



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

Last year's Foreword to our 2016 Annual Report began by mentioning the challenges international human rights law (IHRL) is facing and the 'turbulent environment' in which we are exercising our mission.

The environment has not improved. Threats to human rights organizations have increased in many countries, including 'democratic' ones; the core of IHRL is still under attack, and the role of our Swiss Human Rights Chair, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Professor Nils Melzer, is a decisive one in this respect. If international humanitarian law (IHL) as such is not, or less, contested, its lack of implementation in many contexts is still worrying.

Our role in educating specialists-to-be in IHL and IHRL, undertaking policy-oriented research and convening all sorts of expert meetings and public events at our outstanding premises (Villa Moynier and Maison de la paix) is especially challenging in this context. We signed, in autumn 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for the years 2018–2019, which designates the Geneva Academy as the 'Human Rights Platform' of international Geneva. The Platform is already up and running and concentrates mainly on the current challenges to human rights on the one hand and the work of the treaty body system on the other.

On the educational side we welcomed three classes of excellent students and candidates in our three programmes, the LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict and the Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law. The programmes are supplemented by a series of extra-curricular activities and events, which are also partially open to broader audiences. We want the Geneva Academy and Villa Moynier to be places full of life, where the various communities that compose international Geneva can meet, exchange ideas, learn and contribute to the defence and promotion of the values expressed by both IHL and IHRL.



Robert Roth
Professor of International Criminal Law
Director of the Geneva Academy

FORWORD	3	PLATFORMS	42
2016 HIGHLIGHTS	6	ACADEMIC PLATFORM ON TREATY BODY REVIEW 2020	42
A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR OUR THREE MASTER'S PROGRAMMES	6	TREATY BODY MEMBERS PLATFORM	42
THE ROLE OF CULTURE AND MEMORY IN TRANSITIONS IS DISCUSSED AT THE FIRST TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE SPRING SCHOOL	6	CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES	45
PARTICIPATION IN THE NUREMBERG MOOT COURT	6	IHL TALKS	45
A REVAMPED RULE OF LAW IN ARMED CONFLICTS ONLINE PORTAL	8	IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES	45
NEW DESIGN AND CONTENT FOR <i>THE WAR REPORT</i>	8	PUBLICATIONS	46
AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS CURRENT ISSUES IN ARMED CONFLICTS	8	THE WAR REPORT	46
MILITARY BRIEFINGS: A NEW SERIES OF EVENTS ON THE MILITARY AND THE LAW	10	BRIEFINGS	48
A PLATFORM TO ADDRESS CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES	10	RESEARCH BRIEFS	49
OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY	10	EVENTS	52
2017 IN FIGURES	12	ABOUT US	66
MASTER'S PROGRAMMES	14	OUR MISSION	66
LLM IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS	14	HOW WE WORK	67
MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW	18	OUR PEOPLE	68
EXECUTIVE MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT	22	THE BOARD	68
2017 GRADUATION CEREMONY	25	FACULTY	68
EXPERTISE	26	THE TEAM	72
CLARIFYING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW	26		
STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION	30		
HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW IN TRANSITIONAL PROCESSES	37		
DEVELOPING AREAS OF COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS	38		

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR OUR THREE MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

During the 2017–2018 academic year, a vibrant, intimate and multicultural community of around 85 talented students from our three master's programmes shared their expertise and discussed pressing concerns in the fields of international humanitarian law, human rights protection, international criminal law and transitional justice. Coming from all around the globe, they had the opportunity to participate, as part of the programmes, in internships with leading actors, moot courts, study trips, public pleadings and key events. Via conferences and detailed discussions on topical issues, they also met leading experts, practitioners and alumni.

THE ROLE OF CULTURE AND MEMORY IN TRANSITIONS IS DISCUSSED AT THE FIRST TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE SPRING SCHOOL

The first Transitional Justice Spring School – a key feature of our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – discussed the roles that memory, culture and history play in dealing with a violent past and preventing the recurrence of atrocities.

Practitioners, scholars, experts and students from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines (including history, anthropology, law, journalism and political science) addressed this relatively unexplored field of transitional justice via an interdisciplinary programme, visits to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross and cultural activities. They debated key questions such as the role of culture and memorialization in transitional justice processes; the possible impact of cultural initiatives such as public memorials, theatre performances, film screenings or photo exhibitions on the process of coming to terms with the past; the role of education and history in processes of social transformation; whether there is a duty to preserve memory and the potential contribution of archives, and practical challenges faced by memorialization efforts around the world.

PARTICIPATION IN THE NUREMBERG MOOT COURT

For the first time, five students from two different programmes – the LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and the Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – pleaded together on issues related to international criminal law and international criminal justice at the 2017 Nuremberg Moot Court. Competing with 32 teams from 26 countries, they won the prize for the Best Defense of Written Memoranda. Participation in this leading moot court forms an integral part of both programmes' curricula.



A REVAMPED RULE OF LAW IN ARMED CONFLICTS ONLINE PORTAL

The new version of the Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts (RULAC) online portal (www.rulac.org), launched in February 2017, features new and updated armed conflicts, as well as a map allowing visitors to search armed conflicts and their parties via multiple filters.

As an online portal that identifies and classifies situations of armed violence that amount to an armed conflict under international humanitarian law (IHL), RULAC provides, for each conflict, the factual and methodological basis for its classification, and identifies the parties and the applicable international law. The portal also includes sections on the definition and categories of armed conflict under IHL and the legal framework governing armed conflicts.

NEW DESIGN AND CONTENT FOR *THE WAR REPORT*

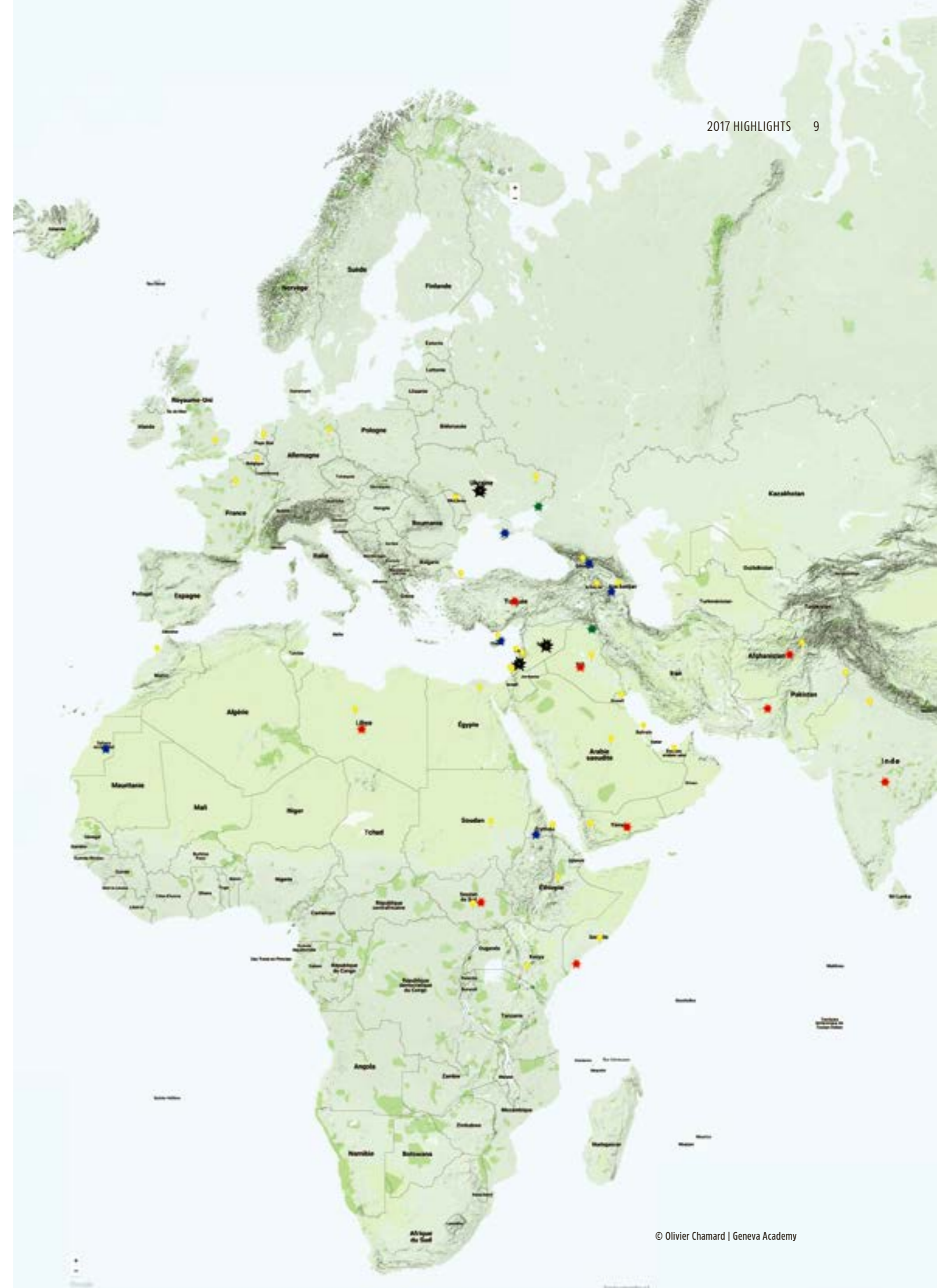
The new, redesigned version of *The War Report*, published in March 2017, details situations of armed violence that amounted to armed conflicts according to IHL and international criminal law in the previous year. Available online for the first time, the 2017 edition also concentrates on recent legal developments related to selected armed conflicts: Afghanistan, Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Mali, Nagorno-Karabakh, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Western Sahara and Yemen.

Also new is the online publication of short articles throughout the year, which provide updated information on ongoing and emerging crises: Israel/Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Myanmar, Kurdish armed groups in the Middle East and territorial armed gangs in Mexico, El Salvador and Colombia.

AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS CURRENT ISSUES IN ARMED CONFLICTS

At the first Current Issues in Armed Conflicts Conference – co-organized with the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex – academics, experts, practitioners, diplomats, staff from international and regional organizations, civil society representatives, journalists and students addressed current legal and policy issues in international law in armed conflict.

Building on topics covered in the latest edition of *The War Report*, participants discussed the protection of civilians in armed conflicts; the new UN High Commissioner for Refugees' guidelines on those fleeing armed conflict and the proposals to establish safe zones and safe corridors for them; current transitional justice issues such as the signature of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC; the qualification of armed conflicts and recent issues in international criminal law like the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court on the destruction of cultural property in Mali.





MILITARY BRIEFINGS: A NEW SERIES OF EVENTS ON THE MILITARY AND THE LAW

This new and unique series of events focuses on military institutions and the law. Aimed primarily at improving our students' knowledge of military actors and operations, each Military Briefing features a military guest who discusses military institutions and their missions as well as operational and legal challenges like basic tactics in combat, the law and policy of targeting in military operations, military justice, the regulation of weapons and their use in military operations, the role of the military legal adviser and how operational law constrains the use of force in military operations.

A PLATFORM TO ADDRESS CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES

The Current Human Rights Challenges Platform brings together leading academics, experts, diplomats and practitioners who work on human rights at national, regional and international levels to discuss and identify current human rights challenges and the way the UN Human Rights Council and other Geneva-based mechanisms address or should address them.

In 2017, the Platform focused on the implications of 'public order policing' for the right to life. During a two-day seminar, participants compared the practices of law enforcement units in different countries and analysed current technological and legal developments in the field, both in terms of their potential advantages and the threats they might engender, with a specific focus on 'less-lethal' weapons and unmanned systems.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Ten years ago, in September 2007, the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the creation of the Geneva Academy to contribute to a pool of high-level expertise in international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Geneva. Since then, we have contributed to the dissemination of legal knowledge in these crucial sectors via our three master's programmes and our training courses. Our research on issues that are under-explored, need clarification or are unconventional, experimental or challenging informs policy recommendations, supports practitioners and stimulates debate in the academic community and in policy-making institutions and government.

2017 IN FIGURES

3 Master's programmes

19 Short/training courses

More than 85 students from 51 countries

15 Research projects

More than 60 events, seminars, conferences and expert meetings

13 Publications

More than 33 partnerships around events, research projects and training courses

5 Platforms



MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

As a leading education and research institution in international humanitarian law (IHL), human rights and transitional justice, we offer three distinctive master's programmes in these fields. These are taught by highly experienced academics and practitioners and attract some of the most experienced and academically qualified students from around the world. Students share their expertise, discuss pressing concerns of the international community and reflect on the application of international law to the particular contexts they are concerned with.

LLM IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Our LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights is a full-time, one-year post-graduate degree course (60 ECTS credits). It provides advanced, comprehensive and practical training in IHL and international human rights law (IHRL), as well as an understanding of the interplay between them.

A core output of the LLM is a paper on a specific issue. This gives students the opportunity to investigate a subject of special interest to them and deepen their knowledge and expertise through research as well as exchanges with experts, scholars and practitioners.

Our LLM is also profoundly committed to developing the transferable skills necessary to succeed in the professional world and take up responsibilities in the humanitarian and human rights sectors. To this end, internships with leading actors, participation in moot courts and public pleadings, and a study trip, provide a solid exposure to practical work and allow students to expand their network.

The Geneva Academy is the perfect place to study human rights and international humanitarian law. Besides being dynamic and extremely challenging, what makes this programme particularly interesting is the fact that we are dealing, on a daily basis, with the most relevant contemporary issues. All this surrounded by students, experts and academics from very different backgrounds, whose strong passion and motivation incredibly enrich the daily discussions.

Martina Salini, 2017-2018 LLM Student

The programme allows students to tailor their studies according to their particular interests. Core courses provide a firm grounding in public international law, IHL, IHRL, international refugee law and international criminal law. Optional courses cover more specific issues such as the Islamic law of armed conflict, the rules governing the conduct of hostilities, or the use of force and counter-terrorism.

Military Briefings, a unique series of events relating to military institutions and the law, provide students, via presentations by military guests and experts, with knowledge of military actors and operations and build bridges between the military and civilian worlds.

The teaching is very structured and highlights current discussions on each topic and how to address different situations with critical legal analysis and case law. We also have teaching assistants for each course who constantly monitor our performance and help clarify our concerns about the topics discussed during classes.

Francisco Astudillo Poggi, 2017-2018 LLM Student

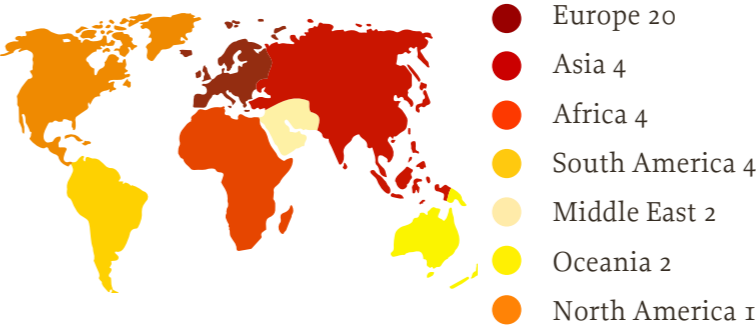
2017-2018 LLM CLASS

The 2017-2018 LLM class has 37 students from 25 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Palestine, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Venezuela.

GENDER REPRESENTATION



GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

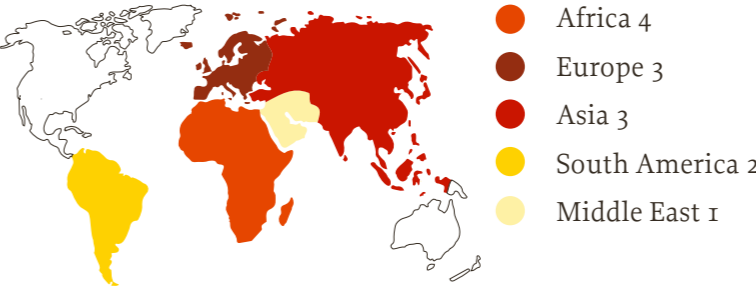


Scholarships

Thirteen students received a partial or full scholarship thanks to the generous support of a Geneva-based foundation, Ms Irene and Mr Jenö Staehelin and the International Bar Association. For the third consecutive year, thanks to the support of our alumni and the efforts of three students who cycled from Geneva to Solferino, we were able to offer an Alumni Scholarship.

These scholarships are allocated through a highly competitive process based on academic merit, extra-curricular achievements and the candidate's financial needs. They allow talented young people with limited means, especially from the global South, to come to study at the Geneva Academy.

SCHOLARSHIPS





2016-2017 LLM CLASS

Forty-one students successfully completed the programme. One student had to postpone his graduation to 2018 due to medical reasons.

Internships

Twenty-nine students carried out a research internship during the second semester with leading human rights and humanitarian actors including TRIAL International, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Children's Fund, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

Participation in Moot Courts

In 2017, as in the previous year, a Geneva Academy team – Jemma Arman, Isabelle Gallino and Benjamin Tippett – participated in the prestigious Jean-Pictet Competition and reached the semi-finals.

For the first time, students from the LLM and the Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – Tafadzwa Christmas, Elena Piasentin, Lina Rodriguez, Caroline Siewert and Thomas Van Poecke – pleaded together on issues related to international criminal law and international criminal justice at the 2017 Nuremberg Moot Court. Competing with 32 teams from 26 countries, they won the prize for the Best Defense of Written Memoranda.

Military Briefings

This new series of events aims to improve our students' knowledge of military actors and operations via exchanges with military guests who discuss military institutions and their missions as well as operational and legal challenges like basic tactics in combat, the law and policy of targeting in military operations, military justice, the regulation of weapons and their use in military operations, the role of the military legal adviser and how operational law constrains the use of force in military operations.

Study Trip

Students went on a nine-day study trip to Belgrade and Kosovo where they met with a wide range of leading actors working on IHL, human rights, international criminal law, transitional justice and migration, including the ICRC, the UN Mission in Kosovo, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Development Programme and the Human Rights Review Panel of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo.

MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

Our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ) is a full-time, one-year postgraduate degree course (60 ECTS credits). One of the very few programmes on this subject, it focuses on an expanding field where there is a strong need for well-trained professionals, and allows students to gain comprehensive theoretical expertise and practical perspectives in the fields of transitional justice, human rights and the rule of law.

One of the things I enjoy the most about the programme is having a holistic approach to transitional justice, ranging from a theoretical perspective to pragmatic approaches that enrich the analysis greatly. I also think the quality and experience of the professors gives an immeasurable added value. Studying with so many people from different parts of the world and professional backgrounds has been one of the main highlights - sharing our experiences has made me a better lawyer and human being.

Juan Daniel Salazar, 2017-2018 MTJ Student

The core courses provide a solid legal foundation and address contemporary issues and challenges such as gender in transitional justice, the legal protection of children in post-conflict societies, victims' perspectives in transitional justice and justice reform in transitions.

The Spring School, a special one-week course also open to external participants, discusses cutting-edge and contemporary issues in transitional justice with leading experts and practitioners.

A core output of the MTJ is a paper on a specific topic related to transitional justice, written under the guidance of a faculty member. This gives students an opportunity to investigate a subject of special interest to them, deepening their knowledge and expertise through research as well as exchanges with experts, scholars and practitioners. Students are encouraged to concentrate on specific case studies, legal frameworks or problems of immediate relevance to transitional justice.

Designed as a gateway to careers in the growing transitional justice sector, our MTJ also focuses on developing practical skills through a year of clinical work, a study trip, exchanges on topical issues with practitioners, as well as the option to carry out a research internship with leading actors or participate in a moot court.

The programme deeply engages students in the philosophical and academic approaches to transitional justice and exposes them to the practice of transitional justice through regular interaction with practitioners in Geneva and in the field. As such, it prepares students to be well-rounded professionals capable of navigating the complex field of transitional justice and making useful contributions towards the sustainable resolution of some of the most protracted challenges of our time.

Owiso Owiso, 2017-2018 MTJ Student

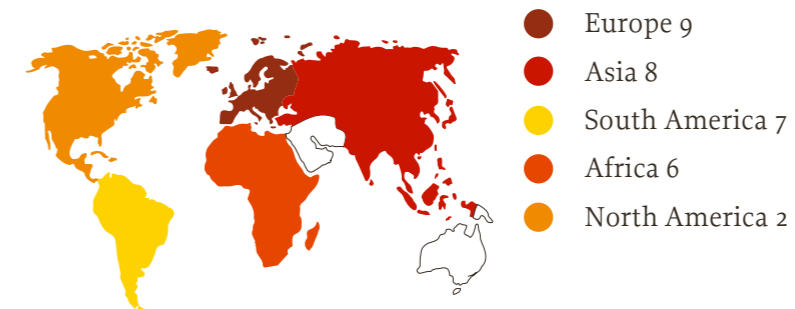
2017-2018 MTJ CLASS

The 2017-2018 MTJ class has 32 students from 22 countries: Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, India, Iran, Italy, Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

GENDER REPRESENTATION



GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

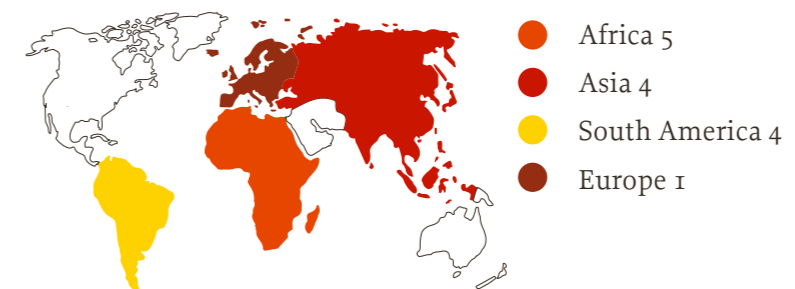


Scholarships

Fourteen students received a partial or full scholarship thanks to the generous support of a Geneva-based foundation and the International Solidarity Service of the Republic and State of Geneva.

These scholarships are allocated through a highly competitive process based on academic merit, extra-curricular achievements and the candidate's financial needs. They allow talented young people with limited means, especially from the global South, to come to study at the Geneva Academy.

SCHOLARSHIPS



2016-2017 MTJ CLASS

Twenty-three students successfully completed the programme. Three were granted an extension to graduate in 2018, while one student failed.

Research Internships

Twenty-six students carried out a research internship during the second semester with leading actors including the International Commission of Jurists, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), TRIAL International, Redress and the Right to Truth Project.

Spring School

Over one week, practitioners, scholars, experts and students addressed the roles that memory, culture and history play in dealing with a violent past and preventing the recurrence of atrocities, via an interdisciplinary programme, visits to OHCHR and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and cultural activities. They debated key questions such as the role of culture and memorialization in transitional justice processes; the possible impact of cultural initiatives such as public memorials, theatre performances, film screenings or photo exhibitions on the process of coming to terms with the past; the role of education and history in processes of social transformation; whether there is a duty to preserve memory and the potential contribution of archives, and practical challenges faced by memorialization efforts around the world.

Moot Court

For the first time, students from the LLM and the MTJ – Tafadzwa Christmas, Elena Piasentin, Lina Rodriguez, Caroline Siewert and Thomas Van Poecke – pleaded together on issues related to international criminal law and international criminal justice at the 2017 Nuremberg Moot Court. Competing with 32 teams from 26 countries, they won the prize for the Best Defense of Written Memoranda.

Study Trip

Students and the co-directors of the programme traveled to Nuremberg, a key site for reflecting on transitional justice as a contemporary response to mass atrocity. They visited the Nuremberg Trials Memorial, the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the permanent exhibition 'Terror and Fascination'. Students also had an insightful discussion and friendly exchange with professors and students from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.



EXECUTIVE MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT

Our Executive Master/Master of Advanced Studies in International Law in Armed Conflict (60 ECTS credits) is one of the few part-time, innovative and intellectually challenging programmes in international humanitarian law and human rights offered today. Designed for professionals with demanding jobs and responsibilities – diplomats, lawyers, legal advisers, NGO staff, human rights advocates, media specialists, professionals working in emergency situations, UN staff and staff from other international organizations – it responds to the growing need for specialists to address complex humanitarian challenges.

Based in Geneva, this executive programme runs for nine months (October–June). Six to nine additional months are needed to complete a master's thesis and defend it before a jury.

Courses take place on Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons at our headquarters, Villa Moynier. They cover the law of armed conflict, international human rights law, international refugee law and international criminal law. They also address current issues and challenges including the repression of terrorism or peacekeeping.

Taught by world-renowned law experts and professors, the programme enables participants to gain specialized knowledge directly applicable to professional work. It also responds to the growing need for specialists to address complex situations – in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere – and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

By enabling participants to master the appropriate legal framework that applies to armed conflicts and their aftermath, our Executive Master allows professionals to advance their career with a renowned diploma.

SHORT COURSES

Professionals who are not enrolled in the Executive Master can take short courses offered in the programme to deepen their expertise in a specific issue like international refugee law, the classification of armed conflicts, peacebuilding in post-conflict and fragile situations, leading in the UN Human Rights Council or the interplay between IHL and human rights.

Attending these courses enables participants to draw on the comprehensive expertise of the faculty, meet key experts and practitioners and interact with Executive Master participants. Each course consists of five weekly classes held on Thursday evening and/or Friday afternoon.

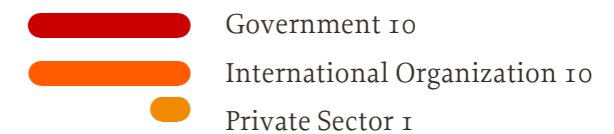
2017–2019 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

The 2017–2019 Executive Master class has 21 students from 17 countries: Afghanistan, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Iraq, Italy, Moldova, Nepal, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Ukraine. Professionally, they hold positions in international organizations, governments and the private sector.

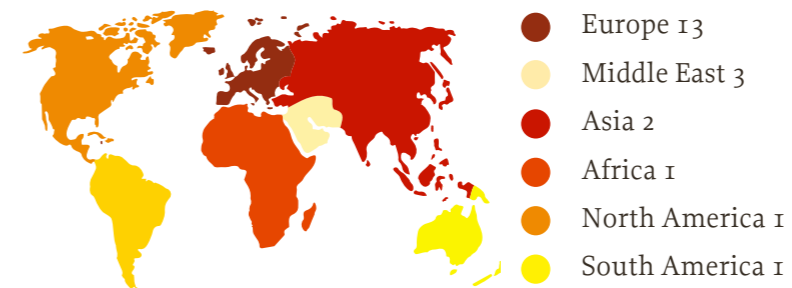
GENDER REPRESENTATION



PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND



GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION



2016–2018 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

The 22 participants are currently working on their thesis and will graduate in October 2018.

2015–2017 EXECUTIVE MASTER CLASS

Of the 16 participants, 8 successfully completed the programme and 7 postponed their graduation to October 2018 due to professional commitments. One withdrew from the programme due to medical reasons.



2017 GRADUATION CEREMONY

On 27 October 2017, around 150 guests, including graduates' families, attended the 2017 Graduation Ceremony at the Maison de la paix (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) under the auspices of Professor Robert Kolb, faculty member of the Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict.

Professor Christof Heyns from the University of Pretoria, who teaches on our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ), delivered the keynote speech. Roger Durand, President of the Henry Dunant Prize Foundation, spoke alongside Pierre-André Mourgue D'Algue, a descendant of Henry Dunant, when awarding the Henry Dunant Prize to Isabelle Gallino for her LLM paper, 'Factors Motivating Non-State Armed Groups to Comply with International Humanitarian Law: Reflections on Positive Practice'.

Aida Farkas received the Best LLM Paper Prize for her thesis, 'Institutional Racism Under the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights: the Case of Forced Sterilization of Roma Women', and Tafadzwa Christmas won the Best MTJ Paper Prize for his thesis, 'When the Law is Like a Door in the Middle of an Open Meadow: Conceptualizing the Rule of Law in the Context of Customary Law in South Sudan'.

CLARIFYING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

THE WAR REPORT

As an annual publication, *The War Report* provides an overview of current armed conflicts, including key international humanitarian law (IHL) and policy issues that require attention.

A new, redesigned version, published in March 2017, details situations of armed violence that amounted to armed conflicts in 2016 according to IHL and international criminal law. Available online for the first time, the 2017 edition also concentrates on recent legal developments related to selected armed conflicts: Afghanistan, Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Mali, Nagorno-Karabakh, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Western Sahara and Yemen.

Short articles were also published throughout 2017 on the Geneva Academy website, providing updated information on ongoing and emerging crises: Israel/Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Myanmar, Kurdish armed groups in the Middle East and territorial armed gangs in Mexico, El Salvador and Colombia.

CURRENT ISSUES IN ARMED CONFLICT CONFERENCE

The annual Current Issues in Armed Conflict Conference, co-organized with the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, provides a space for experts, practitioners, diplomats, academics and civil society representatives to discuss current legal and policy issues related to armed conflicts.

Building on topics covered in the latest edition of *The War Report*, this first conference addressed the protection of civilians in armed conflicts; the new

United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees' guidelines on those fleeing armed conflict and the proposals to establish safe zones and safe corridors for them; current transitional justice issues such as the signature of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC; the qualification of armed conflicts and recent issues in international criminal law like the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court on the destruction of cultural property in Mali.

RULE OF LAW IN ARMED CONFLICTS

The new version of the Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts (RULAC) online portal (www.rulac.org), launched in February 2017, features new and updated armed conflicts as well as a map allowing visitors to search armed conflicts and their parties via multiple filters.

As an online portal that identifies and classifies situations of armed violence that amount to an armed conflict under IHL, RULAC provides, for each conflict, the factual and methodological basis for its classification and identifies the parties and the applicable international law. The portal also includes sections on the definition and categories of armed conflict under IHL and the legal framework governing armed conflicts.

While existing entries are regularly updated to integrate new developments, nine military occupations and non-international armed conflicts in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Somalia have also been added, in partnership with the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex.





DISABILITY AND ARMED CONFLICT

Approximately 500 million people with disabilities live in states affected by armed conflict. Conflict not only renders a person disabled directly, e.g. when a landmine blast amputates a leg, it also inflicts indirect harm as persons with disabilities may face physical and/or communication barriers in accessing emergency information and humanitarian assistance, rendering them more vulnerable to harm and potentially exacerbating a pre-existing impairment. Persons with disabilities are also at higher risk of injury or death during periods of armed conflict, either as specific targets or through insufficient support to allow them to flee the violence. Despite the high number of persons with disabilities affected by armed conflict and the particular support that they need, they are too often the forgotten victims.

This project aims to ensure better protection of persons with disabilities in situations of armed conflict and its immediate aftermath by identifying the legal obligations to protect and assist persons with disabilities.

It has been awarded a research grant from the Swiss Network for International Studies and was started in partnership with Handicap International, the Institute for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Basel, Psychiatric University Clinics Basel and the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Following several rounds of consultations with project partners, we developed the field research questions in early 2017, enabling us to conduct field research in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Vietnam.

Giles Duley, an internationally renowned, award-winning photojournalist joined the team to capture images of several themes relevant to the

research, including prisoners of war and internees with disabilities and the impact of conflict on those with psycho-social impairments. His photographs will be displayed in numerous exhibitions to coincide with the launch of the project's findings in Spring 2019.

INVESTIGATING IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT: LAW, POLICY AND GOOD PRACTICE

The investigation of death and harm during situations of armed conflict is a key area of humanitarian concern with profound implications for the application of IHL.

The duty to investigate in situations of armed conflict is implied but not mentioned directly in international law sources. States tend to rely on their domestic legal frameworks when an investigation is deemed necessary, yet there is little uniformity of practice across states and no agreed international standards by which to assess these domestic procedures.

This project was initiated in 2014 by the Swiss IHL Chair, Professor Noam Lubell, and joined in 2017 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It intends to identify, via expert meetings and research, a set of guidelines – for states, their militaries and other domestic bodies – on investigations in armed conflict based on law, policy and good practice, which states should apply when they investigate alleged violations of IHL in situations of armed conflict.

Extensive background research was undertaken in 2017 to gather and analyse material and prepare policy and background papers for expert meetings, such as the major conference that took place in The Hague, Netherlands, with the support of the Swiss and Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

ADVANCED SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR UNIVERSITY LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS

Organized by the ICRC and the Geneva Academy, the 12th edition of this advanced seminar aimed to enhance the capacity of lecturers and researchers to teach and research contemporary issues in IHL, addressing both substantive and pedagogical aspects.

The seminar, which brought together 41 participants, addressed specific topics such as recent trends in the classification of armed conflicts; 'foreign fighters'; counter-terrorism and IHL; challenges in the conduct of hostilities in today's armed conflicts; sexual violence and detention-related issues; the implementation of IHL in courts, as well as IHL teaching and research methodology.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

HUMAN RIGHTS, BIG DATA AND PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

We pursued our cooperation with the University of Essex on their research project on big data and human rights. This project maps and analyses the challenges and opportunities presented by the use of big data and associated technologies from a human rights perspective.

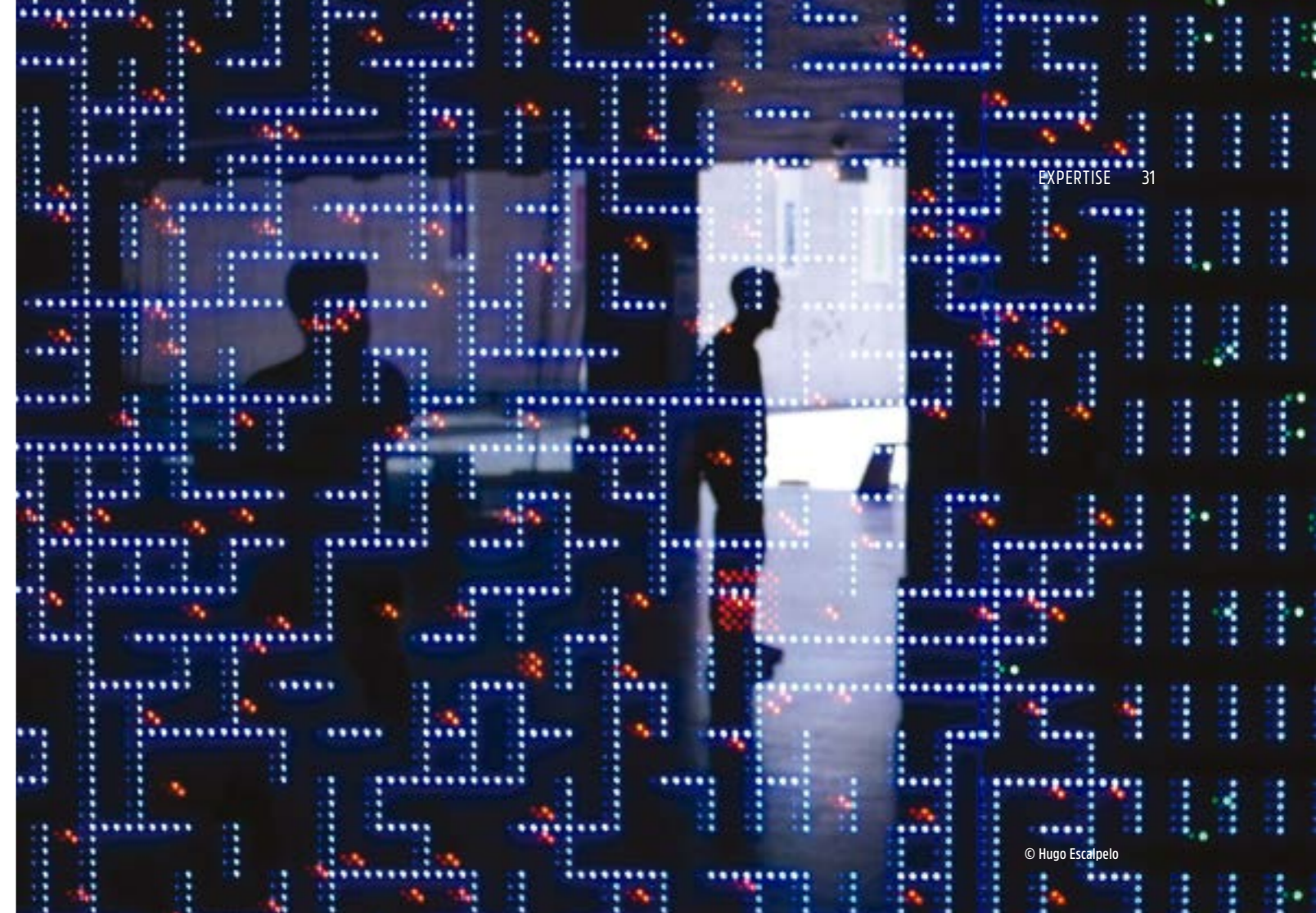
In this framework, we focused on the issue of business responsibilities and the usefulness of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, also known as the 'Ruggie Principles', for the digital domain.

2017 ANNUAL SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

This two-day seminar for diplomats accredited to the UN in Geneva, co-organized with the ICRC, focused on current IHL issues including the ICRC's actions to protect victims of armed conflict through law and policy; the classification of armed conflicts; the rules on the conduct of hostilities and the contribution of the Additional Protocols; war in cities; the development of weapons treaties; the protection of refugees; humanitarian access and the relevance of the Additional Protocols.

We also conducted background research on the regulation of the digital domain by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and other UN human rights mechanisms.

In addition to this research, we also connected Geneva-based actors with the project via dissemination activities and meetings.



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THE HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO COMBAT CORRUPTION

At a side event during the 36th session of the HRC, panelists showcased experiences and best practices related to fighting corruption through a human rights-based approach. They notably highlighted that a detailed analysis of how corruption violates human rights is lacking, and stressed the need for more precise definitions and methodological approaches to counter human rights violations linked to acts of corruption.

We also conducted research on the relation between corruption and human rights. A Research Brief, to be published in 2018, discusses the offences of corruption as defined in the UN Convention against Corruption and contrasts this Convention's approach with the human rights-based approach of UN human rights mechanisms.

TRAINING ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

This five-day training course on the protection of human rights and the environment explored the normative developments after the Paris Agreement, environmental issues related to agriculture and food production, and the negotiation of the new treaty on the human rights obligations of transnational corporations. The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, John Knox, closed the training course with a discussion on perspectives on the recognition of the human right to an adequate environment.

SUPPORT TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

COOPERATION WITH UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

Throughout 2017, we continued to collaborate closely with numerous UN Special Rapporteurs (SRs), including the SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, who is hosted at the Geneva Academy, the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions on the gender aspects of her mandate and on armed non-state actors, and the SR on the rights of persons with disabilities on disability and armed conflict. We also collaborated with mandate holders on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with several SRs regarding their practice and experiences of integrating a gender perspective in their work.

CEDAW: GENERAL RECOMMENDATION ON GENDER-RELATED DIMENSIONS OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Geneva Academy supported, with specific research, the drafting of a General Recommendation on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The research focused on legal questions and obligations derived from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The General Recommendation was launched on 15 March 2018 in Geneva and New York, at the Commission on the Status of Women.

SHORT COURSE ON LEADING IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Preparing for intense and high-level engagement at the HRC requires a deep understanding of HRC rules, functioning and practice. The ability to negotiate, advocate, lobby and push for issues in such a complex environment also requires a sound knowledge of the different actors and dynamics at play, as well as strong communication skills.

This short course, which took place ahead of the main HRC session allowed participants – diplomats, experts from diplomatic missions and foreign affairs ministries, and staff of international organizations and NGOs – to develop their network and acquire the necessary skills to lead and perform effectively in this main forum for human rights diplomacy.





ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

The Geneva Academy coordinates the human rights component of two research projects on the right to food funded by the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme), a joint initiative of the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

These two projects, which completed their three-year initial phase, have been renewed for another three years, acknowledging the high quality of the research and partnerships developed.

The first project, Land Commercialization, Gendered Agrarian Transformation and the Right to Food (DEMETER), examines the degree to which the right to food and gender equality play complementary roles in ensuring food security in the context of land commercialization in Cambodia and Ghana. Over the next three years, the research will further explore the gendered access to judicial and quasi-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms; the gender-differentiated impact of agricultural commercialization on waged and non-waged labour in rural communities; changing 'food cultures' as a result of agrarian transformation, and the gender dimensions of rural credit, indebtedness and access to food and nutrition.

The second project, Towards Food Sustainability: Reshaping the Coexistence of Different Food Systems in South America and Africa, is developing a framework for assessing the sustainability of food systems on the basis of five pillars: the realization of the right to food, food security, the reduction of poverty and inequality, environmental integrity and socio-ecological

resilience, with a focus on Bolivia and Kenya. The project will use the coming three years to test its framework on sustainable food systems via pilot actions in Bolivia, Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, Peru and Zambia. The results of the application of the food sustainability framework model will then be presented in a number of peer-reviewed journal articles and in an edited volume summarizing the results of the entire six years of the project's lifespan.

DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

For the past 20 years, the UN has underlined the need to adopt a human rights-based approach to development. The SDGs, which aim to eradicate poverty and guarantee equal access to social security, food, healthcare, education, housing, water and sanitation, incorporate most of the core elements of ESCR as articulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Launched in January 2018, the Academy Briefing *No One Will Be Left Behind* – developed during 2016–2017 through a number of expert consultations and research – outlines the links between ESCR and the SDGs. It notably looks at the role of UN human rights mechanisms in monitoring the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR and discusses the mutually reinforcing relationship between the SDGs and ESCR. The publication does not only highlight the need to fully integrate human rights in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs, but also provides a set of recommendations for doing so to states, UN human rights mechanisms, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Level Political Forum.

TRAINING COURSES ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Two training courses on ESCR took place in 2017. A course on ESCR and the SDGs focused on the complementarities and potential tensions between them, placing particular emphasis on national and international mechanisms mandated to monitor the SDGs, and the role that UN human rights mechanisms can play in monitoring ESCR and the SDGs.

An online course in French, organized in collaboration with Human Dignity and Synergies and Cooperation, focused on the substantive content of ESCR, the protection mechanisms at international, regional and domestic levels, as well as the complementarities between ESCR and the SDGs.

THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS

In September 2012, the HRC created an open-ended working group to prepare a UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UN Declaration). The Geneva Academy is providing expert support to states and other stakeholders engaged in the negotiations.

In 2017, at the fourth session of the working group, we presented two legal analyses on peasants' right to seeds and intellectual property rights, as well on the right to land and other natural resources. These offered guidance to negotiators regarding the integration of the right to seeds and the right to land and other natural resources in the UN Declaration, with some of the language proposed in both studies being subsequently included in it.

In October 2017, an expert seminar on the right to food sovereignty allowed more than 70 participants – experts, state representatives, academics and civil society representatives – to discuss the the need and best way to include the right to food sovereignty and other collective rights in the UN Declaration. The results of the discussion will feed into the fifth session of the open-ended working group (April 2018).

TRAINING COURSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAND GRABBING

This training course provided participants with a broad understanding of the impact of land grabbing on human rights, the risks associated with defending land rights in that context and the protection provided by international law. It also gave participants up-to-date information on the negotiation of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.



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HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW IN TRANSITIONAL PROCESSES

THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Security interests and humanitarian interventions have been fueling foreign interventions within and outside the UN collective security system. Yet, such foreign interventions raise major challenges for the design, legitimacy and local ownership of transitional justice mechanisms.

Initially developed as a framework to address systematic human rights violations in the aftermath an authoritarian regime, transitional justice is increasingly used during or after armed conflicts, including those in which foreign states have intervened. Yet, transitional justice processes are traditionally limited to the accountability of local actors and directed towards local communities.

This research project, started in 2017, analyses the relevance of including foreign intervenors in transitional justice processes, the role played by transitional justice discourses in justifying, even on a subsidiary level, foreign interventions and the possibilities of and obstacles in holding foreign intervenors accountable. The project brings the limits of transitional justice to the forefront, specifically in relation to the question of foreign intervenors, an area that remains under-explored in practice and scholarship.

DEVELOPING AREAS OF COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

FROM WORDS TO DEEDS: EXPLORING THE PRACTICE OF ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Building on past research carried out on armed non-state actors (ANSAs), this project, conducted in partnership with the Swiss NGO Geneva Call aims at compiling and analysing the practice and interpretation of selected IHL and human rights norms by ANSAs.

The project has a pragmatic double objective. First, to offer a comparative analysis of IHL and human rights norms from the perspective of ANSAs via available unilateral engagements, public declarations, special agreements, peace treaties, field research and interviews with selected ANSAs. Second, to inform strategies of humanitarian engagement with ANSAs, in particular the content of a possible 'Model Code of Conduct' for ANSAs.



WEAPONS LAW

AUTONOMOUS WEAPON SYSTEMS UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

This research examined the legal requirements that the use of autonomous weapon systems (AWS), also called ‘killer robots’, would need to comply with in a number of scenarios envisaged by proponents of increasing autonomy in weapon systems.

The Academy Briefing *Defending the Boundary*, published in May 2017, analyses the constraints and requirements regarding the use of AWS under IHL and international human rights law. Drawing on case law dealing with other weapon technologies and autonomous systems, it asks where and when AWS may be used and what the procedural legal requirements are in terms of the planning, conduct and aftermath of AWS use. A Research Brief provides policy makers and advocacy groups with a summary of key findings.

Both publications were presented and discussed at the 2017 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, established in 2016 by the Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.

THE WEAPONS LAW ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Weapons Law Encyclopedia (WLE), a unique online legal reference tool (www.weaponslaw.org), provides experts, practitioners and non-specialists with essential information on the technical characteristics of a range of weapon technologies, their intended uses, their humanitarian impacts in practice and their regulation under international law, in the form of short, open-access entries.

The project aims to raise awareness among multilateral policy makers, legal and humanitarian professionals, the media and the general public of the ways in which various bodies of international law contribute to the regulation of weapons and their use.

PLATFORMS

Our platforms provide a dynamic forum in Geneva for all stakeholders in the human rights and humanitarian fields – experts, practitioners, diplomats and civil society – to discuss and debate topical issues and challenges. Relying on academic

research and findings, they enable various actors to become better connected, break down silos and, hence, advance human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL).

ACADEMIC PLATFORM ON TREATY BODY REVIEW 2020

In the context of the 2020 treaty body review by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Geneva Academy is coordinating the academic input to this review via the creation of an academic network of independent researchers, a call for papers, a series of regional workshops and annual conferences in Geneva, as well as ongoing interactions with key stakeholders (states, UN treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society, UN entities and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights).

A dedicated portal, created in 2017, provides academic partners and stakeholders with all the information about the project, its key milestones, events, research questions and outcomes.

Four regional consultations – Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Northern America and the English-Speaking Caribbean – brought together academic institutions and academics from these regions, as well as observers from governments and civil society. Participants discussed many aspects of the treaty body system including its current strengths and deficiencies.

At thematic conferences in Geneva, Berlin and Paris, academic partners and stakeholders discussed specific issues like individual communications and the question of reforming the reporting process.

TREATY BODY MEMBERS PLATFORM

The Treaty Body Members Platform connects experts from UN treaty bodies with each other as well as with Geneva-based practitioners, academics and diplomats, to share expertise, exchange views on topical questions and develop synergies.

In 2017, the Platform enabled experts from the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee against Torture, the Committee

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to discuss a range of issues among themselves as well as with external experts and practitioners. These issues included the rights of indigenous women, business and human rights, non-refoulement, individual complaint mechanisms and the relationship between treaty bodies and national human rights institutions.





CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES

The Current Human Rights Challenges Platform brings together leading academics, experts, diplomats and practitioners who work on human rights at national, regional and international levels to discuss and identify current human rights challenges and the way the UN Human Rights Council and other Geneva-based mechanisms address or should address them.

In 2017, the Platform focused on the implications of 'public order policing' for the right to life. During a two-day seminar, participants compared the practices of law enforcement units in different countries and analysed current technological and legal developments in the field, both in terms of their potential advantages and the threats they might engender, with a specific focus on 'less-lethal' weapons and unmanned systems.

IHL TALKS

The IHL Talks are a series of events on international humanitarian law and current humanitarian topics. Every two months, at lunchtime, academic experts, practitioners, policy makers and journalists discuss burning humanitarian issues and their regulation under international law.

In 2017, the IHL Talks focused on violence against healthcare and humanitarian workers, the impact of counter-terrorism law and policies on IHL and humanitarian action, the protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict, the legal and political challenges in Libya, IHL and Islamic law, and armed gang violence.

IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

The Platform on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) is designed to bring together policy makers and practitioners from governments, international organizations, NGOs, the military, law enforcement and academia to address the threat use and consequences of the worldwide employment of IEDs, and to advance the international agenda for countering them. Partners include the UN Institute for Disarmament Research and Action on Armed Violence.

The 2017 annual meeting of the Platform focused on outlining tangible next steps for states and others towards implementing concrete multilateral actions related to IEDS, and enabled experts to

discuss what is and is not both feasible and desirable. Participants notably discussed the 2016 and 2017 UNGA resolutions on IEDs, the UN Secretary-General's 2016 report on IEDs (SG A/71/187) and constructive steps taken in relation to key elements of the UNGA resolutions, including the establishment of an online hub providing impartial, authoritative information to address the issue of IEDs by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs; the development of the voluntary self-assessment tool to assist states in identifying gaps and challenges in their national regulation and preparedness regarding IEDs, and the contribution of other (civil society) initiatives.

THE WAR REPORT



The War Report
Armed Conflicts in 2016
March 2017
Annyssa Bellal



Gang Violence in Colombia, Mexico and El Salvador
December 2017
Ana Balcazar Moreno, Ximena Mercedes Galvez Lima, Julie Lambin,
Lina Rodriguez



Myanmar: A Battle for Recognition
December 2017
Laura Baron-Mendoza



Kurdish Military Formations in Middle Eastern Battlefields
November 2017
Vicken Cheterian



The Armed Conflict in Yemen: A Complicated Mosaic
October 2017
Sari Arraf



Libya, A Short Guide on the Conflict
June 2017
Sari Arraf

BRIEFINGS



No One Will Be Left Behind
The Role of UN Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals that Seek to Realize Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 January 2018
 Christophe Golay



Transitional Justice and the European Convention on Human Rights
 October 2017
 Fionnuala Ní Aoláin



Defending the Boundary
Constraints and Requirements on the Use of Autonomous Weapon Systems Under International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law
 May 2017
 Maya Brehm

RESEARCH BRIEFS



Defending the Boundary:
Constraints and Requirements on the Use of Autonomous Weapon Systems Under International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law
 May 2017
 Maya Brehm



The Right to Land and Other Natural Resources
 May 2017
 Adriana Bessa, Christophe Golay



The Right to Seeds and Intellectual Property Rights
 March 2017
 Christophe Golay



Gender Equality and the Right to Food
 January 2017
 Joanna Bourke Martignoni



EVENTS

Expert meetings, seminars, conferences and public events are a key part of our activities. In 2017, we ran more than 60 private and public events, providing a critical and scholarly forum for experts and practitioners to discuss and debate topical issues in international humanitarian law, human rights, transitional justice and international criminal law. Via the recording and publication of videos on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel, interested audiences outside Geneva are also able to follow important public debates and discussions.



DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
26 January	The Impact of Counter-Terrorism Laws and Policies on International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Action	IHL Talk	Panelists discussed the legal regime governing terrorism, how international humanitarian law addresses and prohibits acts of terrorism and the relationship with other international treaties.	
20 February	General Comment on State Obligations Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Context of Business Activities	Treaty Body Members Platform	On the eve of the official day of general discussion on the General Comment on economic, social and cultural rights and business activities, a dinner meeting provided a space for discussion between members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and external experts.	Franciscans International; Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
20 February	Fragmented Wars: Multi-Territorial Military Operations Against Armed Groups	Opening Lecture of the Second Semester	Noam Lubell, Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law at the Geneva Academy, examined the legal complexities arising from military actions against armed groups located in multiple states.	
23 February	The Transitional Justice Process in Colombia: Where Do We Stand?	Transitional Justice Café	Colombia is currently the transitional justice (TJ) hotspot. Rodrigo Uprimny (De Justicia), a leading TJ figure in Colombia, presented an update on where TJ processes stand after the peace agreement with the FARC, tensions between peace and justice and the role of victims in these processes.	
27 February	Environmental Defenders: The Relevance of Article 3.8 of the Aarhus Convention	Expert Seminar	Professor Jonas Ebesson, Chair of the Aarhus Compliance Committee, exchanged views with lawyers, academics, civil servants, human rights NGOs and environmental NGOs on cases of harassment and persecution of persons and organizations engaged in the protection of the environment.	Earthjustice
1 March	Autonomous Weapon Systems: Ban or Regulate?	Geneva Academy Wednesday	Should autonomous weapon systems be banned at the outset or is it possible to manage and regulate their development to ensure compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law? How can we do this? Panelists discussed these questions in light of a new edited collection, <i>Autonomous Weapons Systems: Law, Ethics, Policy</i> , published by Cambridge University Press in 2016.	Faculty of Law, University of Geneva
8 March	How Does Operational Law Constrain the Use of Force in Military Operations?	Military Briefing	Dr Aurel Sari from the University of Exeter and Professor Gloria Gaggioli from the University of Geneva discussed the web of rules applicable to the use of lethal force by the military, including the applicability of the human right to life to air operations, and the scope of soldiers' right to self-defence and its relevance in today's military operations.	

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

9–10 March **UN Treaty Bodies and National Human Rights Institutions** Treaty Body Members Platform UN treaty bodies (TBs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) exchanged experiences and perspectives about NHRIs' engagement with TBs and looked at common approaches to better engagement with each other. The outcomes of the discussion were submitted to the 2017 meeting of TB Chairpersons.

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions; Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN in Geneva

10 March **Peaceful Protests 101: Exchange on the Proper Management of Assemblies and the Use of Force** Side Event at the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council This side event furthered the exchange of views and dialogue on the proper management of peaceful protests, including the use of force and the role of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). It also opened the debate on other areas of the proper management of assemblies that have not yet been addressed and the potential role of the HRC in this regard.

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva

11 March **Fighting Hunger and Poverty: The Cases of Brazil and India – A Panel Discussion with Dilma Rousseff, Former President of Brazil** Evening at the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights Dilma Rousseff, Colin Gonsalves (Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India, Social and Economic Rights Defender and Founder of the Human Rights Law Network) and Dr Christophe Golay (Strategic Adviser on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the Geneva Academy) discussed economic and social rights and the fight against hunger and poverty. This preceded the screening of An Insignificant Man.

International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights

13 March **Defending Social Rights in South America** Public Lecture by Dilma Rousseff, Former President of Brazil Dilma Rousseff discussed the defence of social rights in South America. She focused on the fight for the rights to food and social security in Brazil, an agricultural giant plagued by hunger and poverty affecting millions of people.

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

17 March **Human Rights of Thalassaemia Patients** High-Level Panel at the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council Panelists discussed the need to ensure and protect the rights of individuals suffering from thalassaemia and addressed particular human rights challenges faced by them, including unfair/discriminatory treatment in different environments.

Permanent Missions of Argentina, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, the Maldives, Morocco and Romania to the UN in Geneva; World Health Organization; Thalassaemia International Federation

20 March **Acuerdos de Paz: Miradas Cruzadas entre Guatemala y Colombia** Transitional Justice Café Berenice Celeita, President of Asociación Para la Investigación y Acción Social (NOMADESC), Colombia, and Marcos Ramirez of Comunidad de Poblaciones en Resistencia del IXCAN, Guatemala, presented the peace agreements and peace processes taking place in Guatemala and Colombia.

Peace Brigades International

22 March **General Comment on the Right to Life: Update from the UN Human Rights Committee** Geneva Academy Wednesday Professors Sarah Cleveland and Yuval Shany, who are both Members of the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) discussed challenges related to the process of the HRC adopting a new General Comment on the right to life.

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

23–24 March **Investigating in Situations of Armed Conflict: Law, Policy, and Good Practice** Expert Seminar Experts, including senior government lawyers, military lawyers, academics and representatives from civil society organizations discussed the creation of good practice guidelines on investigations during armed conflict.

Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law at the Geneva Academy

6 April **Exchanges Between Members of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers and Representatives of the International Organization for Migration** Treaty Body Members Platform Following a private meeting between members of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) and representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Geneva Academy invited participants to a reception with members of the Geneva diplomatic community. This was an opportunity to discuss areas of common concern relating to the promotion of the human rights of migrants and to exchange ideas about the mutual support that the CMW and IOM can provide to each other now that the IOM has become a member of the UN family.

26 April **Transitional Justice and Institutional Reform** Transitional Justice Café Serge Rumin, Deputy Head of the Task Force Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, addressed challenges and constraints in international transitional justice support as well as discussing security sector reform and DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) processes and their link to transitional justice.

27 April **Prévenir la Torture en 2017: Défis et Enjeux** Expert Panel Panelists, including Nils Melzer, Swiss Human Rights Chair at the Geneva Academy and UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, discussed challenges related to the prevention of torture.

Association for the Prevention of Torture

28 April **Regulation of Weapons and their Use in Military Operations** Military Briefing Capitaine de Vaisseau Erwan Roche (Etat-major des armées, France) discussed the main principles that govern the choice of means and methods of warfare (international humanitarian law principles and principles of military strategy) and provided an overview of some selected weapons used in current military operations. He also shared his views on legal and policy considerations in relation to future weapons such as autonomous weapons, cyber weapons and non-lethal weapons.

1–2 May **Policing of Assemblies, Use of Force and Accountability** Annual Expert Seminar of the Platform on Current Human Rights Challenges Experts and practitioners, diplomats, academics and civil society representatives discussed the implications of 'public order policing' for the right to life and different practices of law enforcement units in various countries. They also explored the challenges and opportunities of new technologies, including 'less-lethal' weapons and unmanned systems, from the perspectives of both the right to life and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, University of Pretoria

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

1 May **The Policing of Assemblies and Human Rights: Freedom of Assembly, Prohibition of Torture and Right to Life** High-Level Panel Panelists discussed the human rights at stake during the policing of assemblies, challenges posed by the use of specific weapons and other means by law enforcement agencies, and the role and potential of the revised Minnesota Protocol. Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, University of Pretoria

6 May **The Summer 2014 Gaza Conflict** Public Pleadings In the framework of the LLM course on international humanitarian law (IHL), students pleaded on the IHL questions that arose from the Summer 2014 Gaza conflict. They addressed questions such as the classification of the conflict and applicable law, the classification of persons and territory, compliance with the rules on the conduct of hostilities and the treatment of persons.

6 May **The Project of a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity** Seminar Representatives of NGOs and experts discussed with Professor Sean D. Murphy of George Washington University, a Member of the UN International Law Commission (ILC), where he serves as Special Rapporteur on the topic of 'Crimes against Humanity', the current drafting, by the ILC, of provisions of what could become a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity. Amnesty International

10 May **Military Justice in the Modern Age: Characteristics and Challenges** Military Briefing Recent years have seen the misconduct of UN peacekeepers around the world and hundreds of civilians killed as a result of coalition operations in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Such incidents raise questions on how militaries are held accountable. Chris Jenks, Assistant Professor of Law of SMU Dedman School of Law, Texas, and an officer in the US Army for over 20 years, discussed what state action is required in those cases, introduced the characteristics of military justice and considered some current challenges, coalition operations and the UN's new investigative requirements.

17 May **Armed Non-State Actors and Transitional Justice** Transitional Justice Café Dr Annysa Bellal, Strategic Adviser on international humanitarian law at the Geneva Academy, and Carla Ruta, Thematic Adviser at Geneva Call, discussed how the transitional justice framework could be extended to include armed non-state actors.

22 May **The 2008 South Ossetian Conflict** Public Pleadings In the framework of the LLM course on international humanitarian law, students participated in public pleadings on the 2008 South Ossetian conflict. Representing Russia or Georgia, they addressed the classification of the conflict and applicable law, the classification of persons and territory, the killing and destruction of property of ethnic Georgians, the use of weapons, the targeting of persons and the detention of prisoners by Georgian and South Ossetian forces.

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

23 May **The Protection of Cultural Property in Times of Armed Conflict** IHL Talk Panelists discussed the legal framework protecting cultural property in armed conflict situations. They also addressed international initiatives aimed at enhancing the protection of cultural property, including the creation of the International Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Property in Conflicts Zones.

27 May **Alumni Reunion 2017** To celebrate our tenth anniversary, more than 100 alumni gathered together for a day of academic talks, meeting professors and old friends, a barbecue in the park and evening dinner.

30 May **Displacement and Transitional Justice** Transitional Justice Café Norbert Wühler, a leading expert on large-scale compensation and property restitution programmes, and Larbi Mebtouche from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees discussed the contested relation between transitional justice and displacement, with a particular focus on the issues of reparation and documentation of human rights violations.

1-2 June **Regional Consultation for North America and the English-Speaking Caribbean** Academic Network on Treaty Body Review 2020 Academics, NGO representatives and UN treaty body (TB) members focused on the meaning of the TB system in politically challenging times and examined possibilities for improving the impact of TB processes that are achievable under current mandates. Columbia University

6 June **Health and the Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents** Treaty Body Members Platform Members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and of the Committee on the Rights of the Child discussed the current UN initiatives around health and human rights, as well as how these relate to the Sustainable Development Goals. Members were briefed on the 2016-2030 UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and on the High-Level Working Group on Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; World Health Organization

23 June **Advancing the Multilateral Agenda on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)** Annual Meeting of the Platform on IEDs The 2017 Platform meeting, which brought together diplomats, experts and practitioners, focused on outlining tangible next steps regarding the threat, use and consequences of the worldwide employment of IEDs UN Institute for Disarmament Research; Action on Armed Violence

28 June **Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict** Open House This Open House allowed professionals interested in the Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict to meet staff, students and alumni, learn more about the programme and discuss career opportunities.

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

29-30 June **Current Issues in Armed Conflicts** Annual Conference The conference addressed contemporary issues in armed conflict, including the protection of civilians; latest developments in international refugee law like the new guidelines by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on those fleeing armed conflict, and the proposals to establish safe zones and corridors for persons affected by armed conflict; latest developments in transitional justice in light of the signature of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC; the qualification of armed conflicts, and recent issues in international criminal law like the jurisprudence by the International Criminal Court on the destruction of cultural property in Mali.

Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

29 June **Special Panel on Libya** IHL Talk Panelists discussed the legal and political challenges faced by the country, including the protection of migrants and the role that different actors play in terrorism networks.

Geneva Centre for Security Policy

1 July **Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Work of the Special Procedures** Expert Seminar Special Procedures mandate holders and members of UN treaty bodies discussed current efforts to promote the integration of a gender perspective in their work. They explored theoretical and methodological approaches to gender and equality within the context of international human rights law; shared experiences and evaluated efforts to integrate a gender analysis in thematic and country-specific reports, and discussed the potential for developing a common methodological approach to issues of gender-related discrimination, including questions of intersectional and multiple inequalities.

12 July **The Right of Indigenous Women** Treaty Body Members Platform Members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples discussed issues of common concern related to the rights of indigenous women (including the intersectionality of human rights violations and intersecting forms of discrimination), how they address them and concrete opportunities for cooperation.

17-18 July **Thematic Seminar on Individual Complaints** Academic Network on Treaty Body Review 2020 UN treaty body members, experts and representatives from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights discussed the issue of individual complaints procedures.

25 July **Exchanges Between Members of the UN Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture** Treaty Body Members Platform Members of the UN Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture discussed their respective views on the issues of non-refoulement, interim measures for protection and diplomatic assurances.

DATE EVENT TYPE DESCRIPTION PARTNER(S)

26 July **Regional Consultation for Africa** Academic Network on Treaty Body Review 2020 The Regional Consultation for Africa gathered together academics, civil society, persons involved in UN treaty bodies (TBs) and African (or regional) human rights mechanisms. Participants notably discussed the complementarity of TBs with the African human rights mechanisms, as well as ways to maximize the effectiveness of TB activity and increase their accessibility in the region.

Strathmore University Law School; University of Nairobi; University of Pretoria

21-22 August **Regional Consultation for the Middle East** Academic Network on Treaty Body Review 2020 The Regional Consultation for the Middle East brought together specialists from the region – NGOs, experts, academics, members of the UN treaty bodies (TBs) – to discuss input to the global network on TB Review.

Columbia University

18 September **Fighting Corruption with a Human Rights-Based Approach** Side Event at the 36th Session of the UN Human Rights Council The discussion showcased experiences and best practices, highlighted that a detailed analysis of how corruption violates human rights is lacking, and analysed a human rights-based approach to fighting corruption. Panelists also stressed the need for more precise definitions and methodological approaches to countering human rights violations linked to acts of corruption.

Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the UN in Geneva

27 September **Out of the Shadows: Recommendations to Advance Transparency in the Use of Lethal Force** Geneva Academy Wednesday Panelists evaluated 15 years of US counter-terrorism strikes, analysed recent developments and assessed the Trump administration's approach to the use of force, transparency and accountability.

4 October **Current Challenges in Cyber Operations** Expert Panel Panelists addressed current challenges related to cyber operations, discussed some of the conclusions and implications of Tallinn 2.0, and took stock of where we stand and what challenges remain.

Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law at the Geneva Academy

7 October **The Right to Food Sovereignty and Other Collective Rights of Peasants** Expert Seminar More than 60 participants – academics, experts, states' representatives and representatives of NGOs and social movements – gathered at the Palais de Nations to discuss the right to food sovereignty and other collective rights in the context of the current negotiation of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland; Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the UN in Geneva; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

10 October **The Political Participation of Refugees and Other Displaced Persons in their Country of Nationality and in the Host State** Opening Lecture of the Academic Year by Professor Geoff Gilbert Professor Geoff Gilbert discussed how, as conflict and repression end and states move towards a period of transition, those who have been displaced can participate in the restoration process.

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
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13-14 October	Regional Consultation for Asia	Academic Network on Treaty Body Review 2020	Specialists from the region shared their views on the future of UN treaty bodies. They discussed an extensive range of reform proposals, reaching consensus on several issues, including the need for a joint consolidation of the system itself (harmonization of calendars, rules of procedure and working methods, joint General Comments, state report examinations and follow-up) and in relation to its stakeholders (links with national human rights institutions and civil society).	South Asian University; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
16-17 October	Human Rights in Conflict Situations – Expanding the Scope of the Human Rights Council	Expert Seminar	This expert seminar – which formed part of a series of annual conferences on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), which the Geneva Academy joined in 2017 – focused on political challenges in the HRC, including in its responses to violations by armed non-state actors.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; German Institute for Human Rights; German Human Rights Forum
18 October	International Humanitarian Law and Islamic Law: What are the Challenges for Humanitarian Practitioners?	IHL Talk	What does Islamic law say about international humanitarian law, notably in relation to the protection of civilians, the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks, the protection of property and the treatment of prisoners of war? Panelists debated these issues and responded to questions from the public.	
23-24 October	The Coherence of Emerging Reform Proposals with Existing Conventions	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	Experts discussed emerging proposals regarding the reform of UN treaty bodies, clustered in thematic areas, and their compatibility with conventions. Participants notably explored how far reform could go in the various thematic areas within the existing legal framework, respecting the conventions and, at most, requiring additional joint protocols.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
25 October	Exchanges between the UNECE Environmental Treaty Compliance Committees and UN Treaty Bodies	Treaty Body Members Platform	Members and the Secretariats of the UN Economic Commission for Europe Environmental Treaty Compliance Committees and UN treaty bodies discussed, for the first time, their respective monitoring roles in the fields of human rights and the environment, and their approaches to dealing with individual complaints.	Earthjustice
26-27 October	Follow-up to Treaty Body Recommendations	Treaty Body Members Platform	Experts and members of UN treaty bodies (TBs) discussed the issue of follow-ups to TB recommendations and specific procedures for following up on these recommendations.	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; TB-Net; Open Society Justice Initiative; Judgment Watch
27 October	Briefing on the Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	Treaty Body Members Platform	The Geneva Academy updated members of the UN Human Rights Committee on the developments of the Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020. Organized back-to-back with the discussion on follow-ups to treaty body (TB) recommendations, this meeting also enabled an exchange with members of other TBs.	

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
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27 October	Graduation Ceremony		Around 150 guests, including graduates' families, attended the 2017 Graduation Ceremony at the Maison de la paix, under the auspices of Professor Robert Kolb and with Professor Christoph Heyns delivering the keynote speech.	
8 November	Human Rights Responsibilities of Armed Non-State Actors	Expert Seminar	The great majority of contemporary armed conflicts are fought between states and armed non-state actors (ANSAs) or between ANSAs, but their obligations under human rights law are still disputed. A select group of states and academic experts discussed two recent papers by the Geneva Academy and Harvard University on the practice of the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council on this issue.	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland
8 November	The Accountability of Armed Groups under Human Rights Law	Geneva Academy Wednesdays	This Geneva Academy Wednesday marked the launch of Dr Katharine Fortin's new book, <i>The Accountability of Armed Groups under Human Rights Law</i> .	
8 November	Enforced Disappearances and Transitional Justice	Transitional Justice Café	Gabriella Citroni, Professor of International Human Rights Law at the University of Milano-Bicocca, discussed questions of, and approaches to, enforced disappearance and their relevance in various transitional justice contexts.	
9 November	The Law and Policy of Targeting in Military Operations	Military Briefings	Chris Jenks, Assistant Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law, Texas, and an officer in the US Army for over 20 years, addressed the issues related to the law and policy of targeting in military operations.	
13 November	Autonomous Weapons Systems: What Constraints Under International Law?	Side Event at the 2017 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems	Panelists discussed the constraints and requirements that international humanitarian and human rights law place on the use and development of autonomous weapons systems, notably in light of our new publication on this issue.	
13 November	Accountability at 50 Years: Pursuing Justice in the Occupied Palestinian Territory	Expert Panel	Panelists discussed the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, looking at both the Israeli and Palestinian legal systems.	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
15-16 November	2017 Annual Seminar on International Humanitarian Law for Diplomats Accredited to the United Nations in Geneva	Expert Seminar	This one-day seminar for diplomats focused on current issues in international humanitarian law, including the International Committee for the Red Cross's action to protect victims of armed conflict through law and policy; the classification of armed conflicts; the rules on conduct of hostilities and the contribution of the Additional Protocols; war in cities; the development of weapons treaties; the protection of refugees; humanitarian access and the relevance of the Additional Protocols.	International Committee of the Red Cross

DATE	EVENT	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	PARTNER(S)
21 November	Transitional Justice and the European Convention on Human Rights	Book Launch	This event marked the launch of our publication <i>Transitional Justice and the European Convention on Human Rights</i> , published in cooperation with the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University and written by one of the field's leading scholars, Fionnuala Ni Aoláin.	Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University
29 November	Social Media Platforms: The New Gatekeepers of Free Speech?	Geneva Academy Wednesday	Social media companies have stepped up efforts to spot hate speech as well as 'terrorist' and 'violent extremist' content, thereby becoming the de facto regulators of online content. Panelists discussed the human rights challenges and difficult questions under human rights law of having corporate entities carry out such quasi-executive and quasi-judicative tasks, effectively outsourced to them by governments under the banner of self- or co-regulation.	
30 November	Basic Tactics in Combat	Military Briefing	Colonel Nicolas Coussière, Military Advisor to the French Ambassador in Geneva, discussed the basic tactics in combat and the various ramifications for the civilian population and the victims of armed conflicts of different tactical approaches.	
7 December	Briefing for NGOs	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	The Briefing for NGOs discussed the proposals emerging from the seven regional consultations that took place in 2016–2017, informal thematic and global conferences, continued engagement with members of treaty bodies and an open call for papers.	
13 December	Armed Gang Violence: At the Crossroad Between Armed Conflict and Law Enforcement?	IHL Talk	Panelists addressed the political, sociological and legal dimensions of the issue of armed gang violence in Latin America, notably in Mexico, El Salvador and Colombia.	
14 December	Briefing for States	Academic Platform on Treaty Body Review 2020	The Briefing for States discussed proposals that are emerging from the seven regional consultations that took place in 2016–2017, informal thematic and global conferences, continued engagement with members of treaty bodies and an open call for papers.	



OUR MISSION

The Geneva Academy provides postgraduate education, conducts academic legal research and policy studies, and organizes training courses and expert meetings. We concentrate on branches of international law that relate to situations of armed conflict, protracted violence and protection of human rights.

Established in 2007 by the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the Geneva Academy has acquired a global reputation for excellent teaching and research, and it attracts students of high quality to its master's and training programmes. Our graduates are employed around the world, promoting and protecting international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights in governments, NGOs, international organizations and academic institutions. The Geneva Academy thus contributes to the dissemination of legal knowledge in these crucial sectors.

Our scientific research focuses on clarifying IHL, strengthening human rights protection and developing the areas of complementarity between IHL and international human rights law. In these areas, the Geneva Academy makes a specific contribution to policy development and debate, in government and among scholars and practitioners.

The Geneva Academy is a cosmopolitan community located in the heart of Geneva, an international city and humanitarian hub. Through close interaction with international organizations, NGOs, experts and governments, we actively participate in global discussions of IHL, human rights, international criminal law and transitional justice.

HOW WE WORK

TRAINING EXPERTS AND PRACTITIONERS

Our three master's programmes and various training and short courses disseminate legal knowledge in IHL, international human rights law and transitional justice. Our teaching enables specialists to apply these legal frameworks to complex situations – Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Syria – and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, political transitions, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

INFORMING POLICY

Our research examines issues that are under-explored, need clarification or are unconventional, experimental or challenging. It thus advances understanding and stimulates debate in the academic community and in policy-making institutions and government. The findings of our research regularly inform policy recommendations and support practitioners working on issues such as IHL, human rights or transitional justice.

OUR CONVENING POWER

The Geneva Academy regularly convenes expert meetings, seminars, conferences and events. This provides a critical and scholarly forum for experts and practitioners to discuss and debate topical issues in IHL, human rights and transitional justice. For example, the right to life, the duty to investigate, reparations for past mass crimes, new trends and developments in international law in armed conflict, or the work of UN human rights mechanisms.

PROMOTING DIVERSITY

We are committed to promoting diversity in all respects: cultural diversity, diversity in the geographical origin of students, staff and speakers, as well as generational, linguistic and gender diversity. This is implemented through all kinds of measures: our pursuit of diversity in recruitment and invitations to guest speakers, our refusal of monolingualism and our adoption of a social policy aimed, in particular, at assisting young parents. We also promote diversity in the events we convene. In particular, save for exceptional circumstances, we will not convene or participate in the organization of events where none of the speakers are women.

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SWISS CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Noam Lubell is Professor of Public International Law and Head of the School of Law at the University of Essex, and also the Rapporteur of the International Law Association's Committee on the Use of Force. He has been the Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law (Swiss IHL Chair) since 2013.

The Swiss IHL Chair develops and promotes Geneva Academy's expertise in IHL through policy work, cutting-edge research, expert meetings, the development of partnerships and teaching.

As IHL Chair, he initiated in 2014 the research project 'Investigating in Situations of Armed Conflict: Law, Policy and Good Practice', which intends to identify, via expert meetings and research, a set of guidelines based on law, policy and good practice that states should apply when they investigate alleged violations of IHL in situations of armed conflict..

SWISS HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIR

Nils Melzer has been the Swiss Human Rights Chair (HR Chair) at the Geneva Academy since March 2016.

As HR Chair he develops and promotes Geneva Academy's expertise in human rights through policy work, cutting-edge research, expert meetings, the development of partnerships and teaching.

Since November 2016, he has been the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

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