2020 Annual Conference of the GHRP
Connectivity between regional and
global human rights mechanisms

*DRAFT*
CONCEPT NOTE
WORKING GROUP 3

Humanitarian law and human rights:
How do universal and regional human
rights mechanisms deal with
international humanitarian law?

Maison de la Paix (Pétale 5), Thursday 15 October 2020,
14:00 – 15:30
International humanitarian law (IHL) lacks mechanisms to strengthen its own compliance. If it undoubtedly remains an appropriate legal framework for regulating armed conflicts, such structural flaw of its system has left victims of violations “in search of a forum” and thus prompted a general recourse to the more-developed human rights machinery, including to mechanisms rooted in (universal and regional) treaties. Because they provide procedural ways for the examination of individual complaints, such treaty-body mechanisms are indeed much better equipped to address victims’ grievances.

Despite recurrent criticism - related to their lack of clarity on certain substantive issues and/or coherence of their decisions – developments toward greater convergence between IHL and human rights are likely to have a defining influence on the treaty bodies’ approach in the future. Universal treaty bodies should not necessarily be expected to take the lead but may follow suit where regional mechanisms of judicial nature show the way through their abundant case law.

Focusing on examples of recent relevant practice (case-law and/or updated general comments), panelists will be asked to critically assess the record of both universal and regional human rights treaty-body mechanisms in dealing with international humanitarian law. Their intervention should also identify potential avenues for increased cooperation, debate and knowledge sharing between mechanisms while being mindful of limitations inherent to their specific mandates.

PANELISTS
[to be announced soon]

PARTNERS
[to be announced soon]