

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

MODULE II



MODULE II. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK.

KEYWORDS

Centrality of protection; peacekeeping protection of civilians' mandate; responsibility to protect; international humanitarian law; human rights law; international criminal law; accountability mechanism; transitional justice; women, peace and security agenda; children and armed conflict mandate.

ABSTRACT

Civilian populations bear the greatest burden of today's complex crises. With the increase of armed conflicts, intercommunal violence, organized crime, and other forms of violence, concerns about human rights violations and abuses remain high. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis are also fueling violence, exacerbating conflict-related vulnerabilities like food insecurity, escalating humanitarian crises, and therefore eroding civilian coping mechanisms.

In this context, protecting civilians remains not only an imperative but a collective responsibility of all parties and actors. This include guaranteeing compliance with and promoting accountability for violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law; providing humanitarian access; and delivering protection specifically to those who are most vulnerable during armed conflicts, such as women and children.

This course aims to enhance participants' understanding of the responsibilities of parties to an armed conflict, of authorities towards their population, and of the different humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping actors to achieving protection outcomes that result in the reduction of risks and vulnerabilities while enhancing the capacities of affected persons to deal with them. The course will explore both the theoretical frameworks and practical approaches to protect civilians, while exploring opportunities to overcome the challenges of attaining a collective protective outcome by actors with different protection mandates. Lastly, the course will consider human rights frameworks and mechanisms for holding states accountable for grave violations of rights and analyze the extent to which victims of violations can seek redress for crimes committed against them.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the different concepts, principles, and peacekeeping actors to protecting civilians.
2. Get familiarized with various legal frameworks that aim to protect vulnerable persons in armed conflict situations and beyond, such as international rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.
3. Learn about the role of different humanitarian actors, such as the ICRC.
4. Identify monitoring and accountability mechanisms and approaches to transitional justice.
5. Become familiarized with Children and Armed Conflict mandate; women, peace and security agenda; and UN conflict-related sexual violence and rule of law mandates.

LECTURERS



María López
Expert in Peace
Missions and
Humanitarian Aid



Julie Lefolle
Legal Advisor
International
Committee of the Red
Cross (ICRC), Paris



Gregory Townsend
Senior Lecturer,
Hague University



Adam D. Dubin
Professor, Law School
Comillas Pontifical
University, Spain



Rafael Barbieri
Department of Peace
Operations,
United Nations

METHODOLOGY

The course uses a variety of methodologies, including lectures and presentations, debates, group work, practical and advanced role-playing sessions, outdoor activities, and simulation exercises.

DIPLOMA

Participants who successfully complete the course will obtain an official diploma from the International University Centre for Peace Missions of Helsinki España.

LOCATION

- Alfaz del Pi, Alicante, Spain.

DATE

- 2-6 June 2025

COURSE DURATION

- 40 hours
- 8:30am-5:00pm Monday to Friday

LANGUAGE

- English
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MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

- University degree or equivalent professional training.
- Fluency in English: B2+.
- Strong interest in international affairs.

ACCOMMODATION

- Participants organize their own accommodation. However, Helsinki España will inform selected participants of the different accommodation options available.

COST AND ENROLLMENT

- 1.200€ course fee.
- Meals and accommodation costs are NOT included.
- Applicants are also responsible for their visa-related costs.

VISA PROCESS

In order to start with the visa process, participants must have paid all the course. Helsinki España will support participants with an invitation letter.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Registration form must be sent to iucpm@helsinkiespana.org.

PAYMENTS

- Individual courses must be paid in full.
- Participants are responsible for the cost of bank transfers and currency exchange.
- In case of cancellation prior to the start date of the course, please note that we unfortunately cannot reimburse you. You will be able to participate in future courses with that course credit.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Unfortunately, we cannot provide scholarships for this course. Participants (or their employer) must be able to cover the tuition fee.

LECTURERS



MS. MARÍA LÓPEZ

COUNTRY: SPAIN
INSTITUTION: UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)
POSITION: EXPERT IN PEACE MISSIONS AND
HUMANITARIAN AID

Maria has a bachelor's degree in Law and a Masters' degree in Humanitarian Action and Management of NGOs from University of Deusto (Spain).

With more than 15 years of professional experience, Maria has worked in conflict settings with the UN Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan and OSCE mission in Kosovo, and in development countries such as Namibia, India and Honduras.

Throughout her career she has worked closely with national governments and counterparts providing policy advice on topics such as durable solutions for displaced populations, combatting human trafficking and promoting disaster risk reduction among others.

Her vast experience working with UN agencies (UNESCO), donors (AECID), NGOs (ACTED) and academia (NOHA network) has contributed to her specialization on issues such as humanitarian inter-cluster coordination, protection of civilians and joint programming.

Her professional aspirations have brought her to promote the triple nexus approach linking humanitarian aid, development and peacebuilding by exploring the conceptual and practical challenges encountered.



MS. JULIE LEFOLLE

INSTITUTION: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED
CROSS (ICRC), PARIS
POSITION: LEGAL ADVISOR

Julie Lefolle is a Legal Adviser with the Paris delegation of the ICRC where she is in charge of following international humanitarian law matters with several European countries through contacts with national authorities and cooperation with national societies.

She joined the ICRC in 2022. She was previously an associate with the legal division of the ICRC in Geneva. She was also an intern with the humanitarian section of the European Union delegation to the United Nations in New York.

Before that she worked for a few years as a legal adviser to refugees, migrants, and victims of domestic violence in French NGOs and law firms. She also worked in the restoring family links program of the French Red Cross and searched for missing persons.

She has personal experience in humanitarian assistance in Haïti distributing food and medicine as well as carrying out disease prevention activities.

Julie holds an LLM in international humanitarian law and human rights from the Geneva Academy of international humanitarian law and human rights, and a master's in international human rights law, with a specialty on rights of minorities, from the University of Strasbourg.



MR. GREGORY TOWNSEND

INSTITUTION: HAGUE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
POSITION: SENIOR LECTURER

Gregory Townsend (UK/USA) started his legal career as a deputy public defender in Los Angeles after studying at UCLA/Universidad Complutense de Madrid (BA), IUHEI-Univ. de Genève (DES), Fletcher School (MALD) and Loyola Law School (JD). In 1998, he joined the UN-ICTR, spending more than seven years working on Rwandan genocide cases. He later became a prosecutor for both the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Kosovo and UN-ICTY. From 2008 to 2010, he served as Head of Office for the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague on the trial of Liberian President Charles Taylor. He joined the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in 2010 as chief legal advisor to the Prosecutor. From 2014 to 2018, he was chief of the Registry's Court Services Section at the UN-ICTY and UN-IRMCT, overseeing witness protection, legal aid, judicial records and court operations. Since 2012, he's served as an expert for the UK's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, Justice Rapid Response, and UN Women, and been deployed to Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, Kenya, Mozambique, and Uganda. Appointed as Professor of the Practice in 2016, he is currently a Senior Lecturer in International Law in The Hague, and engaged as an expert in international justice. In 2022, the UK appointed him to the OSCE List of Experts for the 'Moscow Mechanism.' He is presently duty counsel before the ICC in the Mokom case. He represented a victim before the KSC, and was elected twice to the ICC's Advisory Committee on Legal Texts.



MR. ADAM DUBIN

INSTITUTION: COMILLAS PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY
POSITION: PROFESSOR OF LAW

Prof. Dr. Adam Dubin is an Assistant Professor of Law at Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, Spain, where he teaches subjects related to human rights, development, and Sub-Saharan Africa. He is also the Director of an LL.M. program in International and European Business Law at this university and an Adjunct Professor of Development Studies and Comparative U.S. and European Human Rights at New York University (Madrid). Adam's scholarship explores the intersection between development and human rights.

Prof. Dubin has served as a Visiting Professor of Comparative Human Rights Law at Nirma University (Gujarat, India), National University of West Bengal (Kolkata), where he was an Indian Government Scholar (GIAN Program), the University of Strasbourg (France), the University of International Business and Economics & Chinese University of Politics and Law (Beijing, China), and the Catholic University of Porto (Portugal). He currently holds two senior visiting research positions in human rights, one at the University of Johannesburg and the other at the South West University of Politics and Law in (south-central China).

Prior to coming to Spain and entering academia, he was a Legal Fellow at the United Nations in Cambodia and also worked for the Human Rights Law Network in New Delhi, India, where he assisted in litigation concerning child trafficking and other human rights violations.

Prof. Dubin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Literature and Political Science from the University of Vermont (USA), a Master's Degree in Development Policy from the University of Manchester (England), a Juris Doctorate from Pace University (New York), and a PhD in Law from la Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). He is currently studying for an LL.D. in African Child Rights at the University of Western Cape (South Africa).



MR. RAFAEL BARBIERI

INSTITUTION: DEPARTMENT OF PEACE OPERATIONS,
UNITED NATIONS

POSITION: TEAM LEADER OF THE MEMBER STATES
SUPPORT TEAM IN THE INTEGRATED TRAINING
SERVICE

Rafael Barbieri is currently the Deputy Team Leader of the Member States support team in the Integrated Training Service of the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO). Rafael's team oversees the development and delivery of mandatory and recommended pre-deployment training materials for UN Peacekeeping.

Mr. Barbieri has more than 30 years of progressively responsible experience in training and education and more than 25 years of experience in peacekeeping training. He has served in the UN Secretariat for 17 consecutive years.

Previously, Mr. Barbieri served in the army for almost three decades, mainly in the Special Forces. He graduated from the Military Academy as an infantry officer in 1985 and from the War College as Staff Officer in 2000. He commanded the deployment of troops in Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1993 and in DRC (MONUC) from 2002 to 2003. Rafael was the Director of the Uruguayan Peace Operations Training Centre from 2003 to 2005.

After he retired from the army in 2008, Mr. Barbieri was recruited by the United Nations as a civilian staff member, serving both at HQ and in the field. He served as chief of training in 2012 in Syria (UNSMIS). Rafael oversees the development and dissemination of key UN Specialized Training Materials (STM), including the UN Military Units; the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians; the UN Senior National Planners Programme; and Intelligence in Peacekeeping. During his assignment in the Secretariat, Rafael has led numerous training programmes and advised Member States on how to contribute to peacekeeping operations.

He holds a master's degree in military science and two university degrees in system analysis and computer engineering. He was a professor at the University in Uruguay from 1999 to 2002 in project management and computer science.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



ICRC

