

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

MODULE II



MODULE II.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK.

KEY CONCEPTS

Centrality of protection; Protection of civilians mandate in peace operations; Responsibility to Protect (R2P); International humanitarian law; Human rights; International criminal law; Accountability mechanisms; Transitional justice; Women, Peace and Security agenda; UN mandate on children in armed conflict.

ABSTRACT

This **intensive five-day course (40 hours)** provides a comprehensive understanding of the responsibilities that, in contexts of armed conflict, fall upon the **parties to the conflict, national authorities, and various international actors (humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping)** in order to ensure effective and sustainable protection outcomes.

The programme addresses the **legal frameworks** and obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including the mandate to protect civilians, which is binding at all times and in all circumstances, particularly for those not directly participating in hostilities, such as women, children, the elderly, and medical and humanitarian personnel. In-class case studies apply the **fundamental rules of protection: Distinction, Proportionality, and Precaution**.

Through a practical and multidisciplinary approach, participants will learn how to reduce risks and vulnerabilities in contexts of armed violence and strengthen the capacities of affected individuals and communities. The course also covers **monitoring and accountability mechanisms**, as well as **transitional justice**. Upon completion, participants will have key tools to understand, compare, and apply different civilian protection approaches used by **humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping actors** in real-world scenarios.

CONTENTS

The course addresses the main **legal, political, and operational frameworks** for the protection of civilians in armed conflict, combining theory and practice. Key topics include:

- The centrality of protection in humanitarian action
- Protection of civilians mandates in peacekeeping operations
- Responsibility to Protect (R2P)
- International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- Human Rights Law
- International Criminal Law
- Internally displaced persons and refugees as vulnerable groups.
- International obligations under International Refugee Law.
- Accountability mechanisms and monitoring of violations
- Transitional justice
- Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda
- United Nations mandate on children in armed conflict

These contents enable participants to understand the **existing legal and operational instruments for the protection of vulnerable populations**, as well as the current challenges in their implementation

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



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LOCATION

- Alfaz del Pi, Alicante, Spain.

MODALITY

- in Person

DATE

- 1-5 June 2026

LANGUAGE

- English

COURSE DURATION

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

METHODOLOGY

The training combines lectures delivered by active professionals, guided debates and critical analysis sessions, group work and collaborative dynamics, real case studies using conflict mapping, role-playing exercises, and conflict scenario simulations involving **decision-making processes** and promoting **hands-on, participatory learning applied to real-world contexts**

This methodology ensures the development of both **solid theoretical knowledge and essential practical skills** for working in humanitarian and peace contexts.

DIPLOMA

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

FEES AND PAYMENTS

The course fee is €1,200.

- Meals and accommodation are not included. Applicants are also responsible for any visa-related expenses.
- Payments may be made via **bank transfer or PayPal**. Participants are responsible for any bank transfer fees or currency exchange costs.
- Please note that in case of cancellation prior to the start date of the course, fees are non-refundable. However, the amount paid may be credited toward participation in a future course.
- All payments must be completed before the start of the course, without exception

BENEFITS



1. Hands-on training:

Gain **practical, immersive experience** in the humanitarian sector, honing the skills you need to excel in international organizations, succeed in your projects, and operate confidently on peace missions.



2. Experienced instructors:

Learn from **in-mission professionals** with real field experience. Receive expert guidance and mentorship to become job-ready or to specialize further in your area of interest.



3. Building community:

Join a **global, supportive network** of classmates and instructors. Access professional advice, career opportunities, and lasting collaborations that extend across organizations and continents.



4. Career advancement:

Boost your professional profile and stand out in the competitive international humanitarian field. These programs equip you with recognized certifications and practical competencies valued by leading organizations.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

- University degree or equivalent professional training or experience
- 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.

VISA PROCESS

HELSINKI ESPAÑA will provide full support throughout the visa application process, including guidance, an official letter of invitation, and assistance with the necessary steps to facilitate obtaining the visa. However, the responsibility for obtaining the visa rests with the participant, not HELSINKI ESPAÑA

In order to start with the visa process, participants must have paid all the course.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

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

MORE INFORMATION:



CONTACT



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