

Annual Report 2022

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FOREWORD

The year 2022 started with a stark reminder that armed conflicts can erupt anywhere and at any time, destroying the lives of millions of individuals and jeopardizing peaceful relations between states on a global scale. The date 24 February 2022, which marked the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, will remain ingrained in our collective memories, in the same way as 11 September 2001, which gave rise to the global war on terror. In 2022, numerous other conflicts – not always making the headlines – plagued our world and caused immense human suffering. History has demonstrated that the scars of such conflicts are long-lasting. Transitioning out of war is for many countries a never-ending process with unsolvable dilemmas around accommodating the search for peace and justice.



Our mission at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights is precisely to provide protection to victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence and to help societies successfully transition from war to peace. Unlike humanitarian organizations or human rights NGOs, we do not provide food or shelter, nor do we engage in protection dialogue with belligerent parties or carry out advocacy work. As an academic institution, we build and transfer knowledge in the interconnected fields of international humanitarian law, human rights and transitional justice.

Knowledge is one of the most impactful tools for changing behaviours on the ground and influencing policy-making. Members of our diverse community of more than 1,100 alumni work for states, key humanitarian actors, international

organizations, human rights NGOs and academia in Geneva and in the field. They are daily ambassadors for the values of humanity, peace and justice that form the core of our action, and living proof of our commitment to excellence and diversity. Our academic and policy research is regularly quoted by international courts and tribunals. States, international organizations and human rights bodies rely on our findings and recommendations to launch initiatives, develop policies and draft soft law guidelines. The expertise of our faculty and researchers is not only sought by academic and humanitarian circles, but also by states, regional and international organizations and the media. Thanks to our convening power, and exceptional location in a historical building – Villa Moynier – in the middle of international Geneva, the Geneva Academy is an incubator of ideas which shape the debates in our fields of expertise.

2022 has been an important year for the Geneva Academy: we celebrated our 15th anniversary, an opportunity to look back and appreciate our impressive development. While our predecessor, the University Centre for International Humanitarian Law, consisted essentially of one master's programme – our current LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights – the Geneva Academy today has 3 masters' programmes, 15 research projects, a dynamic Geneva Human Rights Platform and around 80 events per year. Thanks to the collaboration between our parent institutions, the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, we have become a unique player in international Geneva with a worldwide reputation for excellence. The Geneva Academy creates synergies and combines the forces of two prominent academic institutions in Geneva; it builds bridges between academia and practice, between different disciplines and legal frameworks and between Geneva and the field.

This success story would never have been possible without the support of the Swiss Government, key donors – public and private – and our parent institutions, the dedication of successive directors, faculty and staff working with passion and without counting hours, our numerous partners and, last but not least, the renewed enthusiasm of brilliant and promising students who want to make our world a better place. The Geneva Academy will be eternally grateful to all the individuals and key players who have contributed to this success and development.

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

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Institution

Our 15th Anniversary

Created back in 2007 as a joint centre of the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the Geneva Academy celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2022. The year was marked by various commemorations, a dedicated logo and the publication of online stories and highlights from our archives.

This 15th anniversary provided an occasion to look back at our achievements and impact and culminated in the Geneva Academy's flags flying on the Mont-Blanc Bridge and an evening reception featuring a conversation with the newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Volker Türk, in the presence of our students, alumni, faculty, staff and many partners and friends.

Our Experts and Resources on Ukraine

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 our experts, faculty, research and events have strived to shed light on the many legal issues and challenges related to the war. These expert views, public events, articles and interviews in the media are featured on a dedicated, regularly updated page on the Geneva Academy website.

We have also benefited, as of September 2022, from in-house expertise on Ukraine by hosting Dr Nataliia Hendel, Professor of International Law at the International Humanitarian University in Odesa, under the Scholars at Risk programme. Dr Hendel, who fled Ukraine, is now pursuing at the Geneva Academy her research on the protection of the environment during armed conflicts, with a focus on Ukraine.

Professor Marco Roscini Joined us as our New Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law

As our new Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law (Swiss IHL Chair), Marco Roscini – Professor of International Law at the University of Westminster and an expert on the international law of armed conflict, the use of force and international cybersecurity law – took up this position from Professor Robin Geiss who has been appointed Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research by the UN Secretary-General.

As Swiss IHL Chair, Professor Roscini leads our research on disruptive military technologies and the digitalization of armed conflict.

New Podcast on Contemporary Issues Related to War(s)

Launched in October 2022, *In and Around War(s)* is a new podcast series on contemporary legal issues related to wars. Aimed at a broad audience, the podcast

features discussions with our alumni, the new generation of experts and practitioners who use the law as a powerful shield to protect peace, human dignity and non-discrimination, bring about justice and alleviate human suffering during conflicts.

The podcast's first season presented engaging and in-depth conversations on terrorism, universal jurisdiction, the role of NGOs in war(s), practising international humanitarian law (IHL) and business-related abuses in the context of war(s).

Masters

Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict Moves Entirely Online

As of September 2022, our Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict has been delivered entirely online – a move prompted by a growing interest among humanitarian and human rights practitioners working in conflict-related contexts to upgrade their legal skills and follow the programme.

Designed for professionals with demanding jobs and responsibilities, this programme provides a solid legal background to address the multiple challenges that arise in humanitarian emergencies, human rights negotiations or criminal proceedings. An easy and interactive online platform allows participants to interact with professors and peers during classes, access all the course materials and readings and watch or rewatch a course recording.

Our Teams Reach the Finals of Two Prominent Moot Courts

Participation in moot courts form an integral part 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. Besides applying the legal concepts and tools learned in class to contemporary humanitarian and human rights challenges, our students also learn to work as a team, develop legal arguments, speak in public and look at an issue from different angles and opposing points of view.

In 2022, our teams performed extremely well at two leading moot court competitions – the Jean-Pictet Competition in IHL and the Mandela Moot Court in human rights – by reaching the finals, a testimony to the quality of our teaching, the excellence of our student body and the hard work of our students.

Developing our Students' Professionalizing Activities

With dedicated staff in our Student Office to develop professionalizing activities and career advice, students enrolled in our LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law now benefit from an increased and more diverse offer of internships during the second semester that allows them to acquire unique first-hand professional experience with leading humanitarian, human rights and transitional justice actors.

Our new Coordinator of Professionalizing Activities also provides one-to-one career advice and counselling, group sessions that offer general advice on seeking employment and planning a career, exchanges with alumni about career paths in international organizations, NGOs, government or academia, access to job offers, as well as soft-skills training.

Research

Dr Erica Harper Joins the Geneva Academy as Head of Research and Policy Studies

As our new Head of Research and Policy Studies, Dr Harper leads our research and policy studies. Having worked in academia, UN agencies and NGOs in Timor Leste, Indonesia, the Philippines, Jordan, Ethiopia and Somalia, she brings to the position an extensive expertise in international criminal law, international human rights law, IHL and post-conflict governance, as well as solid experience in policy and programming.

Major Publication Concludes Multi-Year Research on Agricultural Commercialisation, Gender Equality and the Right to Food

The publication of the book *Agricultural Commercialisation, Gender Equality and the Right to Food: Insights from Cambodia and Ghana* marks the culmination of a multi-year research project carried out in partnership with the Geneva Graduate Institute Gender Centre, the University of Ghana, the Multiangles Centre and the Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Royal University of Law and Economics, Cambodia.

Edited by our Senior Research Fellow Dr Christophe Golay and Associate Research Fellow Dr Joanna Bourke Martignoni, it analyses processes of agricultural commercialization and their impact on gender inequalities and the enjoyment of the human rights to food, land and social security in two countries, Cambodia and Ghana.

New IHL Expert Pool

Launched in 2022, the IHL Expert Pool (IHL-EP) – composed of thematically and geographically representative experts in the field of IHL – works to strengthen the capacity of human rights mechanisms to incorporate IHL into their work by providing expert advice on priority IHL themes on a solicited and non-solicited basis.

During the year, the IHL-EP provided advice to six human rights bodies at both regional and international levels on critical IHL issues including conflict and the right to food, mercenary-related activities from the standpoint of IHL, the over-extension and misuse of IHL in counter-terrorism operations, and the armed conflict in Ukraine.

Geneva Human Rights Platform

The Training Hub: Building Capacity in the International Human Rights System

Launched in 2021, the Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP) Training Hub took off in 2022 and conducted seven training courses on both the functioning of UN human rights mechanisms and topical human rights issues like the protection of the environment and freedom of opinion and expression.

Aimed at building capacity in the international human rights system, its use and impact on various policy areas, these courses took place in Geneva, online and in the field, and trained more than 100 participants from UN agencies, NGOs, national human rights institutions and governments.

Geneva Human Rights Platform Celebrates its 5th Anniversary

The GHRP celebrated its 5th anniversary in 2022. It has become a major actor in the Geneva human rights scene and a worldwide reference on the work of UN human rights mechanisms.

Starting with a focus on UN treaty bodies (TBs), the GHRP has gradually expanded its scope to include the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, the links with regional human rights mechanisms and implementation at the national level in its work.

To mark this anniversary and the GHRP's achievements to date, its flags flew on the Mont-Blanc Bridge from 19 to 25 August 2022.

Leading Discussions on the Future of UN Treaty Bodies

Having accompanied the whole 2020 review of UN TBs by the UN General Assembly – by bringing academic inputs into the discussion and making concrete recommendations – the GHRP is now working on implementing the recommendations stemming from this review to ensure that TBs continue their crucial work for the protection and promotion of human rights at the national level.

From testing pilot follow-up reviews in the field to contributing to discussions in New York and Geneva, the GHRP continues to stimulate dialogue and pilot a number of the recommendations it helped to elaborate.

2022 in Figures

- 33 staff
- 35 professors and lecturers
- 2 Chairs
- 3 master's programmes
- More than 100 students from 51 countries
- 26 scholarships
- More than 1,000 alumni
- 25 training and short courses attended by more than 300 participants
- 15 research projects around 4 priority areas
- 24 publications
- 9 initiatives of the Geneva Human Rights Platform
- More than 80 events
- More than 60 partnerships





MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

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Our two full-time master's programmes – LLM in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights and Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – attract some of the most experienced and academically qualified students from around the world who are taught by leading academics and practitioners.

Organized into small and intimate learning communities, our students share their expertise, discuss pressing humanitarian and human rights challenges and reflect on the application of international law to them.



Our faculty showcases world-renowned professors, scholars and practitioners of IHL, international human rights law (IHRL), international criminal law and transitional justice. Through interactive and participative approaches, they share their expertise with our students, promote critical thinking and build constant bridges between theory and practice.

The diversity of our student body – geographical, cultural, social and gender – is at the core of our programmes and enriches the experience immensely. Our scholarships – allocated thanks to the support of our generous donors – allow us years after years not only to ensure such diversity in our master's programmes but also, looking to the future, in the humanitarian, human rights and transitional justice fields.

2022 saw a gradual return to normal after almost two years of online or hybrid teaching, confinement and other restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our students could again attend classes and events in person, go on a study trip and enjoy a rich social life. They also benefited from enhanced in-house career advice and counselling, new extracurricular activities, new optional courses on topical issues and a larger offer of internships during the second semester.

Our teams performed extremely well at two leading moot court competitions – the Jean-Pictet Competition and the Mandela Moot Court – by reaching the finals, a testimony to the quality of our teaching, the excellence of our student body and the hard work of our students.

'While our world is experiencing unprecedented challenges and crises, I am confident that our talented students will be able – as the next generation of humanitarian and human rights experts and practitioners – to address them and find durable and just solutions.'

Professor Gloria Gaggioli
Director of the Geneva Academy

LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

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

Belén Guerrero Romero
2022–2023 Class

'I am particularly enjoying the depth in which we are acquainted with the different legal branches taught in the LLM. I really feel this programme is preparing students to become great strategic litigators, academics and field workers.'

2022–2023 Class

The 38 students enrolled in the programme come from the following 22 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Netherlands, Pakistan, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Zimbabwe.

Geographical Representation



● Europe 17

● Middle East and North Africa 3

● Africa 2

● North America 6

● Asia 5

● South America 5

2021–2022 Class

46 students successfully completed the programme and graduated in October 2022.

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

One of the very few programmes on this subject worldwide, our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ) combines theoretical and practice-oriented perspectives. It equips students with

the knowledge, tools and critical mindset to assist countries, societies and victims emerging from periods of conflict and repression and address complex transitional justice issues.

‘What I am particularly enjoying about the programme is that it exposes you to an unparalleled diversity of students that allows you to draw from the wealth of experience among them. Another remarkable thing is that the professors teaching at the Geneva Academy combine extensive theoretical knowledge with robust transitional justice practitioner work, enabling a student to look at a particular issue through practical and theoretical lenses.’

Alexander Bekmurzin
2022–2023 Class

2022–2023 Class

The 37 students enrolled in the programme come from the following 28 countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, USA and Yemen.

Geographical Representation



- Europe 6
- Middle East and North Africa 2
- Oceania: 1
- Africa 8
- North America 4
- Asia 12
- South America 4

2021–2022 Class

41 students successfully completed the programme and graduated in October 2022.

Scholarships

Scholarships allow talented students with limited means and resources to pursue our LLM and MTJ and, subsequently, a career in the human rights, humanitarian and justice sectors. They also bring diversity to our student body and therefore enrich the experience immensely. Looking to the future, scholarships also ensure such diversity in the humanitarian, human rights and transitional justice fields.

For the 2022–2023 academic year, we allocated 25 full scholarships – covering the tuition fee and living expenses in Geneva – and one partial scholarship – covering the tuition fee – across these two programmes. These were allocated thanks to

the generous support of a Geneva-based foundation, the Fondation Ernst et Lucie Schmidheiny, Mr Jenö Staehelin and the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute.

Following graduation, scholarship recipients generally go back to their country or regions where they work in the judiciary, NGOs, international organizations and governmental agencies, addressing human rights, IHL, transitional justice and rule of law issues.

Scholarship alumni, once engaged in professional life, also become key ambassadors for international Geneva and its humanitarian, human rights and peace values.

Olivua Njoroge
2022–2023 LLM Student

‘I am very grateful to the Geneva Academy for having awarded me a scholarship that has allowed me to come and stay in Geneva where the cost of living is quite high and I hope they keep expanding the scholarships to ensure even greater access for deserving students.’

Total Scholarships 26



- Full scholarships 25
- Partial scholarship 1

LLM: 10 Scholarships



- Africa 2
- Europe 1
- Middle East and North Africa 3
- Asia 2
- South America 2

MTJ: 16 Scholarships



- Africa 6
- South America 4
- Asia 3
- Middle East and North Africa 3

Preparing Students for their Careers

With the hiring of dedicated staff in our Student Office to develop professionalizing activities, our LLM and MTJ students benefited from an increased and more diverse offer of internships during the second semester with more than 30 human rights, humanitarian and transitional justice actors.

39 LLM and 33 MTJ students (2021–2022 academic year) carried out a research internship during the spring of 2022 with institutions like Civitas Maxima, Geneva Call, the International Bar Association, the International Center for Transitional Justice, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Justice Rapid Response and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

Our new Coordinator of Professionalizing Activities also supported students throughout the academic year with one-to-one career advice and counselling, group sessions that offer general advice on seeking employment and planning a career, exchange sessions with alumni about career paths in international organizations, NGOs, government or academia, access to job offers, as well as soft-skills training.

Gregory Pasche
Coordinator of Professionalizing Activities

‘Our master’s programmes are recognized as world-leading professionalizing qualifications in their field. In my role as Professionalizing Activities Coordinator, I reinforce this position by further supporting, advising and coaching our students as they plan their careers and engage with the professional community. I notably coordinate the much valued ‘intra academic course’ internships, liaise with our international organization and NGO partners regarding these internships, provide career support and coaching, coordinate the alumni network and also set up some useful cross-functional skills training.’

Begümhan Idikut Şimşir
2021–2022 LLM Student

‘Interning with the International Review of the Red Cross allowed me to expand my knowledge of the contemporary discussions on specific topics of IHL and was an excellent addition to my lectures. While reviewing the articles for the journal, I was also learning about the topics in more depth and from different points of view. Working with the Review team was one of the best experiences I have had, as the interns were welcomed and supported by our supervisors and teammates both during and after the internship.’

Alba Jakupi
2021–2022 MTJ Student

‘My experience at the Global Migration Centre (GMC) has been incredibly rewarding. Stepping outside of my professional comfort zone has had a positive impact on my future, knowledge and abilities, which I earned at GMC and am now employing in my full-time employment at an international organization as a political scientist who is progressively moving towards law.’

New Extracurricular Activities and Optional Courses

Students benefit every year from a renewed offer of more than 10 optional courses that address topical or emerging issues like contemporary and future challenges regarding the law of weaponry, arms control and new military technologies, the Islamic law of armed conflict or the design, commission and recognition of core international crimes through the prism of intersecting marginalized identities. Organized around small discussion groups and open to both LLM and MTJ students, the courses allow for in-depth discussions with leading experts and practitioners in these areas.



Extracurricular activities also enrich both our LLM and MTJ programmes by widening our students’ perspectives and knowledge of the law and its implementation.

The Military Briefings series aims to improve our students’ knowledge of military actors and operations via exchanges with military guests around operational decision-making, legal challenges in operations, the role of military legal advisors, military justice and weapons systems.

Ellen Murphy
2021–2022 MTJ Student

‘The Transitional Justice Voices from the Ground series was a great opportunity to see the many different forms transitional justice takes in a variety of contexts. It was the perfect complement to our academic courses and gave us the opportunity to discuss challenges faced by TJ practitioners from across the globe.’

The Transitional Justice Voices from the Ground series provides a platform for our LLM and MTJ students to interact with practitioners and activists who contribute to transitional justice (TJ). Guest speakers from the Basque Country, Brazil, Nepal and Sierra Leone have shared their experiences in setting up, running, working in or resisting various TJ mechanisms and processes.

Successful Participation in Two Leading Moot Courts

Participation in moot courts form an integral part of our LLM and MTJ programmes and allow students to apply the legal concepts and tools learned in class to contemporary humanitarian and human rights challenges and develop legal arguments around them. Besides the intensive learning experience, our students also learn to work as a team, to develop legal arguments, speak in public and look at an issue from different angles and opposing points of view.

In 2022, our teams reached the finals of both the Jean-Pictet Competition and the Mandela Moot Court.



Professor Gloria Gaggioli
Director of the Geneva Academy

‘The fact that our teams reached the finals of these two prestigious competitions shows the quality of our student body, the commitment and hard work of our students and the dedication of our teaching assistants who coach and prepare them.’

Mandela Moot Court: A Rewarding Experience of Human Rights Litigation

Helmer Jonelid and Edward Millet – enrolled in our LLM – reached the finals of the Nelson Mandela Moot Court that took place at the United Nations in Geneva from 18 to 21 July 2022.

At the different stages of the competition and in the final, they had to argue – both for the applicant and the respondent – on cases involving complex issues around extraterritorial jurisdiction, due process, abortion laws, torture, the interplay between IHRL and IHL, the law of the sea and refugee law.

Helmer Jonelid
2022–2023 LLM Student

‘I am glad that the Geneva Academy allows students to advance their advocacy skills not only through participation in this competition but throughout the entire programme. After all, it is not enough to have the law on your side, you also have to be able to argue why this is so.’

Jean-Pictet Competition: A Successful LLM and MTJ Team

Francesca Gortan, Sarah Surget and Sophie Timmermans represented the Geneva Academy at the 38th Jean-Pictet Competition that took place in Durrës, Albania, from 19 to 26 March and reached the finals after an intense week of real-life simulations. This was the first time that the team was composed of both LLM and MTJ students.

During the competition, Francesca, Sarah and Sophie acted as an arms manufacturer selling drones and arms to a government, legal advisers to an army, ICRC delegates and legal representatives of a state in charge of drafting a peace agreement or of creating a tribunal for ecocide and the crime of aggression.

Sarah Surget
2022–2023 MTJ Student

‘This Pictet week has definitely been a life-changing experience for me. From the incredible people I have met from all around the world to the intellectually stimulating tests that the “kitchen” prepared for us and the personal learning growth, it has really been incredible.’

Study Trip to the Balkans

LLM and MTJ students travelled to the Balkans – Belgrade, Sarajevo and Srebrenica – where they met experts and institutions who work in the fields of IHL, human rights and transitional justice, including the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Interpol, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s Mission to Serbia and the Post-Conflict Research Center. They learned about their activities and daily challenges and discussed how post-conflict societies like Bosnia and Serbia deal with IHL and transitional justice.

Cameron Kays
2022–2023 MTJ Student

‘Our 2022 study trip was truly an amazing educational experience. We were able to witness how transitional justice mechanisms we learned about in several classes apply in practice. It brought what we read about to life.’

Awards at the Graduation Ceremony

Every year at the Graduation Ceremony, three prizes – the Henry Dunant Research Prize, the Best LLM Paper Prize and the Best MTJ Paper Prize – are awarded to graduating students for their exceptional academic work.

Henry Dunant Research Prize

Sophie Timmermans received from the hands of Cécile Martinez Dunant – a descendant of Henry Dunant – the 2022 Henry Dunant Research Prize, awarded with the Foundation Prix Henry Dunant, for her LLM paper ‘Addressing the Non-Homogenous Nature of the Civilian Population in the Conduct of Hostilities: Enhanced Protection Through Differentiation’. This paper suggests addressing the civilian population in a non-homogenous fashion by taking into account specific vulnerabilities when interpreting and applying the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions.

Best LLM Paper Prize

Edward Millett received the 2022 Best LLM Paper Prize for his paper ‘Open-Source Intelligence, Armed Conflict, and the Rights to Privacy and Data Protection’, which addresses a timely topic and the opportunities, threats and conceptual challenges associated with the use of open-source intelligence during armed conflict and in humanitarian settings.

Best MTJ Paper Prize

Francesco Pipicella received the 2022 Best MTJ Paper Prize for his paper ‘The Corporate Social Responsibility to Strengthen State Institutions in Post-Conflict Environments’, which develops the argument that corporations can play a key role in strengthening very fragile states that find themselves dealing with a post-conflict context and offers clear perspectives regarding the contours of this contribution.

New Podcast on Alumni Career Paths

Launched in October 2022, *In and Around War(s)* is a new podcast series hosted by Professor Paola Gaeta, Antonio Coco and Ana Srovin Coralli on contemporary legal issues related to wars. Aimed at a broad audience, the podcast features discussions with our alumni, the new generation of experts and practitioners who use the law as a powerful shield to protect peace, human dignity and non-discrimination, bring justice and alleviate human suffering during conflicts.

The first season’s five episodes present engaging and in-depth conversations on terrorism, universal jurisdiction, the role of NGOs in war(s), practising IHL and business-related abuses in the context of war(s).





EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

- p. 30 Online Executive Master in International Law
in Armed Conflict
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Addressed to diplomats, humanitarians, human rights advocates, lawyers, NGO staff, professionals working in emergency and post-conflict situations and journalists, our Executive Education aims to equip professionals with the legal tools to address contemporary humanitarian and human rights challenges.

Our offer includes a diversity of formats: an online part-time Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict, short courses on international law in armed conflict and customized courses.

Online Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict

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

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

Now totally online – allowing professionals in the field to also follow it – the programme’s easy and interactive platform allows participants to interact with professors and peers during classes, access all the course materials and readings and watch or re-watch a course recording.

Mona Koehler-Schindler

Associate Human Rights Officer on Anti-Terrorism Issues at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

‘The Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict allows me to strengthen my understanding of international law, in particular international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and thereby complements my practical experience of working in the security policy field.’

Anastasiya Marchuk

Head of ICRC Office in Odesa, Ukraine

‘My supervisor was actually very supportive of me applying for the programme, which is a clear indication of its added value to my professional development. And today, with the developments in Ukraine, I feel more than ever the usefulness and practical applicability of the knowledge I receive at the Geneva Academy – the whole system of international law is being challenged here and now.’

2022–2024 Class

The 2022–2024 class has 30 participants from 19 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kosovo, Italy, Lebanon, New Zealand, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

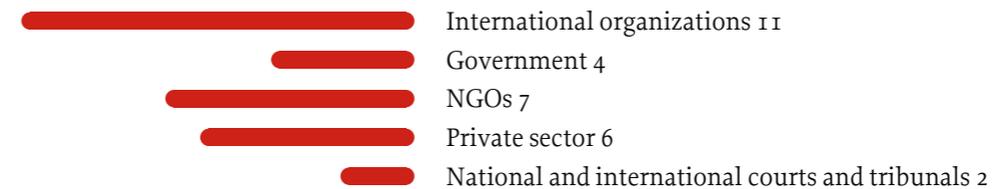
Participants work in the field or in Geneva for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva Call, Médecins sans Frontières, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, international and national courts and tribunals, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia, the UN Information Centre, the Mines Advisory Group or governments.

Geographical Representation

- Europe 20
- Middle East and North Africa 5
- Asia 2
- Oceania: 1
- South America 2



Professional Background



2021–2023 Class

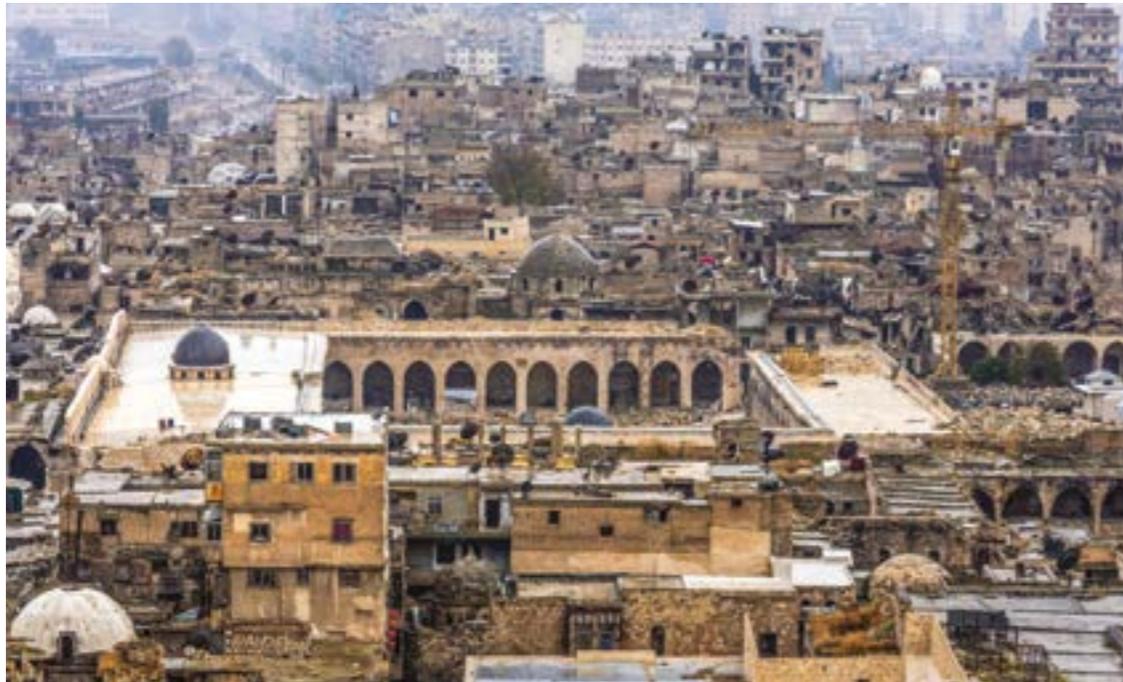
The 39 participants are currently working on their thesis and will graduate in October 2023.

Former Classes

26 participants from the 2020–2022 class successfully completed the programme and graduated in October 2022 alongside five participants from the 2019–2021 class, one from the 2017–2019 class and two from 2016–2017 class.

Online Short Courses on International Law in Armed Conflict

Our online short courses – six sessions of two hours each – allow participants to deepen their legal knowledge and expertise on a specific issue or branch of international law relevant to armed conflicts. They range from introductory courses on international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law (IHRL) and international criminal law to addressing more specific issues and topics like international refugee law, the responsibility to protect, preventing and combating terrorism or accountability for atrocity crimes. Participants can either choose one specific course or follow several, starting with the introductory courses and then moving on to more specific ones. As we offer these courses every year, this can be spread over several years.



In 2022, 42 practitioners – from Geneva and in the field – participated in one or more of our 16 online short courses and acquired the necessary skills to address the multiple legal questions and challenges they face in their daily work.

Online Short Courses in 2022

Number 16
Attendance 42

Customized Courses

We organize customized training courses for international organizations, NGOs, governments, national human rights institutions, judges and lawyers on issues related to IHL, IHRL, transitional justice and international criminal law.

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

Customized Courses in 2022

Number 2
Attendance 162

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

This annual seminar for Geneva-based diplomats, co-organized with the International Committee of the Red Cross, took place online and was attended by more than 140 participants. The first day addressed the operational and legal challenges of contemporary armed conflicts, the main concepts of IHL, conflict classification under IHL and the interplay between IHL and IHRL. During the second day, diplomats discussed contemporary and future challenges in armed conflict, including new technologies of warfare, terrorism and counter-terrorism and ensuring compliance with IHL.

The Law of Non-International Armed Conflicts and International Crimes

This customized in-person training course – designed for judges, assistant judges, legal advisers and officers at The Hague District Court and the Court of Appeal – explored the legal issues related to IHL of non-international armed conflicts (NIACs). The first day of the training focused on the foundations of IHL of NIACs such as its scope of application, protection of persons in the power of a party in NIACs and differences with the law of international armed conflicts, as well as the rules on the conduct of hostilities in NIACs. The second day addressed international crimes in NIACs and specifically the question of jurisdiction to prosecute IHL violations in NIACs, different categories of international crimes, modes of liability and terrorist offences.



RESEARCH

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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 circles, government and the private sector.

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

Dr Erica Harper
Head of Research and Policy Studie

‘Our research agenda is evolving in an anticipatory manner, to respond to current challenges as well as future trends. In 2022, we invested resources in several rapidly evolving and complex areas, including how accountability processes are being impacted by the advent of open source intelligence and how emerging digital technologies are changing the nature of armed conflict.’

Digitalization and New Technologies

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



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

The Digitalization of Armed Conflicts

New military technologies are transforming the nature of modern warfare, raising a legitimate concern that existing laws and regulations will be ‘outpaced’ by technological advancement, widening the scope for rights abuses and impunity.

Under the leadership of our new Swiss IHL Chair, Professor Marco Roscini, our research aims to identify specific humanitarian threats and legal lacunae resulting from new military technologies and develop pragmatic law and policy responses.

The joint initiative on humanitarian impact and protection, carried out with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), assesses the continued relevance of IHL in a digitalization context in order to develop law and policy recommendations aimed at mitigating the identified risks and addressing new protection needs. In this context, we co-organized with the ICRC a two-day expert workshop – AI and Related Technologies in Military Decision-Making on the Use of Force: Current Developments and Potential Implications – to discuss how AI applies in military decision-making related humanitarian implications. A report will summarize the outcomes of the discussion and research carried out on this issue.

Parallel research on disruptive military technologies assesses the impact – and related protection needs – of new military technologies that shape the future digital battlefield in relation to cyberwarfare, cybersecurity and emerging military applications of AI. In 2022, the research team addressed the societal risks and potential humanitarian impact of cyber operations and the consequences of novel technologies for humanitarian protection in armed conflict. Our Swiss IHL Chair, Professor Marco Roscini, also gave public lectures on cyberwarfare at both the Geneva Academy and University of Trento.

Our working paper *Societal Risks and Potential Humanitarian Impact of Cyber Operations* provides an up-to-date assessment of existing risks and protection needs in light of contemporary and future military cyber capabilities. Based on two expert workshops and four other consultations with individual experts held in 2021, the paper identifies the risks, humanitarian consequences and protection needs for conflict-affected populations during cyber operations, assesses whether IHL adequately addresses these and formulates specific legal and policy recommendations to mitigate risks and address protection needs.

Our working paper *The Future Digital Battlefield and Challenges for Humanitarian Protection: A Primer* provides an overview of the various novel technologies that together form part of the ‘future digital battlefield’ and assesses some of the implications for humanitarian protection in armed conflict. Based on an expert workshop conducted in 2021, the paper identifies areas that need further attention – thus framing the future research of the project – and hints at possible legal solutions.

Disruptive Technologies and Rights-Based Resilience

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

This research – carried out in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) B-Tech Project and the Geneva Science-Policy Interface – was completed in 2022. Its findings – summarized in our research brief *Regulating Business Conduct in the Technology Sector: Gaps and Ways Forward in Applying the UNGPs* – supported the development of a UN policy guidance tool for policy-makers on the development of regulatory and policy measures in the technology field. This tool, launched in November 2022 at the UN Business and Human Rights Forum, will allow policy-makers and other stakeholders to ensure that their regulatory or incentive-based initiatives directed at the technology sector align with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Other policy-guidance tools produced throughout the project include an analysis – based on three case studies – of how best to place human rights at the centre of regulatory frameworks and legislation on online harm, and guidance on incorporating human rights in the regulation of AI.

Non-State Actors

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

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

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

This research project – led by Dr Anyssa Bellal, funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and carried out in partnership with the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding of the Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva Call, the American University in Cairo and the Norwegian Refugee Council – exam-

ined armed non-state actors' (ANSAs') practice and interpretation of core IHL and human rights norms via field research and interviews with selected ANSAs in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, the Philippines and Syria.



Completed in 2022, it provides a unique comparative analysis of ANSAs' practice and interpretation of norms like the protection of civilians from attacks, sexual violence and gender discrimination, the prohibition of using and recruiting children in hostilities, the protection of education, humanitarian access and health-care, the prohibition of forced displacement, the use of landmines and other explosive devices, detention, fair trial and the administration of justice, as well as the special protection of certain objects, such as cultural property and the environment.

Seven case studies detail the related practice and interpretation by Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State Group, Hezbollah, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Taliban, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (FARC-EP).

The research outcomes and findings are presented in a global comparative analysis – the first of its kind – that outlines specific policy recommendations for humanitarian actors and policy-makers on ANSA engagement.

These outputs have been disseminated at briefing events with relevant stakeholders and humanitarian coordination bodies in Geneva and New York as

well as in selected field locations, at an international conference in Geneva and via peer-reviewed articles in practitioners' and academic journals. They are also presented on the project's dedicated website (words2deeds.org).

Business and Human Rights: Towards a Decade of Global Implementation

This research project – completed in 2022 – accompanied the entire process that led to the launch of UNGPS at 10+: A Roadmap for the Next Decade of Business and Human Rights by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

It also examined existing mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels for holding states accountable for their performance in implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), analysing gaps and opportunities and formulating specific recommendations to improve this accountability. These findings are presented in our working paper *Strengthening State Accountability on Business and Human Rights at International Level*.

Business, Human Rights and Conflict-Affected Regions

As the worst forms of business-related abuses often happen in the context of war or in conflict-affected areas, this research – completed in 2022 – identified the concrete steps that businesses should take to avoid business-related human rights abuse in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The research notably addressed the appropriate policies, regulations and adjudication that protect against corporate-related human rights abuses in conflict and post-conflict situations, the specific measures that businesses should take in conflict and post-conflict situations, the measures that actors in the peace and security architecture should take, as well as the role of business in transitional justice.

Its findings have notably been taken into account in the novel UN guide *Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts*, which provides guidance to businesses on how to meet their responsibilities to carry out a heightened version of human rights due diligence in conflict-affected areas.

Implementation and Accountability

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

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

research in this domain aims to accompany existing mechanisms and their stakeholders, ongoing policy discussions, negotiations, reforms and new developments in order to ensure the ongoing relevance of the international legal framework for the most vulnerable, along with accountability and redress for victims.

The IHL Expert Pool

The IHL Expert Pool (IHL-EP) – composed of thematically and geographically representative IHL experts – works to strengthen the capacity of human rights mechanisms to incorporate IHL into their work by providing advice on priority IHL themes on a solicited and non-solicited basis.

Launched in 2022, the project can now count on an ever-expanding list of scholars – covering as many areas of expertise as possible – and has managed to position itself as a flexible tool that human rights mechanisms can rely on to increase their IHL knowledge and apply IHL in their work.



During the year, the IHL-EP provided advice to six human rights bodies at both regional and international levels on critical IHL issues. In relation to the armed conflict in Ukraine, the Geneva Academy submitted, along with 23 governments, a request for third-party intervention before the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Ukraine v Russia (X)* on several crucial issues raised by that case. These include the extra-territorial application of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the attribution of conduct and its interaction with the

questions of establishing jurisdiction and classifying armed conflicts, the relationship between the ECHR and the international legal prohibition of the threat or use of force and the interplay between the ECHR and IHL.

The IHL-EP also provided advice to several special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. These include, notably, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food for his report on conflict and the right to food; the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries on mercenary-related activities from the standpoint of IHL; and the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights for the first independent global study on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on civil society and civic space, with a contribution focusing on the lack of transparent, empirical decision-making and the over-extension and misuse of IHL in counter-terrorism operations.

In response to the increased reliance on open-source information to prosecute and investigate international crimes, the IHL-EP also convened an interdisciplinary experts' meeting to facilitate intersectoral information sharing and debate on that topic. It also provided advice on this issue to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture.

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

Universality – the notion that IHRL protects all individuals worldwide – has been a key human rights principle since its integration in the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Designed as an inclusive and debate-oriented project, this research – completed in 2022 – aimed to contribute to a better understanding of the contemporary challenges to this principle of universality while also questioning their validity.

Our briefing *The Universality of Human Rights: Developing Narratives to Overcome Polarization* presents the outcomes of this research by identifying the main contemporary challenges that universality faces and offering some elements according to which a more consequential and effective narrative of human rights universality can be devised and put into practice – one that overcomes these challenges and is better able to persuade sceptics.

Two Human Rights Conversations accompanied these reflections and discussed universality in the context of digitalization as well as in relation to the so-called Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAAIL).

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

This project provides substantive support to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Clément Voule, a mandate that plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting these rights worldwide. By hosting Clément Voule at the Geneva Academy in our research team, we

work with him to address emerging issues, respond to the global attacks against civic space and develop tools and materials to allow various stakeholders – states, civil society organizations, lawyers and human rights defenders – to promote, preserve and defend these fundamental freedoms.

We notably supported his global consultation with civil society actors in Kampala, Uganda, to gather information for his thematic report to the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the role of social movements in building back better and on ensuring a sustainable and human rights orientated recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



For his report on protests in crisis situations – pursuant to UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Resolution 44/20 and presented at the HRC's 55th session – we supported the organization of regional consultations with civil society actors in Mexico and closed consultations with global experts. The report's key findings and recommendations were presented at an HRC side event co-organized with the permanent missions of Switzerland and Costa Rica and many civil society partners. Based on his report, the HRC further mandated the UN Special Rapporteur to develop practical tools to assist law enforcement officials in promoting and protecting human rights in the context of peaceful protests.

We have also been involved in the preparation of an important strategic meeting, convened by the UN Special Rapporteur, with regional human rights mechanisms and a broad range of civil society actors to discuss cross-regional common challenges and threats to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and common avenues for future collaboration. The meeting resulted in agreement between the mechanisms to strengthen their collaborations and develop a joint framework of action, with the support of civil society.

At the 2022 Geneva Peace Week, we contributed to an important strategic meeting co-organized with the UN Special Rapporteur and the Quaker United Nations Office that allowed practitioners from the peacebuilding and human rights communities to exchange best practices and develop new partnerships to prevent conflicts through strengthening the protection of the right to freedom of assembly.

Sustainable Development

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



Our research in this domain aims to explore the linkages between sustainable development, the protection of the environment, climate change and the branches of international law that protect the rights of the most vulnerable. It also focuses on those who are left behind – including peasants and other people working

in rural areas, who represent 80 percent of the world's hungry and 70 percent of people living in extreme poverty – and their specific rights.

Towards a Better Protection of the Right to a Healthy Environment

Building on the recent recognition of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the first phase of this research – completed in 2022 – aimed to mainstream this right and the protection it affords in the work of the UNGA and Geneva-based human rights mechanisms.

Published in December 2022, our briefing *Human Rights and the Environment* and its research brief detail the contours of this right and the relationship between human rights and the environment and formulate concrete recommendations on its mainstreaming in the work and resolutions of the UNGA and the HRC.

At a side event during the 51st session of the HRC – co-organized with the permanent missions of Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Switzerland and Slovenia to the UN in Geneva – diplomats, representatives from NGOs and international organizations and experts also discussed the implementation of this right and the role of the HRC in this.

The Rights of Peasants

We pursued in 2022 our work on promoting the implementation of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) by leading key discussions, releasing new publications and launching with La Via Campesina, FIAN International and CETIM the new website *Defending Peasants' Rights* (defendingpeasantsrights.org), conceived as a one-stop platform for information about UNDROP.

Our research team participated in the new multi-year project RAISE, co-ordinated by Action de Carême, on UNDROP implementation in 10 countries of the Global South: the Philippines, India, Nepal, Kenya, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Bolivia and Mexico. As a strategic partner, the Geneva Academy trained the project's partners and local peasants' organizations on the rights of peasants and the use of national, regional and international mechanisms to protect them. The Geneva Academy team also provided strategic guidance to national actors on the use of UN human rights mechanisms to ensure respect for the rights of peasants.

Our briefing paper *Implementing the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) in light of UNDROP* – also available in French, Spanish and Portuguese and presented at the 9th session of the ITPGRFA Governing Body – explains how UNDROP complements the ITPGRFA and stresses the importance of taking UNDROP into consideration when implementing Article 9 of the ITPGRFA on farmers' rights. Co-published with APREBES and co-signed with the current and last two UN Special Rapporteurs on the right to food, it is the first publication that addresses the interface between Article 9 of the ITPGRFA and Article 19 of UNDROP on the right to seeds.

In light of current global crises, our research brief *The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty in UNDROP* explains why the rights to food and food sovereignty enshrined in UNDROP must be central in the responses to the food and climate crises. After describing what the rights to food and food sovereignty entail for states, the paper analyses their relevance for peasants, fisherfolk, pastoralists and herders and calls for their mainstreaming in the work of regional and international human rights mechanisms.

In preparation for the Universal Periodic Review of Switzerland, the research team also submitted with the Friends of UNDROP in Switzerland two contributions, on the implementation of UNDROP in Swiss domestic laws and policies and on Switzerland's foreign policy and UNDROP.

Several events held throughout the year also addressed best practices and challenges in UNDROP implementation and highlighted perspectives from specific countries like Colombia, as well as links with the implementation of other rights like the right to water.

The Right to Seeds in Europe

As the European Union is revising its legislation on seed marketing, this research project examines the protection of peasants' right to seeds in Europe and raises awareness – via targeted publications, expertise, key events and the facilitation of exchanges with various stakeholders – about the importance of using UNDROP to promote changes in European laws and policies.

In this context, our research team provided a series of official submissions to the European Commission (EC) – in charge of organizing the public consultation around this revision – to ensure that UNDROP and its Article 19 on the right to seeds are taken into account.

We also organized with EU parliamentarians and several European peasants' organizations and seed networks a conference at the European Parliament to discuss this revision and the need to integrate UNDROP's Article 19 on the right to seeds with parliamentarians and EC representatives. Several events also addressed the implications of this reform at the national level – in Italy and Denmark – and gathered inputs from national constituencies.

Land Commercialization, Gendered Agrarian Transformation and the Right to Food

The publication of the book *Agricultural Commercialisation, Gender Equality and the Right to Food: Insights from Cambodia and Ghana* concludes a multi-year research project on land commercialization, gendered agrarian transformation and the right to food carried out in partnership with the Gender Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute, the University of Ghana, the Multiangles Centre and the Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia.

Chapters of the book analyse processes of agricultural commercialization and their impact on gender inequalities and the enjoyment of the rights to food,

land and social security in Cambodia and Ghana. The book not only offers insights into these two case countries, but also provides proposals to advance rights-based research on food security.



Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals

Time is running out to implement the SDGs – a situation aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine. Placing human rights and the SDGs at the centre of short-term responses to current crises and long-term recovery is therefore even more important than before.

Building on more than 10 years of expertise in this area, our project – completed in 2022 – focused during the year on the COVID-19 crisis and on how to use human rights and the SDGs to build more fair, resilient and sustainable societies that leave no one behind.

The research team notably analysed more than 500 COVID-19-related recommendations directed at states by UN human rights mechanisms, outlining how countries that had invested in the rights to health, food and social security proved more resilient during and following the crisis. The results of this analysis were presented in early 2023 at a workshop convened by OHCHR on promoting and protecting ESCR within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. They are also summarized in the research brief *Building Back Better with the Rights to Health, Food and Social Security* published with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Human Rights Center of the University of Minnesota Law School.

Throughout the year, the research team also contributed – via written submissions and expert interventions – to several discussions on the 2030 Agenda, including the HRC Fourth Intersessional Meeting on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda and an OHCHR seminar on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights.



The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict Online Portal

The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) portal is the only independent global classification of armed conflicts under international law.

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

By the end of 2022, the portal was monitoring more than 110 armed conflicts involving at least 55 states and more than 70 ANSAs, constituting – as stated in the UN guide *Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts* published in 2022 – a key reference on armed conflicts.

New and Updated Armed Conflicts

The research team added four armed conflicts to the portal in 2022 – the international armed conflict (IAC) between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan that lasted from 14 to 18 September 2022, the non-international armed conflict (NIAC) between Ethiopia and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and the IAC between Afghanistan and Pakistan. While the NIAC between Thailand and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate (BRN-C) was declassified in 2021 due to cessation of hostilities, renewed fighting in January 2022 – in parallel with the beginning of peace talks between the government and the rebel group – prompted reclassification of the armed violence as a NIAC.

The research team also changed the classification – following Russia's invasion of Ukraine – of the NIACs between Ukraine and the self-proclaimed 'People's Republics' of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine to an IAC as Russia has been exercising overall control over the separatist groups since February 2022.

The three NIACs in Mexico – between the government and Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación, the government and the Sinaloa Cartel and the two cartels themselves – have been declassified due to the increasing challenge of attributing the armed violence – that remains high – to specific armed groups.

In addition, each conflict analysed on RULAC has been regularly updated throughout the year to incorporate recent developments including peace negotiations or agreements, as well as clashes between the parties or criminal proceedings before national and international courts. A particular focus, given the important developments related to these situations, has been on the IAC between Ukraine and Russia, as well as the military occupation of some Ukrainian regions by Russia.

Guidance to the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global on Current Armed Conflicts and IHL

At the request of the Council on Ethics for the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global – also known as the Oil Fund and the world's largest sovereign wealth fund – the RULAC research team provided background information – in the form of a report – on current armed conflicts and IHL.

The report – building on RULAC – identifies the situations of armed violence that amount to an armed conflict under IHL, the states that are party to these conflicts and, among these, those that use weapons in ways that constitute serious IHL violations as defined in Article 7(1)(b)(i) of the Arms Trade Treaty – namely those committing possible war crimes.

The report provided factual and clear information to the Council on Ethics in order for it to make informed decisions about its portfolio and investments. Our Research Fellow Dr Chiara Redaelli presented the report's main findings to the Council on Ethics and briefed its members on current armed conflicts and IHL.

Complex Questions and Processes Explained

Throughout the year, the research team provided expert and ad-hoc advice to governments and NGOs on specific conflict situations and clarified complex legal questions related to the classification of armed conflicts via articles and participation in various conferences.

It also analysed and explained – in relation to the IAC between Ukraine and Russia – the impact of the referendums on joining Russia carried out in Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson and provided regular insights and inputs in the media on this conflict. In parallel, it also raised awareness, via a photo gallery on the Geneva Academy’s website and a campaign on social media, about other armed conflicts monitored on RULAC that do not necessarily make the headlines.

Monitoring Armed Violence Situations

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

- Tensions in Belarus and Ukraine
- A series of jihadist attacks conducted in Benin against state forces
- Armed violence between Turkish armed forces and the Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK – a Kurdish youth organization and a splinter group of the PKK)
- Armed violence in Venezuela, especially between governmental forces and the National Liberation Army (ENL)
- Armed violence between El Salvador armed forces and criminal organizations
- Armed violence between Honduras armed forces and criminal organizations
- Deadly attacks carried out in Northern Togo by Al-Qaeda-affiliated jihadist groups
- Violent clashes between Somaliland armed forces and local militias
- The involvement of mercenaries and private military companies in armed conflict.





GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

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

Launched in 2017, the GHRP celebrated its 5th anniversary in 2022 and is today a major actor in the Geneva human rights scene and a worldwide reference on the work of United Nations (UN) human rights mechanisms. To celebrate this anniversary, the flags of the platform flew on the Mont-Blanc Bridge from 19 to 25 August 2022.

A Mechanisms Lab

In 2022, the GHRP further developed its key supportive role – as a ‘mechanisms lab’ – to Geneva-based human rights mechanisms via a series of targeted initiatives.

From public events to behind-the-scenes meetings and pilot follow-up reviews at national and regional levels, the GHRP continued to accompany the work of UN treaty bodies (TBs) and led discussions on their future outlook and the national implementation of their recommendations.

The platform also increasingly worked with UN special procedures – either by promoting greater exchanges with UN TBs or by assisting them in better evaluating the impact of their work.

Its Human Rights Conversations series and Annual Conference tackled pressing human rights topics and challenges – the universality of human rights and digitalization – at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and beyond.

Piloting Follow-Up Reviews at National and Regional Levels

Pilot follow-up reviews allow the testing of the potential contours of a new format that would be put in place between TB reporting cycles and would bring TBs closer to the field and national realities.

In March 2022, and after Sierra Leone, the GHRP conducted in Grenada, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, its second follow-up pilot review which focused on the latest recommendations issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In-situ visits preceded the discussion with national actors and helped contextualize the exchanges.

The reports of the two pilots conducted so far show the benefits that regional-level follow-up reviews could bring to the work of UN TBs and the implementation of human rights in countries, as well as the possible format these could take.



Leading Discussions on the Future of UN Treaty Bodies

Having accompanied the 2020 review of UN TBs by the UN General Assembly – by bringing academic inputs into the discussion and making concrete recommendations – the GHRP is now working on implementation of this review’s outcomes to ensure that TBs continue their crucial work for the protection and promotion of human rights at the national level.

From testing pilot follow-up reviews in the field to leading discussions in Geneva and New York and reflecting on working methods, the GHRP was actively involved throughout 2022 in fostering the implementation of the recommendations stemming from the 2020 review. In this respect, its regularly updated research brief *Implementing the Treaty Body Review 2020 – Where Do We Stand?* provides a useful checklist and analysis.

GHRP staff notably participated in the Annual Meeting of TB Chairpersons in New York and organized a dedicated side event with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Commonwealth Secretariat, TB-Net and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York to discuss with relevant stakeholders the future of the TB system.

Connecting Experts in UN Treaty Bodies and Beyond

Via its Treaty Body Members Platform (TBMP), the GHRP connects TB members with each other as well as with Geneva-based practitioners, UN special procedures, academics and diplomats, providing a unique space to share expertise, exchange views on topical questions and develop synergies and cooperation.

The nine meetings held in 2022 – at Villa Moynier and online – addressed the rights of indigenous women and girls, the human rights of children in the context of international migration, the impact of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, enforced disappearances and non-state actors, the harmonization of TBs' working methods and individual communications.

The TBMP also facilitated the adoption of a joint statement on illegal intercountry adoptions by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, three UN special rapporteurs – on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the sale and sexual exploitation of children; and trafficking in persons – and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Addressing Topical Human Rights Questions at the HRC and Beyond

At the public segment of the 2022 Annual Conference, participants addressed the impact of digitalization on human rights, the implications of being ON and OFF the grid and the role of UN human rights mechanisms. A key question that transcended the various panels was the need for new e-rights – like the right to online connectivity – versus an interpretation of existing rights in a digitalization context.

The four 2022 Human Rights Conversations addressed key human rights issues at the HRC and beyond, including Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAAIL), the implications of digitalization for the universality of human rights, UN human rights mechanisms and mega sporting events and the creation of a helpdesk for business on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools and Databases for National Implementation

The GHRP continued its work on the implementation of international human rights norms at the local level with a focus on the emergence of digital tracking tools and databases introduced to facilitate a more holistic approach to the monitoring and implementation of international human rights recommendations.

To accompany these promising developments, the GHRP organized – during the morning of its 2022 Annual Conference – an expert roundtable with representatives of governments, international organizations and civil society organizations that manage these digital human rights tracking tools and databases to share experiences, challenges, best practices and potential for improvement.

Building on this first meeting, the GHRP continued to engage with these software developers and users to create a community of practice and online resources to strengthen these tools and facilitate exchange of best practices to ultimately contribute to a better implementation of human rights recommendations at the national level.

Evaluating the Impact of UN Special Procedures

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

In 2022, the GHRP continued its research aimed at supporting them to measure the impact of their work – in a given country or in relation to a specific right – along with the effectiveness of their interventions and activities. The outcomes of this research – which focuses on developing methodologies to appraise impact and conducting impact assessments – were published in a working paper in early 2023.

The Training Hub: Building Capacity in the International Human Rights System

Launched in 2021, the GHRP Training Hub took off in 2022 and conducted seven training courses – two regular and five customized – on both the functioning of UN human rights mechanisms and topical human rights issues like the protection of the environment and freedom of opinion and expression.

Aimed at building capacity in the international human rights system, its use and impact on various policy areas, these courses took place in Geneva, online and in the field and trained more than 100 participants from UN agencies, NGOs, national human rights institutions and governments.

The Training Hub implements its various activities with the support of many partners, including UPR Info, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre).

Felix Kirchmeier
Executive Director
of the Geneva Human Rights Platform

‘With this new hub, we not only aim to build the capacity of various stakeholders to better resort to UN human rights mechanisms and implement their recommendations but also to become a central hub and federating structure for human rights training courses in Geneva.’

Courses in 2022: 7



Attendance: 104



Protecting Human Rights and the Environment

This course, which could be attended in Geneva or online, provided participants – from NGOs, UN agencies, governments and academic institutions – with practical insights into the different UN human rights mechanisms pertinent to advancing environmental issues and protecting environmental human rights defenders.

‘This is the best course that I have attended in the field of rights, law and environment in the last decade. I would highly recommend it to every practitioner working in the energy, environment, human rights and humanitarian fields.’

Sanjukta Mukherjee
Founder Trustee
at the Sustainable Design Research Consortium

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

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

Customized Courses

The Training Hub delivered five customized courses in 2022 on a variety of issues – including the work of UN human rights mechanisms, the UPR, negotiations at the HRC and freedom of opinion and expression – and for diverse audiences: UN staff in Syria, staff from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, academics from Asia and staff from the United Arab Emirates National Human Rights Institution. These took place in Geneva, Beirut or online.

‘These customized courses are tailored to the needs of partners and audiences and combine the Geneva Academy’s human rights’ expertise with the network and outreach of the Geneva Human Rights Platform. Their design and content are elaborated in close coordination with the partners.’

Felix Kirchmeier
Executive Director
of the Geneva Human Rights Platform

Breaking Down Silos

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

In light of the climate crisis and the impact of climate change on human rights, the GHRP notably promoted exchanges between members of UN TBs and

the authors of the 2021/2022 reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in order to link climate science and human rights expertise and policy.

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

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

Key Facts and Figures

- 36 Events
- 9 Initiatives
- 7 Training Courses attended by more than 100 participants
- 1 Annual conference
- 1 Advisory board
- More than 50 partners



PUBLICATIONS

- p. 63 Books
- p. 63 Briefings
- p. 64 Research Briefs
- p. 65 Working Papers
- p. 66 Others

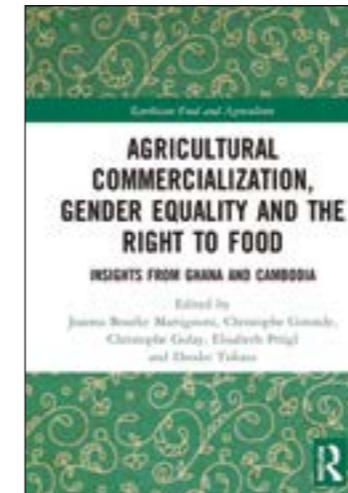
Our publications address current issues and challenges and stimulate debates in the academic community and in policy-making institutions and governments.

They mainly come under four distinct series:

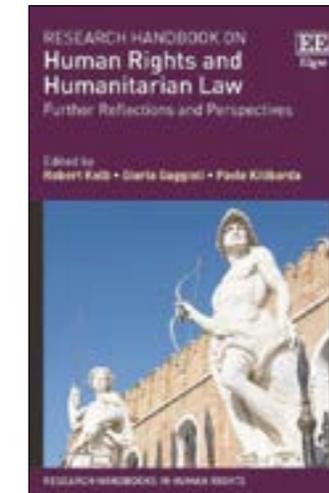
- Books – published by major editors, these are the outcome of fundamental research carried out at the Geneva Academy
- Briefings – elaborate policy advice with academic depth and rigour
- Research Briefs – give targeted policy advice in a short and accessible format on on-going projects and summarize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



Books

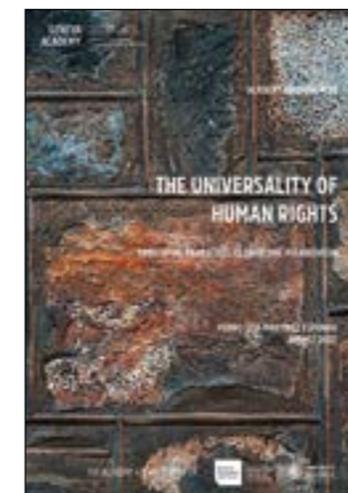


Agricultural Commercialization, Gender Equality and the Right to Food
Taylor & Francis, 2022
Joanna Bourke Martignoni, Christophe Gelay, Christophe Gironde, Elisabeth Prügl and Dzodzi Tsikata

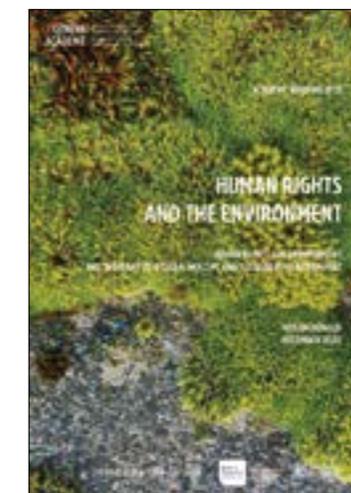


Research Handbook on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022
Gloria Gaggioli, Pavle Kilibarda and Robert Kolb

Briefings



The Universality of Human Rights: Developing Narratives to Overcome Polarization
August 2022
Pedro José Martínez Esponda



Human Rights and the Environment
December 2022
Megan Donald

Research Briefs



Regulating Business Conduct in the Technology Sector: Gaps and Ways Forward in Applying the UNGPS
April 2022
Ana Beduschi and Isabel Ebert



Implementing the Treaty Body Review 2020 – Where Do We Stand?
August 2022
Felix Kirchmeier and Domenico Zipoli



The Right to a Healthy Environment
December 2022
Megan Donald



The Rights to Food and Food Sovereignty in UNDROP
December 2022
Christophe Golay

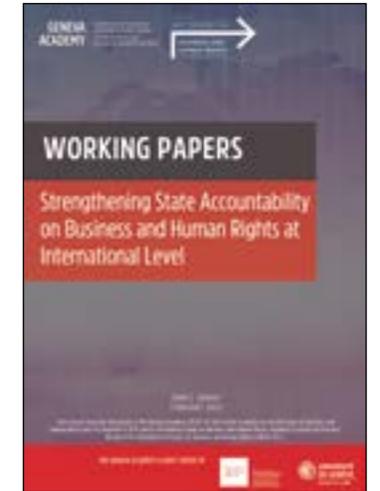
Working Papers



Regulatory Approaches to Online Harms and Human Rights: Three Case Studies
January 2022
Ana Beduschi



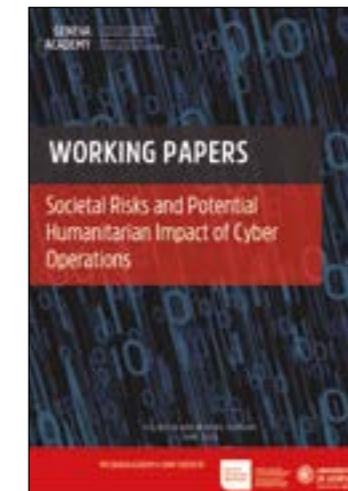
Towards Global Transitional Justice?
January 2022
Olivier de Frouville



Strengthening State Accountability on Business and Human Rights at International Level
March 2022
John E. Grova



The Future Digital Battlefield and Challenges for Humanitarian Protection: A Primer
April 2022
Henning Lahmann

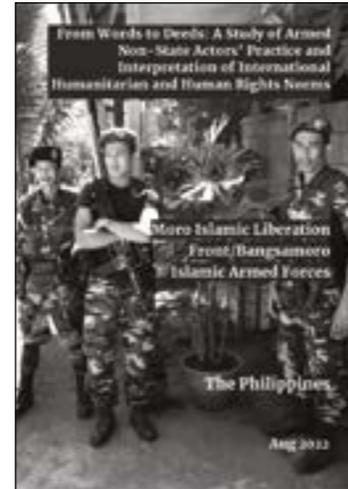


Societal Risks and Potential Humanitarian Impact of Cyber Operations
June 2022
Pia Hüsich and Henning Lahmann

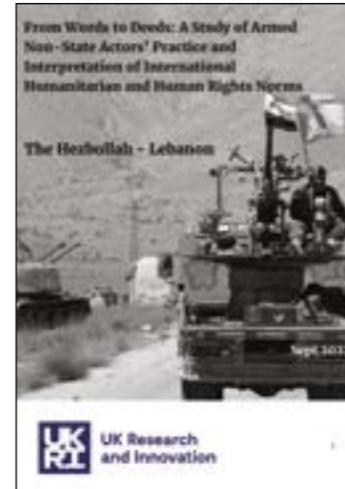
Others



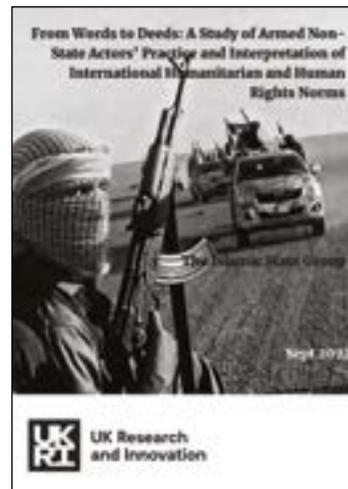
A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms: The Taliban – Afghanistan
June 2022
Rahmatullah Amiri, Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard, Ezequiel Heffes and Ashley Jackson



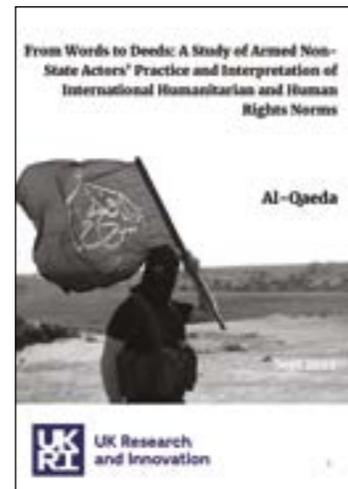
A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms: The Philippines – Moro Islamic Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces
August 2022
Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard, Ezequiel Heffes and Chris Rush



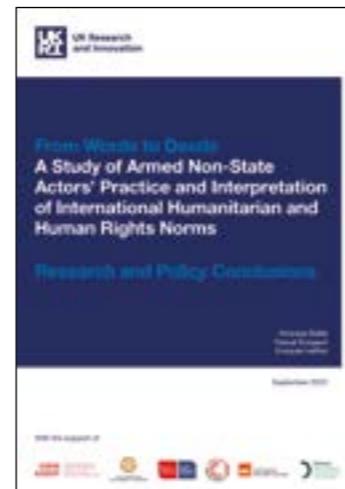
A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms: The Hezbollah – Lebanon
September 2022
Hassan Baalbaky, Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard, Ezequiel Heffes and Hiba Mikhail



A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms: The Islamic State Group
September 2022
Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard and Ezequiel Heffes



A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms: Al-Qaeda
September 2022
Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard and Ezequiel Heffes



From Words to Deeds: A Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms – Research and Policy Conclusions
September 2022
Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongard and Ezequiel Heffes



Implementing the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Light of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDRP)
September 2022
Olivier De Schutter, Hilal Elver, José Esquinas, Michael Fakhri, Christophe Golay and Karine Peschard



Aplicación del Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura a la luz de la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre los derechos de los campesinos y de otras personas que trabajan en las zonas rurales



La mise en œuvre du Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture à la lumière de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des paysans et des autres personnes travaillant dans les zones rurales



Implementação do Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para a Alimentação e a Agricultura à luz da Declaração das Nações Unidas sobre os Direitos dos Camponeses e Outras Pessoas que Trabalham em Áreas Rurais



EVENTS

p. 70 Our Dedicated Series

p. 72 Events in 2022

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

Our series – IHL Talks, Human Rights Conversations, ATLAS, Military Briefings and PhD Forums – are key references in their respective fields and attract an ever-increasing audience.

In 2022, we ran 80 private and public events with more than 50 partners. Most of them still took place online or in a hybrid format due to COVID-19 restrictions. Via the recording and publication of videos on our website and social media channels, interested audiences can also watch important public debates and discussions afterwards.

Our staff also participated in high-level conferences throughout the year to address key accountability and implementation challenges in the field of international humanitarian and human rights law. Our Director, Professor Gloria Gaggioli, notably intervened at the Ministerial Session of the European Humanitarian Forum – along with the European Commissioner for Crisis Response, the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Chair of the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights – on improving compliance with international humanitarian law to safeguard the humanitarian space.

Our Dedicated Series

IHL Talks

The IHL Talks are a series of events on international humanitarian law (IHL) and current humanitarian topics. Aimed at academic experts, practitioners and policy-makers, they discuss burning humanitarian issues and their regulation under international law. The three IHL Talks organized in 2022 addressed the legal issues stemming from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the crimes committed by the Wagner Group and the use of open-source information to document violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Human Rights Conversations

The Human Rights Conversations are a series convened by our Geneva Human Rights Platform on contemporary issues and challenges related to the promotion and protection of human rights in Geneva and beyond. Aimed at diplomats, policy-makers, experts, civil society representatives and staff from the UN and other international organizations, the four conversations held in 2022 discussed Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL), the implications of digitaliza-

tion for the universality of human rights, UN human rights mechanisms and mega sporting events, and the creation of a helpdesk for business on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

ATLAS Network

Inspired by the ATLAS series of online profiles, these events, co-organized with the Geneva branch of ATLAS Network, feature prominent women who share their experience and advice regarding a career in international law. The two events organized in 2022 enabled open discussions with eight women with various profiles who have pursued a career in international law.

Military Briefings

This unique series of events relating to military institutions and the law aim to improve knowledge of military actors and operations and build bridges between the military and civilian worlds. The four briefings held in 2022 discussed – with military guests – the role of military legal advice to commanders in combat operations, autonomous weapons’ impact on international governance, weapons law and the role of military legal advisors.

PhD Forums

The Geneva Academy PhD Forums bring together PhD researchers and experts – in Geneva and beyond – who work in our scientific focus areas: IHL, international human rights law, international criminal law, transitional justice, international refugee law and selected public international law topics. The four PhD forums held in 2022 provided PhD students with a space to share their ideas with colleagues in an informal, respectful and enjoyable setting, and benefit from constructive feedback and discussions.

Events in 2022

Geneva Academy

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
24 January	The UN Guidelines for Lawyers in Support of Peaceful Assemblies	Panel Discussion	Geneva Human Rights Platform; International Commission of Jurists; Ordre des Avocats Genève; permanent mission of the United States to the UN in Geneva; UN Special Procedures; UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of assembly and of association
7 February	Women's Perspectives on a Career in International Law	Panel Discussion	ATLAS Network
23 February	Restitution of Looted Icon of St John the Forerunner to the Church of Cyprus	Ceremony and Panel Discussion	
3 March	Exhumer la violence politique: <i>Nuestras madres</i>	Film Screening and Debate	University of Geneva Law Faculty; International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights
5 March	New Technologies and Manipulation	Film Screening and Debate	International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights
9 March	Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism: A Conversation Between Judge Kipfer and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin	Panel Discussion	
11 March	The Role of Military Legal Advice to Commanders in Combat Operations and Beyond: A Canadian Perspective	Military Briefing	
15 March	Russia and Ukraine	IHL Talk	
23 March	Autonomous Weapons' Impact on International Governance	Military Briefing	
30 March	Expanded Applicability of International Criminal Law Norms to Members of Non-State Armed Groups	PhD Forum	

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
7 April	Exhumer la violence politique: <i>The Seeker</i>	Film Screening and Debate	University of Geneva Law Faculty; International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights
11 April	Weapons Law	Military Briefing	
5 May	Exhumer la violence politique: <i>Nostalgia de la luz</i>	Film Screening and Debate	University of Geneva Law Faculty; International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights
18 May	Missing Migrants in International Law	PhD Forum	
25 May	Unravelling Unlawful Confinement in Contemporary Armed Conflicts	Book Launch	
1 June	Don't Forget About Us: Strategies for Resisting Long-Term Detention of Human Rights Defenders	Panel Discussion	Geneva Human Rights Platform; Martin Ennals Award Foundation
1 June	Artificial Intelligence and Urban Warfare	PhD Forum	
6 June	UNDROP in the Future EU Seed Marketing Reform: The Perspective of Italy	Panel Discussion	Associazione Rurale Italiana; Rete Semi Rurali
8 June	Armed Conflicts, Environment and Human Rights	Conference	Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue
9 June	The Wagner Group: Options for Justice	IHL Talk	
20 June	Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protest in Crisis Situations	Side Event at the 50th Session of the UN Human Rights Council	UN Special Procedures; permanent missions of Costa Rica and Switzerland
22 June	Which Seeds for Organic, Agroecology, Low-Input and Peasant Seed Systems?	Conference	MEPs Martin Häusling (Greens/EFA), Eric Andrieu (S&D), Norbert Lins (EPP), Dacian Cioloş (Renew Europe) and Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL); ARCHE NOAH; IF-OAM Organics Europe; Demeter International
29 June	One Step Closer to a World Without Torture: Launch of the Istanbul Protocol 2022	Panel Discussion	

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
30 June	Good Practices, Lessons Learned and Challenges in the Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants	Panel Discussion	CETIM; FIAN International; La Via Campesina; OHCHR; permanent missions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, South Africa, Switzerland and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; South Center
6 July	Women's Perspectives on a Career in International Law	Panel Discussion	ATLAS Network
6 July	Economic, Social, and Environmental Rights in Chile's Constitutional Process	Side Event at the 50th Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
18 July	Third Annual Nelson Mandela Human Rights Lecture	Public Lecture	American University Washington College of Law; Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Commonwealth Secretariat; OHCHR
14 September	Promoting and Protecting the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment	Side Event at the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council	CIEL; Earthjustice; Franciscans International; permanent missions of Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Switzerland and Slovenia
15 September	Progress and Challenges in the Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants in Colombia	Panel Discussion	FIAN Colombia; FIAN International
5 October	Governmental Perspectives on the Interaction of Rights and Beliefs in Multi-Religious Societies	Panel Discussion	OHCHR; Geneva Human Rights Platform
12 October	Serious Violations of Human Rights: On the Emergence of a New Special Regime	Book Launch	
14 October	Agricultural Commercialisation, Gender Equality and the Right to Food. Insights from Cambodia and Ghana	Book Launch	Demeter Research Project; Geneva Graduate Institute; Royal University of Law and Economics, Cambodia; University of Ghana
17 October	The 'War on Terror' at 21: Reflections From Practice	Opening Lecture of the Academic Year	
20 October	The Role of Military Legal Advisors: A Wide-Ranging Conversation with Brigadier General Dan Kuwali	Military Briefing	

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
28 October	Graduation Ceremony		
3 November	The Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants as a Leverage to Promote the Realization of the Right to Water: Experiences and Challenges	Side Event at the 2022 Social Forum	CETIM; FIAN International; La Via Campesina; permanent mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; South Centre
21–25 November 2022	The 2022 Human Rights Week		University of Geneva; OHCHR; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Republic and State of Geneva; AESPRI; Amnesty International; FIDH; Foraus; Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights; Martin Ennals Foundation; Les Créatives; Peace Brigades International
28 November	The Principle of Equality of Belligerents in Non-International Armed Conflicts	PhD Forum	
29 November	UNDROP in the Future EU Seed Marketing Reform: The Perspective of Denmark	Panel Discussion	
29 November	Entreprises et corruption: comment redistribuer les profits mal acquis?	Film Screening and Panel Discussion	
30 November	A Conversation with Volker Türk	Geneva Academy 15th Anniversary Evening Reception	
7 December	Private Military Companies and the Future of Conflict	Panel Discussion	International Code of Conduct Association
14 December	Open-Source Information: Strengthening Accountability at the Intersection of Law, Technology and the Humanitarian Space	Expert Meeting	
14 December	Towards Greater Accountability with Open-Source Information	IHL Talk	

Events in 2022

Geneva Human Rights Platform

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
21 January	Digital Uplift	GHRP Friday	Permanent missions of Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Morocco, Switzerland and Uruguay to the UN in Geneva
24 January	The UN Guidelines for Lawyers in Support of Peaceful Assemblies	Panel Discussion	Geneva Academy; International Commission of Jurists; Ordre des Avocats Genève; permanent mission of the United States to the UN in Geneva; UN Special Procedures; UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of assembly and of association
4 March	Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAAIL) and Human Rights	Human Rights Conversation	
10 March	Illegal Intercountry Adoptions	Treaty Body Members Platform	
23–24 March	Grenada Pilot Focus Review		Commonwealth Secretariat
7 April	The Physical Science of Climate Change: Implications for Human Rights Obligations	Treaty Body Members Platform	CIEL
11 April	Business and Conflict	Expert Consultation	United Nations Development Fund Programme
28 April	UN Human Rights Mechanisms and Mega Sporting Events: The Road to FIFA World Cup 2022 and 2023	Human Rights Conversation	
12 May	Universally Digital	Human Rights Conversation	
12 May	Retreat of OHCHR Petitions Section	Treaty Body Members Platform	OHCHR
14 May	Individual Communication Procedure	Treaty Body Members Platform	OHCHR; Paris Human Rights Centre

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
25 May	Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights	Expert Consultation	Chatham House
1 June	Don't Forget About Us: Strategies for Resisting Long-Term Detention of Human Rights Defenders	Panel Discussion	Martin Ennals Awards Foundation Geneva Academy
1 June	Implementing the Treaty Body Review 2020 – Where Do We Stand?	Side Event at the Annual Meeting of Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies	Commonwealth Secretariat; OHCHR; permanent mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York; TB-Net
6 June	Informal Day of Special Procedures Annual Meeting	Treaty Body Members Platform	OHCHR
24 June	Smart Cities and Human Rights – Pitfalls and Opportunities	Expert Consultation	Chile Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Geneva Cities Hub; University of St Gallen
29 June	The Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls	Treaty Body Members Platform	
30 June	The Rights of Women and Girls in Afghanistan	Panel Discussion	International Service for Human Rights; National Center for Dialogue and Progress; permanent missions of Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Spain and Switzerland to the UN in Geneva; UN Women
13 July	Non-State Actors and Enforced Disappearances	Treaty Body Members Platform	
18 August	Retreat of OHCHR Special Procedures Division	Treaty Body Members Platform	OHCHR
31 August	Annual Meeting of Heads of Platforms		Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva
2–3 September	Governance Systems and Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools	Panel at the 2022 Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes	Association of Human Rights Institutes; Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Danish Institute for Human Rights
5 September	Roundtable on National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up: What Next Steps?	Panel Discussion	Danish Institute for Human Rights; OHCHR; Universal Rights Group

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
7 September	Rethinking Human Rights Protection from the Ground Up	Panel Discussion	University of Edinburgh; DIG-NITY-Danish Institute Against Torture
14 September	Promoting the Right to a Healthy Environment and the Links Between Human Rights and the Environment	Expert Meeting of UN Special Procedures and Treaty Body Members	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
21 September	Illegal Intercountry Adoptions	Treaty Body Members Platform	
28 September	Children in International Migration: Celebrating 5 Years of Joint Action by Two UN Treaty Bodies	Treaty Body Members Platform	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
4 October	Strike While It's Hot: Protecting and Advancing Human Rights Online	Side Event at the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council	Access Now; Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Costa Rica
5 October	ESCR of Future Generations	Treaty Body Members Platform	
5 October	Governmental Perspectives on the Interaction of Rights and Beliefs in Multi-Religious Societies	Panel Discussion	OHCHR; Geneva Academy
5–7 October	Faith for Rights	Workshop	OHCHR
18 October	Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools and Databases	Expert Consultation	
18 October	On / Off – Implications of Digital Connectivity on Human Rights	Annual Conference	Access Now; Centre for Civil and Political Rights; Danish Institute for Human Rights; Digital Rights Foundation; European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; HURIDOCs; Impact OSS; International Service for Human Rights; OHCHR; Poverty Stoplight; Privacy International; UPR Info; Voices of Influence Australia
26 October	Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability: Implications for Human Rights Obligations	Treaty Body Members Platform	CIEL

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
15 November	Mayors, Human Rights and the United Nations Universal Periodic Review	Panel Discussion	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; Geneva Cities Hub; UPR Info; OHCHR; UN-Habitat
29 November	The Working Methods of UN Treaty Bodies	Treaty Body Members Platform	OHCHR
2 December	Towards a Helpdesk for Business on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights	Human Rights Conversation	UN Global Compact Brazil
7–8 December	National Human Rights Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up in the Field of Human Rights	Expert Consultation	Danish Institute for Human Rights; Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights of the Kingdom of Morocco; OHCHR; United Nations Development Programme; Universal Rights Group



RESOURCES

p. 82 Expenditure

p. 83 Income

p. 84 Donors

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

We closed the year with a positive financial result of 429,983 Swiss Francs. With an initial 2022 budget of 5.4 million, we attained a total operational result of 5.1 million at the end of the year following the implementation of our activities.



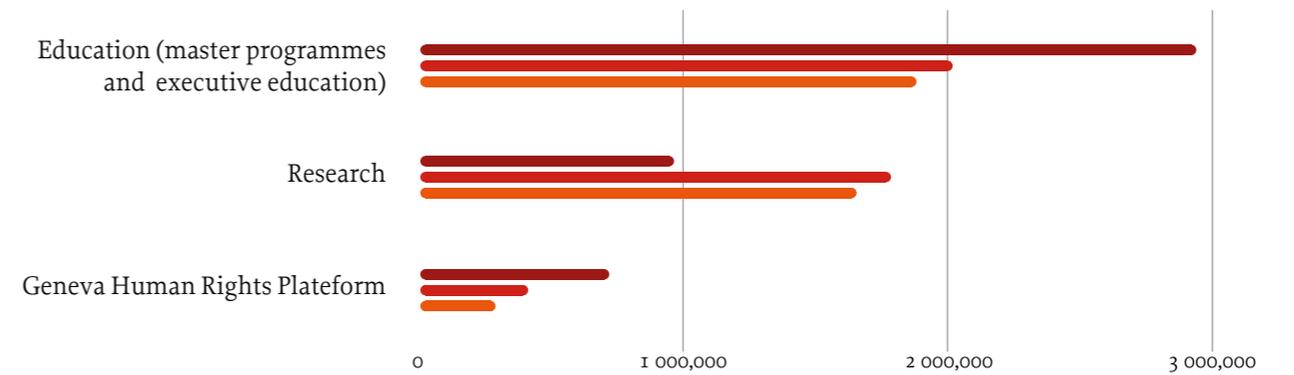
Expenditure

Our expenditure for 2022 increased to 5.1 million Swiss Francs, compared to 4.6 million in 2021. As illustrated by the diagram below, our education programmes and research activities remain the two main pillars of our institution.

Proportion of Expenditure Per Activity



Evolution of Expenditures per Activity

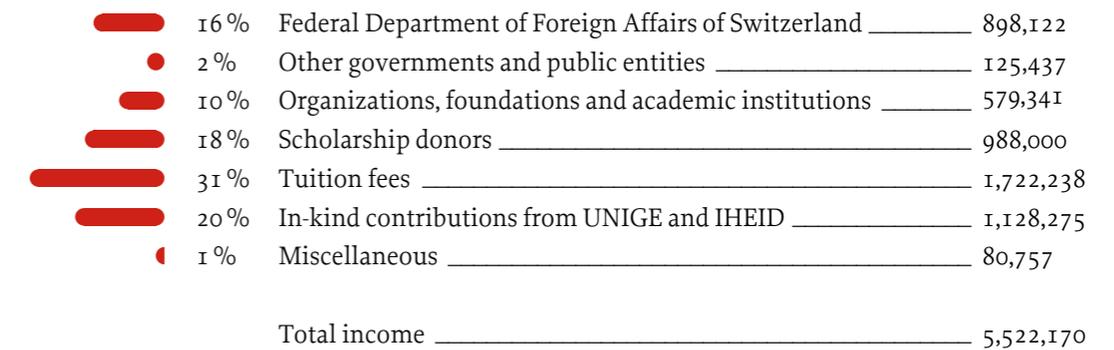


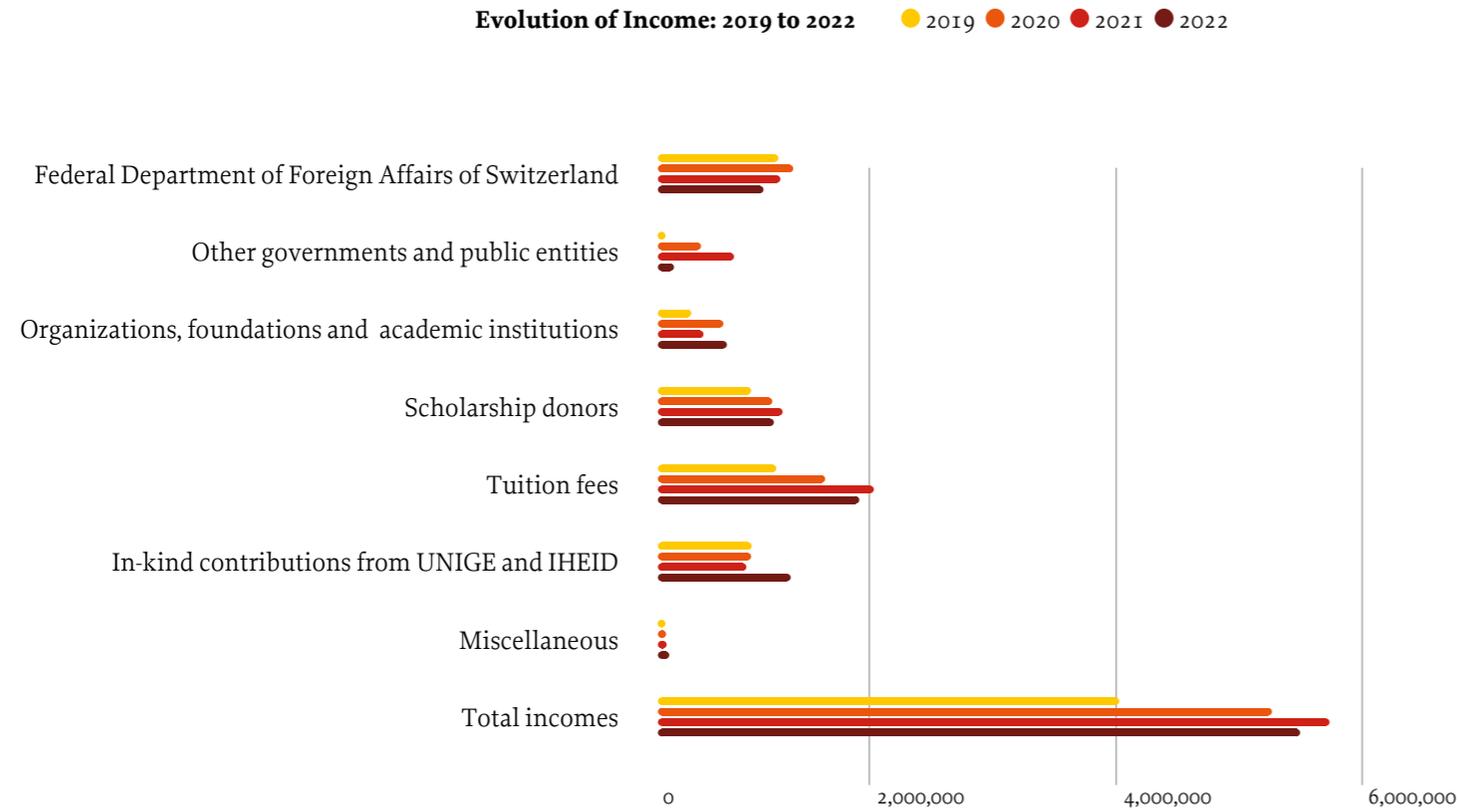
Income

In 2022, the Geneva Academy's total income was 5.5 million Swiss Francs, compared to 5.7 million in 2021.

This decrease relates to three main factors: (1) a lower number of participants in our master's programs for the 2022–2023 academic year following an exceptional year in 2021–2022; (2) the end of some multi-year research funding with new contracts still being negotiated at the close of the financial year; (3) the delay in the payment of final instalments of grants by some donors.

Income in 2022





Donors

The Geneva Academy is deeply grateful to all the donors who generously supported our work in 2022. Thanks to their contributions and commitment, we were able to promote, through our research and education, better respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Institutional Donors

- Council on Ethics – the Government Pension Fund Global (Norway)
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, in particular:
 - Directorate of Public International Law
 - Peace and Human Rights Division
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ABOUT US

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Our Mission

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

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

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

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

How We Work

Training Professionals and the Next Generation of IHL and Human Rights Experts

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

Informing Policy

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

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

Our Convening Power

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

Promoting Diversity

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



OUR PEOPLE

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Supervisory Committee

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

Yves Flückiger

Rector, University of Geneva

Marie Laure Salles

Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

The Board

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

Vincent Chetail

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

Madeline Garlick

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

Maya Hertig Randall

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

Andrea Bianchi

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

Alexis Keller

Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty (from September 2022)

Etienne Kuster

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

Bénédict Foëx

Professor of Law and Dean, University of Geneva Law Faculty (until June 2022)

Joost Pauwelyn

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

Andreas Ziegler

Professor of International Law, University of Lausanne

Master's Committee

The Master's Committee oversees our three master's programmes, including study plans and the faculty. It is presided by our Director, Professor Gloria Gaggioli.

Andrea Bianchi

Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (substitute member)

Gloria Gaggioli

Associate/Swiss National Science Foundation Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty; Director, Geneva Academy

Robert Kolb

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva (substitute member)

Vincent Chetail

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

Maya Hertig Randall

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

Faculty

Resident Faculty

For the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 academic years:

Andrea Bianchi

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

Andrew Clapham

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

Sévane Garibian

Professor of International Criminal Law and Transitional Justice, University of Geneva Law Faculty; Adjunct Professor in Legal Philosophy, University of Neuchâtel

Alessandro Chechi

Senior Researcher, University of Geneva; Lecturer in Public International Law, Université Catholique de Lille

Paola Gaeta

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

Robert Kolb

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva

Vincent Chetail

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

Gloria Gaggioli

Associate/Swiss National Science Foundation Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty; Director, Geneva Academy

Marco Sassòli

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Neus Torbisco Casals

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

Visiting Professors and Lecturers

For the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 academic years:

Ahmed Al-Dawoody

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

Lindsey Cameron

Head of Thematic Legal Advisers, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross

Tarcisio Gazzini

Professor of International Law, University of Padua

Cécile Aptel

Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Gabriella Citroni

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

Brandon Hamber

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

Sareta Ashraph

Senior Legal Adviser, US Holocaust Memorial Museum and Center for Justice and Accountability

Olivier de Frouville

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

Sandra Krähenmann

Senior Policy and Legal Adviser, Geneva Call

Giulio Bartolini

Associate Professor of International Law, Roma Tre University

Jérôme De Hemptinne

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

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin

Regents Professor and Robina Professor of Law, Public Policy and Society, University of Minnesota Law School; Professor of Law, Queens University

Vincent Bernard

Senior Policy Advisor, International Code of Conduct Association

Giovanni Distefano

Professor of International Law, University of Neuchâtel

Katia Papagianni

Director, Policy and Mediation Support, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

Marco Roscini

Swiss IHL Chair, Geneva Academy; Professor of International Law, University of Westminster

Sivakumaran Sandesh

Professor of International Law, University of Cambridge; Co-Deputy Director, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law

Clara Sandoval

Professor, University of Essex School of Law; Director, Essex Transitional Justice Network

Damien Scalia

Professor of Criminal and Prison Law, Université libre de Bruxelles

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

Eric Tistounet

Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Howard Varney

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

Julia Viebach

Senior Lecturer, School for Social Policy Studies, University of Bristol

Jamie Williamson

Executive Director, International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers Association

Domenico Zipoli

Research Fellow and Project Coordinator, Geneva Academy

Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law

Professor *Marco Roscini* joined us as our Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law (Swiss IHL Chair) in early 2022. He succeeded Professor Robin Geiss who has been appointed Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research by the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres.

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

He also pursues research projects on disruptive military technologies and the digitalization of armed conflicts, with a particular focus on the legal and ethical challenges raised by cyberwarfare and AI-supported decision-making in military affairs.

Swiss Human Rights Chair

Professor *Nils Melzer* was our Swiss Human Rights Chair (Swiss HR Chair) from March 2016 to June 2022, when he took up the position of Director of International Law, Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy at the International Committee of the Red Cross. From November 2016 to March 2022, he was also the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

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

The Team

Direction

Gloria Gaggioli

Director; Associate/Swiss National Science Foundation Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty

Maud Bonnet

Executive Director

Student Office

Dany Diogo

Coordinator of Master Programmes (until July 2022)

Francesca Invernizzi

Assistant to Master Programmes (since January 2022)

Alina Kondratiuk

Assistant to Master Programmes (since March 2022)

Gregory Pasche

Coordinator of Professionalizing Activities (since March 2022)

Ana Kilibarda

Assistant to Master Programmes

Communication and External Relations

Nathalie Mivelaz Tirabosco

Head of Communication and External Relations

Yasmine Arias

Events and Executive Assistant (until August 2022)

Romain Allamand

Events and Executive Assistant (from November 2022)

Tatiana Avanthay

Communication Officer

Teaching Assistants

For the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 academic years:

Agustina Becerra Vazquez

Tafadzwa Christmas

Cyprien Fluzin

Ilya Ivanov

Tadesse Kebebew

Pavle Kilibarda

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Yulia Mogutova

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Ana Srovin Coralli

Ashley Stanley-Ryan

Revaz Tkemaladze

Research

Dr Erica Harper

Head of Research and Policy Studies (since August 2022)

Dr Jonathan Andrew

Research Fellow

Dr Nataliia Hendel

Research Fellow

Felix Kirchmeier

Manager of Policy Studies (until August 2022)

Dr Christophe Golay

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Chiara Redaelli

Research Fellow

Dr Francesco Romani
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Dr Domenico Zipoli
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Dr Claire Callejon
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Dr Megan Donald
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Dr Bernard Duhaime
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Visiting Research Fellow

Dr Lukasz Olejnik
Visiting Research Fellow

Dominique Luchsinger Faret
Visiting Researcher

Geneva Human Rights Platform

Felix Kirchmeier
Executive Director

Dr Domenico Zipoli
Project Coordinator

Stefania Di Stefano
Project Officer (since September 2022)

Victoire Berrebi
Project Assistant (since November 2022)

Chloé Naret
Project Assistant (until September 2022)

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