kolb

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva Law Faculty

Vincent Chetail

President of the Board; Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Director, Global Migration Centre

Sévane Garibian

Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty; Adjunct Professor, University of Neuchâtel

Marco Sassòli

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva Law Faculty

Neus Torbisco Casals

Visiting Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Resident Lecturers

Resident lecturers for the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 academic years.

Annyssa Bellal

Senior Research Fellow, Geneva Academy

Frank Haldemann

Co-Director of the Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Geneva Academy

Thomas Unger

Co-Director of the Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Geneva Academy

Robin Geiss

Swiss IHL Chair, Geneva Academy; Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Nils Melzer

Swiss Human Rights Chair, Geneva Academy; Professor of International Law, University of Glasgow; UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment

Visiting Professors and Lecturers

Visiting professors and lecturers for the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 academic years.

Ahmed Al-Dawoody

Legal Adviser for Islamic Law and Jurisprudence, International Committee of the Red Cross

Giovanni Distefano

Professor of International Law, University of Neuchâtel

Rama Mani

Senior Research Associate, Centre for International Studies, University of Oxford; Councillor, World Future Council

Cécile Aptel

Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Jérôme De Hemptinne

Lecturer, University of Louvain, Sciences-Po Paris and Université Catholique de Lille

Nicolas Mansfield

Director of Legal Programs, East-West Management Institute

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Associate Professor of International Law, Roma Tre University

Olivier de Frouville

Professor of Public Law, Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas University; Director, Paris Human Rights Center

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Professor of International Law, Middlesex University; Professor of Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law, Leiden University; Emeritus Professor of Human Rights Law, National University of Ireland

Howard Varne

Practicing Advocate, Johannesburg Bar; Senior Program Adviser, International Center for Transitional Justice

Andreas Ziegler

Professor of International Law, University of Lausanne

Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law

Robin Geiss has been our Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law (Swiss IHL Chair) since January 2020. On 5 February 2021, he was appointed Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research by the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres.

As our Swiss IHL Chair, he develops and promotes our expertise in IHL via policy work, cutting-edge research, expert meetings, the development of partnerships and teaching.

At the Geneva Academy, Professor Geiss pursues research projects on disruptive military technologies, with a particular focus on the legal and ethical challenges raised by cyberwarfare and AI-supported decision-making in military affairs.

Swiss Human Rights Chair

Nils Melzer has been our Swiss Human Rights Chair (Swiss HR Chair) since March 2016 and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment since November 2016.

As Swiss HR Chair at the Geneva Academy, he develops and promotes our expertise in human rights via policy work, cutting-edge research, expert meetings, the development of partnerships and teaching.

Team

Management

Gloria Gaggioli

Associate Professor, University of Geneva
Law Faculty
Director, Geneva Academy

Dany Diogo

Coordinator of Master Programmes

Nathalie Mivelaz Tirabosco

Communication Manager

Maud Bonnet

Executive Director

Felix Kirchmeier

Manager of Policy Studies and Executive Director,
Geneva Human Rights Platform

Administrative Staff

Yasmine Arias

Events and Hospitality Assistant

Ana Kilibarda

Assistant to the Student Office

Tatiana Avanthay

Communication Officer

Lucie Testuz

Assistant to the Master's Programmes

Teaching Assistants

Teaching assistants for the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 academic years.

Agustina Becerra Vazquez

Tafadzwa Christmas

George Dvaladze

Cyprien Fluzin

Lukas Hafner

Öykü Irmakkesen

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Yulia Mogutova

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Dr Annyssa Bellal

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Jonathan Andrew

Research Fellow

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Associate Researcher

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Intern/Consultant

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