



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# FOREWORD

In 2018, the Geneva Academy once again fulfilled its crucial role in protecting the most vulnerable, mostly but not exclusively during and following armed conflicts; by providing expertise, by training relevant actors and conducting research in protective legal norms, and convening meetings to discuss and identify solutions to current human rights, international humanitarian law (IHL) and transitional justice issues.

Human rights and IHL have both come under unprecedented attacks in recent times. Human rights are not only, as they always have been, violated to differing degrees by most states, but an increasing number of leaders, including some who were democratically elected, have also rejected human rights in their speeches and policies. A growing proportion of the public unfortunately subscribe to their leaders' rejection of human rights, believing the problems they face can be solved by excluding others instead of through promoting economic and social rights for all. As for IHL, whether it is more often violated in today's armed conflicts than in the past is controversial, but it is clear that no consensus could be found in 2018 for even the slightest development of its implementation mechanisms and its rules on detention in non-international armed conflicts. These developments in human rights and IHL obviously have an impact on the credibility of transitional justice efforts in post-conflict and post-authoritarian contexts, which again affect the most vulnerable and those in need of protection and redress.

In this precarious environment it is crucial to train, as we do in our three master's programmes and numerous short courses, both young people who will eventually become the decision makers and leaders of tomorrow, and professionals already involved in, or at least willing to engage in the fight to protect the most vulnerable in armed conflicts, situations of transitional justice, international negotiations and at the domestic level. In-depth training is essential so that young people and professionals fully understand the branches of international law protecting all people, including the most vulnerable. Our aim is for them to view protective international legal norms not only as a tool for achieving their ideals and personal career goals, but also as universally accepted values that, as such, empower the most vulnerable rather than merely offering them protection as 'beneficiaries'.

While our research is conducted using state-of-the-art academic methods, it aims to provide practical results that can immediately be used and understood by practitioners to improve the lives of the most vulnerable persons across the world. Thus, through years of work and coalition building, we were able to influence decisively the negotiations and adoption in 2018 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

Such an immediate impact may not be as obvious for our Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) database, which was completed in 2018 to cover each and every armed conflict in the world to determine which rules of IHL apply. However, without such a classification of current situations as either an international or non-international armed conflict (a task that even the International Committee of the Red Cross often cannot undertake publicly and sometimes not even bilaterally and confidentially), humanitarian players, civil servants, academics or affected populations and their advocates cannot invoke IHL or determine whether it has been violated. Indeed, in situations that do not qualify as an armed conflict, only international human rights law (IHRL) applies.

Finally, our ongoing research on disability and armed conflict addresses, for the first time, one of the most neglected and under-reported issues in armed conflicts and analyses – the legal obligations to respect, protect and assist persons with disabilities in the most difficult circumstances under complementary branches of law, namely IHL, IHRL, international refugee law and weapons law.

Villa Moynier, where we have our offices and unique meeting facilities in the heart of international Geneva, enables us to host meetings that diplomats, civil servants, academics and representatives of civil society can regularly attend to informally discuss and explore innovative solutions to current human rights and IHL issues that are on the agenda of Geneva-based institutions. Our Human Rights Platform, which is generously supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, allows us to suggest, based upon these informal exchanges and our policy-oriented legal research, solutions to practical and theoretical challenges faced by these institutions; for example, crucial reforms to the UN Human Rights treaty bodies.

All of this, however, would be impossible without either our dedicated, motivated and highly specialized researchers, teachers and administrative staff who devote themselves every day to our mission, or states and institutions that generously fund our activities, including through grants that allow some of our students to undertake one of our master's programmes. In the name of the most vulnerable persons who are the ultimate beneficiaries of our mission, I wholeheartedly thank our employees for their unwavering commitment, as well as states, other institutions and our two parent institutions – the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies – for their constant support.

While ever conscious of the challenges that remain before us, it is for these reasons I proudly took over the directorship of the Geneva Academy from Robert Roth on 1 August 2018. I sincerely hope to hand it over to my successor one day in as healthy and dynamic a state as that in which my predecessor left it.



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

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## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### ALL ARMED CONFLICTS NOW CLASSIFIED UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) online portal ([www.rulac.org](http://www.rulac.org)) provides a comprehensive classification of all situations of armed violence that amount to an armed conflict under international humanitarian law (IHL).

With the 2018 additions – the international armed conflict between India and Pakistan and the non-international armed conflicts in Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sudan and Thailand – the portal currently monitors 37 armed conflicts involving 51 states: 4 international armed conflicts, 22 non-international armed conflicts and 11 military occupations.

This unique online resource details the factual and methodological basis for the classification of each conflict, and identifies the parties and 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.

### LAUNCH OF THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

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

As a 'Mechanisms Lab', the HRP supports the international community – via conferences, expert meetings and consultations, briefings for diplomats and members of United Nations treaty bodies, as well as training courses – 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.

### MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS TRAINED TO BECOME GAME CHANGERS IN THE FIGHT FOR BETTER RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Via our three master's programmes, our Transitional Justice Spring School and various training and short courses, more than 200 students and practitioners developed the legal tools to address complex humanitarian and human rights challenges, ensure better respect for IHL and international human rights law (IHRL) and ultimately protect the most vulnerable.



## ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS

In 2018, the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas after more than ten years of advocacy work by social movements, civil society organizations and experts, and six years of negotiation.

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.

## NEW COURSE ON THE ISLAMIC LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

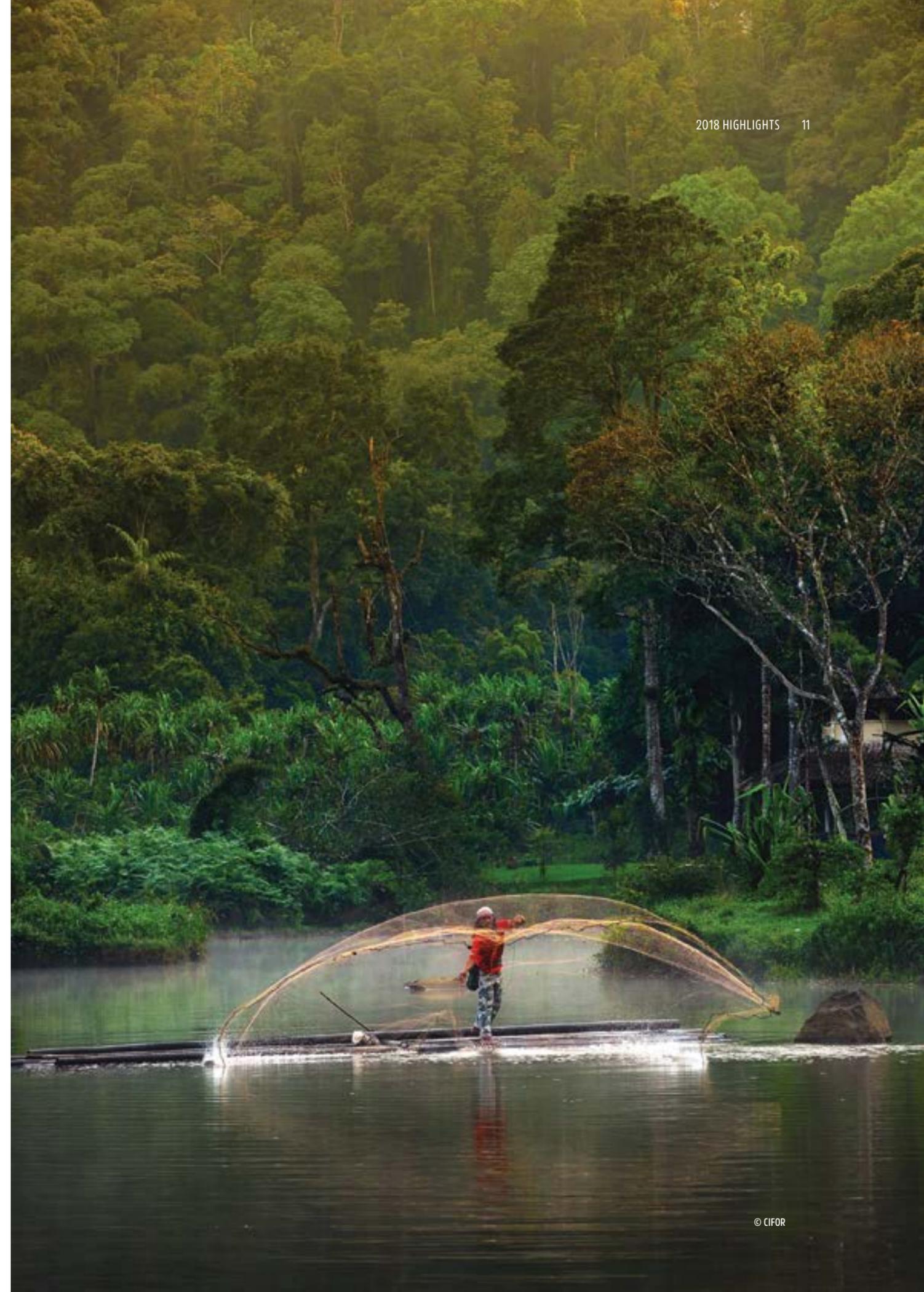
From Libya to Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria or the Philippines, a significant number of armed conflicts are taking place in the Muslim world. In these contexts, Islamic law can provide useful references and insights to help protect people affected by conflict.

Students of our LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ) had the opportunity, during the Spring Semester, to follow an optional course on the Islamic law of armed conflict. Taught by Dr Ahmed Al-Dawoody, an expert on the subject and the current Legal Adviser for Islamic Law and Jurisprudence at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), this new course examined the rules regulating the use of force during international and non-international armed conflicts under classical Islamic law; classical Islamic rules providing protection to certain persons and objects and those regulating certain means and methods of warfare, as well as the challenges surrounding their application in current armed conflicts and their compatibility with IHL.

## OXFORD COMMENTARY ON THE UN PRINCIPLES TO COMBAT IMPUNITY

*The United Nations Principles to Combat Impunity: A Commentary* – published by Oxford University Press and edited by the two Co-Directors of our MTJ, Frank Haldemann and Thomas Unger – provides an unmatched analysis of the UN Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights Through Action to Combat Impunity.

With contributions from more than 36 leading scholars and practitioners, including Geneva Academy professors, staff and alumni, the book engages with central aspects of transitional justice and the fight against impunity, including criminal justice, truth commissions, institutional reform and reparations. It also touches on issues of victim participation, gender justice and the question of amnesties and prevention of mass crimes.





## ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Building on more than ten years of research on the linkages between economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) and development, the 100-page publication *No One Will Be Left Behind* looks at the role of UN human rights mechanisms in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek to realize ESCR. It notably highlights the need to fully integrate human rights in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and provides a set of recommendations to enable states, UN human rights mechanisms, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the High-Level Political Forum to do so.

A dedicated training course, attended by state and civil society representatives and members of international organizations and academia also addressed, for the first time, the linkages between ESCR and the SDGs.

## STUDENTS ADDRESS CURRENT CHALLENGES IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN THEIR MASTER'S PAPERS

From the obligations of armed groups regarding the protection of cultural heritage in non-international armed conflicts to the role of transitional justice processes in divided societies, students of our three master's programmes addressed, in their final papers, contemporary issues and challenges in IHL, human rights and transitional justice.

These papers, which form an integral part of the programmes, allow students to use what they've learned in class to analyse a specific issue and develop their own critical thinking. The 2018 Henry Dunant Research Prize, Best LLM Paper Prize and Best MTJ Paper Prize rewarded three students for the exceptional academic quality of their papers at the 2018 Graduation Ceremony.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), we organized two events to reflect upon its significance today and its adoption in 1948.

In a symposium co-organized with the Department of International History at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, jurists and historians discussed the origins, context, debates and personalities that shaped and eventually endorsed the UDHR.

In a conference in Berlin, co-organized with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Forum Menschenrechte and the German Institute for Human Rights, participants addressed the significance of the UDHR today, including its relevance, how the international human rights landscape and priorities have changed over the last 70 years and to what extent current international human rights instruments can be utilized to achieve some of the standards outlined in the Declaration.



## GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

While less-lethal weapons (LLWs) are regularly used in law enforcement for the management of assemblies, there is no international guidance on their design, production, procurement, testing, training, transfer and use.

Under the auspices of the Geneva Academy and the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, a group of experts – academics, representatives of UN agencies and other international organizations, UN Special Procedures mandate holders, members of UN treaty bodies, law enforcement officials, experts in police oversight and representatives of NGOs, civil society and manufacturers – developed guidance on LLWs and related equipment in law enforcement.

A three-month written consultation process, as well as several expert meetings and consultations in Pretoria, Cambridge and Geneva over the course of 2018 enabled the gathering of inputs and comments from a broad range of stakeholders.

The *Guidelines on Less-Lethal Weapons and Related Equipment in Law Enforcement* will be published in 2019 by OHCHR. Based on international law, in particular IHRL and its law enforcement rules, as well as good law enforcement practice, they aim to provide direction on the lawful and responsible design, production, transfer, procurement, testing, training, deployment and use of LLWs and related equipment, and to promote accountability.

## MARCO SASSÒLI BECOMES THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE GENEVA ACADEMY

In August 2018, Professor Marco Sassòli became the new Director of the Geneva Academy. He replaced Professor Robert Roth who retired after four years of dedicated leadership.

A renowned scholar in IHL, Marco Sassòli has, since 2004, been Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva while also teaching IHL at the Geneva Academy. He is Associate Professor at the University of Québec in Montréal, Canada, Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists and Special Advisor (pro bono) on IHL to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He previously worked for the ICRC as Deputy Head of its Legal Division in Geneva and Head of Delegation in the field.

## 2018 IN FIGURES

3 Master's programmes

17 Training and short courses

More than 85 students from 48 countries

15 Research projects

More than 70 events, seminars, conferences and expert meetings

14 Publications

More than 50 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

Our LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights is a full-time, one-year post-graduate degree course (60 ECTS credits). It provides advanced, comprehensive and practical training in IHL, international human rights law (IHRL), as well as an understanding of the interplay between them.

A core output of the LLM is a paper on a specific issue that gives students the opportunity to investigate a subject of special interest and deepen their knowledge and expertise through research as well as exchanges with experts, scholars and practitioners.

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

*The professors are well-renowned experts and practitioners in their own fields. The assignments and tutorials help us to think critically about the limitations and dimensions of each situation or case we study and the extent to which it can be solved.*

**Naureen Rahim, 2018-2019 LLM Student**

The programme allows students to tailor their studies according to their particular interests. Core courses provide a firm grounding in public international law, IHL, IHRL, international refugee law and international criminal law. Optional courses cover more specific issues such as the Islamic law of armed conflict, the rules governing the conduct of hostilities, or the use of force and counter-terrorism.

Military Briefings, a unique series of events relating to military institutions and the law, provide students, via presentations by military guests and experts, with knowledge of military actors and operations.

*Having practised human rights law at the domestic level, I was keen to develop my expertise in the international legal framework and expand my legal training to matters relating to international criminal law and international humanitarian law and its interplay with human rights law. The LLM at the Geneva Academy provided me with the perfect platform to do so.*

**Harshwardhan Akolkar, 2018-2019 LLM Student**

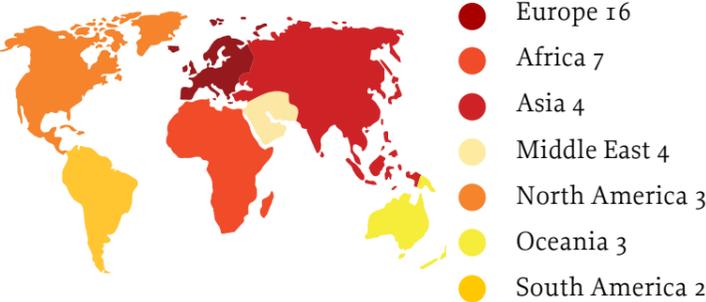
### 2018-2019 LLM CLASS

The 2018-2019 LLM class has 39 students from 25 countries: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

### GENDER REPRESENTATION



### GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

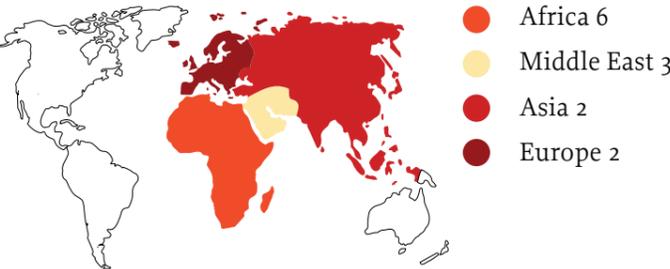


### Scholarships

Thirteen 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





### 2017-2018 LLM CLASS

Thirty-four students successfully completed the programme.

#### Internships

Twenty-four students undertook a research internship during the second semester with leading human rights and humanitarian actors including TRIAL International, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Commission of Jurists and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

*During the Spring Semester, I interned at the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), an NGO based in Geneva. Whilst there, I performed several duties which included attending and reporting on relevant meetings and side events at the UN Human Rights Council and conducting research on UN treaty bodies. This internship gave me a unique opportunity to view the UN human rights system at work in Geneva as well as the opportunity to contribute to ISHR's work on human rights defenders and strengthening human rights systems.*

**Sena Nutakor, 2017-2018 LLM Student**

#### Participation in Moot Courts

A Geneva Academy team – Yasmin Afina, Guillem Puri Plana and Noa Schreuer – participated in the prestigious Jean-Pictet Competition and reached the semi-finals.

Four students from the LLM and the Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – Leanna Burnard, Antoana Nedyalkova, Anne-Sofie Stockman and Agata Szerszenska – pleaded together on issues related to international criminal law and international criminal justice at the 2018 Nuremberg Moot Court.

*During Pictet, we were given the opportunity to learn many things which, I believe, we would have never been able to learn otherwise in such a short period of time and in such an enjoyable manner. Meeting and discussing with more than a 100 bright-minded people from across the globe was truly inspiring.*

**Yasmin Afina, 2017-2018 LLM Student**

#### Study Trip

Students went on a nine-day study trip to Belgrade and Kosovo where they met with a wide range of leading actors working on IHL, human rights, international criminal law, transitional justice and migration, including the ICRC, the UN Mission in Kosovo, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Development Programme and the Human Rights Review Panel of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo.

*The study trip provided a real-life context for what we were studying and the opportunity to learn about the work of numerous humanitarian and human rights organizations, but it also gave us the time to bond as a class and solidify the lifelong friendships we've made at the Geneva Academy!*

**Katherine Walton, 2017-2018 LLM Student**

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

Our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ) is a full-time, one-year postgraduate degree course (60 ECTS credits) 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.

*Professors are not just rigorous from an academic perspective, but their experience and 'on-the-ground' exposure create an environment in which conversations, inquiries and discussions are granted an immense value.*

**Luisa Fernanda Gómez Betancur, 2018-2019 MTJ Student**

One of the very few programmes on this subject, it combines theoretical knowledge with real-world perspectives and a cross-disciplinary approach, and focuses on developing practical skills to address current challenges in this field.

Besides core courses that provide a firm grounding in the central theoretical and practical transitional justice issues, the programme allows students to tailor their studies to their particular interests.

During the Spring Semester, MTJ students can choose between three different tracks. Those who want to deepen, broaden and diversify their knowledge in particular thematic areas can attend two thematic courses via the Thematic Focus track. Clinical Work, in the form of research internships or participation in a moot court, provides a solid exposure to practical work.

Students interested in academic research can follow the Academic Research track to familiarize themselves with the tools of academic research and participate in peer discussions about complex theoretical issues within the field of transitional justice.

Throughout the year, MTJ students have access to a world-renowned faculty, benefit from direct connections with leading actors and share ideas with other talented participants from an array of different backgrounds and perspectives.

*I have immense appreciation for the interdisciplinary, holistic and exploratory approach this programme takes. Our professors, as well as valuable guest speakers, come from a range of disciplines and, as such, bring a spectrum of viewpoints, from boots-on-the-ground to theoretical discourse approaches, each with its own merits.*

**Zoë Doss, 2018-2019 MTJ Student**

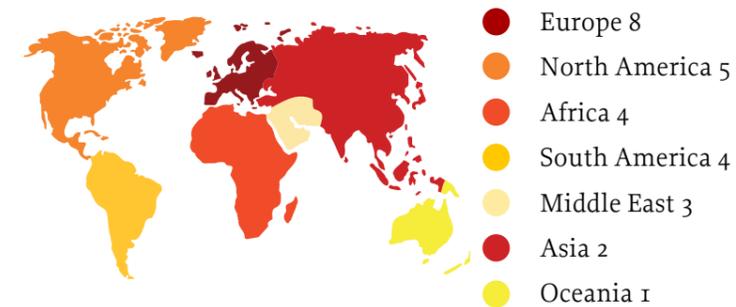
### 2018-2019 MTJ CLASS

The 2018-2019 MTJ class has 27 students from 23 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Fiji, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Syria, the USA, Uganda, Ukraine and Vietnam.

### GENDER REPRESENTATION



### GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

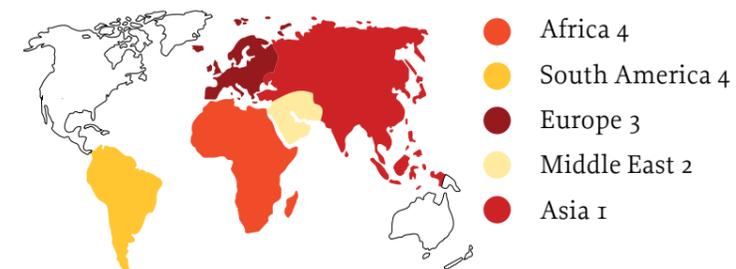


### Scholarships

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



**2017-2018 MTJ CLASS**

Thirty-two 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 on 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 internship at JusticeInfo.net I wrote on the issues of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, the reintegration of child soldiers and universal jurisdiction. This internship gave me an insight into how the media can support and promote societies emerging from conflict by reflecting societal peace and reconciliation alongside victims' demands for justice, the right to truth and the right to information.*

**Eden Matiyas, 2017-2018 Student**

**Study Trip**

Students and the co-directors of the programme travelled to Nuremberg, a key site for reflecting on transitional justice as a contemporary response to mass atrocity. They visited the Nuremberg Trials Memorial, the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the permanent exhibition 'Terror and Fascination'. Students also had an insightful discussion and friendly exchange with professors and students from the University of Nuremberg-Erlangen.

*The study trip to Nuremberg has been one of the most cherished experiences of the programme. As students of transitional justice, it was fascinating to go back in history to some of the significant moments of international criminal justice.*

**Arpita Mitra, 2018-2019 MTJ Student**

**Spring School**

During one week, practitioners, scholars, experts and students addressed the roles that memory, culture and history play in dealing with a violent past and in preventing the recurrence of atrocities via an interdisciplinary programme, on-site visits to OHCHR and the ICRC and cultural activities. They debated key questions such as the role of culture and memorialization in transitional justice processes; the possible impact of cultural initiatives such as public memorials, theatre performances, film screenings or photo exhibitions on the process of coming to terms with the past; the role of education and history in processes of social transformation; whether there is a duty to preserve memory and the potential contribution of archives; and practical challenges faced by memorialization efforts around the world.

*The Spring School was very enriching. It was innovative and inspiring. We were privileged to have leading experts, scholars and practitioners in the field of transitional justice.*

**Ndikum Ransome, 2018-2019 MTJ Student**



## EXECUTIVE MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT

Our Executive Master/Master of Advanced Studies in International Law in Armed Conflict (60 ECTS credits) is one of the few part-time, innovative and intellectually challenging programmes in IHL and human rights offered today. Designed for professionals with demanding jobs and responsibilities – diplomats, lawyers, legal advisers, NGO staff, human rights advocates, media specialists, professionals working in emergency situations, UN staff and staff from other international organizations – it responds to the growing need for specialists to address complex humanitarian challenges.

Based in Geneva, this executive programme runs for nine months (October–June). Six to nine additional months are needed to complete a master's thesis and defend it before a jury.

Courses take place on Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons at our headquarters, Villa Moynier. They cover international law, IHL, IHRL, international refugee law and international criminal law.

Taught by world-renowned law experts and professors, the programme enables participants to gain specialized knowledge directly applicable to professional work. It also responds to the growing need for specialists to address complex situations – in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere – and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

### 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, the UN Human Rights Council 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.

### 2018-2020 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

The 2018–2020 Executive Master class has 23 participants from 17 countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden and Venezuela.

Professionally, they hold positions in international organizations, governments and the private sector.

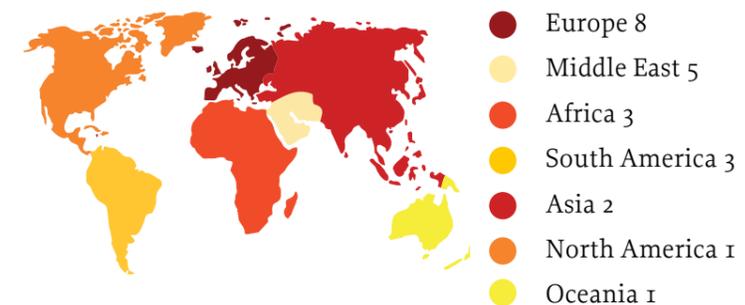
### GENDER REPRESENTATION



### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND



### GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION



### 2017-2019 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

The 20 participants are currently working on their theses and will graduate in October 2019.

### 2016-2018 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

Of the 22 participants, 11 successfully completed the programme and 11 postponed their graduation to October 2019 due to professional commitments.



## 2018 GRADUATION CEREMONY

On 26 October 2018, around 150 guests, including graduates' families, attended the 2018 Graduation Ceremony at the Maison de la paix (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) under the auspices of Professor Marco Sassòli.

Professor Laurence Boisson de Chazournes from the University of Geneva delivered the keynote speech on IHL, human rights and international dispute settlement. François Bugnon, Board Member of the Henry Dunant Prize Foundation awarded the Henry Dunant Prize to Anna Greipl for her LLM paper 'International State Responsibility: The Role of Italy in Outsourcing Migration Management to Libya'.

Antoana Marinova Nedyalkova received the 2018 Best LLM Paper Prize for her paper 'Judicial Notice of Adjudicated Facts at the Ad Hoc International Criminal Tribunals and the Right to a Fair Trial', and Lucia Susmitha Thayanandan received the 2018 Best MTJ Paper Prize for her paper 'Constitution-Making as a Guarantee of Non-Recurrence? The Case of Sri Lanka'.



## CLARIFYING AND APPLYING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

### THE WAR REPORT

As an annual publication, The War Report provides an overview of current armed conflicts, including key international humanitarian law (IHL) and policy issues that require attention.

The War Report 2017, published in March 2018, details 55 situations of armed violence that amounted to armed conflicts in 2017 according to IHL and international criminal law. Available online and in print, it also concentrates on recent legal developments related to selected situations of armed violence: Afghanistan, Colombia, El Salvador, Israel–Palestine, Libya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Somalia, Turkey and Yemen.

Short articles were published throughout 2018 on the Geneva Academy website, providing updated information on ongoing and emerging crises: Crimea, Ethiopia–Eritrea, Georgia–Abkhazia and Israel–Palestine.

### 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.

Building on topics covered in the latest edition of The War Report, the second conference, held in London, addressed the global system for accountability; reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence

for victims of armed conflict; the qualification of armed conflict in the context of armed gangs and organized crime; and the human rights and humanitarian implications of emerging military technologies.

Patricia Sellers, Special Advisor for Gender to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, discussed the Ntaganda case in her keynote speech, which closed the conference.

### RULE OF LAW IN ARMED CONFLICTS

The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) online portal ([www.rulac.org](http://www.rulac.org)) provides a comprehensive classification of all situations of armed violence that amount to an armed conflict under IHL.

With the 2018 additions – the international armed conflict between India and Pakistan and the non-international armed conflicts in Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sudan and Thailand – the portal currently monitors 37 armed conflicts involving at least 51 states: 4 international armed conflicts, 22 non-international armed conflicts and 11 military occupations.

For each conflict, this unique online resource details the factual and methodological basis for its classification, and identifies the parties and 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.





### 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.

This project aims to ensure the better protection of persons with disabilities in situations of armed conflict and its immediate aftermath by identifying the legal obligations to protect and assist persons with disabilities during conflict.

It has been awarded a research grant from the Swiss Network for International Studies and was started in partnership with the Institute for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Basel, Psychiatric University Clinics Basel and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

In 2018, field research was undertaken to assess the impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities and gaps in implementing IHL protections as well as applicable human rights norms in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Palestine, Ukraine and Vietnam. Workshops, organized in partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), took place in Gaza, the West Bank and Ukraine. They provided participants – local organizations of persons with disabilities, UN agencies and other international humanitarian organizations – with an overview of international law applicable to persons with disabilities, including IHL and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the inclusion of persons with disabilities in norms related to the conduct of hostilities (such as assessments of proportionality and the meaning of 'effective advance warnings of attacks').

Giles Duley, an internationally renowned, award-winning photojournalist, joined the project to capture images of several themes relevant to the research. His photographs will be displayed at exhibitions in Geneva in spring 2019 to coincide with the launch of the project's findings.

### INVESTIGATING IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT: LAW, POLICY AND GOOD PRACTICE

The investigation of death and harm during situations of armed conflict is a key area of humanitarian concern, with profound implications for the application of IHL.

The duty to investigate in situations of armed conflict is implied, but not mentioned directly in international law sources. States tend to rely on their domestic legal frameworks when it is deemed that an investigation is necessary, yet there is little uniformity of practice across states and no agreed international standards by which to assess these domestic procedures.

This project, initiated in 2014 by the Swiss IHL Chair, Professor Noam Lubell, and carried out in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), intends to identify, via expert meetings and research, a set of guidelines for states, their militaries and other domestic bodies on investigations in armed conflict based on law, policy and good practice to apply when they investigate alleged violations of IHL in situations of armed conflict.

In 2018, the project focused on drafting the set of guidelines and the commentaries attached to each guideline, and gathering comments from relevant stakeholders.

## STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

### HUMAN RIGHTS, BIG DATA AND 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 regulation of the digital domain by the UN Human Rights Council and other UN mechanisms.

We also organized a debate on artificial intelligence and human rights at the 2018 International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (IFFFH) and co-hosted the mid-term conference of this research project, discussing preliminary research outcomes on human rights in the digital age with Geneva-based institutions and experts.

### 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 international human rights law (IHRL) and policies related to gender equality guarantees and their application to business activities.

Published in December 2018, the Academy Briefing Gender-Responsive Due Diligence for Business Actors: Human Rights-Based Approaches focuses on the direct responsibilities of business actors to respect and, in some circumstances, facilitate gender equality guarantees under IHRL and details corporate human rights obligations to respect the equal rights of men, women and gender non-conforming people within the workplace, as well as in relation to the wider economic, social and cultural impact of their activities.

The briefing has received positive feedback from several multinational business actors and international organizations including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Labour Organization and OHCHR, as well as a number of civil society and academic experts. The publication was presented during an expert consultation in Geneva organized by the Geneva Academy for the UN Working Group.



### A PRACTITIONERS' GUIDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COUNTERING CORRUPTION

Corruption has been identified throughout the UN system as one of the main challenges to sustainable development and the realization of human rights.

This research project, conducted in partnership with OHCHR and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre) aims, via the drafting of a practitioners' guide on human rights and countering corruption, to clarify the conceptual relationship between human rights, good governance and anticorruption; demonstrate the negative impact of corruption on human rights; and provide guidance and make practical recommendations for effectively using the UN human rights system in anti-corruption efforts.

In this framework, we organized, with OHCHR and the CCPR-Centre, two conferences on corruption and human rights to present the draft of a practitioners' guide on corruption and human rights and identify which parts of the UN human rights system have contributed to the topic. The practitioners' guide will be finalized in 2019 and presented to

anti-corruption activists at the UN in Vienna and during NGO training at the national level.

### TRAINING COURSE ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Eleven participants from diverse countries, including eight countries outside Europe, participated in this training course, now in its third year. They engaged in discussions on the most pressing issues concerning environmental degradation and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights, including recent normative and policy developments on climate change, biodiversity loss, water pollution and toxic waste, as well as strategies to use international human rights mechanisms to stop polluting activities and seek remedies for victims. The course included a visit to the UN Human Rights Council and attending a side-event on environmental issues emerging from the use of new technologies, with a special focus on nanomaterials. Participants also attended a hearing at the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee and observed how communications involving the breaches of the rights to information, public participation and access to justice are dealt with by this mechanism.

## 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 2018, the research findings were discussed at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York and at the African Union in Addis Ababa. Work is underway on a book proposal that will draw together observations from Cambodia and Ghana on gendered changes in livelihoods and food security arising from agricultural and land commercialization, along with our findings on the role of policies, institutions, laws and legal systems in the promotion and protection of the right to adequate food for all rights holders.

Over the next two years, the research will further explore a number of themes including gendered access to judicial and quasi-judicial dispute-resolution mechanisms; the gender-differentiated impact of agricultural commercialization on waged and non-waged labour in rural communities; linkages between food security and gendered economies of care and reproductive labour; changing 'food cultures' as a result of agrarian transformation; land governance and titling as gendered practices; and the gender dimensions of rural credit, indebtedness and access to food and nutrition.

The second project, Towards Food Sustainability: Reshaping the Coexistence of Different Food Systems in South America and Africa is developing 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 has worked in Bolivia and Kenya, where it carried out studies on six different food systems. The project will use the coming two years to test its framework on sustainable food systems via transformative pilot actions in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya and Zambia. The results of the application of the food sustainability framework model will then be presented in a number of peer-reviewed journal articles and in an edited volume summarizing the results of the entire six years of the project's lifespan.



### DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

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.

Launched in January 2018, the publication *No One Will Be Left Behind* outlines the links between ESCR and the SDGs. It notably looks at the role of UN human rights mechanisms in monitoring the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR and discusses the mutually reinforcing relationship between the SDGs and ESCR. The publication does not only highlight the need to fully integrate human rights in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs, but also provides a set of recommendations to enable states, UN human rights mechanisms, OHCHR and the High-Level Political Forum to do so.

The Research Brief *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals* provides a summary of the findings and recommendations contained in this publication for policy makers, diplomats and practitioners.

Through experts meetings and public conferences throughout the year, the recommendations in these two publications were presented and discussed with UN special procedures, members of UN treaty bodies, OHCHR staff, academics, diplomats and national human rights institutions.

### TRAINING COURSES ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Two training courses on ESCR took place in 2018. The course on ESCR and the SDGs focused on the complementarities and potential tensions between ESCR and the SDGs, placing particular emphasis on national and international mechanisms mandated to monitor the SDGs, and the role that UN human rights mechanisms can play in monitoring ESCR and the SDGs.

An online course in French, organized in collaboration with Human Dignity and Synergies Coopération, focused on the substantive content of ESCR, the protection mechanisms at international, regional and domestic levels, as well as the complementarity between ESCR and the SDGs.

### THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS

In 2018, the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UN Declaration), after more than ten years of advocacy work by social movements, civil society organizations and experts, and six years of negotiation.

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 2018, we supported the final stage of negotiations by providing legal advice via a Research Brief on the rights to food sovereignty and to free, prior and informed consent. The study was presented in the plenary session of the fifth session of the working group mandated to elaborate the UN Declaration and some of the language proposed in the study was included in the final version.

An expert seminar, co-organized with the Government of Switzerland, the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the UN in Geneva and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, discussed the roles of states, civil society organizations, social movements and international organizations in implementing the UN Declaration, and lessons that can be learned from the implementation of the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. More than 60 participants – academics, experts, diplomats, representatives of NGOs and social movements – gathered to discuss examples of good practices that could be replicated in implementing the UN Declaration, such as the recognition of the rights of peasants in national constitutions, laws, policies and programmes, increased collaboration between UN agencies and practical tools produced by civil society and social movements.

### THE RIGHT TO SEEDS IN EUROPE

This new research project, begun in 2018, examines the 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 UN Declaration 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.

A workshop held in Geneva in May 2018 brought together representatives of European institutions and EU Member States, European peasants' organizations and seed networks, lawyers and environmental and human rights organizations to identify opportunities and challenges in the use of the UN Declaration to protect the right to seeds in Europe.

Discussions will feed into a guide to be published in 2019 that will explain how the UN Declaration can be used in Europe to lobby for better protection of the right to seeds.



## DEVELOPING AREAS OF COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### HUMAN RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS

IHL and IHRL share certain common objectives, but they differ in their scope of application. IHRL applies at all times, while IHL applies only in cases of armed conflict. Armed non-state actors (ANSAs) that are parties to a conflict are subject to the obligations imposed by IHL. However, less legal clarity exists regarding the extent to which they are also legally bound to respect human rights in situations that are not covered by IHL or where IHL does not provide adequate guidance.

It is still unclear and difficult to establish whether ANSAs' IHRL obligations are anchored in some form of law or practice emerging from the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council or the UN Human Rights Council. The accountability and reparation for human rights violations committed by ANSAs is also a critical issue in the debate. Apart from individual criminal responsibility, there is currently no judicial or quasi-judicial international mechanism to hold ANSAs per se accountable under IHRL.

Begun in June 2018, this project aims to clarify the characteristics and types of ANSAs concerned by these issues; the obligations of states that have lost control of part of their territory; the criteria defining 'de facto authorities' and whether there is a common understanding among states and international organizations of the concept; the capacity-related challenges that ANSAs may encounter in implementing human rights obligations, in particular so-called 'positive obligations'; and the legal and political remedies

available at the national and international level for ANSAs' IHRL violations.

An expert meeting held in November 2018 discussed the characteristics and types of ANSAs and the obligations of states that have lost control of part of their territory. The Academy Briefing State Responsibility for Human Rights Violations Committed in the State Territory by Armed Non-State Actors, published in December 2018, explores the particular aspects of state responsibility for human rights violations committed by ANSAs in its territory.

### 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.

The project has a pragmatic double objective. First, to offer a comparative analysis of IHL and human rights norms from the perspective of ANSAs via available unilateral engagements, public declarations, special agreements, peace treaties, field research and interviews with selected ANSAs. Second, to inform strategies for humanitarian engagement with ANSAs, in particular the content of a possible 'Model Code of Conduct' for ANSAs.

The project received funding in 2018 from the European Commission, which will allow the field research to start in 2019.

## GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

The Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP), launched in 2018, provides a dynamic forum in Geneva for all stakeholders in the field of human rights – experts, practitioners, diplomats and civil society – to discuss topical human rights issues and challenges, and how these are addressed by Geneva-based human rights mechanisms. Relying on academic research and findings, it enables various actors to become better connected, break down silos and, hence, advance human rights.

In its first year, the GHRP notably assisted the 2020 Review of United Nations (UN) Treaty Bodies (TBs) by organizing briefings for states, NGOs and members of UN TBs, and providing academic

inputs to this process. The GHRP also facilitated discussions among TB experts on the harmonization of TBs, organized exchanges between TBs and external experts on thematic issues and provided support to discussions and negotiations at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on human rights in the digital age and the use of less-lethal weapons in law enforcement.

The GHRP also conducted several training sessions on Geneva-based human rights mechanisms, including executive training on optimizing the HRC, and a series of customized training sessions for academics in partnership with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo.

### ACADEMIC PLATFORM ON TREATY BODY REVIEW 2020

The Geneva Academy has been coordinating the academic input to the 2020 TB review by the UN General Assembly via an academic network of independent researchers, a call for papers, a series of regional workshops and annual conferences in Geneva, ongoing interactions with key stakeholders including states, UN TBs, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society, UN entities and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and a publication that gathers these various inputs and provides specific recommendations.

The publication *Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System*, the outcome of this three-year consultation process, outlines a series of recommendations related to the functioning of UN TBs and provides detailed and innovative solutions for optimizing the system. The publication was presented in Geneva and New York to diplomats, members of UN TBs, experts, NGOs, NHRIs, OHCHR and the European Union Working Party on Human Rights.

A new tool, the ‘Treaty Body Scheduler’, which enables the planning of the best schedules for TB sessions, shows how some of the recommendations of this publication – the consolidated report and clustered dialogue – could be implemented.



# Allgemeine Erklärung schenrechte – Anlass zu r Besorgnis?

GENEVA  
ACADEMY

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## TREATY BODY MEMBERS' PLATFORM

The Treaty Body Members' Platform connects experts from UN TBs with each other as well as with Geneva-based practitioners, academics and diplomats to share expertise, exchange views on topical questions and develop synergies.

In 2018, the Platform enabled experts from all TBs to discuss a range of issues among themselves as well as with external experts and practitioners, including a human rights-based approach to fighting corruption, the right of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent, how to address 'harmful practices' and the right to life as part of the drafting of General Comment No 36 on Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Various meetings in Geneva and New York also allowed TB members to discuss the 2020 review by the UN General Assembly, the harmonization of their working methods and the so-called 'simplified reporting procedure' among themselves as well as with diplomats and civil society organizations.

These issues included the rights of indigenous women, business and human rights, non-refoulement, individual complaint mechanisms and the relationship between treaty bodies and national human rights institutions.



## CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES

Via expert meetings, consultations, conferences and targeted research, leading academics, experts, diplomats and practitioners who work on human rights at national, regional and international levels discussed the way the HRC and other Geneva-based mechanisms address or should address current challenges related to the use of force and human rights and freedoms in the digital age.

### USE OF FORCE

While less-lethal weapons (LLWs) are regularly used by law enforcement for the management of assemblies, there is no international guidance on their design, production, procurement, testing, training, transfer and use.

Under the auspices of the Geneva Academy and the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, a group of experts – academics, representatives of UN agencies and other international organizations, UN Special Procedures mandate holders, members of UN TBs, law enforcement officials, experts in police oversight, representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and manufacturers – developed guidance on LLWs and related equipment in law enforcement.

A three-month written consultation process, as well as several expert meetings and consultations in Pretoria, Cambridge and Geneva over the course of 2018 enabled the gathering of inputs and comments from a broad range of stakeholders.

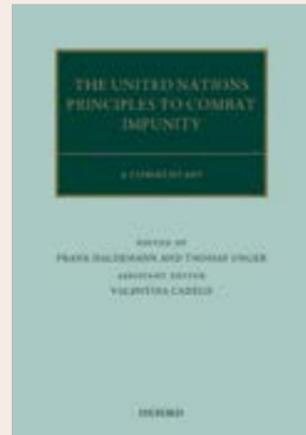
The Guidelines on Less-Lethal Weapons and Related Equipment in Law Enforcement will be published in 2019 by OHCHR. Based on international law, in particular international human rights law and law enforcement rules, as well as good law enforcement practice, they intend to provide direction on the lawful and responsible design, production, transfer, procurement, testing, training, deployment and use of LLWs and related equipment, and to promote accountability.

### HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

While the digital age offers unique opportunities to strengthen human rights implementation and monitoring, it also poses unique challenges to ensuring that states and businesses respect and protect our rights in the digital space.

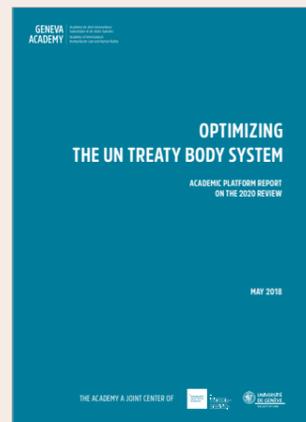
Dedicated research, expert meetings and consultations, support to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, as well as coordination meetings addressed issues related to the exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly, whether online or offline, exploring both the positive and negative impacts that information and communication technologies have had and continue to have on the enjoyment of this right.

## BOOK

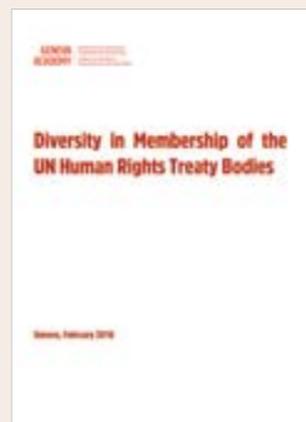


**The United Nations Principles to Combat Impunity: A Commentary**  
Oxford University Press, March 2018  
Edited by Frank Haldemann and Thomas Unger

## ACADEMIC PLATFORM ON TREATY BODY REVIEW 2020



**Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System**  
May 2018  
Claire Callejon, Kamelia Kemileva, Felix Kirchmeier and Domenico Zipoli

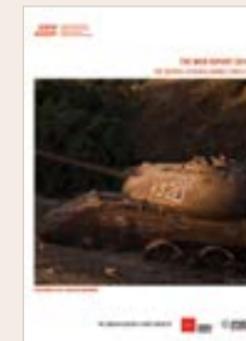


**Diversity in Membership of the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies**  
February 2018  
Ivona Truscan

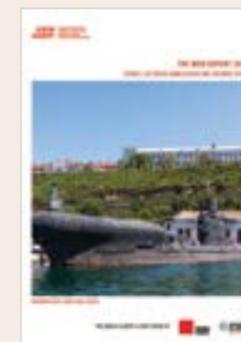
## THE WAR REPORT



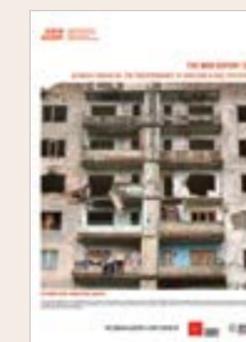
**The War Report 2017**  
March 2018  
Edited by Annyssa Bellal



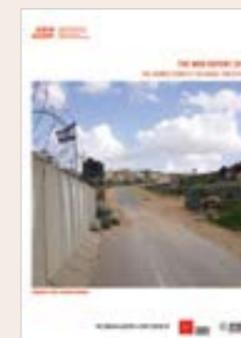
**The Eritrea–Ethiopia Armed Conflict**  
December 2018  
Tadesse Kebebew



**Crimea: Between Annexation and Reunification**  
November 2018  
Grazvydas Jasutis

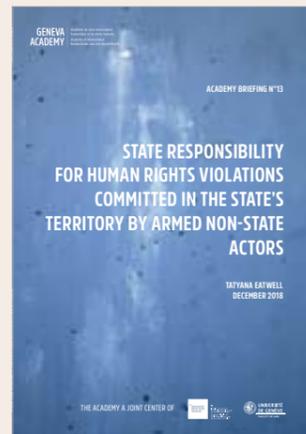


**Georgia–Abkhazia: The Predominance of Irreconcilable Positions**  
October 2018  
Grazvydas Jasutis

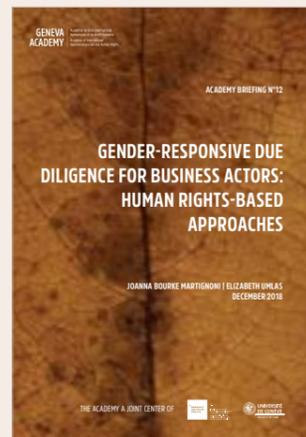


**The Armed Conflict in Israel–Palestine**  
January 2018  
Montse Ferrer

**BRIEFINGS**



**State Responsibility for Human Rights Violations Committed in the State's Territory by Armed Non-State Actors**  
 December 2018  
 Tatyana Eatwell



**Gender-Responsive Due Diligence for Business Actors: Human Rights-Based Approaches**  
 December 2018  
 Joanna Bourke Martignoni and Elizabeth Umlas



**No One Will Be Left Behind**  
**The Role of UN Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals that Seek to Realize Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**  
 January 2018  
 Christophe Golay

**RESEARCH BRIEFS**



**Human Rights and Food Sustainability**  
 November 2018  
 Adriana Bessa



**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Sustainable Development Goals**  
 May 2018  
 Christophe Golay



**The Rights to Food Sovereignty and to Free, Prior and Informed Consent**  
 March 2018  
 Christophe Golay



# 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.



DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
5 February	<b>Geneva Consultation on the Human Rights Guiding Principles on State Obligations with Regards to Private Involvement in Education</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This consultation provided an opportunity to discuss the process, key concepts and policy implications for states and existing United Nations processes, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4), with Geneva-based stakeholders, including permanent missions, NGOs, international organizations, UN experts and academic researchers.	Permanent Missions of Finland, France and Portugal to the UN in Geneva; NORRAG; Amnesty International; Equal Education Law Centre; Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Initiative for Economic and Social Rights; Right to Education Initiative
9 February	<b>The Future of the UN System for the Protection of Human Rights</b>	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	This meeting served as a sounding board for the final report of the Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020 (Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System), discussing all the recommendations including their legal feasibility.	Paris Human Rights Center, University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas
22-23 February	<b>Improving the Human Rights Dimension of the Fight Against Corruption</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This two-day conference discussed how the issue of corruption, in particular through the lens of victims of corruption, could be taken into consideration by UN treaty bodies. Participants also discussed how human rights should be considered in the context of stolen asset return.	Centre for Civil and Political Rights
28 February	<b>Protecting Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: New Trends and Challenges</b>	Public Lecture by Michael Sfard	Michael Sfard, one of the most prominent Israeli human rights lawyers and author of <i>The Wall and the Gate: Israel, Palestine and the Legal Battle for Human Rights</i> , addressed the current situation of human rights defenders in Israel.	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; JCall
1 March	<b>The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict</b>	Book Launch	Fionnuala Ni Aoláin, one of the leading scholars in the fields of international human rights law, national security law, transitional justice and feminist legal theory, and the current UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, presented her new book, <i>The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict</i> , which focuses on the multidimensionality of gender in conflict.	
12 March	<b>Human Rights in Cyberspace</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	In this side event at the 37th session of the UN Human Rights Council, panelists discussed the applicability of existing human rights instruments to activities in cyberspace, which affect the enjoyment of human rights, and the need to continuously reassess the application of the existing legal framework in the light of new technological developments.	Permanent Missions of Israel and Germany to the UN in Geneva; Cyber Law Program, The Federmann Cyber Security Research Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
12 March	<b>It Stays With You: Use of Force by UN Peacekeepers in Haiti</b>	Film Screening and Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed issues raised in the film, including the responsibilities of the UN with regard to non-targeted deaths and injuries to civilians as a result of use of force by UN peacekeepers when carrying out mandated operations.	

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

13 March	<b>Agricultural Commercialization, the Right to Food and Gender Equality: Exploring Linkages</b>	Side Event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women NGO Forum	Panelists explored the gendered impacts of the increasing commercialization of agriculture and land. Using a series of insights drawn from recent research carried out in rural Cambodia and Ghana, they examined the accessibility and availability of food and land, paid and unpaid forms of labour, gender-based violence against women and shifting food cultures.	DEMETER-R4D; Gender Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; University of Ghana; Multi Angles, Cambodia
14 March	<b>Interrogation and Torture: Research on Efficacy, and Impacts for International Law</b>	Panel Discussion	In light of the prohibition of torture and the federally funded scientific research programme in the United States to investigate the most effective interrogation techniques, panelists looked at torture as an intelligence-gathering tool through the lens of efficacy.	
15 March	<b>Accountability in Syria: The Role of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism</b>	IHL Talk	Panelists addressed the work of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) in relation to existing and future national, regional or international investigations and prosecutions of the most serious crimes committed in Syria. They also focused on the IIIM's role regarding victims, by addressing issues such as collection of evidence, witness protection, psychosocial or medical support and how the IIIM can contribute to the overall goal of ensuring justice for all victims and preventing future violations.	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute
17 March	<b>War, Military Operations and Armament: Evolution and Challenges</b>	Military Briefing	Capitaine de vaisseau Erwan Roche from the French État-major des armées (Defense Staff) discussed the evolutions and challenges related to war, military operations and armament.	
17 March	<b>Artificial Intelligence: Opportunity or Threat for Human Rights?</b>	Evening at the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights	Panelists discussed whether artificial intelligence represents a threat or an opportunity for human rights. The debate was preceded by the screening of the film Pre-Crime.	International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights
20 March	<b>Paroles de Bourreau: The Look of Silence</b>	Film Screening and Panel Discussion	As part of the series Paroles de Bourreau, The screening of Joshua Oppenheimer's film The Look of Silence about the Indonesian killings of 1965-1966 was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Professor Riccardo Bocco.	University of Geneva; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
27 March	<b>An Evening with Giles Duley</b>		Giles Duley, an internationally renowned, award-winning photographer, shared his story and photographs and introduced his work on the Geneva Academy project Disability and Armed Conflict.	Legacy of War Foundation
27 March	<b>The Fight for the Right to Food: What Have we Learned?</b>	Panel Discussion	Panelists shared good practices and challenges in supporting the use of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food at national and global levels.	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

4 April	<b>Extraterritorial Non-International Armed Conflicts: Classification and Applicable Law</b>	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed international humanitarian law challenges related to extraterritorial non-international armed conflicts, i.e. armed conflicts where a state uses force against a non-state armed group located in another state's territory.	
7-8 April	<b>The Rights to Seeds in Europe</b>	Workshop	Participants – lawyers, lobbyists and leaders of European peasant organizations – shared their views and concerns regarding European Union and European national laws and regulation on seeds, and identified opportunities to use the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants to lobby for better protection of the right to seeds in Europe.	
11 April	<b>Rights, Faith and Fights – Legal Systems and Contemporary Conflicts</b>	UN Library Talk	Panelists explored how political and faith considerations may affect the interpretation of the law, and how 'faith' and 'rights' could work together in creating better rights protection and better compliance with international humanitarian law.	UN Office at Geneva
16 April	<b>International Disaster Law: Towards a Universal Convention?</b>	Public Lecture by Giulio Bartolini	Giulio Bartolini, Associate Professor of International Law at the Department of Law, Roma Tre University, addressed the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters adopted by the International Law Commission in 2016.	
17 April	<b>Paroles de Bourreau: Duch, le maître des forges de l'enfer</b>	Film Screening and Panel Discussion	As part of the series Paroles de Bourreau, the Rithy Panh film Duch, le maître des forges de l'enfer was followed by a debate moderated by Professor Sévane Garibian.	University of Geneva; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
19 April	<b>The 2018 United Nations Secretary-General's Report on Improvised Explosive Devices</b>	Expert Seminar	With a view to connecting discussions in Geneva and New York on improvised explosive devices (IEDs), participants – diplomats, experts and practitioners – discussed the UN Secretary-General's report on IEDs.	UN Institute for Disarmament Research; Action on Armed Violence
27 April	<b>Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies: Implications for Protection, Rights and International Humanitarian Law</b>	IHL Talk	Panelists addressed the key principles that underpin the selection of cash as the means of assistance in emergencies and how it aligns with core principles of international human rights and humanitarian law.	
2 May	<b>Abolishing Nuclear Weapons: Prospects and Challenges</b>	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed the international law principles governing the threat or use of nuclear weapons, as well as the significance of the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty for nuclear disarmament.	
7 May	<b>Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System: Launch of the Final Report</b>	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	Representatives of states, civil society, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and treaty body members discussed the recommendations in the Geneva Academy report of the Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020, Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System.	

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

15 May	<b>Paroles de Bourreau: La jeune fille et la mort</b>	Film Screening and Panel Discussion	As part of the series Paroles de Bourreau, the Roman Polanski film La jeune fille et la mort was followed by a debate on issues addressed in the film, with Professors Riccardo Bocco and Sévane Garibian.	University of Geneva; Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
19 May	<b>The Military Component in the Negotiation of International Humanitarian Law Instruments</b>	Military Briefing	Colonel Jim Burke from the Irish Defence Forces discussed the balancing act involved in the negotiation of international humanitarian law instruments, particularly from a military perspective.	
24 May	<b>Human Rights in a Digital Age</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This one-day conference discussed human rights in the digital age with Geneva-based institutions and experts.	The Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project
25 May	<b>Where Do We Go From Here? The International Criminal Court 20 Years After Rome</b>	IHL Talk	Panelists reflected on the International Criminal Court's challenges and ways to address them, as well as how the UN Human Rights Council and other institutions in Geneva can contribute to the work of the Court.	
29 May	<b>The Follow-Up Procedure of United Nations Treaty Bodies</b>	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	This meeting, held in the context of the UN Treaty Body (TB) Chairpersons' meeting in New York, discussed the follow-up procedure of UN TBs and possible ways to harmonize and streamline it.	TB-Net
29-30 May	<b>New York Presentations of the report Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System</b>	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	The annual meeting of the UN Treaty Body (TB) Chairpersons in New York provided an occasion to present the final report of the Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020, Optimizing the UN Treaty Body System. Besides a briefing for the Chairpersons at the UN, the report was presented to the diplomatic community at the Swiss Permanent Mission in New York.	Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Costa Rica to the UN in New York
31 May	<b>The 2008 South Ossetian Conflict</b>	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.	
31 May	<b>The Paris Principles at 25: How National Human Rights Institutions Have Contributed to Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and What They Can Do in the Future</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This event explored the ways in which National Human Rights Institutions have contributed to improving the lives of individuals around the world over the past 25 years, and the role they continue to play both domestically and internationally.	Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN in Geneva; Australian Human Rights Commission; Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

1 June	<b>The Summer 2014 Gaza Conflict</b>	Public Pleadings	In the framework of the LLM course on international humanitarian law, students pleaded on the international humanitarian law 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.	
4 June	<b>The United Nations Principles to Combat Impunity: A Commentary</b>	Book Launch	The United Nations Principles to Combat Impunity: A Commentary, published by Oxford University Press and edited by the two Co-Directors of our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Frank Haldemann and Thomas Unger, provides an unmatched analysis of these principles. At this book launch, the two editors provided an overview of the project, followed by a discussion with a group of distinguished scholars and practitioners.	
6 June	<b>Terrorism – The Neglected Victim's Perspective</b>	Panel Discussion	Laura Dolci, author of A Victimless Crime? A Narrative on Victims of Terrorism to Build a Case for Support, presented her book, which combines her personal narrative with the findings of her academic research on victims of acts of terrorism.	
9 June	<b>The Role of United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals</b>	Expert Seminar	At the Annual Meeting of UN Special Procedures, UN Special Rapporteurs, treaty body members, and staff of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights discussed the role of UN human rights mechanisms in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals that seek to realize economic, social and cultural rights, and coordinated their input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
11-12 June	<b>A Practitioner Guide on Corruption and Human Rights Violations</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Corruption negatively affects the enjoyment of all human rights. This meeting of anti-corruption activists, UN staff and members of UN treaty bodies (TBs) aimed to develop new advocacy tools to address the issue of corruption using UN human rights mechanisms, in particular the UN TBs.	Centre for Civil and Political Rights, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
14 June	<b>Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict</b>	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.	
21 June	<b>Civil Society Consultation on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association in the Digital Age</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Linked to the 38th session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Geneva Academy and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association held this consultation on his future thematic report on the exercise of the rights of freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in the digital age.	Clément Voule, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

22 June	<b>Human Rights Obligations and Armed Non-State Actors: The Protection of the Right to Life</b>	Side Event at the 38th Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Panelists discussed the human rights obligations of armed non-state actors in relation to the right to life, in light of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard, on this issue.	Agnes Callamard, UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
26 June	<b>Universal Jurisdiction: Bridging the Accountability Gap and Providing Justice to Victims</b>	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed the Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018 published by TRIAL International.	TRIAL International
27 June	<b>Assessing Grounds for the Use of Force in Non-International Armed Conflict: What Legal Framework?</b>	IHL Talk	Panelists discussed the legal framework for assessing the lawfulness of the use of force in non-international armed conflicts with regard to members of armed groups and how this relates to current state practice.	
28 June	<b>Geneva Launch of Policing Law Website</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	On the occasion of the launch of the brand new online resource The Law on Police Use of Force Worldwide, developed by researchers at the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa (University of Pretoria), in partnership with students and researchers at the University of Oxford and the Geneva Academy, panelists discussed the importance of domestic legal regulation of the use of force by law enforcement officials.	Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, University of Pretoria
29 June	<b>Current Issues in Armed Conflict</b>	Annual Conference	The 2018 conference, which took place in London, addressed contemporary issues in armed conflict, including the global system for accountability, reparations and justice, the qualification of armed conflict, armed gangs and organized crime and emerging military technologies.	Human Rights Centre, University of Essex
5 July	<b>The United States' Withdrawal from the Human Rights Council: A Political Move that has Limited Consequences or Serious Legal Ramifications?</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Panelists discussed the legal consequences of the US withdrawal from the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the functioning and credibility of the HRC, and for the promotion and protection of human rights. They also addressed how this decision will affect the US collaboration with UN Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review.	
11 July	<b>Treaty Body Members Platform</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This meeting, which focused on the rights of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent, provided an opportunity for members of the Human Rights Committee and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to meet and discuss issues of common concern.	
31 August	<b>Rights, Faith and Fights: Armed Non-State Actors and Contemporary Conflicts</b>	UN Library Talk	Panelists explored the application of international humanitarian law to contemporary conflicts as related to armed non-state actors.	UN Office at Geneva

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

7 September	<b>United Nations Treaty Bodies Review 2020: A Model Calendar for a Consolidated Country Review</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	The practical feasibility of a new way to schedule the state reviews by the UN treaty bodies is one of the key issues in the review of the system planned by the UN General Assembly in 2020. This presentation of an IT tool to optimize session schedules was welcomed by a large number of diplomats.	
13 September	<b>Defining the Scope of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Improvised Explosive Devices</b>	Expert Seminar	With a view to connecting discussions in Geneva and New York on improvised explosive devices (IEDs), participants – diplomats, experts and practitioners – discussed the scope of the 2018 UN General Assembly resolution on IEDs.	UN Institute for Disarmament Research; Action on Armed Violence
24 September	<b>Utility and Limits of International Law for Protecting Persons Affected by Armed Conflict</b>	Opening Lecture of the Academic Year by Elisabeth Decrey Warner	Elisabeth Decrey Warner, co-founder and former Executive President of Geneva Call, discussed the utility of international law, not only in light of its substance but also its implementation and respect by the international community. Starting with Geneva Call's groundbreaking approach to developing an inclusive process towards armed non-state actors, Ms Decrey Warner highlighted that the limits of international law are not engraved in stone but are in our minds, habits or fears of developing and inventing new ideas.	
26 September	<b>Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals</b>	Panel Discussion	Panelists discussed the contribution of UN human rights mechanisms to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals that seek to realize economic, social and cultural rights, as well as their collaboration with the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York.	Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
27 September	<b>The Impact of International Human Rights Law on Military Operations</b>	Military Briefing	Major Jennifer Maddocks from the British Army gave a military perspective on the impact of international human rights law on military operations, focusing particularly on the British experience in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.	
4 October	<b>Arms Transfer to Conflict-Prone Regions: IHL and Human Rights Criteria under the Arms Trade Treaty</b>	IHL Talk	Panelists discussed the major challenges in the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty as well as the opportunities it offers to halt the transfer of weapons when they could be used to violate international humanitarian law and international human rights law.	
8 October	<b>Tactics for Accountability for Abuses in War</b>	Panel Discussion	Human rights advocates working in two of the most serious yet under-reported conflicts in the world today – Central African Republic and Yemen – talked about the challenges they face and the tactics they use in documenting and reporting human rights violations and securing justice for victims in conflict.	

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

8-9 October	<b>Academic Working Group on Use of Force – Session with States to Finalize the Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Academics, members of UN specialized bodies, UN Special Rapporteurs, members of UN treaty bodies, representatives of other international organizations, law enforcement officials, experts in police oversight, NGOs and civil society met to consult states and discuss revisions made to a proposed guidance text on less-lethal weapons and related equipment in law enforcement.	Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, University of Pretoria
9-10 October	<b>Treaty Body Members Platform</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Two successive evening meetings provided an opportunity for members of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child to meet and discuss how their respective committees address the issue of corruption.	
10 October	<b>Human Rights Obligations in Light of the IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Against the backdrop of the IPCC Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5°C, human rights and environmental experts met to develop a robust legal analysis of the consequences for human rights obligations, moving from a moral to a legal case for mitigation measures to be adopted by states.	Earthjustice, CIEL
11-12 October	<b>The Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association Online</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This consultation, which brought together the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément Voule, civil society representatives and academics, addressed the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association online. The discussion contributed to the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Council on the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in the digital space.	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
15-16 October	<b>70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – A Time for Concern or Celebration?</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Participants discussed the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights today, including its relevance, how the international human rights landscape and priorities have changed over the last 70 years and to what extent current international human rights instruments can be utilized to achieve some of the standards outlined in the Declaration.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Forum Menschenrechte; German Institute for Human Rights
17-18 October	<b>Domestic Stakeholders and the Treaty Body Review 2020</b>	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	Participants addressed the role that domestic human rights actors play within the UN human rights treaty body system.	Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo
26 October	<b>Graduation Ceremony</b>		Around 150 guests, including graduates' families, attended the 2018 Graduation Ceremony at the Maison de la paix (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) under the auspices of Professor Marco Sassòli. Professor Laurence Boisson de Chazournes from the University of Geneva delivered the keynote speech on international humanitarian law, human rights and international dispute settlement.	

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

30 October	<b>Treaty Body Members Platform</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	At this meeting, members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and of the Human Rights Committee focused on harmful practices and the experience of both committees in addressing these issues, as well as on the Human Rights Committee's General Comment on the right to life.	
31 October	<b>Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants</b>	Expert Seminar	More than 60 participants – academics, experts, diplomats, representatives of NGOs and social movements – discussed the roles of states, civil society organizations, social movements and international organizations in implementing the UN Declaration, and lessons learned from the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the UN in Geneva; Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
2 November	<b>International Humanitarian Law in the Work of United Nations Human Rights Bodies</b>	Panel Discussion	Panelists focused on the practicalities of how international humanitarian law is used and the role it plays in the work of the UN human rights machinery.	Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law, Geneva Academy
7 November	<b>Forced Displacement and Demographic Engineering in Syria</b>	Panel Discussion	International experts and Syrian civil society actors discussed the systematic patterns of forced displacement and legislative and policy frameworks demonstrating demographic engineering in Syria and assessed their compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Panelists also addressed pitfalls and challenges in any upcoming reconstruction and return plan.	2018 Geneva Peace Week; International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute
13 November	<b>Treaty Body Members Platform</b>	Human Rights Platform	This dinner discussion facilitated an informal and open exchange to further explore the inputs that treaty bodies (TBs) would wish to solicit from the World Health Organization (WHO) to inform and support TBs in their dialogues with states, as well as on the possibilities for WHO to use TB recommendations and integrate them in national planning.	
13-17 November	<b>The 2018 Human Rights Week</b>	Geneva Human Rights Week	The 2018 Human Rights Week focused on the protection of human rights in the digital age and included a public conference by Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.	Global Studies Institute, University of Geneva; Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Republic and State of Geneva
29 October-1 November	<b>The Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Gaza and the West Bank</b>	Workshops	The workshops in Ramallah and Gaza provided participants – local organizations of persons with disabilities, representatives of the Palestinian National Authority, UN agencies and other international humanitarian organizations – with an overview of international law applicable to persons with disabilities living in the occupied Palestinian territories; the obligations of the differing duty-bearers; and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in norms related to the conduct of hostilities (such as assessments of proportionality and the meaning of 'effective advance warnings of attacks').	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

19 November	<b>Human Rights Responsibilities of Armed Non-State Actors</b>	Expert Seminar	The extent to which human rights obligations apply to armed non-state actors (ANSAs) directly is still debated. Participants discussed in-depth typologies of ANSAs, their role as de-facto authorities, as well as states' obligations regarding violations committed by ANSAs on their territory.	Directorate for International Law, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
20 November	<b>Landmines and Other Explosive Devices: From a Tactic of War to a Threat to Peace</b>	Military Briefing	Panelists discussed the operational challenges of and opportunities for turning guerrillas into deminers. The discussion focused on the Colombian experience and the work of the humanitarian demining organization Humanicemos DH, the first in the world to be formed entirely of demobilized ex-combatants.	Geneva Call
23 November	<b>National Implications of the United Nations Treaty Bodies Review 2020</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Around 60 diplomats participated in this briefing, which addressed the upcoming review of UN treaty bodies at the General Assembly and the meaning of this review for national stakeholders – presenting the outcome of a recent conference co-organized by the University of Oslo.	
29 November	<b>Consultation for the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	This consultation aimed to inform the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights' new project on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by identifying and clarifying policy options and best practices for states and businesses along the conflict cycle.	BCHR Network; UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
30 November	<b>The Pillage of Natural Resources: What Accountability Under International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law?</b>	IHL Talk	Panelists discussed if and how the rise of pillage as applied to the theft of natural resources during war stands to bolster the pacifist ambitions behind Article 2(4) of the UN Charter. They also addressed the issue of how international humanitarian law and international criminal law can provide the legal basis for holding multinational corporations accountable for the commission of international crimes in relation to exploitation of natural resources.	
3 December	<b>The Protection of Persons with Disabilities in the Occupied Territories of Donetsk and Luhansk in Eastern Ukraine</b>	Workshop	The workshop provided participants – local organizations of persons with disabilities, UN agencies and other international humanitarian organizations – with an overview of international law applicable to persons with disabilities living in Donetsk and Luhansk, including international humanitarian law and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also addressed the inclusion of persons with disabilities in norms related to the conduct of hostilities (such as assessments of proportionality and the meaning of 'effective advance warnings of attacks').	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Global Protection Cluster in Ukraine

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

5 December	<b>The UDHR at 70: Historical and Juridical Perspectives</b>	Public Symposium	On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), jurists and historians discussed the origins, context, debates and personalities that, in 1947 and 1948, shaped and eventually endorsed the UDHR, as well as current human rights challenges.	Department of International History, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Swiss National Science Foundation; Republic and State of Geneva
5 December	<b>The Individual and the Group: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention at 70</b>	Public Lecture by Philippe Sands	Philip Sands explained – on the basis of his research on two prominent founders of contemporary international law (Hersch Lauterpacht and Raphael Lemkin) and his own family's experience – how international law has developed by protecting, at the same time, the individual (according to Lauterpacht's vision) and the group, with the success of Lemkin's endeavour towards a convention on the prevention and prohibition of genocide.	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
10-11 December	<b>The Simplified Reporting Procedure</b>	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Members of UN treaty bodies (TBs), as well as representatives of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Geneva Academy, discussed the so-called simplified reporting procedure. This discussion took place at an important moment, as most TBs are starting to use this procedure.	OHCHR; Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN in Geneva
13 December	<b>War in Yemen: Psychological Impact on Individuals, Families and Communities</b>	Panel Discussion	Panelists focussed on the implications of the war on the mental health and wellbeing of Yemenis. They also discussed the previous UN-sponsored peace negotiations on the conflict in Yemen and the opportunities and challenges facing the upcoming consultations.	Human Rights Clinic, Columbia Law School; Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies

## DONORS

The Geneva Academy is deeply grateful to all the donors who have generously supported our work in 2018. 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, Switzerland, in particular:
  - Directorate of Public International Law
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  - International Solidarity Service
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- Swiss National Science Foundation
- Swiss Network for International Studies

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 2018 (in Swiss Francs).

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland	1,213,217
Other governments	119,117
Organizations, foundations and academic institutions	242,877
Scholarship donors	843,500
Tuition fees	1,125,539
In kind contributions from the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies	828,936
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,373,186</b>



## 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. 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, international human rights law 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 generational, linguistic and gender diversity. This is implemented through all kinds of measures: our pursuit of diversity in recruitment and invitations to guest speakers, our refusal of monolingualism 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, save for exceptional circumstances, we will not convene or participate in the organization of events where none of the speakers are women.



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### Guido Acquaviva

Deputy Registrar, Kosovo Specialist Chambers

### Ahmed Al-Dawoody

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

### Cécile Aptel

Director of the Policy, Strategy and Knowledge Department, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### Annyssa Bellal

Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on International Humanitarian Law, Geneva Academy

### Adriana Bessa

Research Fellow, Geneva Academy

### Joanna Bourke Martignoni

Research Fellow, Geneva Academy

### Gabriela Citroni

Professor of International Human Rights Law, University of Milano-Bicocca

### Antonio Coco

Departmental Lecturer in Public International Law, University of Oxford

### Alex Conte

Director of Programme Management and Donor Relations, International Commission of Jurists

### Jérôme De Hemptinne

Lecturer, University of Louvain and University of Strasbourg

### Neus Torbisco Casals

Visiting Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

### Olivier de Frouville

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

### Jérôme de Hemptinne

Lecturer, University of Louvain and University of Strasbourg

### Giovanni Distefano

Professor of International Law, University of Neuchâtel

### Tarcisio Gazzini

Senior Researcher, University of Lausanne

### Christophe Golay

Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva Academy

### Frank Haldemann

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

### Brandon Hamber

Professor and John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace, Ulster University

### Christof Heyns

Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Pretoria

### Jean-Marie Henckaerts

Head of Commentaries Update Unit, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross

**Sandra Krähenmann**

Thematic Legal Adviser, Geneva Call

**Patryk I. Labuda**

Post-Doctoral Global Fellow, New York University School of Law

**Noam Lubell**

Professor of Public International Law and Head of the School of Law, University of Essex; Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law, Geneva Academy

**Regula Ludi**

Lecturer, University of Fribourg and University of Zurich

**Rama Mani**

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

**Nicolas Mansfield**

Director of Legal Programs, East-West Management Institute

**Nils Melzer**

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

**Marko Milanovic**

Professor of Public International Law, University of Nottingham School of Law

**Sarah M. H. Nouwen**

Co-Deputy Director, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law; Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Cambridge

**Francesca Piana**

Visiting Lecturer, University of Geneva History Department

**Julia Raue**

Transitional Justice Adviser, Sri Lanka, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Clara Sandoval**

Senior Lecturer, University of Essex School of Law; Director, Essex Transitional Justice Network

**William A. Schabas**

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

**Yuval Shany**

Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem Faculty of Law; Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee

**Eric Steinmyller**

Lawyer and Security Manager

**Thomas Unger**

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

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS****Valentina Cadelo****Tafadzwa Christmas****George Dvaladze****Tom Gal****Lukas Hafner****Tadesse Kebebew****Pavle Kilibarda****Erin Maher****Firouzeh Mitchell****Joshua Niyo****Elvina Pothelet****Giulia Raimondo****Alessandra Spadaro****SWISS CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

**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.

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.

As IHL Chair, Professor Lubell initiated, in 2014, the research project Investigating in Situations of Armed Conflict: Law, Policy and Good Practice, which aims to identify, via expert meetings and research, a set of guidelines based on law, policy and good practice that states should apply when they investigate alleged violations of IHL in situations of armed conflict.

**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 has also been the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

**THE TEAM****MANAGEMENT****Robert Roth**

Director (until August 2018)

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Director (from August 2018)

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Executive Manager (until June 2018)

**Felix Kirchmeier**

Manager of Policy Studies; Coordinator of the Geneva Human Rights Platform

**Nathalie Mivelaz Tirabosco**

Communication Officer

**Nadia Oulaby**

Executive Manager (from July 2018)

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Communication and External Relations Assistant

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**Dany Diogo**

Coordinator of Master's Programmes

**Andrea Navarro**

Human Resources and Administrative Officer

**Lucie Testuz**

Administrative Assistant to the Master's Programmes

**Julie Melle**

Events Assistant

## RESEARCHERS

**Dr Annyssa Bellal**

Senior Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on International Humanitarian Law

**Dr Adriana Bessa**

Senior Research Fellow

**Dr Joanna Bourke Martignoni**

Senior Research Fellow

**Dr Christophe Golay**

Senior Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**Dr Sandra Krähenmann**

Senior Research Fellow

**Dr Jonathan Andrew**

Research Fellow

**Dr Chiara Redaelli**

Research Fellow

**Dr Ilia Maria Siatitsa**

Research Fellow

**Alice Priddy**

Senior Researcher

**Claire Simmons**

Researcher

**Kamelia Kemilevai**

Special Projects Manager

## ASSOCIATE AND VISITING RESEARCHERS

**Dr Claire Callejon**

Associated Research Fellow

**Dr Juan Francisco Escudero Espinosa**

Visiting Research Fellow

**Dr Rosa Ana Alija Fernández**

Visiting Research Fellow

**Dr Miia Halme-Tuomisaari**

Associated Research Fellow

**Dr Grazvydas Jasutis**

Visiting Research Fellow

**Pauline Lessafre**

Visiting Research Fellow

**Marlene Payva Almonte**

Visiting Research Fellow

**Jelena Pejic**

Associate Researcher,  
International Committee of the Red Cross

**Eric Tistounet**

Visiting Research Fellow

**Dr Matthias Vanhullebusch**

Visiting Research Fellow

**Clément Voule**

Associate Researcher

## IMPRESSUM

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The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Villa Moynier – Rue de Lausanne 120B – CP 1063 - 1211 Geneva 1 Switzerland – Phone: +41 (22) 908 44 83  
Email: [info@geneva-academy.ch](mailto:info@geneva-academy.ch) – [www.geneva-academy.ch](http://www.geneva-academy.ch)

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