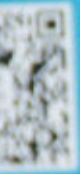


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TEACHING DEBATING RESEARCHING

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW,
ACTION AND POLICY IN UNIVERSITIES



ICRC



A. Greco / ICRC

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES VIS-À-VIS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, ACTION AND POLICY

Today's armed conflicts and other violence take a heavy toll on civilians, detainees, the wounded, medical staff and essential infrastructure. Although international law establishes limits on what is permitted in such situations, it is up to States to implement and enforce those limits in order to prevent unfettered, and often endless, violence.

Universities play a crucial role in this effort by ensuring that international humanitarian law (IHL) and other relevant law is taught to future leaders, arms carriers, magistrates and lawyers, as well as humanitarian professionals, for knowledge of the law is absolutely necessary – though not in itself sufficient – to ensure it is respected.

Academics make an essential contribution to the legal and humanitarian debate, helping shape laws

and policies that comply with the law. They also advise governments on how to tackle humanitarian and security issues in line with the existing legal framework and humanitarian policies, and raise the awareness of civil society through the media and public conferences.

Last but not least, universities and think tanks are at the forefront of research on new topics. They highlight emerging humanitarian issues, propose new ideas and solutions to address them, and provide constructive analyses to improve legal and humanitarian responses.

For those reasons, partnerships with universities are a key part of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)'s efforts to foster respect for IHL and humanitarian action and policy.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION

This introductory handbook is for students, professors, and humanitarian and legal professionals who wish to grasp the essentials of IHL. It is in line with the ICRC's reading of the law and offers an up-to-date overview of IHL in relation to the reality of contemporary armed conflicts.

Order the handbook and download the free PDF version: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/qa-international-humanitarian-law-comprehensive-introduction>



TEACHING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Why?

When States ratify the Geneva Conventions, they expressly commit to spread knowledge of IHL. One effective way of doing that is to teach the subject at universities. Apart from being a legal obligation, teaching IHL helps generate respect for this body of law and enhance people's understanding of armed conflicts in today's world.

How?

The realities of contemporary armed conflict should form the core of all instruction in IHL and humanitarian action. For this reason, professors and lecturers are encouraged to teach IHL interactively, using case studies and a variety of media and tools. They should also consider involving their students in "out-of-the-classroom" events, such as role-play competitions, moot courts, debating tournaments and essay com-

petitions. These events aim to generate momentum for integrating IHL in university curricula and to elicit interest in IHL and related matters more generally. Professors and lecturers are also welcome to take part in ICRC "train the trainer" courses and seminars worldwide in order to be introduced to the subject, receive updates on the latest developments, and explore ways of teaching it.

Visit our Learning and Teaching IHL page:

www.icrc.org/en/learning-teaching-ihl

Visit our Training Centre:

www.icrc.org/online-training-centre

The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries, and, in particular, to include the study thereof in their programmes of (...) civil instruction, so that the principles thereof may become known to the entire population (...).

The four Geneva Conventions of 1949, Articles 47, 48, 127 and 144 respectively.

HOW DOES LAW PROTECT IN WAR?

This reference casebook and online platform contains a selection of over 300 case studies, together with a comprehensive outline of IHL, as well as pedagogical advice and resources for lecturers and trainers.

Browse the online platform: www.icrc.org/casebook

Order the casebook and download the free PDF version: www.icrc.org/en/document/how-does-law-protect-war-0





C. Cardon de Lichtbuer/ICRC

V. Mbaoh Nana/ICRC

DEBATING IHL, HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND POLICY

Why?

Professors, lecturers and researchers ensure that relevant expertise is brought into the legal and humanitarian debate worldwide, and enrich that debate thanks to their diverse fields of competence and perspectives. International and humanitarian actors can benefit from their knowledge to update legal positions and policies, thereby reinforcing the protection of people affected by armed conflict and other violence.

How?

Throughout the world, academics and other experts are invited to contribute to ICRC workshops, seminars and conferences that explore contemporary issues. The national, regional and international networks of academic expertise that are created in this way can be instrumental in the development, teaching and implementation of IHL, and generate more support for neutral and impartial humanitarian action.

Professors, lecturers and researchers are also invited to participate in the debate through other channels, whether online by submitting posts to the ICRC's *Humanitarian Law & Policy* blog or through articles in the *International Review of the Red Cross*.

HUMANITARIAN LAW & POLICY

Powered by the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the blog acts as a bridge between academic research and practical field application, fostering timely engagement on crucial humanitarian issues.

Visit the blog: blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy



S. Roxas/ICRC

RESEARCHING LEGAL AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

Why?

Promoting knowledge and ownership of relevant norms and values is an effective way to create an environment conducive to respect for human dignity, IHL and neutral and impartial humanitarian action. Researchers contribute to that conducive environment by working on topical legal and humanitarian issues. This in turn helps clarify and develop the law, and enhance humanitarian policy and action.

How?

Researchers who want to know more about reference publications in the field of IHL, humanitarian action and policy are encouraged to contact the ICRC or browse www.icrc.org. International humanitarian law book sets can be made available upon request to university libraries. Most publications are also available in electronic format and free of charge on <https://shop.icrc.org>. Researchers are also invited to submit articles to the *International Review of the Red Cross*, which regularly explores new issues in the field of IHL, humanitarian action and policy. For any submission to the *Review* or any other academic journal supported by the ICRC, researchers are invited to consult our website or closest delegation in the field.

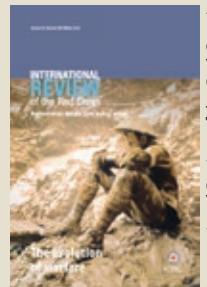
Leading universities are invited to partner with the ICRC on research projects addressing current legal and policy trends and challenges. Such projects can demonstrate and reinforce their expertise in those fields while providing the ICRC with useful analyses to tackle the trends and challenges. Project proposals can emanate from both potential academic partners and the ICRC. Partnerships follow a precise time frame and agenda with a view to producing tangible results, such as research papers, training tools, updated databases, joint events, academic centres, etc. Universities interested in submitting a proposal are invited to contact their local ICRC delegation.

Contact our delegations worldwide:
www.icrc.org/eng/who-we-are/contacts

THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

Established in 1869, the *International Review of the Red Cross* is a quarterly journal published by the ICRC and Cambridge University Press. It is a forum for debate on international humanitarian law and humanitarian action and policy related to armed conflict and other situations of violence.

Consult the journal: www.icrc.org/international-review





VISITING THE ICRC WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY

Why?

Professors, researchers and students are encouraged to visit the ICRC to learn more about its role as the “guardian of IHL” and its past and present humanitarian work to alleviate suffering in armed conflict and other situations of violence.

How?

Some ICRC delegations have public conference and documentation centres, where visitors can consult reference publications on IHL and humanitarian action. At ICRC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, interactive information sessions are regularly organized at the Humanitarianum to present the ICRC and

promote a better understanding of IHL and current humanitarian challenges. Visitors can also use the Library and Research Service, which has over 140,000 documents – books, periodicals, videos, photos and CD-ROMs – on international humanitarian law, humanitarian work and ICRC activities. Visits can be combined with a tour of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. We look forward to meeting you!

Browse our Visitors’ Service page:

www.icrc.org/en/event/meet-and-get-know-icrc

Mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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