Humanitarian Law in Contemporary Armed Conflicts Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

International Humanitarian Law (IHL), also known as the Law of Armed Conflict, is a crucial body of international law that aims to limit the effects of armed conflict for humanitarian reasons. This training course delves into the complex legal frameworks and principles that govern the conduct of hostilities and protect those who are not, or are no longer, participating in combat. In an era of evolving geopolitical landscapes, asymmetric warfare, and technological advancements, a deep understanding of IHL is essential for legal professionals, humanitarians, military personnel, and policymakers to navigate the challenges of **contemporary armed conflicts**. The course provides a comprehensive overview of the Geneva Conventions, customary international law, and the dynamic interplay between IHL and international human rights law.

Humanitarian Law in Contemporary Armed Conflicts Training Course is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to apply IHL in real-world situations. Through in-depth analysis of **modern warfare**, emerging technologies like autonomous weapons, and complex legal issues such as the classification of conflicts and the legal status of non-state armed groups, attendees will be empowered to promote **compliance with international law** and enhance the protection of civilians and other vulnerable persons. The training emphasizes a practical, case-based approach to ensure that participants can effectively interpret and implement IHL principles in operational and policy-making contexts.

Programme Curriculum

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Introduction

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Course Duration

5 days

Course Objectives

- **Master** the foundational principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and their historical evolution.
- **Analyze** the legal classification of different types of armed conflicts, including international and non-international armed conflicts.
- **Evaluate** the applicability of IHL and its relationship with International Human Rights Law (IHRL) in various conflict scenarios.
- **Examine** the rules governing the conduct of hostilities, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution.
- **Assess** the legal status and protection afforded to different categories of persons in armed conflict, such as combatants, civilians, prisoners of war, and detainees.
- **Interpret** the rules concerning the protection of cultural property and objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.
- **Investigate** the legal challenges posed by **new technologies of warfare**, including drones, cyber operations, and autonomous weapons systems.
- **Discuss** the legal framework for humanitarian assistance and the protection of humanitarian aid workers in conflict zones.
- **Analyze** the role and jurisdiction of international criminal tribunals in prosecuting **war crimes** and other IHL violations.
- **Explore** the mechanisms for the implementation and enforcement of IHL at the national and international levels.
- **Develop** critical thinking and problem-solving skills to address complex ethical and legal dilemmas in **humanitarian action**.
- **Formulate** effective strategies for IHL advocacy and dissemination within their respective organizations and communities.
- **Research** and apply IHL to a **current conflict** through case studies and practical exercises.

Organizational Benefits

- Ensures personnel and operations adhere to **international legal standards**, mitigating legal and reputational risks associated with non-compliance.
- Equips decision-makers with the tools to conduct **due diligence** and **ethical risk mapping**, particularly when operating in conflict zones or engaging with third-party actors.
- Provides a clear legal and ethical framework for operations, leading to more effective and principled decision-making in complex humanitarian and military environments.
- Builds the capacity of staff, enhancing their expertise and credibility in the fields of **humanitarian response**, **international relations**, and **security management**.
- Demonstrates a commitment to **humanitarian principles** and **ethical conduct**, strengthening the organization's reputation among stakeholders, donors, and the public.

Target Audience

- Legal professionals and government officials involved in international law and foreign policy.
- Military and security sector personnel, including armed forces and law enforcement.
- Humanitarian aid workers and NGO staff deployed to or working on conflict-affected regions.
- Diplomats and staff of international organizations such as the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Journalists and media professionals reporting on conflicts and humanitarian crises.
- Academics and researchers in international relations, law, and political science.
- Corporate professionals whose business operations intersect with conflict zones.
- Students pursuing a master's or Ph.D. in international law, human rights, or security studies.

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundational Principles and Sources of IHL

- Introduction to IHL and its historical evolution.
- Key sources of IHL: Treaties (Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocols) and Customary International Law.
- The fundamental principles of IHL: humanity, distinction, proportionality, military necessity, and precaution.
- The interplay between IHL and **jus ad bellum** (the law on the use of force).
- **Case Study:** The Battle of Solferino and the founding of the Red Cross.

Module 2: The Classification of Armed Conflicts

- Distinguishing between International Armed Conflicts (IACs) and Non-International Armed Conflicts (NIACs).
- The legal status of different actors in conflict, including states, belligerent armed forces, and non-state armed groups.
- Analysis of **transnational armed conflicts** and the legal challenges they pose.
- The legal framework for multinational forces and peacekeeping operations.
- **Case Study:** The legal classification of the conflict in Syria and its implications for IHL application.

Module 3: Protection of Persons in Armed Conflict

- The legal status and protection of civilians, including the prohibition of direct attacks and indiscriminate attacks.
- The rights and treatment of **prisoners of war** (POWs) and other detainees.
- Legal protections for the wounded, sick, and shipwrecked, including medical personnel and facilities.

- The unique protections for women and children in armed conflicts.
- **Case Study:** The treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay and the application of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

Module 4: The Conduct of Hostilities and Means of Warfare

- A detailed examination of the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution in attack.
- The prohibition on specific means and methods of warfare, including banned weapons
- The legal status of military objectives and civilian objects.
- The legal challenges of **cyber warfare** and the application of IHL to the cyber domain.
- **Case Study:** The destruction of civilian infrastructure in a modern urban conflict and the assessment of proportionality.

Module 5: Emerging Challenges in Contemporary Warfare

- Legal and ethical debates surrounding **lethal autonomous weapons systems**
- The application of IHL to **drones** and targeted killings.
- The rise of private military and security companies (PMSCs) and their accountability under IHL.
- Legal issues related to **counter-terrorism operations** and the **war on terror**.
- **Case Study:** The legal and ethical implications of drone strikes in a non-traditional battlefield.

Module 6: Humanitarian Action and IHL

- The legal framework for humanitarian assistance and the principle of **humanitarian access**.
- The protection of humanitarian aid workers and humanitarian assets.
- The principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence in humanitarian operations.
- Challenges of delivering aid in complex and volatile environments.
- **Case Study:** The denial of humanitarian access in Yemen and the legal responsibilities of warring parties.

Module 7: Implementation and Enforcement of IHL

- National measures for implementing IHL, including domestic legislation and military training.
- The role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other humanitarian organizations.
- The concept of grave breaches and the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- The work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other ad hoc tribunals in prosecuting **war crimes**.
- **Case Study:** The prosecution of war crimes in the International Criminal Court, using a recent example.

Module 8: IHL in Practice: Advocacy and Case Studies

- Developing a strategy for IHL advocacy and dissemination.
- Practical skills for applying IHL principles in operational planning and decision-making.
- Analyzing and debating current conflicts through an IHL lens.
- Scenario-based exercises and role-playing to simulate ethical dilemmas.
- **Case Study:** A comprehensive analysis of a **current armed conflict** (e.g., Ukraine, Israel-Gaza) and the IHL issues at play.

Training Methodology

The course employs a highly interactive and practical training methodology designed for adult learners. It combines theoretical knowledge with practical application through:

- **Interactive Lectures:** Led by experts in international law, military operations, and humanitarian aid.
- **Case-Based Learning:** In-depth analysis of real-world legal dilemmas and historical and contemporary conflict scenarios.
- **Group Discussions and Debates:** Fostering a collaborative environment for participants to share perspectives and critically analyze legal issues.
- **Role-Playing and Simulations:** Hands-on exercises where participants take on the roles of legal advisors, military commanders, or humanitarian workers to apply IHL principles.
- **Multimedia Resources:** Utilization of videos, documentaries, and interactive online tools to provide a comprehensive and engaging learning experience.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

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