



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

THE GENEVA ACADEMY A JOINT CENTER OF



INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ETUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**
FACULTY OF LAW

FOREWORD

Knowledge transfer is our 'business'. In 2019, the teachers, researchers and communication staff of the Geneva Academy, supported by dedicated administrative staff, once again engaged in such transfer of knowledge, which has obviously first to be gained or 'produced', fulfilling a crucial role in protecting the most vulnerable, including during and following armed conflicts.

We trained relevant actors on a variety of issues and conducted research on protective legal norms. We convened meetings and participated in others. We published reports and books and shared our results with relevant audiences and via social media. We spoke at academic conferences and the United Nations Security Council, as well as to diplomats, ministers, civil servants, NGO activists, academics and, last but not least, students, to identify solutions to current human rights, international humanitarian law (IHL) and transitional justice challenges. Finally, yet importantly, we continued to train future leaders in our three masters' courses. Transfer of knowledge is never a one-way road. We constantly learned from all the aforementioned, hearing and reading what they learned, understood and considered, thus enhancing the understanding of all of us.

Transfer of knowledge is our contribution to the struggle for the rule of international law and against exclusion, nationalism, obscurantism and bilateral deals, a struggle that has no victims other than ignorance, preconceived ideas, lies and manipulation. This is a struggle against leaders and parts of the public who do not care about the truth, know only what they think to be the truth or try to sell lies as the truth. The current health crisis related to the Coronavirus shows that populations are ready to accept drastic measures to protect the most vulnerable. We need to convince them that climate change, as well as violations of human rights and IHL represent a similar threat for the most vulnerable and therefore all our societies.

In 2019 again, human rights and IHL have both come under attack in this struggle, which can only benefit the powerful. However, even they should note what the great Genevan Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote: 'Even the most powerful will never be powerful enough to always prevail if he does not transform his power into rights and obedience into duties'. The rule of law, IHL and human rights are the opposite project. They empower the powerless, represent universal values and are implemented together, including in international fora in Geneva, which we try to support through our Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP) – this concluded its first full year of existence in 2019.

The 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions has been an occasion to take stock of these rules, which remain adequate, if properly interpreted, including taking human rights into account. However, the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent has also shown a lack of consensus among states on any development of IHL's implementation mechanisms, and even reluctance to reaffirm a hitherto well-accepted understanding of the obligation of all states not only to respect IHL but also to ensure its respect by others. No one objected to the transfer of knowledge, however, which we will continue. We notably explored how human rights mechanisms can be better used to enforce IHL – pending the establishment of new specific IHL mechanisms. Our research on disability and armed conflicts shows that IHL can and must be understood in the light of more recent, specialized human rights instruments. The conduct of armed groups also remains a major challenge and cannot be addressed without knowing their practice, which is the object of one of our research projects.

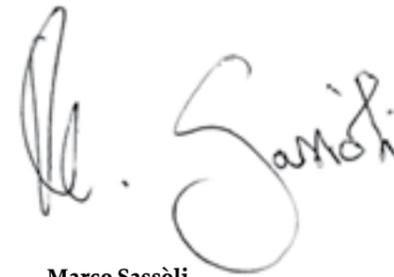
In the field of human rights, a lot remains to be done to make sure that existing standards, e.g. in the field of peasant or gender-based rights, are known and implemented, and we continue to work towards this goal with dedicated research projects and specific training on key issues like the protection of human rights and the environment. As for international enforcement mechanisms, it is essential that the Geneva-based human rights treaty bodies can face their increasing workload more efficiently and in a coordinated way. Through our GHRP, we suggest solutions, test their feasibility and discuss them with all stakeholders.

As for transitional justice efforts in post-conflict and post-authoritarian contexts, those in need of protection and redress experience successes and setbacks, but the growing number of applications to our Master in Transitional Justice from all around the world shows that young people understand the crucial role of knowledge in ensuring success in times of transition.

Villa Moynier, where we have our offices and unique meeting facilities in the heart of international Geneva, provides us with the opportunity to transfer knowledge in multifaceted ways. As the most vulnerable – the real clients of our 'business' – cannot pay for our services, we constantly face the challenge of finding the necessary funds to continue and develop our work. In 2019, we made an effort to streamline our administration. We remain grateful to states – particularly Switzerland through its Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – and institutions that generously fund our research and networking activities. As for our training and master's courses, they are mainly funded by the students and professionals who take them. On the one hand, this ensures that we deliver what they actually need. On the other, it means that those who do not have the means to pay the fees and live in Geneva cannot benefit from this knowledge transfer, even though their increased knowledge would often have an immediate impact in their home countries. Fortunately, thanks to private and public sources, we can offer some scholarships for our master's programmes. In 2019, we initiated focused efforts to find additional scholarships.

In the name of the most vulnerable persons who are the ultimate beneficiaries of our mission, I wholeheartedly thank our staff and partners for their unwavering commitment, our board and our two parent institutions – the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies – for their constant support.

We hear sometimes that the impact of all these ways of transferring knowledge cannot be sufficiently measured. We nevertheless notice that our alumni hold responsible positions around the world – in governments, international organizations, NGOs and academia – where they promote and protect IHL and human rights on a daily basis. We also notice that policy makers in states and international organizations listen to our findings and take them into account. In addition, we do not want to imagine a world without knowledge and truth, because history shows where such a world ends up.



Marco Sassòli
Professor of International Law, University of Geneva
Director, Geneva Academy

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HIGHLIGHTS

NEW GUIDELINES ON INVESTIGATING VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The *Guidelines on Investigating Violations of International Humanitarian Law: Law, Policy, and Good Practice* are the outcome of a five-year research project, initiated in 2014 and joined in 2017 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The guidelines aim to provide practical assistance by setting out a general framework for investigations in armed conflict and, where relevant, the corresponding international principles and standards.

They are set to become the international benchmark for effective investigations into violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) in all conflicts around the world. Being sensitive to the differences that characterize domestic legal and investigative systems, they identify several practical and legal issues that may arise in such investigations or should be considered beforehand.

The guidelines were presented in New York to delegates from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly First and Sixth Commissions, UN agencies and other experts, and in Geneva during the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

CLARIFYING THE MODES OF LIABILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMES

Many of the greatest debates and controversies in international criminal law (ICL) concern modes of liability for international crimes. The state of the law is unclear, to the detriment of both the accountability for major crimes and the uniformity of ICL.

The book *Modes of Liability in International Criminal Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) aims to clarify the state of the law and provides a thorough analysis of the jurisprudence of international courts and tribunals, as well as of the questions these debates have left open.

Renowned ICL scholars analyse, in discrete chapters, the modes of liability one by one; for each mode, they identify the main trends in the jurisprudence and the main points of controversy. An introduction addresses the cross-cutting issues, and a conclusion anticipates possible evolutions that we may see in the future. The research on which this book is based was undertaken under the auspices of the Geneva Academy and involved several of our experts.



PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS IN EUROPE: FOCUS ON THE RIGHT TO SEEDS

In Europe, seed laws and regulations have been designed to further develop the agricultural industry in the continent, and the rights of peasants have been largely neglected.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), adopted in December 2018, recognizes the right to seeds and defines correlative state obligations.

The publication *The Right to Seeds in Europe* focuses on the steps that the European Union and EU member states shall take, via the implementation of the UNDROP, to better protect this right in Europe.

The publication was presented in several European cities, including Brussels, Paris, Rome, Budapest and Bucharest, in partnership with EU institutions, EU member states, peasant organizations and seed networks.

DISABILITY AND ARMED CONFLICT

The publication *Disability and Armed Conflict* – the first of its kind and the outcome of more than three years’ research, including field research in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Palestine, Ukraine and Vietnam – draws attention to the devastating impact conflict has on persons with disabilities.

Its findings highlight that many of the key international humanitarian law (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. The publication offers eight key findings and recommendations for states, humanitarian organizations and the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to address these shortcomings.

Training sessions in Palestine, Ukraine and Vietnam provided stakeholders on the ground with an overview of international law applicable to persons with disabilities and their inclusion in norms related to the conduct of hostilities.

An exhibition of photographs by Giles Duley – held on Quai Wilson and at the Humanitarium in parallel with the publication’s launch – told the stories of persons with disabilities during and following armed conflicts. The exhibition was accessible to persons with a visual impairment.



- **Eric Tistounet**, Chief of the Human Rights Office, High Commissioner for Human Rights

- **Antonia Diakantoni**, Counsellor, Human Rights and Democracy Organization

MODERATOR:

- **Mona M'Bikay**, Executive Director, Human Rights Foundation



A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

For its second year, the Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP) facilitated – via targeted initiatives, policy-oriented research, events, diplomatic briefings, conferences, expert roundtables, training courses and private meetings – the finding of solutions to ensure that the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms and bodies can address contemporary human rights challenges effectively.

The GHRP notably accompanied several processes including the 2020 review of UN treaty bodies (TBs) in Geneva and New York, proposed innovative solutions to improve the work of TBs, facilitated exchanges among different constituencies of the Geneva human rights system and beyond and reflected on the links with regional human rights mechanisms.

TRAINING COURSE ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Our new training course on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), co-organized with UPR Info and the first of its kind, explored the origin and evolution of the UPR, its functioning in Geneva and the implementation of recommendations at the national level.

Twelve participants from all over the world – representatives from NGOs, national human rights institutions and international organizations – discussed the implementation of the UPR recommendations at the national level, advocacy strategies at national and international levels, the links between the UPR and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as good practices at the policy and field levels.

They also visited the UPR Info Pre-sessions at the Palais des Nations and a TB session to understand UPR dynamics and the synergies between TB work and the UPR.

STUDENTS DESIGN THE MANDATE OF A TRUTH COMMISSION

For three days, students of our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law were immersed, via a practical exercise, in the design and establishment of a truth commission following a long-lasting ethnic conflict characterized by a multitude of human rights violations committed by state and non-state actors.

Under the guidance of Howard Varney, a leading expert on the issue, they took up the roles of different stakeholders – international and local NGOs, the UN, African Union and national government – involved in the process of designing and formulating the mandate of a truth commission.

This exercise allowed students to share rich experiences and knowledge, and gain a more practical perspective on truth commissions as a central transitional justice mechanism.

ALUMNI GATHERING

More than 100 alumni attended the 2019 Gathering: a day of reunions, discussions and exchange, which started with a lunch, continued with a roundtable, where alumni presented movies with an IHL and human rights perspective, and ended with a reception.

The day also provided students enrolled in the three programmes with the opportunity to discuss with alumni career prospects in the human rights and humanitarian fields.

THE MANDELA MOOT COURT

For the first time, two students from the LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights participated in the oral rounds of the Nelson Mandela Moot Court. Via practical case scenarios that involved several human rights violations, they put into practice the human rights notions learned in class, met other law students from all around the world and developed their public-speaking and presentation skills.

In order to qualify for the oral rounds, Anna Lochhead-Sperling and Paula Padrino Vilela wrote a long and detailed memorial, arguing a case before a fictitious human rights court in favour of the applicants and the government. They competed against other universities from the UN Western Europe and Others Group, which notably included Oxford, Yale and Harvard.

WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON A CAREER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

We launched this new series of events in 2019 in partnership with the Geneva branch of the ATLAS network, which empowers, supports and connects women working in, or embarking on, a career in international law.

During interactive, open and honest discussions, women from different professional backgrounds share with the audience – students, young professionals and academics – both their experiences of what drove them into international law as a career and the challenges they faced, as well as offering advice to those currently embarking on or pursuing a career in the field.



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS: BRIEFING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND REFLECTIONS ON THEIR RELEVANCE IN CONTEMPORARY ARMED CONFLICTS

Throughout the year, Geneva Academy experts participated in several events and conferences held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and discuss their relevance to contemporary armed conflicts.

Highlights included the briefing of the UN Security Council by our Strategic Adviser on IHL, Dr Annyssa Bellal; the participation of our Director, Professor Marco Sassòli, in high-level panels in Geneva, Berlin, Paris and Rome; a dedicated IHL Talk and the contribution to an anniversary highlight in the ICRC's online casebook.

2019 IN FIGURES

3 Master's programmes

15 Training and short courses

More than 80 students from 45 countries

19 Research projects

More than 80 events, seminars, conferences and expert meetings

21 Publications

More than 80 partnerships around events, research projects and training courses



MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

As a leading education and research institution in international humanitarian law (IHL), human rights and transitional justice, we offer three distinctive master's programmes in these fields. These are taught by highly experienced academics and practitioners and attract some of the most experienced and academically qualified students from around the world.

LLM IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

This one-year, full-time postgraduate degree is one of the most innovative and intellectually challenging programmes in IHL and human rights offered in Europe today. It focuses primarily on all rules applicable to armed conflicts, and their interaction, and promotes both academic excellence and independent critical thinking.

The programme allows students to tailor their studies according to their particular interests. While core courses provide a firm grounding in public international law, IHL, international human rights law (IHRL) in armed conflict, international refugee law and international criminal law (ICL), optional courses explore cutting-edge issues like counter-terrorism, armed non-state actors, the rules governing the conduct of hostilities, the Islamic law of armed conflict or the work of international courts and tribunals.

The quality of instruction has exceeded my expectations – our professors are not only brilliant and knowledgeable, but their breadth of high-level professional experience and expertise means that they are often at the cutting edge of developing fields.

Lisa Borden, 2019-2020 LLM Student

The LLM is also profoundly committed to developing the transferable skills necessary to succeed in the professional world and take up responsibilities in the humanitarian and human rights fields. To this end, internships with leading actors, participation in moot courts and public pleadings, military briefings and a study trip provide a solid exposure to practical work and allow students to expand their network.

We have the opportunity to study with many of the most reputed professors in the field of international law and to be supported by excellent teaching assistants. The programme is well-balanced to allow students to address several relevant issues in international law and see the bigger picture behind contemporary global challenges.

Juan Francisco Padin, 2019-2020 LLM Student

Students have access to a world-renowned faculty, benefit from direct connections with leading actors like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and share ideas with other participants from an array of legal backgrounds and perspectives.

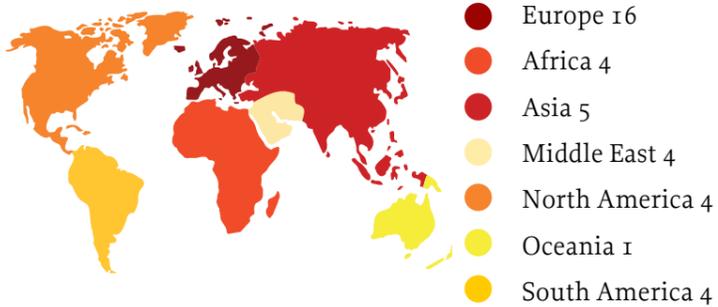
2019-2020 LLM CLASS

The 2019-2020 LLM class has 38 students from 25 countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, the UK and USA.

GENDER REPRESENTATION



GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

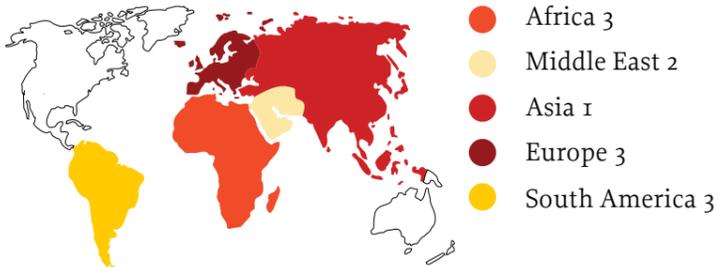


Scholarships

Twelve students received a partial or full scholarship thanks to the generous support of a Geneva-based foundation, Ms Irene and Mr Jenö Staehelin and the International Bar Association

These scholarships are allocated through a highly competitive process based on academic merit, extra-curricular achievements and the candidate's financial needs. They allow talented young people with limited means, especially from the global South, to come to study at the Geneva Academy.

SCHOLARSHIPS





2018-2019 LLM CLASS

Thirty-nine students successfully completed the programme.

Internships

Thirty-four students undertook a research internship during the second semester with leading human rights and humanitarian actors including TRIAL International, the ICRC, the International Commission of Jurists and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

I interned at the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), where I predominantly learnt about and worked on the issue of legal safeguards against torture in the early hours of police custody. This included researching and compiling international and European legal standards on this issue, which allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of the rights of access to a lawyer, a relative/third party and a doctor, as well as the right to receive information on one's legal rights when in police custody.

Hannah Seitz, 2018-2019 LLM Student

Study Trip

Students went on a five-day study trip to Belgrade where they met with a wide range of experts and institutions who work in the fields of IHL, human rights, international criminal law, transitional justice and migration. They also had the opportunity to discover a new country and culture.

Being in a country that was torn by conflict helped to bridge the gap between theory and practice. We were able to listen to and interact with different local and international NGOs working on the ground who informed us about the humanitarian situation in the region.

Elias Issa Al-Hihi, 2018-2019 LLM Student

Participation in Moot Courts

A Geneva Academy team – Ignacio Lepro, Eliška Mockova and Tori More – participated in the prestigious Jean-Pictet Competition and reached the semi-finals.

For the first time, two students – Anna Lochhead-Sperling and Paula Padrino Vilela – participated in the oral rounds of the Nelson Mandela Moot Court, which took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Participation in the Jean-Pictet Competition allows you to learn about IHL in a very interesting and dynamic way, and you will likely cover many of the most interesting controversies that you can currently find in this field. Additionally, it gives you the opportunity to be part of a network of people who share a deep interest for in IHL, and who are more than willing to give you career-advice. I find the spirit of the competition very healthy and not focused on the competitive aspect, but rather the humane side of it.

Ignacio Lepro, 2018-2019 LLM Student

Participation in the Mandela Moot Court was a very good training for thinking on your feet and being able to respond quickly and clearly to questions from the judges on a range of complex human rights issues, as well as for learning about procedural rules of the Court.

Anna Lochhead-Sperling, 2018-2019 LLM Student

MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

From Northern Ireland to Burundi, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Tunisia or Guatemala, countries throughout the world struggle to deal with the aftermath of violent conflict or oppressive rule. What does it mean for a society to come to terms with mass atrocities, such as genocide and ethnic cleansing? How can the rule of law be re-established in a country shattered by wide-scale violence? What are the legal obligations and standards relevant to societies trying to turn the page on a history of political violence? How can the competing demands of peace and justice be balanced in the aftermath of such traumatic events? What can realistically be expected from measures such as trials, truth commissions, reparation programmes and institutional reform?

Throughout the year, students have access to a prestigious faculty composed of leading academics and renowned experts and practitioners working for international organizations and NGOs who are in touch with the latest developments and debates.

An ongoing focus on practice via exchanges with practitioners, work on concrete case scenarios and a study trip, and a three-track system during the second semester allow students to pursue their particular interests, develop the transferable skills necessary to succeed in the professional world and take up responsibilities in the field of transitional justice, human rights and the rule of law.

One of the highlights of the programme is the phenomenal insights provided by the stellar panel of professors and human rights experts who encourage innovative thinking around this developing field of transitional justice, coupled with the diversity of opinion from within the class itself. The student body consists of authentic and passionate viewpoints from multiple jurisdictions, which I find particularly intriguing.

Sonali Wanigabaduge, 2019–2020 MTJ Student

My experience here has been what I expected and so much more. I am impressed, I must say, with the course professors and directors who are renowned intellectuals and practitioners in the field. The programme is holistic and encompasses all the elements of transitional justice, which are much more than just the narrow lens of legal aspects.

Nancy Chepkwony, 2019–2020 MTJ Student

The Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ) is a one-year, full-time postgraduate degree designed for highly qualified and open-minded candidates interested in acquiring high-level academic education and practice in the field of transitional justice, human rights and the rule of law. One of the very few programmes on this subject worldwide, its cross-disciplinary approach combines legal, political, historical, anthropological, philosophical and field perspectives and promotes both academic excellence and independent critical thinking.

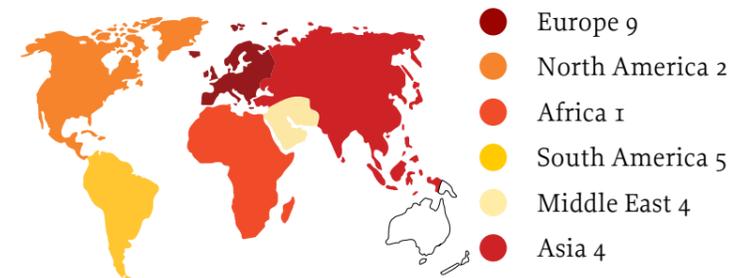
2019–2020 MTJ CLASS

The 2019–2020 MTJ class has 25 students from 22 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria and the UK.

GENDER REPRESENTATION



GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

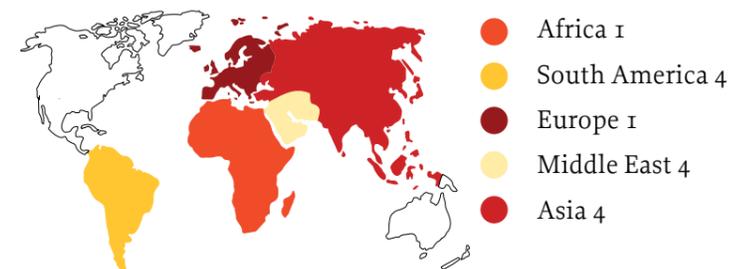


Scholarships

Fourteen students received a partial or full scholarship thanks to the generous support of a Geneva-based foundation and the International Solidarity Service of the Republic and State of Geneva.

These scholarships are allocated through a highly competitive process based on academic merit, extra-curricular achievements and the candidate's financial needs. They allow talented young people with limited means, especially from the global South, to come to study at the Geneva Academy.

SCHOLARSHIPS



2018-2019 MTJ CLASS

Twenty-five students successfully completed the programme.

Spring Term Tracks

This 'three-track' system allows our students to pursue their particular interests and follow a specific track during the Spring Semester to either deepen their knowledge of cutting-edge transitional issues with experienced practitioners (Thematic Focus), get exposure to practical work via research internships with leading institutions or participation in the Nuremberg Moot Court (Clinical Work) or strengthen academic and research skills and develop their own research project (Academic Research).

During my research internship with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), I conducted extensive research on the role of transitional justice in preventing violence and violent conflict. Thanks to the direct feedback I received from an insightful expert, I successfully completed my research report and contributed to the ICTJ project on 'TJ and Prevention'.

Claire Sujung An, 2018-2019 LLM Student

Study Trip

Students spent three days in Poland (Krakow and Warsaw) to look into transitional justice issues and see how the country has been dealing with its past.

The visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was an unforgettable experience. There is nothing like being physically present at a historical location when trying to comprehend the magnitude of an event, particularly one as overwhelmingly tragic as the Holocaust.

Christina Martin, 2018-2019 MTJ Student



EXECUTIVE MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT

The 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.

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 challenges and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

Courses cover international law, IHL, IHRL, ICL and the interplay between them. They also address current issues and challenges, including the repression of terrorism, peacekeeping and international refugee law.

Taught by Geneva-based law professors and world-renowned law experts and professors, the programme enables participants to gain specialized knowledge directly applicable to professional work.

Diplomats, lawyers, legal advisers, NGO staff, human rights advocates, professionals working in emergency situations, UN staff and staff from other international organizations share expertise, discuss pressing concerns and reflect on the application of international law to their work.

SHORT COURSES

Professionals who are not enrolled in the Executive Master can take short courses offered in the programme to deepen their expertise in a specific issue like international refugee law, the classification of armed conflicts or the interplay between IHL and human rights.

Attending these courses enables participants to draw on the comprehensive expertise of the faculty, meet key experts and practitioners and interact with Executive Master participants. Each course consists of five weekly classes held on Thursday evening and/or Friday afternoon.

2019-2021 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

The 2019-2021 Executive Master class has 19 participants from 16 countries: Afghanistan, Australia, China, Colombia, France, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and Syria. They work as diplomats, lawyers as well as for NGOs, UN agencies, the ICRC and academic institutions.

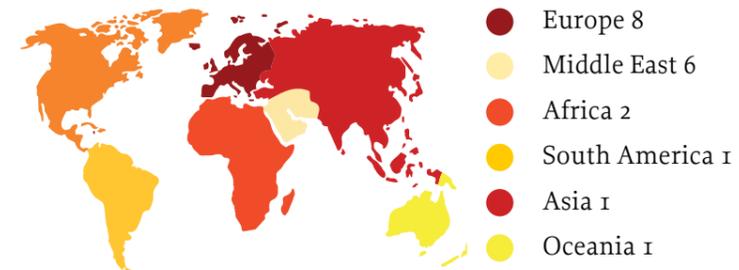
GENDER REPRESENTATION



PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND



GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION



The Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict is a special opportunity to acquire, while working, a strong knowledge of public international law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law and human rights law. I need to learn about these topics and I can't join a full-time programme due to my work commitments.

Ziad Ayoubi, Head of Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The interactive nature of the programme aimed at finding solutions to global problems is the highpoint for me. I also enjoy the realistic examples and case reviews presented by professors. This includes the useful practical approaches that the professors share in resolving those cases.

Mpho Somhlaba, South African diplomat responsible for humanitarian issues, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in Geneva

2018-2020 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

The 22 participants are currently working on their theses and will graduate in October 2020.



ALUMNI GATHERING

More than 100 alumni attended the 2019 Gathering: a day of reunions, discussions and exchange, which started with a lunch, continued with a roundtable, where alumni presented and discussed with professors movies with an IHL and human rights perspective, and ended with a reception.

The day also provided students enrolled in the three programmes with the opportunity to discuss with alumni career prospects in the human rights and humanitarian fields.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

On 25 October 2019, around 150 guests, including graduates' families, attended the 2019 Graduation Ceremony at the Maison de la paix (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) under the auspices of Professor Marco Sassòli.

Philip Grant, an alumnus of the LLM and Director of the NGO TRIAL International, delivered an inspiring keynote speech.

François Bugnon, Board Member of the Henry Dunant Prize Foundation, awarded the Henry Dunant Prize to Lizaveta Tarasevich for her LLM paper 'Participation of Non-State Armed Groups in the Formation of Customary International Humanitarian Law: Arising Challenges and Possible Solutions'.

Zoi Lafazani received the 2019 Best LLM Paper Prize for her LLM paper 'Rebel Laws: The Capacity of ANSAs to Legislate on the Domestic Plane Under IHL'. Valeria Reyes Menendez received the 2019 Best MTJ Paper Prize for her paper 'Transitional Justice in Contexts of Grave Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement: A Draft Proposal for the Case of Venezuela'.



CLARIFYING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

RULE OF LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT

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 international humanitarian law (IHL).

With the 2019 additions – the non-international armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali, Mexico, the Philippines, Senegal, Sudan and Mexico – and the end of the military occupation of Eritrea by Ethiopia, the portal currently monitors 37 armed conflicts involving at least 52 states: 4 international armed conflicts, 23 non-international armed conflicts and 10 military occupations.

For each conflict, this unique online 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.

Each conflict analysed on RULAC is regularly updated to incorporate recent developments. The research team also closely monitors other situations of armed violence, like the clashes taking place in Cameroon between the government and the rebels or armed violence in Honduras, to assess whether they could amount to an armed conflict according to IHL criteria.

THE WAR REPORT

The *War Report* provides an overview of current armed conflicts, including key international IHL and policy issues that require attention.

The 2019 edition, edited by Dr Annyssa Bellal, details situations of armed violence that amounted to armed conflicts in 2018 according to IHL and international criminal law (ICL). These notably occurred in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Central African Republic (CAR), Colombia, Cyprus, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Georgia, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Western Sahara and Yemen.

Available online and in print, it also concentrates on recent legal developments related to selected situations of armed violence, with a particular focus on military occupations, armed gang violence in Latin America and selected non-international armed conflicts in CAR, DRC, Mali, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand and Ukraine.

During 2019, articles on the short international conflict between Iran and the US, as well as on the conflicts in Egypt and Iraq were published. Further articles on the international armed conflict between India and Pakistan, and on non-international armed conflicts in Sudan, Myanmar and India will be published during the first semester of 2020.

Due to lack of funding, *The War Report*, which has been an annual publication since 2013, will be discontinued from 2020.





CONFERENCE ON CURRENT ISSUES IN ARMED CONFLICT

The annual Conference on Current Issues in Armed Conflict, co-organized with the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, provides a space for experts and practitioners, diplomats, academics and civil society representatives to discuss current legal and policy issues related to armed conflicts.

The third conference, which took place on 17 June 2019 in Geneva, was again key in ensuring, via discussions, analysis and debate among scholars, diplomats, as well as representatives of international organizations and NGOs, the continued relevance of academia's contribution to the various branches of international law applicable to armed conflicts.

The conference notably addressed the emergence of international investigative mechanisms and the latest jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court, social inequality as a matter of transitional justice, the classification of non-international armed conflicts and current debates on the law of conduct of hostilities.

Dr Helen Durham, Director of Law and Policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), delivered the keynote address on IHL in the 21st Century, which closed the conference.

DISABILITY AND ARMED CONFLICT

An estimated 15 percent of the world's population, approximately 1 billion people, have some form of disability (involving a physical, psychosocial and/or intellectual impairment), a large percentage of whom live in conflict-affected states.

The publication *Disability and Armed Conflict* by Alice Priddy draws attention to the devastating impact conflict has on persons with disabilities and, crucially, highlights that many of the key IHL pro-

visions 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. Released in April 2019, it is the outcome of more than three years' research, including field research in DRC, Colombia, Palestine, Ukraine and Vietnam.

The publication offers eight key findings and recommendations for states, humanitarian organizations and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities related to the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in differing conflict settings, the relationship between the CRPD and IHL, as well as analysis of a number of key IHL norms, including adverse distinction and humane treatment from a disability perspective.

An exhibition of photographs by Giles Duley – held in April–May 2019 on Quai Wilson in parallel with the publication's launch – told the stories of persons with disabilities during and following armed conflicts. The exhibition was accessible to persons with a visual impairment. A shorter version of the exhibition was also held at the ICRC's Humanitarium.

Besides the recommendations offered in the publication, training sessions were held in Palestine, Ukraine and Vietnam, to provide stakeholders on the ground – local organizations of persons with disabilities, state representatives, UN agencies and other international humanitarian organizations – with an overview of international law applicable to persons with disabilities and their inclusion in norms related to the conduct of hostilities.

Building on the publication's findings, a *Military Briefing on Persons with Disabilities and Armed Conflict*

by Alice Priddy introduces militaries to the impact of their operations during armed conflict on persons with disabilities. It serves to introduce senior military personnel to the topic with the aim of enhancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a feature of operational planning and conduct. Effective advance warnings and the treatment of detainees with disabilities are selected to demonstrate what is at stake when militaries do not take a disability-inclusive approach, and how equality in the application of IHL can be achieved.

GUIDELINES ON INVESTIGATING VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The *Guidelines on Investigating Violations of International Humanitarian Law: Law, Policy, and Good Practice* are the outcome of a five-year research project. This was initiated in 2014 by the Geneva Academy's Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law, Professor Noam Lubell, and joined in 2017 by the ICRC.

The guidelines aim to provide practical assistance by setting out a general framework for investigations in armed conflict and, where relevant, the corresponding international principles and standards.

They are set to become the international benchmark for effective investigations into violations of IHL in all conflicts around the world. Being sensitive to the differences that characterize domestic legal and investigative systems, they identify several practical and legal issues that may arise in such investigations or should be considered beforehand.

The guidelines were presented in New York to delegates from the UN General Assembly First and Sixth Commissions, UN agencies and other experts, and in Geneva during the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

MODES OF LIABILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMES

Many of the greatest debates and controversies in ICL concern modes of liability for international crimes. The state of the law is unclear, to the detriment of both the accountability for major crimes and the uniformity of ICL.

The book *Modes of Liability in International Criminal Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) aims to clarify the state of the law and provides a thorough analysis of the jurisprudence of international courts and tribunals, as well as of the questions these debates have left open.

Renowned international criminal law scholars analyse, in discrete chapters, the modes of liability one by one; for each mode, they identify the main trends in the jurisprudence and the main points of controversy. An introduction addresses the cross-cutting issues, and a conclusion anticipates possible evolutions that we may see in the future. The research on which this book is based was undertaken under the auspices of the Geneva Academy and involved several of our experts.

At two events – one in The Hague and the other in Geneva – the authors presented the book and discussed its main points with experts, academics, diplomats, staff of the International Criminal Court and of UN investigation mechanisms, international judges, lawyers and representatives of civil society.

THE IHL TALKS

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

Events in 2019 discussed search and rescue obligations in the Mediterranean Sea, starvation and armed conflicts, foreign fighters and their relatives (allegedly) affiliated with ISIS and detained in northeast Syria, uncharted perspectives on the 1949 Geneva Conventions, as well as privacy, data protection and humanitarian action.

For audiences outside Geneva, the IHL Talks are filmed and made available online on the Geneva Academy's website and social media channels.

ADVANCED SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR UNIVERSITY LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS

Organized by the ICRC and the Geneva Academy, the 13th advanced seminar aimed to enhance the capacity of lecturers and researchers to teach and research contemporary IHL issues, addressing both substantive and pedagogical aspects.

The seminar brought together 42 participants and addressed specific topics such as current challenges and latest developments in armed conflicts and IHL; IHL and counter-terrorism; IHL, displacement and migration; protecting healthcare; war in cities; access to justice for victims of sexual violence; new technologies and warfare; and promoting norms through innovative teaching.

ANNUAL SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

This annual seminar for diplomats, co-organized with the ICRC, discussed ICRC action to protect victims of armed conflict through law and policy; the classification of armed conflicts; use of force under IHL and international human rights law (IHRL); new means and methods of warfare; IHL and terrorism; and IHL topics discussed at the 2019 International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

HUMAN RIGHTS, BIG DATA AND THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

We pursued our cooperation with the University of Essex around their research project on big data and human rights. This project maps and analyses the challenges and opportunities presented by the use of big data and associated technologies from a human rights perspective.

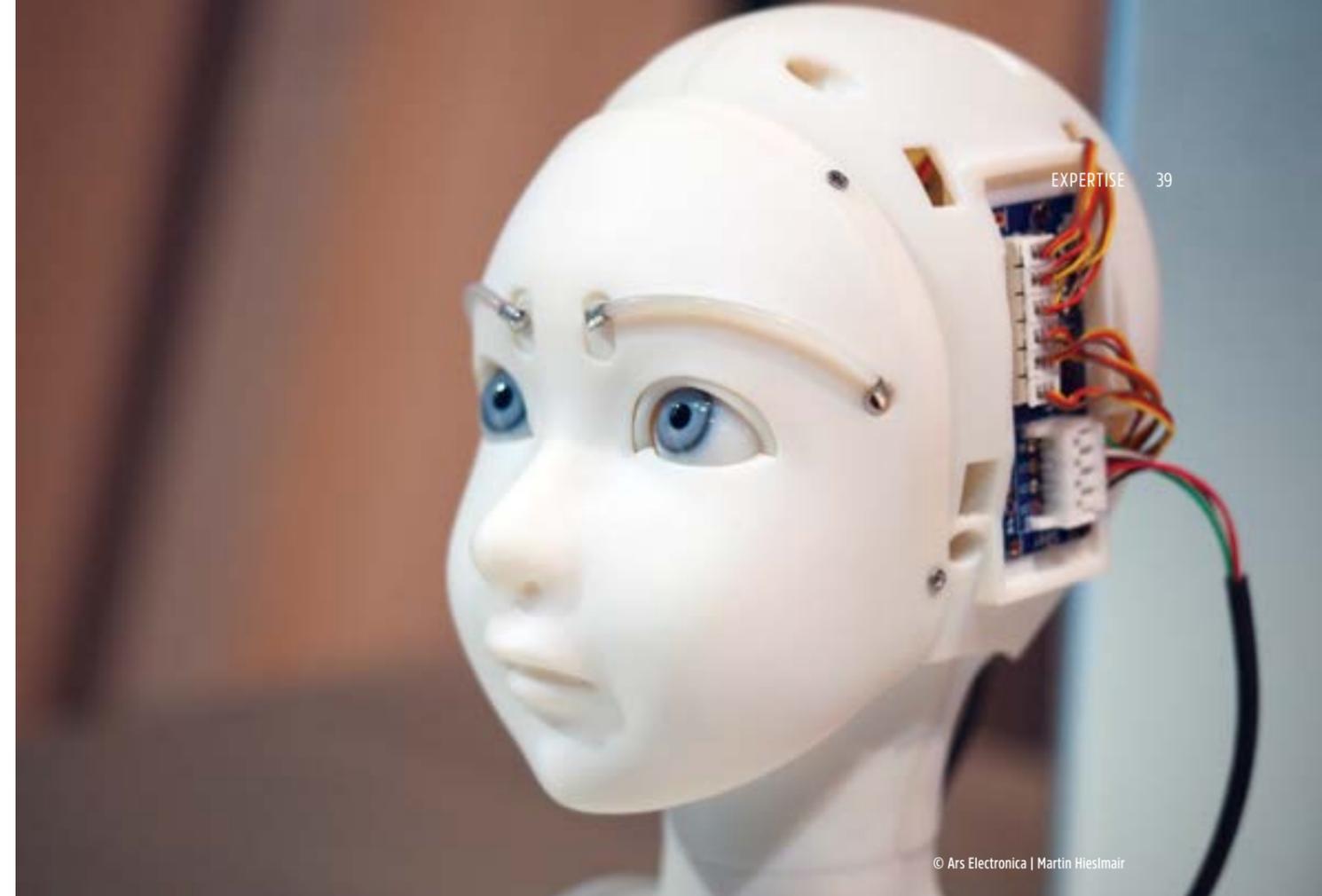
In this framework, we conducted research on the application of regulatory mechanisms and modes of governance in relation to data collection, retention and processing. We also provided a link for the project to Geneva-based audiences and ensured targeted dissemination activities.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

New and emerging digital technologies continue to cause or contribute toward significant change in the transformation of society, and can therefore constitute powerful tools in their capacity to make significant positive contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights. At the same time, these rapid developments also raise serious questions as to the potential risks posed by negative impacts on human rights, and how appropriate responses to the challenges can be undertaken.

This research project examines and appraises the impact of innovation and the development of new information technologies on human rights. In 2019, the research team provided assistance to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément Voule, for his thematic report to the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in the digital age.

The main researcher, Dr Jonathan Andrew, also participated in a series of conferences, lectures and initiatives on this issue in Geneva, the Russian Federation, Germany, Qatar, the UK and USA.



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THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE ON LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

While law enforcement officials frequently use less-lethal weapons (LLWs) like police batons, chemical irritants such as pepper spray and tear gas, electroshock weapons such as TASER and water cannon during assemblies that turn violent, international guidance on their design, production, procurement, testing, training, transfer and use has been lacking.

The *United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement* issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) fills this gap.

Based on international law, particularly IHRL and law enforcement rules, as well as good law enforcement practice, the Guidance provides direction on what constitutes lawful and responsible design, production, transfer, procurement, testing, training, deployment and use of LLWs and related equipment, and promotes accountability.

It is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, particularly states and law enforcement agencies, as well as weapons manufacturers, human rights mechanisms, private security companies, police oversight bodies and human rights defenders, along with individuals seeking a remedy for human rights violations caused by LLWs.

The guidance is the outcome of research and broad consultations carried out under the auspices of the Geneva Academy and the University of Pretoria, in particular its Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa and its Centre for Human Rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

While it is commonly accepted that businesses have legal obligations to respect the equal rights of women and men within the workplace, the precise contours of corporate obligations in relation to the wider economic, social and cultural impact of their activities remain unclear.

This project aims to support the consultation process launched by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UN Working Group) to apply a 'gender lens' to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights via research on IHRL and policies related to gender equality guarantees and their application to business activities.

The research, completed in 2019, provided background information for the development by the UN Working Group of its 'Gender Guidance for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights', which was presented at the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council.

The Working Group report refers to our December 2018 publication *Gender-Responsive Due Diligence for Business Actors: Human Rights-Based Approaches* and a large number of inputs to the document were received during an expert consultation organized by the UN Working Group and hosted by the Geneva Academy on 31 January and 1 February 2019. At this event, 40 participants – academics, representatives of international organizations, members of UN treaty bodies (TBs), the private sector, business associations and civil society – discussed the outcomes of the regional consultations undertaken by the UN Working Group and submissions to the Working Group, along with the recommendations in our publication.

Several events held in Geneva facilitated the discussion and dissemination of the UN Working Group's gender guidance and our research brief.

GUIDANCE TO IMPROVE THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS MECHANISM

The UN TBs' Individual Communication Procedures are a major instrument for enforcing the rights enshrined in the corresponding human rights treaties and provide victims with access to an effective remedy through an international body. They also represent a key entry point for victims of human rights violations to the UN human rights system. Unlike state reporting, this essential aspect of the work of TBs has received insufficient attention in the current TB review discussion.

The publication *Treaty Bodies' Individual Communication Procedures: Providing Redress and Reparation to Victims of Human Rights Violations* addresses the handling of individual communications, tackles efficiency questions related to this procedure and outlines a series of key recommendations to improve the system, including the creation of a registry to provide substantive legal support to TBs.

The publication identifies four challenges that currently prevent individual communication procedures from providing relief to victims of human rights violations – accessibility and visibility, stakeholder participation, universal use and structural difficulties – and provides specific recommendations to address these challenges.

For each challenge, it discusses the current shortcomings of the system, including, for instance, the issue of reprisals against those filing complaints; the need to modernize the Petitions and Urgent Action Section of OHCHR; or the issue of coordination and harmonization among the various TBs and complaint procedures.

A PRACTITIONERS' GUIDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COUNTERING CORRUPTION

Corruption is a major obstacle to the observance and implementation of human rights. Moving from an economic and political perspective on corruption towards a human rights approach involves a shift in perception whereby corruption is viewed not only as a misappropriation of wealth and distortion of expenditure, but also as a potential violation of human rights.

Anti-corruption practitioners rarely make this link and resort to UN human rights mechanisms to address corruption and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Similarly, none of the UN human rights mechanisms has approached this issue in a systematic manner.

The *Practitioners' Guide on Human Rights and Countering Corruption*, by focusing on how UN human rights mechanisms can be better used to report on corruption issues, fills this gap.

Developed in close cooperation with OHCHR and published with the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, it intends to serve as a user-friendly practitioners' manual and strategic advocacy tool to explore how a human rights-based approach, with its focus on the victims of corruption and state responsibility, can be used to complement and strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

The guide was launched in Geneva at the UN Human Rights Council and in Abu Dhabi at the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption.

TRAINING COURSE ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

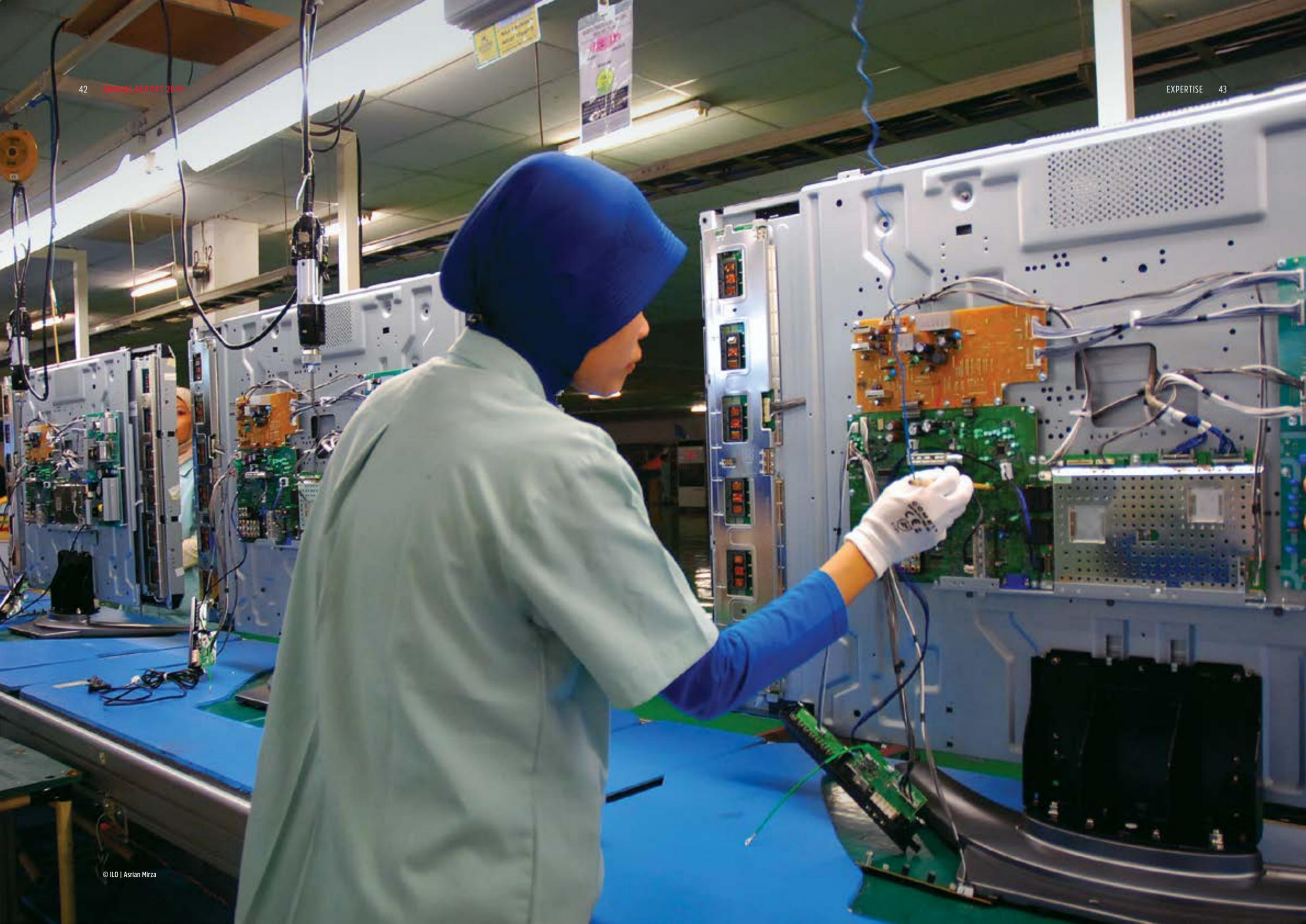
In 2019, this training course dedicated special attention to plastic pollution. Participants took part in a week-long exercise on the impacts of plastic pollution on the marine environment and human health, the responsibilities of states and businesses, vulnerable actors and environmental justice, and mechanisms at national and international levels to address actual and potential human rights violations.

The course also included a visit to the UN Human Rights Council and a hearing at the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee where participants could observe how this mechanism deals with communications involving breaches of the rights to information, public participation and access to justice.

TRAINING COURSE ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

This new training course, co-organized with UPR Info, allowed participants from around the world – diplomats, civil society representatives, representatives of international organizations and members of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) – to discuss the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and implementation of recommendations at the national level.

A combination of illustrated lectures and group exercises focused on implementation strategies, notably advocacy strategies, the collaborative role of various national-level actors (national governments, NHRIs, civil society, UN agencies, academic bodies, national parliaments, diplomats and the media), as well as sophisticated tools (matrices) developed by various actors at the national level to monitor progress with regard to UPR recommendations.



ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

The Geneva Academy coordinates 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.

The first project, Land Commercialization, Gendered Agrarian Transformation and the Right to Food (DEMETER), examines 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 2019, the research team presented the research findings related to women's human rights in food and agricultural systems at various academic conferences and human rights dissemination events, in a number of peer-reviewed publications, as well as via dedicated training activities on gender equality, the right to food and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). The project's researchers, Joanna Bourke Martignoni and Christophe Golay, are also the co-editors of a book which will draw together observations from Cambodia and Ghana on gendered changes in livelihoods and food security arising from agricultural and land commercialization. Joanna Bourke Martignoni is the co-author of a chapter in the book that examines the connections between gender, age, land ownership and social security in Cambodia and another which analyses the role and outcomes of a number of development cooperation projects aimed at providing agricultural extension services to women farmers.

The second project, Towards Food Sustainability: Reshaping the Coexistence of Different Food Systems in South America and Africa has 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 three years, the project worked in Bolivia and Kenya to carry out studies on six different food systems. The project is now testing its FoodSAF framework on sustainable food systems via transformative pilot actions (TPAs) in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya and Zambia. In 2019, the Geneva Academy research team was notably involved in two TPAs in Brazil, one in Kenya and one in Bolivia. In Brazil, our Senior Research Fellow Dr Adriana Bessa coordinated a team of researchers in the TPA in Juazeiro, in the semi-arid region in the northeast of the country, and Seara, in the humid subtropical region in the south. In a unique collaborative work, small-scale farmers, their communities, local academic and non-academic partners and the research team organized activities to increase the sustainability of local food systems. After the assessment of local food systems' strengths and weaknesses, the team promoted training, food fairs and public debates on culture, peasants' rights and food security and sovereignty. The activities aimed at empowering local farmers and their environment-friendly practices through adding value to their local produce and promoting higher recognition of their culinary traditions.



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Dr Adriana Bessa has also been actively involved in the TPA carried out in Umande, in Mount Kenya Region, where local farmers have created a cooperative to produce and commercialize dairy products. In sharing the FoodSAF findings and applying its methodology, the project team encouraged local farmers to rethink their food system and discuss solutions to increase sustainability. Following these discussions, the TPA supported the construction of a house for a Milk Cooler Machine and other capacity-building initiatives to improve the dairy value chain. Dr Adriana Bessa also participated in follow-up activities and discussed with farmers the implications of initiatives for food security and income improvement as well as the empowerment of women farmers, the improvement of children's schooling and youth employment.

In Bolivia, the TPA concentrated on urban and peri-urban agriculture in Sucre. As part of the TPA capacity-building activities, Adriana Bessa participated in the 'Basic Technician in Sustainable Food Systems and Dialogue of Knowledge' course, in which she shared with farmers the recent normative developments on the rights of peasants, including the adoption of the UNDROP. Farmers discussed ways to implement this new international instrument at the national level and enhance the enjoyment of human rights, especially the right to food, in rural environments.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

For the past 20 years, the UN has underlined the need to adopt a human rights-based approach to development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) incorporate most of the core elements of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) as articulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In 2019, this research project continued to focus on the role that UN human rights mechanisms play in monitoring the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR through the organization of expert workshops, dedicated research, participation in multilateral discussions and a training course on the subject.

Highlights included a specific workshop with UN member states on the use of the UPR to monitor the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR, as well as the preparation of a manual with practical guidance to UN human rights mechanisms on the complementarity between ESCR and the SDGs.

A five-day intensive training course allowed participants from around the world who work in government, international organizations, NHRIs, NGOs and academia to gain expertise on the complementarity between human rights and the SDGs and discuss implementation challenges at national and international levels.

The linkages between ESCR and the SDGs also formed part of a larger seven-week online distance-learning course on ESCR in French. Organized in collaboration with Human Dignity and Synergies Coopération, this course explored the substantive content of ESCR, and the protection mechanisms at international, regional and domestic levels.

THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS

In 2018, the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly adopted the UNDROP.

The Geneva Academy supported this process since the beginning via dedicated research, legal advice to states and other stakeholders on key issues in the negotiations, the organization of expert seminars and conferences to debate ongoing challenges, as well as targeted publications clarifying contentious issues or the content of certain rights.

In 2019, we focused on the implementation of the UNDROP via targeted publications, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities and the organization of expert meetings and conferences.

The Research Brief *The Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas* – published in early 2019 and translated into French and Spanish – discusses the roles and responsibilities of states, UN agencies, civil society organizations and social movements in the implementation of the UNDROP.

Its author, Dr Christophe Golay, presented and discussed its recommendations at a series of conferences and training activities related to the implementation of the UNDROP in Bucharest, Budapest, Bangkok, Geneva, Luxembourg, Paris, Rome and Phnom Penh.

In a joint statement released on the first anniversary of the adoption of the UNDROP, nine UN special procedures and four members of TBs referred to this research brief and took up many of its recommendations, including the call for the creation of a new special procedure on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. They also committed to integrate the monitoring of the UNDROP in their mandates, protect the rights that it enshrines and provide guidance to states on how they can implement it.



THE RIGHT TO SEEDS IN EUROPE

This research project examines the protection of peasants' right to seeds in Europe. It aims to raise awareness among European seed networks and peasant organizations of the importance of using the 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 April 2019 publication *The Right to Seeds in Europe* by Dr Adriana Bessa and Dr Christophe Golay focuses on the steps that the European Union and EU member states shall take, via the implementation of the UNDROP, to better protect this right in Europe.

The publication was notably discussed with representatives of UN agencies, EU institutions and the European Parliament, academics, experts and peasant organizations from Europe during a workshop in Brussels, which was preceded by a public conference on Peasants' Rights in Europe, co-organized with the European Economic and Social Committee and European Coordination Via Campesina.



DEVELOPING AREAS OF COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Beyond the ICRC, IHL lacks mechanisms to effectively ensure compliance. This structural flaw has prompted a general recourse to the better-equipped human rights machinery, even if the opportuneness of this tendency has long been, and remains, debated in both intergovernmental and scholarly forums.

If some human rights mechanisms provide unique opportunities for victims affected by armed conflict (such as individual complaints before universal and regional treaty bodies), others remain criticized for being inherently political, too slow to deal with violations or disconnected from the realities of conflict, thus antagonizing important military stakeholders.

This research project does not aim to pass judgement on the abovementioned trend but to contribute to its objective and contemporary assessment. Resulting from traditional legal research and informal interviews with experts, it has examined how – if at all possible – IHL could be more systematically, appropriately and correctly dealt with by the human rights mechanisms emanating from the Charter of the United Nations, as well as from universal and regional treaties.

Through the publication of the working paper *Implementing International Humanitarian Law Through Human Rights Mechanisms: Opportunity or Utopia?* by Émilie Max, the project notably provided a useful background for discussion at the scientific colloquium at the 2019 Geneva Human Rights Week (14–15 November 2019). It also identified lessons learned from the practice of human rights mechanisms in order to assist stakeholders (especially states) in potentially adopting a coherent and systematized positioning vis-à-vis the implementation of IHL by such mechanisms.

HUMAN RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS

Looking into the human rights responsibilities of armed non-State actors (ANSAs), this project began in 2017 and originally aimed to ignite states' interest in addressing the issue – either through the development of a non-binding document and/or the adoption of a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council. The Geneva Academy published papers and held expert meetings on the topic in both 2017 and 2018. These notably addressed issues such as the various types of concerned ANSAs and their respective characteristics; the notion of de facto authority; and the positive human rights obligations of states that have lost control of (part of) their territory.

The next phase of the project focuses on supporting interested independent mandate holders – special rapporteurs and members of treaty bodies – in the drafting of a joint statement, which would primarily focus on ANSAs exercising control over territory. Based on previously expressed interest, the Geneva Academy successfully organized an informal meeting in order for involved experts to discuss elements of such a statement. These discussions will ultimately result in a draft document, the final version of which could be published around the June/July 2020 session of the UN Human Rights Council.

In 2019, the Geneva Academy also drafted a short research paper on the various challenges related to reparations and ANSAs. After a short recap of the very notion of 'reparation', this paper addresses, in turn, the contested legal framework applicable to ANSAs, the difficulty in establishing responsibility – i.e. attributing a specific behaviour to an ANSA – as well as the possible obligation of states, instead of ANSAs, to provide reparations. Like other papers previously drafted and/or published within the framework of this project, it also contributed to informing the discussions of the above-mentioned informal expert meeting.

FROM WORDS TO DEEDS: EXPLORING THE PRACTICE OF ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Building on past research carried out on ANSAs, this project, conducted in partnership with Geneva Call, aims to compile and analyse the practice and interpretation of selected IHL and human rights norms by ANSAs as an essential aspect of the implementation of international law by those actors.

In 2019, the research team further developed the project's methodology and research questions, compiled in a dedicated research brief *From Words to Deeds: A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms*. The authors – Dr Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard and Ezequiel Heffes – presented and discussed this paper with more than 100 experts and practitioners at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Field research also started with missions to Colombia, Mali, Myanmar, the Philippines and Somaliland to interview key members of armed groups and collect their views on humanitarian norms. The results of these missions will be published throughout 2020 as specific case studies summarising the findings from field research, including a full profile of each armed group interviewed.

The research team also continued to analyse ANSAs' commitments and unilateral declarations that are compiled in Geneva Call's global database theirwords.org.



THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

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 silos and, hence, advance human rights.

As a ‘Mechanisms Lab’, the GHRP also supports the international community to engineer solutions to ensure the sustainable functioning of the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms and bodies, allowing them to address human rights challenges effectively.

For its second year, the GHRP focused – via targeted initiatives, policy-oriented research, events, diplomatic briefings, conferences, expert roundtables, training courses and private meetings – on various aspects of the functioning of Geneva-based human rights mechanisms, in particular the 2020 review of the United Nations treaty body (TB) system. Additionally, the GHRP accompanied discussions and the design of concrete solutions in relation to key human rights challenges in the fields of corruption, digitalization, business and gender, and the use of force.

IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF GENEVA-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

ACCOMPANYING THE 2020 REVIEW OF UN TREATY BODIES IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK

The UN human rights TBs are a central pillar of the international human rights protection system.

Their review by the UN General Assembly is an opportunity to further reflect on the TB system’s future and develop innovative proposals and solutions to improve its efficiency without weakening the human rights protection that it currently affords.

The GHRP contributes to this review process by providing expert input via different avenues, facilitating dialogue on the review among various stakeholders, building bridges between Geneva and New York and by accompanying the development of a follow-up resolution both in Geneva and in New York.

In 2019, the monthly Geneva Academy Fridays on the 2020 review allowed Geneva-based diplomats to discuss developments in New York and the main issues at stake in the review among themselves as well as with other stakeholders, including TB members and civil society representatives.

A series of briefings in New York updated the diplomatic community on the various proposals towards the 2020 review developed by academics, NGOs, members of TBs and government delegations in Geneva.

Addressing neglected or blurry aspects of the review, the GHRP inserted targeted research in the debates. A research brief addressed the lessons from the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for the national implementation of TB recommendations, and an overview paper analysed the contributions of all stakeholders in the process leading to the third and final report of the UN Secretary-General on TB strengthening.



THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

A 'MECHANISMS LAB'

#Develops Connections

#Reflects on Functioning

#Builds Capacity

Mikiko Otani

Krista Oinonen

Hoa Nghiem

As theory and practice do not always go hand in hand, our work on the 2020 review culminated in a hands-on practical simulation of a coordinated TB session aimed at testing academic proposals to improve the system. This experiment involved several TB members and two state delegations who volunteered for this exercise. It allowed the testing of theoretical models of clustering state reports under various treaties, the coordination of TB questions and recommendations, and highlighted the challenges and benefits that states and TBs can draw from a harmonization and coordination of states' reviews.

IMPROVING THE WORK OF UN TREATY BODIES

Notwithstanding the results of the 2020 review of the TB system by the UN General Assembly, the GHRP supported TBs to improve their work and their impact via targeted proposals and innovative solutions that could be implemented at any time. These accompany a process of careful reform from the inside, which shows some very promising outcomes as highlighted by the recent adoption of a fixed calendar by the UN Human Rights Committee.

Our proposals, which have been discussed with TB members, staff at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), diplomats and representatives of civil society, notably focused on implementation at the national level, the handling of individual communications to ensure the timely delivery of outcomes for victims of human rights violations, or enhanced follow-up at the national level between the coordinated full reviews in Geneva.

Via the Treaty Body Members' Platform, we also continued to connect TB members with each other as well as with Geneva-based practitioners, academics and diplomats to share expertise, exchange views on topical questions and develop synergies. Strictly confidential meetings allowed

TB members to discuss the harmonization agenda and other topics of common concern among themselves and with other actors.

TOWARDS A GREATER CONNECTIVITY OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Via its annual conference, the GHRP discussed, in a format open to a larger public, the connectivity among Geneva-based human rights mechanisms, including TBs and the UN Human Rights Council with its special procedures and the UPR.

While these bodies are all supported by OHCHR, their mandates and approaches differ strongly. The GHRP analysed their contributions to policy processes such as the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), the way they engage in the development of international law-making and how they help to preserve civil-society space and react to reprisals against NGOs and human rights defenders.

BREAKING SILOS

The GHRP creates new opportunities for all stakeholders in the field of human rights in and outside Geneva to meet, exchange information and debate topical issues and challenges related to the functioning of the Geneva-based human rights system and current human rights challenges. Deeply rooted in human rights and in the Geneva ecosystem, we continued, throughout 2019, to reach out beyond the traditional human rights actors and build bridges between Geneva and New York.

Our annual conference and numerous specific events discussed human rights issues with other constituencies like businesses, as well as experts and professionals in other fields including the environment, disarmament, refugee law, migration and labour. Via the Treaty Body Members' Platform, TB members could also discuss issues of common concern – the rights of the child, corruption, missing persons, trafficking and prostitution – with other actors who work on the same subjects. Dedicated briefings in Geneva and New York around the 2020 review allowed diplomats in both hubs to link the discussions taking place in these two locations and contributed to addressing the 'trans-Atlantic amnesia' in diplomatic processes.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Via training courses, targeted research and publications, briefings for diplomats and expert roundtables, the GHRP supports the international community to engage more effectively with the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms and bodies.

Our training and short courses mentioned in this report allowed diplomats, members of national human rights institutions, as well as staff of international organizations and NGOs to develop expertise in contemporary human rights challenges – the protection of human rights and the environment, economic, social and cultural rights and the SDGs, the UPR, human rights and counter-terrorism – and integrate them in their work. Customized training courses for specific institutions, like the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, have also focused on UN human rights mechanisms.

Short policy papers on current human rights challenges or processes, along with briefings for diplomats in Geneva and New York complete the GHRP's capacity-building component.

Finally, visiting fellowships enrich the academic debate at the Geneva Academy and deepen the GHRP's connection and exchange with external researchers and partners. In 2019, we notably hosted two senior management officials from OHCHR during their sabbatical, resulting in the production of practical guides and toolkits of academic rigour and practical in-depth knowledge on the UN Human Rights Council and the OHCHR initiative Faith for Rights.



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ADDRESSING KEY HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES

Human rights mechanisms do not work in the abstract. Their efficiency is notably measured in the way they address key human rights challenges. In this context, the GHRP studied the mechanisms' contributions to a number of topics and supported them, via research carried out at the Geneva Academy and mentioned above, to address cross-cutting areas including corruption, digitalization, use of force and less-lethal weapons, as well as business responsibilities in the area of gender.

The GHRP also contributed to the dissemination of our research findings in these fields to relevant stakeholders – diplomats, TBs, UN special procedures, practitioners and relevant NGOs and international organizations.

The GHRP engaged with OHCHR, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre) and TB members to flesh out a practitioners' guide on corruption and human rights, mentioned above, encouraging anti-corruption activists to use the human rights system in their struggle.

The GHRP's discussions on digitalization sought to move the focus of UN human rights mechanisms beyond the obvious rights to privacy or freedom of expression by exploring its impact on all rights in order to give policy advice on how to harness the potentials and mitigate the dangers in this rapidly changing field.

The GHRP disseminated the outcomes and key recommendations of a Geneva Academy research project on business and gender, also mentioned above, with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and at the UN Human Rights Council with the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva.

Linking the Geneva Academy's own research on less-lethal weapons and the use of force in law enforcement with processes at the UN and beyond, the GHRP contributed to the deliberations around the Human Rights Committee's General Comment on the Right of Peaceful Assembly.

A NEW VISUAL IDENTITY AND WEBSITE PRESENCE

By mid-2019, we launched the GHRP's new visual identity, along with a GHRP-dedicated section of the Geneva Academy's website.

The GHRP web pages provide information about upcoming events and activities, initiatives of the platform, upcoming training courses and policy papers informing human rights discussions and processes in Geneva and beyond.

PARTNERS

In fulfilling its mandate, the GHRP collaborated closely with governments, key NGOs and academic institutions including the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo, the Paris Human Rights Center at University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas, the Peer Review Observatory at Maastricht University, the University of Essex, the Centre for Human Rights at Pretoria University, the CCPR

Centre, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, FIAN International, Franciscans International, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Earthjustice, the Center for International Environmental Law, the International Service for Human Rights, OHCHR, TB-Net, UPR Info, as well as numerous UN special procedures and TBs.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

39 Events

5 Initiatives

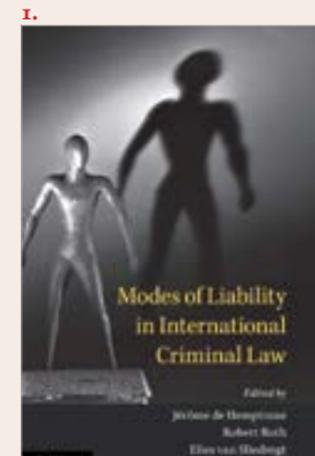
4 Targeted policy briefs

4 Training courses

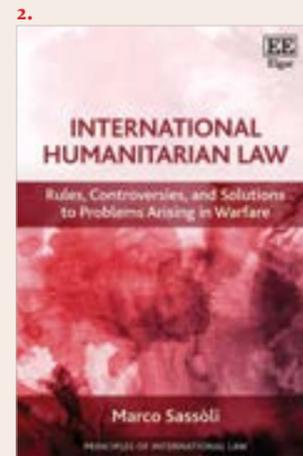
1 Annual conference



BOOKS

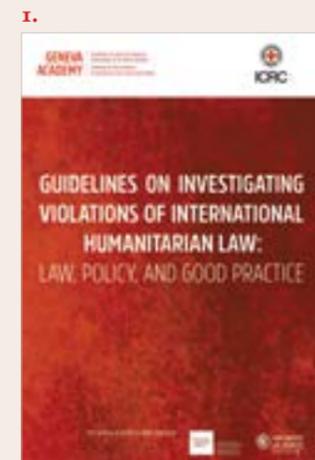


1. Modes of Liability in International Criminal Law
Jérôme de Hemptinne, Robert Roth, Elies van Sliedregt / Cambridge University Press, July 2019



2. International Humanitarian Law: Rules, Controversies, and Solutions to Problems Arising in Warfare
Marco Sassòli / Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019

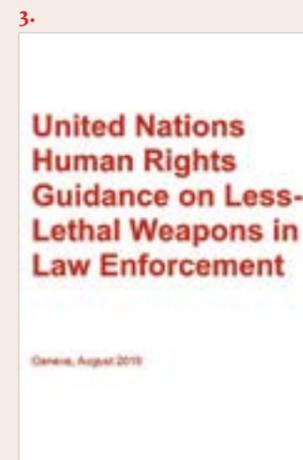
GUIDELINES



1. Guidelines on Investigating Violations of International Humanitarian Law: Law, Policy, and Good Practice
Noam Lubell / Jelena Pejic, Claire Simmons September 2019



2. A Practitioners' Guide on Human Rights and Countering Corruption
Geneva Academy and CCPR Centre / October 2019



3. United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, based on research and consultations conducted under the auspices of the Geneva Academy / October 2019

BRIEFINGS



1. Disability and Armed Conflict
Alice Priddy / April 2019



2. The Right to Seeds in Europe
Adriana Bessa, Christophe Golay / April 2019

RESEARCH BRIEFS



1. The Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
Christophe Golay / March 2019 / Also available in French and Spanish



2. Harmonizing War Crimes Under the Rome Statute
Patrick S. Nagler / March 2019



3. From Words to Deeds: A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms
Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard, Ezequiel Heffes / December 2019

THE WAR REPORT



1. The War Report 2018
Annyssa Bellal / April 2019



2. The Syrian Armed Conflict: Nearing the End?
Marija Sulce / January 2019

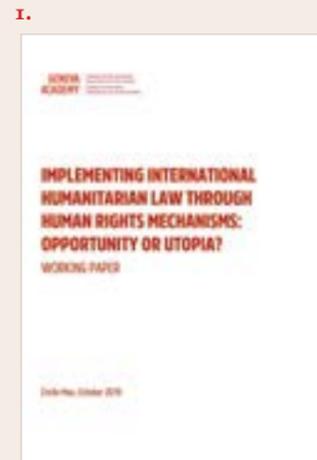


3. Democratic Republic of the Congo: Conflict in the Eastern Regions
Giulia Marcucci / January 2019

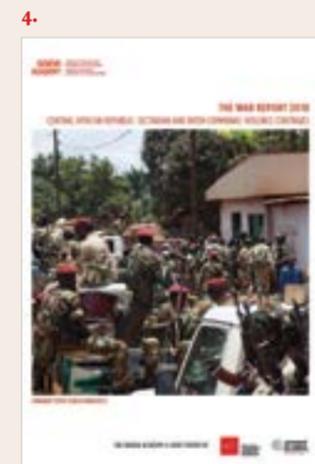


7. The United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran: An International Armed Conflict of Low Intensity
Milos Hrnjaz / December 2019

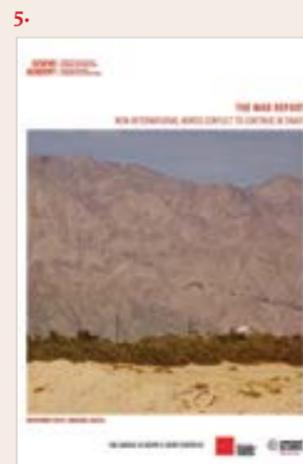
WORKING PAPER



1. Implementing International Humanitarian Law Through Human Rights Mechanisms: Opportunity or Utopia?
Émilie Max / October 2019



4. Central African Republic: Sectarian and Inter-Communal Violence Continues
Giulia Marcucci / January 2019

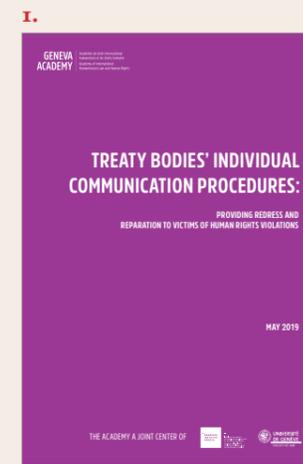


5. Non-International Armed Conflict to Continue in Sinai?
Annabel Bassil / November 2019



6. Iraq: Any Hope for Change?
Josiane Matar / November 2019

GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM



1. Treaty Bodies' Individual Communication Procedures: Providing Redress and Reparation to Victims of Human Rights Violations
Claire Callejon, Kamelia Kemileva, Felix Kirchmeier / May 2019



2. The Universal Periodic Review Mid-Term Reporting Process: Lessons for the Treaty Bodies
Miloon Kothari / November 2019



EVENTS

Expert meetings, seminars, conferences and public events are a key part of our activities. In 2018, we ran more than 75 private and public events, providing a critical and scholarly forum for experts and practitioners to discuss and debate topical issues in international humanitarian law, human rights, transitional justice and international criminal law. Via the recording and publication of videos on our website and social media channels, interested audiences outside Geneva are also able to follow important public debates and discussions.



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DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
22 January	Petitions in the United Nations Treaty Body System	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Treaty body members, staff from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Petitions and Urgent Actions Section and staff from regional courts discussed the strengthening of the OHCHR petitions system.	Paris Human Rights Center, University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas
25 January	UN Treaty Bodies' Action Towards the Implementation of Resolution 68/268 of the UN General Assembly	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This Geneva Academy Friday focused on activities towards the implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/268, undertaken by the membership of UN treaty bodies and supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in collaboration with the Geneva Academy and other actors.	
28-29 January	Annual Seminar on International Humanitarian Law for Diplomats Accredited to the United Nations in Geneva	Expert Seminar	This two-day seminar for diplomats focused on the action of the International Committee of the Red Cross to protect victims of armed conflict through law and policy; the classification of armed conflicts; use of force under international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law; new means and methods of warfare; IHL and terrorism; and IHL topics at the 2019 international conference.	International Committee of the Red Cross
19 February	Briefing on the 2020 Treaty Body Review	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This briefing for Geneva-based diplomats from the Latin American region served to discuss the latest developments related to the 2020 review of United Nations treaty bodies.	
26 February	Search and Rescue Obligations in the Mediterranean Sea	IHL Talk	Panelists discussed the legal framework and the main critical questions related to search and rescue in the Mediterranean Sea, using concrete cases and examples to illustrate current issues and challenges.	
28 February	The National Impact of United Nations Treaty Bodies	Geneva Human Rights Platform	In this Geneva Academy Friday, researchers from 20 countries briefed state representatives about their research on the national impact of the United Nations treaty bodies. This study, led by Professors Christof Heyns and Frans Viljoen at the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights and in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, examines the impact of the UN human rights treaty system at the national level.	Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
14 March	The Digital Society and Human Rights: Putting Human Rights at the Heart of the Design, Development and Deployment of Artificial Intelligence	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed how the rights to equality and non-discrimination, and privacy are being affected by artificial intelligence (AI); how to apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to existing uses of AI; as well as the embedding of a HRBA in AI policies, strategies and regulation.	Universal Rights Group; Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project, University of Essex

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

14 March **The Trial of Ratko Mladić** Film Screening and Panel Discussion As part of the 'Uncommon Trials' trilogy, the screening of *The Trial of Ratko Mladić* by Henry Singer and Rob Miller was followed by a debate moderated by Professor Sévane Garibian. International Film Festival and Forum for Human Rights; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; University of Geneva

29 March **The Individual Communication Procedures of the UN Treaty Body System** Geneva Human Rights Platform This Geneva Academy Friday focused on the individual communication procedures of the United Nations treaty body system, including the sharp increase in individual communications and related challenges and consequences.

4 April **Le Tribunal sur le Congo** Film Screening and Panel Discussion As part of the 'Uncommon Trials' trilogy, the screening of *Le Tribunal sur le Congo* by Milo Rau was followed by a discussion with Professor Sévane Garibian and Camille Montavon. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; University of Geneva

5 April **Evidentiary Challenges in Universal Jurisdiction Cases** Panel Discussion Panelists discussed the challenges of investigating and prosecuting mass crimes remotely, based on the *Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2019* published by TRIAL International. TRIAL International

2 May **Starvation and Armed Conflicts** IHL Talk Panelists examined the prohibition of starvation under both international humanitarian law and international criminal law and addressed starvation's humanitarian consequences. International Bar Association's War Crimes Committee; Oxford Programme on International Peace and Security

2 May **La vengeance des Arméniens, le procès Tehlirian** Film Screening and Panel Discussion As part of the 'Uncommon Trials' trilogy, the screening of *La vengeance des Arméniens, le procès Tehlirian* by Bernard George was followed by a discussion with Professor Sévane Garibian and Valentina Calzolari. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; University of Geneva

3 May **The Role of UN Treaty Body Chairpersons** Geneva Human Rights Platform This Geneva Academy Friday focused on the importance of membership in United Nations treaty bodies, both in terms of selection criteria of members as well as the role and mandate of the chairpersons.

4 May **The Summer 2014 Gaza Conflict** Public Pleadings In the framework of the LLM course on international humanitarian law (IHL), students pleaded on the IHL questions that arose from the Summer 2014 Gaza conflict. They addressed questions such as the classification of the conflict and applicable law, the classification of persons and territory, compliance with the rules on the conduct of hostilities and the treatment of persons.

6 May-3 June **Disability and Armed Conflict** Photo Exhibition This photo exhibition on Quai Wilson by Giles Duley coincided with the launch of our publication *Disability and Armed Conflict*. Accessible to persons with a visual impairment, the exhibition told 24 stories of persons with disabilities during and following armed conflicts, highlighting not only the devastating impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities but also how persons with disabilities are often excluded from humanitarian services or reconciliation processes following conflicts. Diakonia; Legacy of War Foundation; Republic and State of Geneva; Centre de Compétences en Accessibilité de l'Association pour le Bien des Aveugles et malvoyants; Association Dire Pour Voir

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

9 May **First to be Forgotten – Persons with Disabilities and Armed Conflict** For the launch of our publication *Disability and Armed Conflict*, panelists explored the impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities, as well as states', armed non-state actors' and humanitarian organizations' obligations towards them. International Committee of the Red Cross

14 May **Integrating IHL into Military Operations and Ethos: An ICRC Perspective** Military Briefing Panelists shared insights on the International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) dialogue with arms carriers (state armed forces and armed groups) aimed at enhancing the integration of international humanitarian law into doctrine, training, education, sanctions, but also ethos. In light of the ICRC's recently published *Roots of Restraint in War* report, they also reflected on how the law can be linked to social norms and values in order to influence the behaviour of soldiers and fighters.

17 May **The International Law Commission as a Way Forward on Universal Criminal Jurisdiction: An Informal Dialogue with States, Academia and Civil Society** Workshop This half-day workshop provided an opportunity for interested representatives of states, organs of the United Nations human rights system and other international organizations in Geneva, academia and civil society to engage in a discussion with members of the International Law Commission (ILC) on the opportunities and challenges presented by the addition of universal criminal jurisdiction to the ILC Long-Term Programme of Work. International Law Commission Member Professor Charles Jalloh; Geneva Human Rights Platform; Permanent Missions of Austria, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Gambia and Sierra Leone to the United Nations in Geneva

18 May **The 2008 South Ossetian Conflict** Public Pleadings In the framework of the LLM course on international humanitarian law, students participated in public pleadings on the 2008 South Ossetian conflict. Representing Russia or Georgia, they notably addressed the classification of the conflict and applicable law, the classification of persons and territory, the killing and destruction of property of ethnic Georgians, the use of weapons, the targeting of persons and the detention of prisoners by Georgian and South Ossetian forces.

20 May **Human Rights Due Diligence in Conflict-Affected Areas: What Can Business Learn from Humanitarian Actors' Engagement with Armed Groups?** Geneva Human Rights Platform Participants learned from the experiences of humanitarian actors and identified lessons learned or good practice related to dealing with state and non-state armed groups that may be relevant for businesses that operate or have business relationships in conflict-affected areas. United Nations special procedures

22 May **International Humanitarian Law: Rules, Controversies, and Solutions to Problems Arising in Warfare** Book Launch Experts commented on and discussed with Professor Sassòli specific aspects of his new book *International Humanitarian Law: Rules, Controversies, and Solutions to Problems Arising in Warfare*, including naval warfare and the law of neutrality, sources of international humanitarian law (IHL), IHL and human rights, as well as the classification of armed conflicts.

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
24 May	Do Human Rights Need to be Saved? Universality versus Uniformity	Panel Discussion	Moving beyond the philosophical question of whether anything can be apprehended as universal in our multicultural world, panelists focused on the legitimacy and effectiveness of the multiplication of new rights. They also addressed the necessity of reaffirming the distinctions between binding legal obligations on governments and broader issues of ethics, politics and social change in order to 'save' the current human rights regime.	Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy; Geneva Human Rights Platform
25 May	2019 Alumni Gathering		Under the theme 'The Geneva Academy Awards', more than 100 alumni gathered for a day of exchange, academic talks and an evening reception.	
31 May	Treaty Bodies' Individual Communication Procedures	Geneva Human Rights Platform	For the launch of the publication <i>Treaty Bodies' Individual Communication Procedures: Providing Redress and Reparation to Victims of Human Rights Violations</i> , panelists addressed the handling of individual communications and tackled questions related to the efficiency in handling them.	
3 June	The Connectivity of Human Rights Mechanisms	Geneva Human Rights Platform	The first Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform focused on the connectivity of human rights mechanisms within the United Nations human rights system. Four panels, co-organized with partner institutions, explored the connectivity of human rights mechanisms by focusing on particular issues and on how the mechanisms address them.	Centre for Civil and Political Rights; FIAN International; Franciscans International; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; International Service for Human Rights; Maastricht University; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Norwegian Centre for Human Rights; Paris Human Rights Center, University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas; TB-Net; Danish Institute for Human Rights; Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Peer Review Observatory Maastricht; UPR Info
5 June	Women's Perspective on a Career in International Law	Panel Discussion	Three prominent women in international law with different professional backgrounds shared their experiences through an interactive discussion in which they addressed their first career steps, the challenges they faced and how they tackled them, as well as offering advice for people, particularly women, embarking on a career in international law.	ATLAS Network
7 June	Emerging Digital Technologies and Human Rights	Panel Discussion	Panelists addressed the human rights challenges arising from new and emerging digital technologies while realizing their possible contribution to the full enjoyment of human rights.	Geneva Human Rights Platform; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Permanent Missions of Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations in Geneva

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
13 June	Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict	Open House	This Open House allowed professionals interested in the Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict to meet staff, students and alumni, learn more about this programme and discuss career opportunities.	
17 June	Current Issues in Armed Conflict	Annual Conference	The 2019 conference addressed the latest developments in transitional justice and international criminal justice, like the establishment of new independent investigative mechanisms and the controversial decisions by the International Criminal Court on Bemba, Gbagbo and the situation in Afghanistan; current issues on the classification of armed conflicts; and the conduct of hostilities.	Human Rights Centre, University of Essex; Geneva Human Rights Platform
17 June	Black Magic, Zombies and Dragons: A Tale of International Humanitarian Law in the 21st Century	Keynote	To close the third Conference on Current Issues in Armed Conflict, Helen Durham, Director of Law and Policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross, delivered a keynote address on international humanitarian law in the 21st century.	
17 June	Annual Meeting of United Nations Special Procedures	Geneva Human Rights Platform	The Geneva Human Rights Platform hosted, at Villa Moynier, the informal segment of the annual meeting of United Nations special procedures.	United Nations special procedures
17 June	How the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants may contribute to the UN Decade of Family Farming	Panel Discussion	This panel discussion in Rome presented the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas and discussed its contributions to the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming.	Permanent Representation of Switzerland to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Fund for Agricultural Development; World Food Programme; Permanent Representation of Costa-Rica to the United Nations Agencies in Rome; Department of Political Sciences, Roma Tre University
19 June	Economic Complicity with the Pinochet Dictatorship	Book Launch	To launch in Geneva the book <i>Complicidad económica con la dictadura chilena. Un país desigual a la fuerza</i> by Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, United Nations Independent Expert on Debt and Human Rights, co-edited with Karinna Fernández and Sebastián Smart, panelists discussed the responsibility of Pinochet's economic accomplices and Antonio Cassese's 1978 report on the role of the lenders in the context of the Chilean dictatorship.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Geneva Human Rights Platform
22 June	The Role of UN Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring the Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)	Expert Seminar at the Annual Meeting of United Nations Special Procedures	Building on previous workshops organized by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Geneva Academy, this seminar facilitated a debate among special rapporteurs, treaty body members, diplomats and NGOs on how the recently adopted UNDROP could be monitored and implemented with the help of existing human rights mechanisms.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Geneva Human Rights Platform

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
26 June	Defending Online Civic Space: Challenges facing Human Rights Defenders	Side Event at the 41st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council	Panelists discussed what role the Human Rights Council can and should play in bolstering support for normative progress and action in defending our online civic space.	Article 19; APC; CIVICUS; International Center for Not-for-Profit Law; The Netherlands; Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project, University of Essex; World Movement for Democracy
27 June	Integrating a Gender Perspective in Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: From Guidance to Implementation	Side Event at the 41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Representatives from states, businesses and civil society shared their views on and responses to the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights' 'Gender Guidance for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights'.	Danish Institute for Human Rights; Geneva Human Rights Platform; United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights
3 July	Human Rights and Digital Technologies: New Insights	Side Event at the 41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Panelists discussed the current challenges in the digital sphere. They notably provided practical suggestions as to how to expand and accelerate research that is more impactful on the interaction of digital technologies with human rights.	Geneva Human Rights Platform; Geneva Internet Platform; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; United Nations special procedures
3 July	Plastic Pollution: How to Turn the Tide Right	Side Event at the 41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Panelists addressed the issue of plastic pollution and examined its impacts and how to preserve fundamental rights by turning the tide right.	Earthjustice; Geneva Human Rights Platform
5 July	The Innovation Bridge: A Technological Answer to the Digital Divide	Side Event at the 41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Panelists discussed the potential of human technological agency as an effective means for social impact and for human rights.	Permanent Missions of Brazil, Israel and Singapore to the United Nations in Geneva
12 July	Foreign Fighters and Their Relatives (Allegedly) Affiliated with ISIS and Detained in Northeast Syria	IHL Talk	Panelists discussed the humanitarian, policy and legal challenges related to the fate of foreign fighters and their relatives (allegedly) affiliated with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and detained by the Syrian Democratic Forces in northeast Syria.	
15 July	The Protection of the Environment and Water Infrastructure During and After Armed Conflicts	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed the protection of the environment and water infrastructure before and after an armed conflict.	Platform for International Water Law, Geneva Water Hub
18 July	Nelson Mandela Human Rights Lecture	Annual Lecture	Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Albie Sachs, Former Judge of the South African Constitutional Court, reflected on the current human rights challenges and on how to move the human rights agenda forward.	Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Geneva Human Rights Platform; Global Campus of Human Rights; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in Geneva; Switzerland; Washington College of Law, American University

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
26 August–29 September	Disability and Armed Conflict	Photo Exhibition	This photo exhibition by Giles Duley at the Humanitarian featured some of the stories that were shown in the larger May 2019 exhibition on Quai Wilson. The stories show not only the devastating impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities but also how persons with disabilities are often excluded from humanitarian services or reconciliation processes following conflicts.	International Committee of the Red Cross
16–17 September	The National Impact of United Nations Human Rights Treaties	Geneva Human Rights Platform	At this conference, participants discussed the impact of United Nations human rights treaties at the national level in 20 countries over the last 20 years.	Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
17 September	Launch of the Practitioners' Guide on Human Rights and Countering Corruption	Side Event at the 42nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council	For the launch of the <i>Practitioners' Guide on Human Rights and Countering Corruption</i> , panelists shared innovative practical ideas on how best to address corruption-related human rights issues within the United Nations human rights framework.	Centre for Civil and Political Rights; Geneva Human Rights Platform; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
17 September	Members of Armed Groups Detained in Northern Syria: Their Legal Status and Their Future	Side Event at the 42nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Panelists discuss the legal status and future of members of armed groups detained in northern Syria.	Mouvement contre le racismisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples
18–19 September	The Technical Review of Implementation Progress	Geneva Human Rights Platform	At this expert conference, 30 United Nations treaty body (TB) experts, academics, national and international NGOs and governmental representatives discussed the implementation of a new mechanism aimed at improving the work of UN TBs: the Technical Review of Implementation Progress (TRIP), which would help fill the implementation gap in an eight-year reporting cycle.	Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo
25 September	Women's Perspective on a Career in International Law	Panel Discussion	Three prominent women in international law with different professional backgrounds shared their experiences through an interactive discussion in which they addressed their first career steps, the challenges they faced and how they tackled them, as well as offering advice for people, particularly women, who are embarking on a career in international law.	ATLAS Network
25 September	The importance and the Limits of International Law for Resolving Humanitarian Issues in Situations of Armed Conflict and Transitional Justice	Opening Lecture of the Academic Year	In the face of a rapidly changing world, our alumna Lindsey Cameron, Head of the Unit of Thematic Legal Advisers in the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross, explored some of the current challenges for international humanitarian law and transitional justice.	

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
26 September	Treaty Body Members' Platform	Geneva Human Rights Platform	At this Treaty Body Members' Platform, members of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child discussed with states and NGOs the new Guidelines and Explanatory Report on the Implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OPSC) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. These guidelines aim to make it easier for states parties to understand the provisions contained in the OPSC as well as what is expected from them in terms of implementation and compliance.	ECPAT International; Permanent Missions of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations in Geneva; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; WeProtect Global Alliance
30 September	Peasants' Rights in Europe	Public Conference in Brussels	Representatives of United Nations agencies, European Union institutions, academics, experts and peasants from Europe discussed the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas in Europe and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Decade of Family Farming. Participants also discussed its relevance for the EU and for the European continent.	European Coordination Via Campesina; European Economic and Social Committee
2 October	Customary International Law and Modes of Liability in International Criminal Law	Book Launch in The Hague	For the launch of <i>Modes of Liability in International Criminal Law</i> , edited by Jérôme de Hemptinne, Robert Roth and Elies van Sliedregt and based on research undertaken at the Geneva Academy, panelists discussed questions related to criminal responsibility for international crimes.	Embassy of Switzerland in the Netherlands
2 October	Treaty Body Members' Platform	Geneva Human Rights Platform	At this Treaty Body Members' Platform, members of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances discussed the practical implementation and use of the Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons.	
8 October	Celebrating in Style: Uncharted Perspectives on the Geneva Conventions of 1949	IHL Talk	Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, panelists shed light on lesser-known endeavours that contribute to breathing life into these instruments, such as updating their commentaries, voluntarily reporting on international humanitarian law implementation at the local level or critically rethinking the history behind their adoption.	
8 October	Perspectives on the 2020 TB Review	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This briefing in New York discussed options and positions towards the 2020 treaty body (TB) review. Held in the form of an open discussion with short inputs from different stakeholders, it updated the New York-based diplomatic community on processes of and inputs to the 2020 review.	Permanent Missions of Costa Rica and Switzerland to the United Nations in New York
9 October	Entre libéralisme et populisme, que reste-t-il des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels?	Panel Discussion	The authors of two recent books on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) addressed the challenges related to the promotion and protection of ESCR.	Geneva Human Rights Platform

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
10 October	Launch in New York: Guidelines on Investigating Violations of IHL	Panel Discussion	Panelists presented the <i>Guidelines on Investigating Violations of International Humanitarian Law: Law, Policy, and Good Practice</i> to the New York diplomatic community and discussed the challenges surrounding investigations of international humanitarian law violations as well as the manner in which states should be approaching their investigations.	Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York; Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law
15 October	The Role of UN Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring the Implementation of the UNDROP	Panel Discussion	Panelists focused on the role of United Nations human rights mechanisms in monitoring the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Geneva Human Rights Platform; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
21 October	Tactical Decision-Making on Lethal Targeting: Legal Challenges and Humanitarian Concerns?	Military Briefing	Molly Kovite, Senior Legal Advisor for the International Humanitarian Law Team at the American Red Cross and a Judge Advocate with the US Army Reserves, discussed legal challenges and humanitarian concerns related to decision-making by soldiers on lethal targeting.	
23 October	PhD: Let's W(h)ine About It!	Geneva Academy Wednesday	This roundtable and apéro allowed PhD students from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the University of Geneva conducting research on areas within the scientific focus of the Geneva Academy to discuss challenges encountered during the PhD and strategies to overcome them.	
25 October	Launch: United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons	Panel Discussion	Panelists presented the <i>United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement</i> , the outcome of research and broad consultations carried out under the auspices of the Geneva Academy and the University of Pretoria.	Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Geneva Human Rights Platform; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva
25 October	Update on Discussions in New York and the Need for a Mid-Term Follow-Up procedure	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This Geneva Academy Friday focused on current discussions on the 2020 review in New York as well as on the importance of a national-level mid-term review to improve the follow-up to United Nations treaty bodies' concluding observations and to increase the role of domestic stakeholders: the Technical Review of Implementation Progress (TRIP).	
25 October	Graduation Ceremony		Around 150 guests, including graduates' families, attended the 2019 Graduation Ceremony at the Maison de la paix (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) under the auspices of Professor Marco Sassòli. Philip Grant, an alumnus and Director of TRIAL International delivered an inspiring keynote speech.	

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
29 October	Modes of Liability in International Criminal Law	Book Launch in Geneva	For the launch of <i>Modes of Liability in International Criminal Law</i> , edited by Jérôme de Hemptinne, Robert Roth and Elies van Sliedregt and based on research undertaken at the Geneva Academy, panelists discussed questions related to criminal responsibility for international crimes.	Geneva Human Rights Platform
4 November	Human Rights in Peaceful Protest: Lawyers at the Forefront. A European Perspective	Panel Discussion	Panelists, including lawyers, addressed the too often obstructed right to legal assistance persons subjected to violence, arrest or detention are entitled to and the challenges encountered in that context.	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute; Geneva Human Rights Platform; Geneva Peace Week; United Nations Special Procedures
5 November	Women's Economic Empowerment and the SDGs: Closing the Gender Gap in a Rapidly Changing Society	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed the challenges in economically empowering women and ways of overcoming them.	Geneva Human Rights Platform; Permanent Missions of Canada, France, Finland, Japan, Mexico and Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; UN Women
6 November	Treaty Body Members' Platform	Geneva Human Rights Platform	At this informal meeting, members of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the UN Human Rights Committee discussed issues of common interest and concern, as well as organizational questions such as the coordination of reviews.	
8 November	The Investigator: Demons of the Balkan War – A Talk and Book Launch with Vladimir Dzuro	Book Launch	Vladimír Dzuro, a former investigator with the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) discussed the dramatic situations he experienced during that time and presented in his book <i>The Investigator</i> .	Geneva Peace Week; Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in Geneva
11–15 November	The 2019 Human Rights Week		The 2019 Human Rights Week offered a rich programme of conferences, debates, exhibitions, a film screening and cultural events. It also comprised a scientific colloquium on the role of human rights mechanisms in implementing international humanitarian law with background research conducted by the Geneva Academy.	University of Geneva; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Republic and State of Geneva; Festival Les Créatives; Geneva Human Rights Platform
13 November	Permanent Record? Privacy, Data Protection and Humanitarian Action	IHL Talk	Panelists discussed the issue of data protection in armed conflicts in light of the developments in new technologies, such as the refinement of artificial intelligence, the increasing use of blockchain, the expectation of constant connectivity and the role of social media.	

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
13 November	Obligations of Conduct and the Principle of Non-Discrimination Under International Humanitarian Law	Geneva Academy Wednesday	Lukas Hafner and George Dvaladze, Teaching Assistants at the Geneva Academy, presented their PhD projects, which concern, respectively, obligations of conduct under international humanitarian law (IHL) and the principle of non-discrimination under IHL. Professor Marco Sassòli and Lindsey Cameron (International Committee of the Red Cross) acted as the main discussants.	
13–14 November	The Role of Human Rights Mechanisms in Implementing International Humanitarian Law	Scientific Colloquium	Part of the 2019 Human Rights Week, this scientific colloquium discussed the implementation of international humanitarian law by human rights mechanisms. Our paper <i>Implementing International Humanitarian Law through Human Rights Mechanisms: Opportunity or Utopia?</i> was presented and discussed.	University of Geneva
15 November	Taking Stock of the Inter-American System of Human Rights: Challenges and Achievements 60 years on	Book Launch	To launch the book <i>Doctrine, Practice and Advocacy in the Inter-American Human Rights System</i> , leading academics and practitioners shared insights from theory and practice on the Inter-American System today.	
21 November	Expert Panel on Modern Slavery and Book Launch	Book Launch	For the launch of Justine Nolan and Martijn Boersma's new book <i>Addressing Modern Slavery</i> , panelists discussed business strategies to identify, analyse and resolve risks for modern slavery in global supply chains.	Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights; University of Geneva; Geneva Human Rights Platform
26 November	Protecting the Victims of Armed Conflict at Sea: Key Findings of the Updated ICRC Commentary on the Second Geneva Convention	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed the findings of the Updated ICRC Commentary on the Second Geneva Convention in relation to the protection of victims of armed conflict at sea.	'Axis of Protection: Human Rights in International Law' Seminar Series
27 November	Legal Review of New Weapons, Means and Methods of Warfare	Military Briefing	Dr Mirco Anderegg, Acting Head of International Law in the Swiss Armed Forces Staff, discussed new challenges related to the legal review of weapons in light of increasing autonomy, cyberspace and the growing connections between different systems on the battlefield.	
28 November	Business in Conflict Zones	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This consultation discussed the ongoing project of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights on business in conflict zones.	United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights
6 December	Simulation of a United Nations Treaty Body Review	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This expert meeting practically tested potential benefits and challenges posed by clustering reports to various United Nations treaty bodies (TBs). Members of TBs, state representatives, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, national human rights institutions, NGOs and academics engaged in a practical simulation of the new reporting model suggested by the Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review.	

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
11 December	Investigating Violations of IHL: Law, Policy and Good Practice	Side event at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent	The authors presented the <i>Guidelines on Investigating Violations of International Humanitarian Law: Law, Policy, and Good Practice</i> to participants at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and discussed the challenges surrounding investigations of international humanitarian law violations as well as the manner in which states should be approaching their investigations.	International Committee of the Red Cross; Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law
12 December	Non-State Armed Groups and IHL	Side event at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent	Panelists presented the rationale and preliminary findings of joint research with Geneva Call that aims to increase our understanding of non-state armed groups' behaviour in conflict settings in order to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law.	Geneva Call
18 December	Women's Perspective on a Career in International Law	Panel Discussion	Three prominent women in international law with different professional backgrounds shared their experiences through an interactive discussion in which they addressed their first career steps, the challenges they faced and how they tackled them, as well as offering advice for people, particularly women, who are embarking on a career in international law.	ATLAS Network
18 December	Human Rights, Gender and Corruption: Linkages, Good Practices, Potential and Limitations	Special Event at the 8th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in Abu Dhabi	Panelists discussed the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights and the consequent need to undertake effective anti-corruption measures. They also shared good practices and their views on the potential and limitations of mainstreaming the anti-corruption and human rights agendas. The event served to present the <i>Practitioners' Guide on Human Rights and Countering Corruption</i> outside the human rights debate to the anti-corruption community.	Centre for Civil and Political Rights; CHRAJ-Ghana; Geneva Human Rights Platform; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Morocco; Switzerland
18 December	The Notion of a Party to an Armed Conflict	Geneva Academy Wednesday	Bianca Maganza, Teaching Assistant at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, presented a draft chapter of her PhD thesis, which concerns the notion of a party to an armed conflict. Alessandra Spadaro, Teaching Assistant at the Geneva Academy, acted as the main discussant.	



DONORS

The Geneva Academy is deeply grateful to all the donors who generously supported our work in 2019. Thanks to their contributions and commitment, we are able to ensure, through our research and education, better respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

- Diakonia
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland, in particular:
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We also thank our parent institutions, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, for their indispensable support for the accomplishment of our mission.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Ensuring the financial stability of the Geneva Academy is a high priority and an ongoing challenge. The table below provides information about our revenue in 2019 (in Swiss Francs).

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of Switzerland	1,027,901
Other governments	46,388
Organizations, foundations and academic institutions	276,714
Scholarship donors	793,500
Tuition fees	1,007,792
In-kind contributions from the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies	784,810
Miscellaneous	18,401
Total Revenue	3,955,506



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 students of high quality 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 and governments, 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.



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Noam Lubell is Professor of Public International Law at the University of Essex, and also the Rapporteur of the International Law Association's Committee on the Use of Force. He has been the Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law (Swiss IHL Chair) since 2013 and ended his term in December 2019.

The Swiss IHL Chair develops and promotes the Geneva Academy's expertise in IHL via policy work, cutting-edge research, expert meetings, the development of partnerships and teaching.

SWISS HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIR

Nils Melzer has been the Swiss Human Rights Chair (HR Chair) at the Geneva Academy since March 2016.

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

Since November 2016, he is also the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

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