

CURRENT ISSUES IN ARMED CONFLICT CONFERENCE

Programme

Varembé Conference Centre (CCV)
Rue de Varembé 13, 1202 Geneva

08:30 – 09:00

Coffee and Registration

09:00 – 09:30

Welcome remarks

- **Professor Marco Sassòli**, Director, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- **Professor Clara Sandoval-Villalba**, Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Essex Transitional Justice Network, University of Essex

09:30 – 11:00

Current issues in international criminal justice

This panel will examine and comment on the latest controversial decisions by the International Criminal Court in the cases of Bemba, Gbagbo and Al-Bashir, as well as on the situation in Afghanistan. Although on different grounds, all three decisions have been widely criticized by scholars and practitioners alike, thus fuelling the challenging narrative on the Court. The panel will also discuss the opportunities and challenges of the recent establishment of U.N. independent investigative mechanisms such as the IIIM (Syria), IIM (Myanmar) and UNITAD (Iraq). Created by States, such mechanisms have emerged as alternatives in situations where realistic avenues for accountability would otherwise be limited because of political considerations.

Moderator

- **Professor Paola Gaeta**, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Speakers

- **Professor Robert Roth**, University of Geneva
- **Dr Matt Pollard**, International Commission of Jurists
- **Dr Carla Festman**, University of Essex

11:00 – 11:15

Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45

Transitional justice and social inequality in conflict situations

This panel will address a largely neglected topic in transitional justice debates and practices, that of whether and how to address the issue of social inequality as a matter of transitional justice in the aftermath of armed conflict. Each panellist will briefly introduce the topic from a different angle. This will be followed by a panel discussion.

Moderator

- **Professor Sabine Michalowski**, Director of the Essex Transitional Justice Network, University of Essex

Speakers

- **Mr Thomas Unger**, Co-Director of the Master in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- **Professor Clara Sandoval-Villalba**, Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Essex Transitional Justice Network, University of Essex
- **Mr Hobeth Martínez Carrillo**, Principal Investigator in the area of Transitional Justice, Dejusticia (Colombia)
- **Dr Frank Haldemann**, Co-Director of the Master in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

12:45 – 13:45

Lunch break

13:45 – 15:15

Current issues on classification of armed conflicts

This panel will discuss the most challenging legal criteria for classifying a situation as an armed conflict of either international or non-international character. Drawing on conclusions from the RULAC database and the 2018 edition of the War Report, it will most notably comment on the situation in Mali, on the scope of applicability of additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, as well as on the general relevance of classification for conflicts arising in the sub-Saharan region.

Moderator

- **M. Emmanuel Colineau**, Legal Adviser to the Operations in Africa, International Committee of the Red Cross

Speakers

- **Dr Annyssa Bellal**, Senior Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- **Dr Gus Waschefort**, University of Essex

- **Dr Gloria Gaggioli**, Swiss National Science Foundation Professor, University of Geneva

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00

Conduct of hostilities

This panel will notably discuss the duty of constant care to civilians, as well the challenges specific to siege warfare.

Moderator

- **Professor Noam Lubell**, University of Essex

Speakers

- **Professor Françoise J. Hampson**, University of Essex
- **Professor Steven Haines**, University of Greenwich
- **Mr Laurent Gisel**, Senior Legal Adviser, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross

17:00 – 17:45

Break & Change of venue
Evening programme at the Villa Moynier
Rue de Lausanne 120b, 1202 Geneva

17:45 – 19:00

Keynote address - Black magic, zombies and dragons: a tale of International Humanitarian Law in the 21st Century

Address

- **Dr Helen Durham**, Director of Law and Policy, International Committee of the Red Cross

Response

- **Professor Noam Lubell**, University of Essex

19:00 – 20:00

Drinks reception