
On this occasion, panelists will reflect on current legal, policy and practical issues that concern non-State actors—non-State armed groups, individuals, the United Nations (UN) through its different agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), humanitarian NGOs and human rights bodies—in and around situations of armed conflict.

**INTRODUCTORY WORDS**

- Marco Sassòli, Director, Geneva Academy

**MODERATION**

- Emilie Max, Researcher, Geneva Academy

**PANELISTS**

- Andrew Clapham, Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
- Cordula Droegé, Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Ezequiel Heffes, Thematic Legal Adviser, Geneva Call, and Co-Editor of the book

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

*International Humanitarian Law and Non-State Actors: Debates, Law and Practice* challenges the traditional approach to international law by concentrating on international humanitarian law and placing the focus beyond States: it reflects on current legal, policy and practical issues that concern non-State actors in and around situations of armed conflict.

IHL has long recognized the roles that multiple non-State entities play. While in recent times, purely international armed conflicts have declined in frequency; those involving non-State armed groups have increased and are now in the majority. These armed actors, individuals, the UN through its different agencies, the ICRC, humanitarian NGOs and human rights bodies, among others, interact among themselves and with States on a daily basis and for many different reasons. These interactions are often related to the application, interpretation, disregard or reinforcement of IHL, and even to the creation of new rules, thus affecting the lives of people in situations of armed conflict around the world.

This book explores and engages with these dynamics, highlighting the importance of thoroughly assessing how non-State actors’ roles may impact the resolution of practical and theoretical problems in the realm of IHL. By addressing prominent debates in the field, each contribution allows for the reconfiguration of strategies to deal with specific issues and compels our attention towards the possible parts each actor may play in that reconfiguration.