

# UN PROTECTION ARCHITECTURE IN ACTION: R2P, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

ONLINE | AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026



## DESCRIPTION

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This course takes a practitioner's perspective on how the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is implemented within the UN protection architecture, focusing on the gap between legal obligations and political responses to atrocity crises. It examines how atrocity prevention works in practice across the multilateral system, from early warning and decision-making in Geneva and New York to accountability processes. Through case studies such as Gaza, Myanmar, Syria, Venezuela, Sudan and Afghanistan, it explores how UN responses can support prevention, protection and accountability, while also assessing their limits. Particular attention is given to the Geneva-based human rights system, including the Human Rights Council, OHCHR and UN investigative mechanisms.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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- Explain the UN protection architecture, including the roles of the Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council, and tools such as human rights monitoring, investigative mechanisms, sanctions regimes and peacekeeping operations.
- Interpret how institutional and political processes shape responses to atrocity crises and impact perpetrator behaviour and accountability outcomes.
- Understand how multilateral mechanisms, including UN investigations into atrocity crimes, operate and influence political processes, protection strategies and accountability efforts.
- Evaluate structural and political constraints, including selective engagement and uneven application of protection tools.
- Examine how civil society, human rights defenders, victim representatives and affected communities engage with the UN system to support early warning, protection and accountability.

## LECTURER

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**Elisabeth Pramendorfer** is an atrocity prevention expert with extensive experience advocating for populations at risk of atrocity crimes at the UN. She is the Geneva Director at the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, the world's leading research and advocacy organization advancing the international norm of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at the UN and beyond, working to prevent genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing worldwide.

She represents the Global Centre at the Human Rights Council, where she has expanded its work on atrocity prevention within the UN human rights system. Over the past decade, she has developed advocacy strategies and worked with senior government officials to mobilize multilateral responses to atrocity crises. She also leads the Centre's engagement with UN investigative mechanisms and the Group of Friends of R2P. She has published widely on R2P and atrocity prevention, and regularly speaks on multilateralism and human rights before parliaments, think tanks, NGOs and government institutions. Since 2021, she has contributed as a guest lecturer at academic institutions worldwide, including in the US, Switzerland, Canada and Latin America (New York Times Summer School, University of Geneva, McGill University Canada and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Every Casualty Counts and holds an LLM in IHL from the Geneva Academy, as well as degrees from Sciences Po, SOAS and King's College London.

## AGENDA OF THE ONLINE SESSIONS

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- Monday 24 August, 12:00 to 13:00 - *Introduction*
- Tuesday 25 August, 12:00 to 14:00
- Wednesday 26 August, 12:00 to 14:00
- Thursday 27 August, 12:00 to 14:00
- Friday 28 August, 12:00 to 14:00
- Monday 31 August, 12:00 to 14:00
- Tuesday 1 September, 12:00 to 14:00
- Wednesday 2 September, 12:00 to 14:00

## HOW TO APPLY

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Please send an email to [digital.academy@geneva-academy.ch](mailto:digital.academy@geneva-academy.ch) with a CV and a motivation letter expressing your interest in the specific course.

Selected applicants will receive a confirmation of acceptance. To secure their place, accepted participants are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of CHF 100.

Please note that this course is subject to a minimum of 10 participants. If this minimum is not reached two weeks prior to the start date, this course will not be delivered and all registered participants will receive a full refund of the deposit. Places are limited to 25 participants, and therefore early application is strongly encouraged.

## TUITION FEE

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CHF 950.

A discount of CHF 100 is available for students, alumni of the Academy, UNIGE, IHEID, and individuals who have previously participated in our trainings or educational activities.

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ON OUR WEBSITE**

