

# Annual Report 2024



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE  
FACULTY OF LAW

GENEVA  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE

INSTITUT DE HAUTES  
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES  
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE  
OF INTERNATIONAL AND  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

# FOREWORD



The year 2024 was marked by deepening humanitarian crises and a continued erosion of respect for the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and human rights. Armed conflicts, notably in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, generated large-scale suffering and exposed the limits of enforcement and accountability. Basic rules prohibiting the targeting of civilians, the use of starvation as a method of warfare and arbitrary restrictions on humanitarian assistance were openly disregarded.



In this context, the role of the Geneva Academy remains essential. Our mission is to advance the understanding of international humanitarian law, human rights and transitional justice through rigorous teaching, independent research and critical engagement with legal and policy developments. We do so in the conviction that law continues to matter, even – and especially – when it is under strain.

Throughout the year, our work reflected this commitment. We launched the IHL in Focus research project, convened expert meetings on topics including the humanitarian exemptions in sanctions regimes, and contributed to the work of United Nations (UN) treaty bodies and Special Rapporteurs. Our research addressed pressing questions, from the impact of digital technologies on the conduct of hostilities to the ethical and legal implications of neurotechnology on human rights. Through our Master of Advanced Studies programmes, executive education and public events, we continued to train and inform a diverse community of students, professionals and decision makers.

This year also marked a change in leadership. After eight years, I returned to the Geneva Academy as Director, with the task of consolidating our structure and further strengthening our role as a recognized centre of expertise and reflection in our fields. With this work underway, we are now well positioned to move forward with confidence. I take this opportunity to thank Professor Gloria Gaggioli for her leadership during the past four years. Her tenure was characterized by a steady hand through the challenges of the COVID-19 period, the strengthening of our academic programmes, the creation of the IHL Expert Pool and the celebration of our fifteenth anniversary. These are substantial achievements for which the Geneva Academy is grateful.

I also wish to acknowledge the contributions of our faculty and staff, whose expertise and commitment shape every aspect of the Geneva Academy’s work , as well as the generous support of our donors, without whom our activities would not be possible.

**Paola Gaeta**  
*Director, Geneva Academy  
of International Humanitarian Law  
and Human Rights  
Professor of International Law,  
Geneva Graduate Institute*



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# Institution

## New President of the Board

Christian Bovet, Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Geneva, became the new President of our Board. Professor Bovet, who was the dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Geneva when the Geneva Academy was founded, has closely followed its development ever since. He also chairs the Société académique de Genève, sits on the editorial board of the international journal *Concurrences*, and until April 2025 was the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of BNP Paribas (Switzerland) SA and Chairperson of its risk and audit committee.

## Paola Gaeta Returned as Director

Paola Gaeta returned as Director of the Geneva Academy. She is also Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. A leading expert in international criminal law, she previously served as Director of the Academy from 2007 to 2014. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of International Criminal Justice* and has advised numerous international institutions on accountability for international crimes.

## New Head of Communications and External Relations

Lina Borén joined the Geneva Academy as the new Head of Communications and External Relations. She previously led communications teams and projects within organizations such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Institut International de Lancy and the World Economic Forum. Ms Borén holds a Master’s degree in Political Science.

# Master of Advanced Studies Programmes

## Graduation Ceremony

In 2024, 104 students graduated from our three Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) programmes: the LLM – Master of Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights; the Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law; and the Executive Master – Master of Advanced Studies in International Law in Armed Conflict.

## Two Teams Take Part in the Jean-Pictet Competition

For the first time, two teams participated in the prestigious Jean-Pictet Competition on behalf of the Geneva Academy. Our Advanced Master’s students, Eva Patricia Contreras, Yasmeeen M’sadek and Hélène Perot, represented us at the francophone edition in Belgium, coached by Research Fellow Dr Eugénie Duss. The anglophone edition, held in Nepal, included Maria Clara Carmona Monsalve, Ay-

omide Johnson and Jonas Skorzak, who were coached by Teaching Assistant Mina Radončić. Ayomide was nominated for the Gilbert Apollis Prize, which rewards the best speaker.

## New Internships with Amnesty International and the Geneva IHL Lab

One of the reasons why students choose the Geneva Academy is our well-established internship programme. Our unique partnerships with over 50 organizations allow students to immerse themselves in the core of their future professional environment and to be concretely active in conducting research, analysis and document drafting. Most importantly, each intern’s contribution is guided by clearly defined objectives and supported by a dedicated supervisor.

This year, we introduced a new opportunity within Amnesty International’s Digital Verification Corps for students of our Advanced Master in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law. We also launched the Geneva IHL Lab for students from the Geneva Academy, the Geneva Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva, which contributed to the diversity of our practice-oriented learning experiences.

# Research

## ‘IHL in Focus’ Research Project Launched

At the beginning of the year, we launched the ‘IHL in Focus’ research project. Its aim is to provide IHL analysis to support advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, with the ultimate goal of contributing to increased respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). To kick-start the activities of the project and refine its methodological approach, a two-day expert meeting was held in Geneva. The project was showcased at the 2024 European Humanitarian Forum in February, and a high-level side event at the 79th UN General Assembly in September. In October we published the first spot report, ‘Food Insecurity in Armed Conflict and the Use of Siege-like Tactics’. The report addresses the urgent issue of food insecurity caused by siege-like tactics in conflict zones and explores ways in which international humanitarian law can mitigate these impacts. The matters addressed in the spot report were also the focus of an IHL Talk and has subsequently been featured in a Geneva Academy ‘In and Around War(s)’ podcast.

## Research on Artificial Intelligence in Military Decision-Making

Military uses of artificial intelligence (AI) are becoming increasingly sophisticated and widespread. A growing number of reports allege the use of AI in military decision-making processes, including decisions about who or what to target. Geneva Academy Researcher Anna Rosalie Greipl drafted the report ‘Artificial Intelligence and Related Technologies in Military Decision-Making on the Use of Force in Armed Conflicts: Current Developments and Potential Implications’,

with contributions by Neil Davison and Georgia Hinds, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The report, which was also the focus of a dedicated event, outlines potential risks and explores some measures needed to mitigate these risks.

Human Rights, Research on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

This year, Senior Research Fellow Dr Christophe Golay explored the links between human rights, sustainable development and environmental protection in publications on the right to food in Geneva as well as the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and links with other human rights. These works examine the role of these two human rights, and human rights-based approaches more broadly, in the fight against climate change, environmental degradation and raising economic and social inequality.

Geneva Human Rights Platform

Geneva Human Rights Platform Annual Conference

The 2024 Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP) was held on 5 November at Maison de la Paix and focused on the theme ‘Human Rights System Under Pressure: A Reason to Expand Connectivity’.

In a time of growing global challenges, the event brought together participants from international organizations, academia, civil society and diplomatic missions to explore how enhanced connectivity can strengthen the human rights system and its intersections with other policy fields.

‘The complexities of today’s global challenges mean that connectivity is not just a concept; it is the way forward for an effective human rights system’, said Felix Kirchmeier, Director of the GHRP.

Treaty Body Follow-Up Review Pilot Series Concludes

The Geneva Human Rights Platform finalized the Treaty Body Follow-Up Review Pilot Series and presented its concluding report at the UN in New York and Geneva. This initiative, implemented in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Community, made a significant contribution to the broader goals of the treaty body strengthening process.

Expanded Offer from the Training Hub

In 2024, the Geneva Human Rights Platform Training Hub reached new milestones by delivering a record of 11 training sessions, both in Geneva and online. Partnering with organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund and the International Organization for Migration, and with the support of key stakeholders such as the Canton of Geneva, the Training Hub conducted seven customized trainings alongside its four regular courses, which are set to continue in 2025.

Human Rights Data Revolution Publication

Digital innovation is transforming the monitoring, implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights globally. Dr Domenico Zipoli, Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy and Project Coordinator at the Geneva Human Rights Platform, authored an Academy Briefing exploring the emergence and evolving landscape of digital human rights tracking tools and databases. The publication is part of an ongoing initiative on the same topic which also included a roundtable in Bologna, an expert briefing in Geneva and presentations at a number of high-level international events.

2024 in Figures

- 54 staff
- 47 professors and lecturers
- 1 Chair
- 3 advanced Master’s programmes
- 126 students from 54 countries
- 29 scholarships
- More than 1,300 alumni
- 38 training and short courses attended by more than 200 participants
- 12 research projects
- 31 publications
- 10 initiatives of the Geneva Human Rights Platform
- More than 90 events
- More than 60 partnerships





# MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAMMES

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Our two full-time programmes – LLM – Master of Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – attract some of the most experienced and academically qualified students from around the world.

The diversity of our student body – geographical, cultural, social and gender – is at the core of our programmes and enriches the experience immensely. Our scholarships – allocated thanks to the support of our generous donors – allow us, year after year, not only to ensure such diversity in our advanced master’s programmes, but also, looking to the future, in the humanitarian, human rights and transitional justice fields.

Organized into small cohorts of around 40 students, participants share their knowledge, discuss pressing humanitarian and human rights challenges and reflect on the application of international law.

Our faculty showcases world-renowned professors, scholars and practitioners of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international criminal law and transitional justice, among others. Through interactive and participative approaches, they share their expertise with our students, promote critical thinking and build constant bridges between theory and practice.

*Dr Clotilde Pégorier*  
*Head of Education’*

*2024 was an enriching and productive year. For the first time, we had a Francophone Pictet Team. Our teaching assistants were instrumental in organizing various events for students, including a panel on the recognition of gender apartheid as an international crime.*



# LLM – MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

The LLM – Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights is one of the most innovative and intellectually challenging programmes dealing with the legal framework applying to armed conflict offered today.

The programme is designed for law students seeking to deepen their expertise in the intersection of international humanitarian law, human rights law and conflict-related legal issues. The programme combines rigorous theoretical frameworks with practical training, equipping students with the skills to navigate complex legal challenges in conflict settings.

*Arianna Pia Mazzariello*  
*LLM – MAS student in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights*

*The LLM programme at the Geneva Academy stood out to me due to its cutting-edge teaching method, combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills, offering engaging optional courses, and great internship opportunities. Moreover, its location at the heart of international governance provides an exceptional platform for those aspiring to make a real impact in the dynamic landscape of international law.*

# MAS in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law

One of the very few programmes on this subject worldwide, our Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law combines theoretical and practice-oriented perspectives.

It equips students with the knowledge, tools and critical mindset to assist countries, societies and victims emerging from periods of conflict and repression and address complex post-conflict and transitional justice issues.

*Ignacio Bollier*  
*MAS student in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law’*

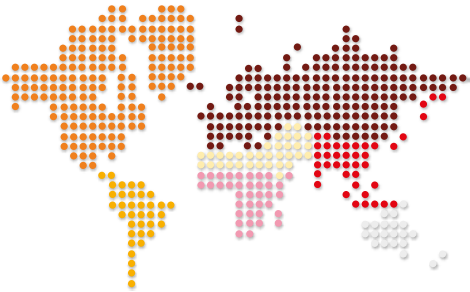
*It is no secret to anyone that the faculty is world-class. I attended courses taught not just by well-known skilled scholars in their respective disciplines, but I also had the pleasure of getting to know and learn from seasoned practitioners with vast experience working in the field. From a student’s point of view, that mix between versed scholars and on-field practitioners is extremely rewarding.*

# 2024–2025 Academic Year

## LLM – Master of Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

The 41 students enrolled in the LLM – MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights for the 2024–2025 academic year come from the following 23 countries: Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

### Geographical Representation

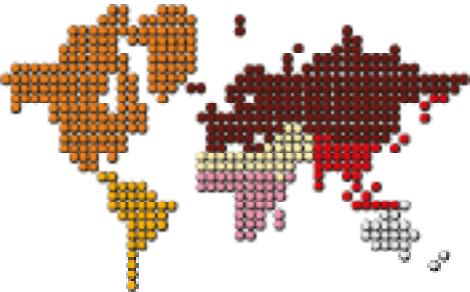


- Europe 25
- Middle East and North Africa 2
- Africa 5
- Latin America 3
- Asia 5
- North America 1

## Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law

The 43 students enrolled in the MAS in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law for the 2024–2025 academic year come from the following 31 countries: Afghanistan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, The Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nepal, Northern Ireland, The Netherlands, Poland, Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

### Geographical Representation



- Europe 16
- Middle East and North Africa 3
- Africa 7
- North America 2
- Asia 9
- Latin America 6

## Scholarships

Scholarships allow talented students with limited means and resources to pursue our full-time Advanced Master’s programmes and, subsequently, a career in the human rights, humanitarian and transitional justice sectors. They also bring diversity to our student body and, therefore, enrich the experience immensely. Looking to the future, scholarships also ensure such diversity in the humanitarian, human rights and transitional justice fields.

For the 2024–2025 academic year, we allocated 28 full scholarships – covering the tuition fee and living expenses in Geneva – and 1 partial scholarship – covering the tuition fee – across these two programmes. These scholarships were allocated thanks to the generous support of a Geneva-based private foundation, the Fondation Ernst et Lucie Schmidheiny, Mr Jenö Staehelin and the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute.

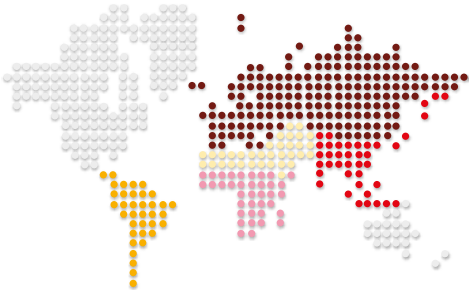
Following graduation, scholarship recipients generally go back to their countries or regions where they work in the judiciary, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and governmental agencies, addressing issues of human rights, international humanitarian law, transitional justice and the rule of law.

### Total Scholarships: 29



- Full scholarships: 28
- Partial scholarship: 1

**LLM – MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights:**  
13 full scholarships, 1 partial scholarship



- Europe 3 (1 partial)
- Asia 2
- Middle East and North Africa 2
- Africa 5
- Latin America 2

**MAS in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law:**  
15 full scholarships



- Africa 6
- Latin America 4
- Asia 4
- Europe: 2

# 2023–2024 Academic Year

## Preparing Students for their Careers

Through internships, participation in moot courts, public pleadings, extracurricular activities and study trips, students gather first-hand experience and practical knowledge. These activities facilitate their integration into the professional world.

Seventy-two students from our 2023–2024 cohort (38 students of the LLM – MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and 34 students of the MAS in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law) carried out internships during the spring of 2024 with over 50 institutions, such as Asser Institute, Civitas Maxima, DCAF, Diakonia – IHL Unit, Geneva IHL Lab – Geneva Academy, Geneva Call, Global Survivors Fund, International Commission of Jurists, IFRC, ICRC, International Law Commission, Justice Rapid Response, Plan International, TRIAL International and UNRWA. These internships, which form an integral part of both programmes, allow students to gain first-hand experience with leading human rights, humanitarian and transitional justice actors.

Throughout the year, all students also benefited from one-on-one career advice and counselling, group sessions that offer general advice on seeking employment and planning a career, exchange sessions with alumni about career paths in international organizations, non-governmental organizations, government or academia, access to job offers, as well as soft-skills training.

*Caroline Sophie Montag*  
student of the LLM – MAS in International  
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

*During my internship at the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, I worked with fellow student Ilayda Isik to develop a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda within UN Human Rights Mechanisms. We presented our findings at an advocacy meeting attended by UN diplomats and representatives from civil society. It was an incredible experience, boosting our confidence and our skills!*

*Wakjira Tesfaye Beriso*  
student of the LLM – MAS in International  
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

*At Geneva Call, I directly engaged with non-state armed groups, facing the challenges of implementing the Geneva Conventions in active conflict zones. I moved beyond theory, actively developing strategies that influenced these groups to respect international humanitarian law, providing me with profound insights into the complex realities of conflict zones.*

## Optional Courses and Extracurricular Activities

This year, students could select among 11 optional courses addressing topical and emerging issues such as contemporary and future challenges regarding the military uses of cyber technologies and operations, gender and international crimes or cultural heritage in post-conflict situations. Organized around small groups of

a maximum of 20 participants, the courses allow for in-depth discussions with leading experts and practitioners in these areas.

Extracurricular activities also enrich both our full-time advanced Master’s programmes by widening students’ perspectives on and knowledge of the law and its implementation.

The Military Briefings series aims to deepen students’ understanding of the roles and operations of military and humanitarian actors and operations in armed conflicts and complex emergency situations. This year the students gained insights, for example, from the French Armed Forces. This presentation tackled new issues faced by military legal advisors, particularly in a context marked by the return of high-intensity armed conflicts and the emergence of new technologies.

The Voices from the Ground series allows our students to engage with practitioners and activists contributing to transitional justice. In the autumn, we expanded these lectures to include prospective students and the public, while keeping the question-and-answer sessions exclusive to students.

*Augustina Becerra Vazquez*  
Teaching Assistant

*The new format, which involved opening lectures to external attendees while preserving a dedicated discussion space for our students, fostered a dynamic and engaging atmosphere.’*

## Participation in the Jean-Pictet Competition

For the first time, two teams from the Geneva Academy qualified for this leading moot court competition. Eva Patricia Contreras, Yasmeeen M’sadek and Hélène Perot formed a francophone team and participated in the competition in Bredene, Belgium. The anglophone edition took place in Pokhara, Nepal where our students Maria Clara Carmona Monsalve, Ayomide Johnson and Jonas Skorzak made it to the semi-final round. In addition, Ayomide Johnson was nominated for the Gilbert-Apollis Prize and received a special recognition for exceptional performance from the American Red Cross. The teams were coached by our Research Fellow Dr Eugénie Duss and Teaching Assistant Mina Radončić respectively.

During the six months preceding the competition, the teams trained intensively with their coaches to deepen their understanding of various topics in international humanitarian law and related fields. Throughout each of the one-week events, our students underwent various real-life simulations, in roles where they engaged with armed forces, ICRC legal advisers, members of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs or Department of Defence and representatives of associations and communities.

*Ayomide Johnson*  
LLM – MAS in International Humanitarian  
Law and Human Rights student

*The competition is nothing like a moot, it entails very practical negotiations and discussions using the law as a guide. It’s an interesting way to express the law without arguing or lecturing about it, it’s all about persuasion and managing intercultural dynamics.’*



# 2024 Graduation Ceremony

In October 2024, 81 students graduated from our LLM – MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (43) and MAS in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (38).

Every year at the graduation ceremony, several prizes – the Henry Dunant Research Prize, and prizes for the best paper for each of our Master of Advanced Studies programmes – are awarded to graduating students for their exceptional academic work.



## Henry Dunant Research Prize

Ritika Sharma, LLM – MAS student in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights was awarded the Henry Dunant Research Prize for her paper titled ‘Harnessing Hindu and Buddhist Sources as “Dictates of the Public Conscience”: A Gap-Filler to Address Sexual Violence Against Women During Conduct of Hostilities’.

The jury of the Henry Dunant Research Prize, including Professor Paola Gaeta (Geneva Academy), Anne Quintin (ICRC), Caty Clément (Foundation Prix Henry Dunant), Morgane Desboeufs (Foundation Prix Henry Dunant) and Dr Clotilde Pégrier (Geneva Academy), commended the paper for its exceptional academic quality and its engagement with contemporary issues that align with Henry Dunant’s mission to protect victims of war and persecution, as well as feminism.

## LLM – MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Best Paper Prize

Ozan Yildirim was awarded the prize for his paper ‘The Involvement of Non-State Actors Acting with the Authorization, Support or Acquiescence of the State in Enforced Disappearance and Human Rights Litigation’. His paper brought theory and practice together and demonstrated transversality in how he managed to integrate various legal frameworks.

## MAS in Transitional Justice and Human Rights Best Paper Prize

This prize was awarded to Nataly Santana Sánchez for her paper titled ‘Does Reproductive Violence Have a Place in Transitional Justice? A Case Study of Colombia’s Approach to Address Conflict-Related Violations of Reproductive Autonomy’. The paper addresses complex and timely issues in transitional justice, offering innovative approaches and solutions. It is supported by thorough research, an extensive review of jurisprudence and well-developed proposals and recommendations.



# EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

- p. 26 Online Executive Master –  
Master of Advanced Studies in International Law  
in Armed Conflict
- p. 28 Online Short Courses on International Law  
in Armed Conflict

Addressed to diplomats, humanitarians, human rights advocates, lawyers working in emergency and post-conflict situations and journalists, our executive education aims to equip professionals with the legal tools to address contemporary humanitarian and human rights challenges.

Our offer includes a diversity of formats: an online part-time Executive Master – Master of Advanced Studies in International Law in Armed Conflict, short courses on international law in armed conflict and customized trainings.

# Online Executive Master – Master of Advanced Studies in International Law in Armed Conflict

The online part-time Executive Master – Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in International Law in Armed Conflict is one of the few innovative and intellectually challenging programmes in the law of armed conflict offered today.

Designed for professionals with demanding jobs and responsibilities, it provides them with a solid legal background to address the multiple challenges that arise in humanitarian emergencies, contemporary armed conflicts, human rights negotiations or criminal proceedings.

By providing the necessary tools to apply the international legal framework in complex contemporary conflicts, it informs high-level professionals who want to acquire additional responsibilities or move their careers forward.

María Gonzalez García  
Project Manager and Technical Advisor  
at the United Nations World Food Programme

The knowledge gained from this programme will have a significant impact on my professional work, particularly in my day-to-day tasks with projects situated in areas affected by armed conflict. A broader understanding of the legal context will allow me to adopt a better approach.

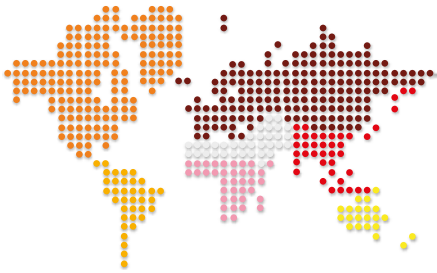
Ivana Kožar Schenck  
Diplomat at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations in Geneva

Coming from a country that experienced armed conflict during the '90s, I was particularly impressed with the influence of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on the development of international criminal law. I very much enjoyed the lectures by Professor Gloria Gaggioli explaining the interplay between IHL and international human rights law. This programme has enhanced my knowledge of relevant branches of international law and it will help me respond with convincing arguments during drafting and negotiations of resolutions and other initiatives.

## 2024–2026 Class

The 2024–2026 class has 42 participants from 28 countries: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, The Gambia, Germany, Italy, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Moldova, The Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States of America.

### Geographical Representation



- Europe 22
- Oceania & Australia 2
- Africa 7
- Asia 2
- North America 1
- Latin America 3

### Professional Background



## 2023–2025 Class

The 36 participants are currently working on their theses and will graduate in October 2025.

# 2024 Graduation Ceremony

In October 2024, 23 students graduated from our Executive Master – MAS in International Law in Armed Conflict.

Every year at the graduation ceremony, prizes for the best paper for each of our Master of Advanced Studies programmes are awarded to graduating students for their exceptional academic work.

## Executive Master – MAS in International Law in Armed Conflict Best Paper Prize

Kanako Ohara was awarded the Best Executive Master – MAS Paper Prize for her paper titled ‘Drones and Mobile Phones: How does International Law Protect Children in Armed Conflict’. Ms Ohara managed to consider two questions in a



well-argued manner, namely, the protection of children and the use of digital technology. The paper is original and manages to show transversality. Furthermore, the topic could not be more pressing or timely.



# Online Short Courses on International Law in Armed Conflict

Our online short courses – six sessions of two hours each – allow participants to deepen their legal knowledge and expertise on a specific issue or branch of international law relevant to armed conflicts. The courses range from introductory courses on international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law, to addressing more specific issues and topics such as international refugee law, the responsibility to protect, preventing and combating terrorism or accountability for atrocity crimes. Participants can either select one specific course or follow several, starting with the introductory courses and then moving on to more specific courses. As we offer these courses every year, this can be spread over several years.

In 2024, 57 practitioners – from Geneva and in the field – participated in one or more of our 16 online short courses and acquired the necessary skills to address the multiple legal questions and challenges they face in their daily work.

## Online Short Courses in 2024



# RESEARCH

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The Geneva Academy conducts independent, cutting-edge research geared towards the development of innovative solutions to challenges that threaten human rights, the implementation of international humanitarian law, sustainable development and international peace and security. To achieve this goal, we have crafted a unique approach that leverages the Academy’s convening power, commitment to academic rigour and geopolitical insight to produce content that is relevant for an increasingly complex and multipolar world. Through this content, the Academy enables critical and interdisciplinary thinking, and promotes a more informed discourse on international human rights law, international humanitarian law and transitional justice. This approach sets the Geneva Academy apart from other initiatives: rather than a series of events and products, our work is a process that builds partnerships and creates opportunities to shape the multilateral policy architecture in constructive and rights-affirming ways.

**Dr Erica Harper**  
Head of Research and Policy Studies,  
Geneva Academy

*Innovation in knowledge is not just about generating ideas – it’s about bridging divides, shaping policy, and forging solutions for a just and secure world.*



# International Humanitarian Law

## IHL in Focus

Launched at the beginning of 2024, the IHL in Focus project is an open-source monitoring and reporting initiative focused on violations of international humanitarian law across the world’s most challenging armed conflicts. Covering 57 non-international armed conflicts (NIACs) and 14 international armed conflicts (IACs) across 22 countries, the report aims to provide legally grounded, impartial and accessible data to inform humanitarian action, advocacy and diplomatic engagement. More broadly, by bridging information gaps and enhancing transparency, the project aims to strengthen humanitarian responses, and reaffirm the relevance and legitimacy of international humanitarian law.

**Dr Erica Harper**  
Head of Research and Policy Studies,  
Geneva Academy

*The IHL in Focus Report sets out key observations around the changing nature of armed conflict, patterns of violence, and potential future threats. At its core, the report serves as a tool for action. We encourage governments, NGOs and international organizations to use its findings to strengthen compliance efforts, humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy. While IHL cannot prevent conflict, it establishes a fundamental baseline of humanity that must be upheld – even in war.*

The methodology of the IHL in Focus project was crafted from a series of consultations, including a two-day expert meeting held at Villa Moynier in April 2024, which was attended by practitioners, academics, policymakers and specialists in digital forensics. A series of simulation exercises and micro-pilots were then implemented, followed by a two-day staff training in June 2024. The project was presented at the 2024 European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels in February and at a high-level side event during the 79th UN General Assembly Ministerial Week, hosted by the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium.

Given the fast-paced and dynamic nature of armed conflict, the project also releases spot reports on pressing thematic issues, evolving situations or overlooked crises. These reports aim to close information gaps, clarify how international humanitarian law applies in novel contexts and provide a solid legal grounding for humanitarian diplomacy. The project’s first spot report titled ‘Food Insecurity in Armed Conflict and the Use of Siege-Like Tactics’ was released in October 2024. It addressed the urgent issue of food insecurity caused by siege-like tactics in conflict zones and explored how international humanitarian law can mitigate these impacts. The report provided recommendations for stakeholders to strengthen global cooperation in addressing food insecurity in conflict settings.

To broaden the discussion on this subject, the spot report was followed by an IHL Talk on ‘Food Insecurity in Armed Conflict’. This event unpacked the dynamic interplay between violence and fissures in the natural environment, and how these synergies can both fuel and be fuelled by conflict, creating vicious cycles



that are difficult to interrupt. Experts examined these dynamics through the lens of international humanitarian and human rights law, explaining the regulatory and accountability frameworks and discussing potential responses.

The IHL Expert Pool

The IHL Expert Pool – composed of international humanitarian law practitioners with thematic and geographic expertise – works to strengthen the capacity of human rights mechanisms to address international humanitarian law in their work by providing advice and technical assistance on emerging and priority IHL issues.

In 2024, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) commenced work on drafting a General Comment on the Application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Situations of Armed Conflict. Such work is of utmost significance given the current geopolitical context and current trends in the diffusion of armed conflict globally. Specifically, by deepening the debate on the application of human rights during armed conflict, the General Comment is an opportunity for the CESCR to systematize its jurisprudence in key areas of relevance to civilian protection. The IHL Expert Pool was called upon to contribute to this process, and specifically to guide the Committee on integrating IHL issues in the analysis and reconciling overlapping areas of law. Working in close coordination with Professor Ludovic Hennebel (Vice-Chairperson of the CESCR and rapporteur for this General Comment), Dr Francesco Romani provided technical inputs on key IHL topics integrated in the drafts, and facilitated exchanges between the CESCR and IHL experts on key thematic topics.

The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict

The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict (RULAC) project is a publicly accessible online portal that classifies armed conflicts under international law. Country entries detail the factual and legal basis for each classification, identify the parties to the conflict and outline the applicable international law. The portal also includes sections on the definition and categories of armed conflict under IHL, the legal framework governing armed conflicts and contemporary challenges in the area of classification.

New and Updated Armed Conflicts

As at 1 January 2024, RULAC recognized 16 international armed conflicts (IACs) and 41 non-international armed conflicts (NIACs), involving 42 countries. During the course of the year, the volume of conflict globally grew significantly. For example, in the 22 country situations examined as part of the IHL in Focus report, 57 NIACs and 14 IACs were identified. Compared to the same point the previous year, this represents a slight decrease in NIACs (from 61), a significant increase in IACs (from 8) and an overall net increase from 69 to 71 conflicts, continuing a five-year directional trend in the Geneva Academy’s reporting on conflict classification.

The following conflicts were updated in 2024: NIACs in Colombia; NIACs in the Central African Republic; IAC in Ukraine and the evolving situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan (in particular the end of the military occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh). The degradation of the situation in Lebanon and the rise in hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah was closely monitored and a revised entry is currently under peer review.

Monitoring Armed Violence Situations

Because it is crucial that our interpretation of IHL continues to reflect realities on the ground, the research team also closely monitored other situations of armed violence to assess whether they could amount to armed conflicts according to IHL criteria. This notably concerned the following theatres:

- Israeli attacks on Iranian and pro-Iranian positions abroad, in particular in Syria
- rising tensions and instant hostilities between Iran and Israel
- the involvement of Shi’i militias from Iraq in the conflicts to which Israel is taking part
- Houthis strikes on merchant vessels linked to Israel
- armed violence between Israel and Houthis
- armed violence in Haiti
- the involvement of mercenaries and private military companies in armed conflict, particularly the possible change of status of Africa Corps (ex-Wagner)

Targeted Advice

The RULAC team continued to provide advice on legal classification to various organizations and academics, including at the ICRC, FDFA and Cornell University.

The Digitalization of Armed Conflicts

New military technologies are transforming the nature of modern warfare. The digitalization of armed conflict — the use of digital means and methods of war based on developments such as cyber technology, artificial intelligence, machine learning, sensor systems and robotics — is a trend of particular concern. Specific dangers include new forms of civilian harm, conflict spill-overs to other states and the dual nature of information and communication technologies, which make it difficult to separate military objectives from civilian objects. There is also a risk that the protections offered by law and regulation will be ‘outpaced’ by the dynamic nature of technological advancement, widening the scope for rights abuses and impunity.

Against these challenges, under the leadership of the Academy’s Swiss IHL Chairperson, Professor Marco Roscini, an initiative focused on the humanitarian impact caused by the digitalization of armed conflicts was implemented in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In 2024, a report titled ‘Artificial Intelligence and Related Technologies in Military Decision-Making

on the Use of Force in Armed Conflicts: Current Developments and Potential Implications’ was written by Anna Rosalie Greipl, Geneva Academy Researcher, with contributions by Neil Davison and Georgia Hinds of the ICRC. This publication was based on an Expert Consultation Report on AI and Related Technologies in Military Decision-Making on the Use of Force, and was launched in May 2024 at the Humanitarium of the ICRC (approximately 50 and 300 attendees participated in person and online respectively). A blog symposium to promote the discussion on issues raised by AI in military decisions was launched in August on the ICRC Policy and Humanitarian Law Blog. Opinion pieces featured in the symposium included Erica Harper’s ‘Will AI Fundamentally Alter How Wars Are Initiated, Fought and Concluded?’; Anna Greipl’s ‘Artificial Intelligence in Military Decision-Making: Supporting Humans, Not Replacing Them’ and Anna Greipl’s and Wen Zhou’s ‘Safeguarding Human Judgment in Military Decisions: Artificial Intelligence as a Support, Not a Replacement’. A further report on the growing involvement of civilians in cyber and digital operations during armed conflicts was also finalized and has a prospective release date of April 2025.

The Geneva Academy also participated in various high-level conferences discussing the challenges associated to AI in military decision-making. For example, in May 2024 a paper on the use of biometrics and the impact of this on persons with disabilities was presented at a conference organized by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, the War Studies Research Centre of the Netherlands Defence Academy and the Amsterdam Centre for International Law. This paper will be published by the *Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies* during the first quarter of 2025 as part of a Special Issue on biometrics in armed conflicts. The Academy also hosted, in collaboration with the OHCHR, a breakout session at the REAIM Summit in September in Seoul on ‘Preventing Harm: A Driver of Responsible AI Development and Use’. Other opinion pieces published by the project team lead, Anna Greipl, included ‘Artificial Intelligence Systems and Humans in Military Decision-Making: Not Better or Worse but Better Together’ (June 2024) and ‘Artificial Intelligence for Better Protection of Civilians During Urban Warfare’ (March 2024).

IHL Series

As part of the events marking the 75th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions organized with the FDFA, and with a view to strengthening national level implementation, the Geneva Academy led a series of active, solutions-oriented and practice-based exchanges on topical IHL themes. These discussions brought together technical advisors/specifically mandated diplomats within the member state community to gain expert insight into topical IHL issues, share priorities and concerns, agree on specific legal questions, and craft common goals/strategies. The events were hosted by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN, in Geneva under the Chatham House Rule, and were chaired by a thematic expert from the Geneva Academy. Discussions involved presentations by subject-matter experts,

followed by an active and carefully moderated discussion. Discussion topics included Digital Military Technologies and Their Impacts on the Protection of Civilians (chaired by Professor Gloria Gaggioli); The Role of Open Source Information in the Documentation of International Humanitarian Law Violations (chaired by Dr Francesco Romani); Access to Goods and Services Essential to the Survival of the Population (chaired by Dr Pavle Killibarda); and Counter-Terrorism Measures and International Humanitarian Law: A Humanitarian Exemption to Sanction Regimes (chaired by Dr Erica Harper).

Human Rights

Human Rights in a Digitalized World: Mapping Risk, Strengthening Regulation and Promoting the Development of International Human Rights Law

Advancements in digital technologies have created both opportunities and risks for the promotion, expansion and application of human rights. Among the most topical challenges is the ongoing development of artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, and the possibility that technologies may advance and proliferate in the absence of human rights due diligence and regulatory safeguards. In response, in late 2022 the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted Resolutions A/HRC/51/L.3 and A/HRC/51/L.25, requesting its Advisory Committee to prepare separate studies examining the human rights implications of neurotechnology and emerging military technologies to be presented at its 60th session. The Advisory Committee subsequently sought the support of the Geneva Academy to produce research and analysis to feed into these studies. To this end, complementary research streams were launched examining the human rights implications of (i) military technologies spilling over into the civilian domain; and (ii) neurotechnology developed for both therapeutic and commercial ends. The principal aims were to empower key stakeholders within the Advisory Committee with relevant and accurate insights, and a common understanding of the principal risks with a view to strengthening the international human rights framework and crafting effective regulation either at the domestic, regional or multilateral level.

With respect to neurotechnology, the Geneva Academy worked in partnership with the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) and the Geneva University Neurocentre. In April 2024 an expert meeting was held entitled ‘Neurotechnology and Human Rights: Mapping Risk, Strengthening Regulation and Promoting the Development of International Human Rights Law’. This meeting was organized jointly by the Geneva Academy and the University of Sydney Law School and included 25 experts from the Asia and Pacific regions including experts in neurotech development, human rights, therapeutic neurotechnology and regulation. On 20 June 2024 the Geneva Academy hosted a second expert meeting entitled ‘Towards a Neurotechnology-Integrated Society: Seizing Opportunities, Managing Risks and Pathways Forward’. The meeting unpacked the diverse ways

and means that neurotechnology is entering society, including in public health, law enforcement, the workplace and educational facilities. The aim was to bring together a mix of academics (University of Zurich, University of Geneva, University of Sydney, Emory University, University of Antwerp), innovation labs (GESDA, Simon Institute) and multilateral and programming agencies (UNU, OECD, UNESCO, ILO, WHO) to forge consensus around key areas of risk and priority policy responses.



Drawing on the insights accrued through these events, several publications were finalized, including Dr Erica Harper and Timo Istace, ‘Neurotechnology and Human Rights: An Audit of Risks, Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities’ (December 2024); Timo Istace and Dr Milena Costas, ‘Between Science-Fact and Science-Fiction: Innovation and Ethics in Neurotechnology’ (May 2024); Timo Istace, ‘Neurodata: Navigating GDPR and AI Act Compliance in the Context of Neurotechnology’ (December 2024); and a two-part blog series entitled ‘Neurotech for Good? Jobs, Justice, Global Challenges and Beyond’ published by the Leuven Centre for IP and IT Law in July 2024. The Geneva Academy also presented the results of its research at various events. On 26 March 2024, Dr Erica Harper addressed the 55th

session of the Human Rights Council at a side event on Neurotechnology co-convened by Switzerland, Chile, Singapore and Spain. In June and December 2024, Dr Jonathan Andrew presented the Geneva Academy’s research at the Uppsala University Medical Ethics Conference and the 2024 IEEE International Conference on Big Data.

With respect to the application of new military technology outside of conflict and in the civilian domain, the Geneva Academy worked closely with the Advisory Committee to identify specific themes of the highest relevance to member states from a human rights perspective, settling on monitoring and surveillance technologies, cyber targeting/attacks and mis/disinformation. To this end, two reports were published, namely, ‘Harnessing Digital Technology to Disrupt, Repress and Intimidate: A Deep Dive into Surveillance and Monitoring Trends in Authoritarian States’ (December 2024) and ‘Behind the Lens: Exploring the Problematic Intersection of Surveillance, Cyber Targeting, and Disinformation’ (December 2024).

On 18 to 19 November 2024, the Geneva Academy hosted a high-level expert consultation on mis- and disinformation in the digital age. This meeting brought together leading voices from technology companies, academia, international organizations and civil society to examine the growing information crisis through multiple lenses: conceptual understanding; data access and independent research’ attribution of responsibility; and mitigation strategies. As an output from this, a report on Digital Disinformation-Ops was released. Part I Synthetic Forces vs Humans and Human Rights examined the mechanics of digital disinformation operations and their impact on the online information ecosystem, while Part II Charting the International Legal Frameworks looked specifically at how disinformation challenges the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention and self-determination, exposing yawning gaps in attribution and accountability. To round off the information series, separate Geneva Academy InfoBriefs were released on Digital Disinfo-Ops in Armed Conflict and a new EU initiative on Data Access for the Study of Digital Disinfo-Ops. Finally, a bespoke report on Cognitive Warfare Outside Armed Conflict: Digital Disinformation was produced to inform the Advisory Committee and broader HRC membership on current (and prospective) risks and challenges, regulatory pathways and implementation modalities. The recommendations urge states, technology companies and multilateral institutions to collaborate on human rights-aligned solutions that seek a balance between protecting freedom of expression and the manipulative power of digital disinformation.

Human Rights and Prevention

As set out in the Secretary-General’s A New Agenda for Peace, human rights need to be at the heart of any prevention framework. To this end, the Geneva Academy and UN University developed a project aimed at interrogating the idea that more systematic and innovative use of information produced by the HRC might help bridge the gap between early warning and early, effective action. Indeed, this information is spread out over a complex array of mechanisms that are often dis-



connected and operate in isolation. Accordingly, information is not synthesized and analysed in a manner that enables the rapid identification of trends suggestive of conflict, thus preventing early action by the HRC or other UN organs such as the GA, SC and OSG. In response to these challenges, a mixed-methods analysis of 30 years of HRC data was undertaken to identify conditions, trends and risk multipliers – instances where human rights violations, combined with other factors (for instance, political, economic, environmental) significantly increase conflict risks. This culminated in a report entitled ‘From Signals to Action: How the UN Human Rights System Can Deliver Early Warning and Conflict Prevention’ (December 2024). The research team then further explored how these signals are captured, analysed and operationalized in HRC reporting and information systems, aiming to enhance early warning mechanisms. This work was showcased in ‘Operationalizing Prevention: How the UN Human Rights System Can Connect Early Warning to Action’ (December 2024) which set out specific ways in which the UN’s human rights system might better leverage specific responses, processes and programmes. These reports were launched during Geneva Peace Week, as part of the panel discussion on ‘The Role of Special Procedures in Sustaining Peace and Preventing Conflict Through Human Rights’ co-organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Quaker United Nations Office Geneva (QUNO) on 15 October 2024, followed by a hybrid expert ‘Roundtable on Human Rights and Conflict Prevention’ hosted at the Geneva Academy on 26 November 2024. The findings were also integrated into interventions made during the launch event of *Assembly for Peace: A Digital Handbook on the UN General Assembly’s Past Practice on Peace and Security* on 5 September 2024 in New York.

Support to Human Rights Special Rapporteur

Following its long history of cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council’s Special Procedures, the Academy hosted three Special Rapporteurs: Alice Edwards (Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment); Gina Romero and Clément Voule (current and former Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association respectively); and Mariana Katzarova (Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Russian Federation). In support of these mandates, the Geneva Academy participated in expert meetings, convened consultations – including with human rights defenders and civil society representatives – and developed research and analysis along specific themes. For example, technical assistance and research backstopping was provided to Clément Voule for his HRC report on ‘Preserving the Gains and Pushing Back Against the Global Attack on Civic Space and Growing Authoritarianism’, and Gina Romero’s report to the UNGA on ‘Protecting the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association From Stigmatization’. The Academy also hosted a roundtable to launch Clément Voule’s Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests which was presented to the UNHRC in March 2024. Research

products included a report by the Geneva Academy entitled ‘Beyond Power and Politics: Engaging Russia in a Fractured Multilateral Order’ and a complementary blog piece, ‘The Narrative War That the West Must Win’. Other research considered issues of minority rights, for example, ‘The “War on Minorities” Under the Guise of Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism’ and transitional justice, for example ‘Navigating Pathways Transitional Justice in Ukraine’.

Unpacking the Human Right to a Healthy Environment: Definition, Implementation and Impact

This research project, which ran from 2023 to 2024, commenced with defining the content and scope of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, identifying corresponding state obligations and exploring its links with other human rights. This culminated in the publication of a Research Brief authored by Dr Baïna Ubushieva and Dr Christophe Golay in May 2024. The findings were presented at a side event during the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council, co-sponsored by Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Switzerland and Slovenia, with the UN Special Rapporteur, David R Boyd, an expert from the European Court of Human Rights, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A second phase of the project emphasized the implementation of UNGA Resolution 76/300, and resulted in a second Research Brief (December 2024) authored by Dr Baïna Ubushieva, examining the Resolution’s global impact and its transformative potential into a binding legal norm. The findings were presented during a conference at the Geneva Academy, featuring the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, Astrid Puentes Riaño, her predecessor, David R Boyd, as well as governments and NGOs. These outputs and dialogue processes have significantly contributed to advancing understanding and dialogue on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, fostering its implementation at national and international levels.

The Rights of Peasants

In 2024 the Geneva Academy continued its efforts to promote the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) by providing guidance and expert advice to relevant stakeholders, including states, UN experts, NGOs such as FIAN International and CETIM and peasant organizations, in particular La Via Campesina. A Research Brief authored by Dr Christophe Golay describes the activities of the new UN Working Group on UNDROP and its potential collaboration with other UN human rights mechanisms, international organizations, states and NGOs. It is also available in French and Spanish. In 2024 the Geneva Academy continued to participate as a strategic partner in the RAISE project, coordinated by Action de Carême, which aims at supporting UNDROP implementation in seven countries of the Global South: India, Nepal, Kenya, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and South Africa. In 2024 we trained the project’s

partners and local peasants’ organizations on the rights of peasants and the use of the UN Working Group on UNDROP. We also provided strategic guidance to national actors on the use of UN human rights mechanisms to ensure respect for the rights of peasants.

Side events in March and September at the Human Rights Council in Geneva and in October at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome provided a space for discussions on the role of the UN Working Group on UNDROP, with its Chairperson speaking at two events, as well as on the right to food sovereignty and UNDROP’s implementation in Africa and Europe.

The Right to Seeds in Europe

As the European Union (EU) is revising its legislation on seed marketing, this research project examines the protection of peasants’ right to seeds in Europe and raises awareness – via targeted publications and expertise, key events and the facilitation of exchanges with various stakeholders – about the importance of using UNDROP to promote changes in European laws and policies.

In this context, our research team, composed of Dr Christophe Golay, Dr Karine Peschard and Dr Fulya Batur, provided commentaries on the positions of the European Commission and European Parliament to ensure that UNDROP and its article 19 on the right to seeds are taken into account.

We also organized a webinar with Arche Noah and Let’s Liberate Diversity to support seed savers’ and peasants’ organizations from many European countries in advocacy efforts to influence the position of the European Council on the seed marketing reform. An event organized with Agroecology Europe also allowed addressing the implications of this reform for Hungary, which held the Presidency of the European Council (July-December 2024) and chaired discussions on the EU seed marketing reform.

The Right to Food in Europe

Given the increase in food insecurity in Europe since the COVID-19 crisis, aggravated by the war in Ukraine, we started a new project on the right to food in Europe. In this project, we provide legal expertise to a variety of stakeholders on the implementation of the right to food, and on the right to food as a legal basis for just transformation toward sustainable food systems. We also identify lessons learned from the recognition of the right to food in the Constitution of the Canton of Geneva back in 2023.

We organized a webinar with FIAN Belgium on the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted on 3 October 2024, which provides that Member States of the Council of Europe should enshrine the right to food in their constitutions and adopt framework laws on the right to food. We also organized a side event at the CFS in Rome with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mickael Fakhri, as well as FAO, Germany and Switzerland, on the occasion of the 20 years of FAO Right to Food Guidelines. In May, Dr Christophe

Golay presented a keynote address on the right to food at a side event organized by FAO and OHCHR in the framework of the UN Civil Society Conference that took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

We released one Briefing in French and four Research Briefs in French, English, German and Italian on the right to food in Geneva, as a result of a new collaboration with Mater Fondazione and Fondation Leenaards. These publications outline concrete recommendations to implement the right to food in Geneva. They were presented at a conference organized at Refettorio in Geneva, with the participation of cantonal and municipal authorities, and at a public event at Espace Dickens in Lausanne. We also organized a forum with Mater Fondazione on a European Citizens’ Initiative on the right to food.



# GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

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The Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP), a project run by the Geneva Academy since 2019, provides a neutral and dynamic forum of interaction in Geneva for all stakeholders in the field of human rights – experts, practitioners, diplomats and civil society – to debate topical issues and challenges related to the functioning of the Geneva-based human rights system. Relying on academic research and findings, it functions to enable various actors to be better connected, break down silos and, hence, advance human rights.

In 2024 the GHRP further developed its activities in Geneva and beyond. By focusing on a selected number of strategic initiatives, the platform makes a difference and provides concrete solutions to current human rights challenges and implementation hurdles. Its Training Hub, which continues to expand, also ensures that relevant stakeholders are equipped to address key human rights issues and have the tools to bring these issues before the relevant UN human rights mechanisms.

**Felix Kirchmeier**  
Executive Director  
of the Geneva Human Rights Platform

*The Geneva Human Rights Platform is, today, a major and trusted actor in the human rights landscape, in Geneva but also beyond. By working with all the stakeholders that interact with the UN human rights system, we can develop concrete, innovative and convincing proposals to ensure that this system is fit for purpose.*

# A Mechanisms Lab

In 2024 the GHRP continued to develop its key supportive role – as a ‘mechanisms lab’ – to Geneva-based human rights mechanisms via a series of targeted initiatives.

## The Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform

The 2024 Annual Conference of our Geneva Human Rights Platform focused on the theme ‘Human Rights System Under Pressure: A Reason to Expand Connectivity’, and took place in Geneva on 5 November.

As the human rights system is currently facing unprecedented pressure, this year’s conference explored how the interconnections between human rights and various policy areas are becoming increasingly evident, including with respect to global health, internet governance and new technologies, environmental issues and climate change, and how the strength and potential of human rights can be harnessed to benefit the work of other actors, even those who may not traditionally view human rights protection as their primary mission.

To this end, in collaboration with sister platforms, including the Geneva Internet Platform, Global Cities Hub, Geneva Environment Network, Global Health Platform and Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, a series of different panels sought to unpack the human rights aspects in various policy areas.

Starting with a keynote address by Professor Philip Alston, on the challenges faced by the human rights system and urging participants to see human rights not

as an isolated framework but as a dynamic tool for addressing interconnected global crises such as climate change, technological transformation and public health emergencies, the conference also featured an academic panel where Professor Alston, together with Professor Suerie Moon, Co-Director of the Global Health Centre of the Geneva Graduate Institute, and Professor Jorge E Viñuales, Chairperson of Law and Environmental Policy at the University of Cambridge, discussed the deadlock of multilateralism and how human rights can advance different policy fields.

The conference featured four workshops, focusing on specific policy areas and their human rights dimensions, including Human Rights and Digital Governance in Smart Cities, Global Health and Human Rights, Environmental Rights and Conflict Prevention and Digital Tools for Monitoring Human Rights and SDGs.

The conference concluded with a high-level inter-agency panel, which brought together senior representatives from leading UN agencies to discuss how human rights inform their respective mandates and the importance of inter-agency collaboration in addressing global challenges. The session underscored the importance of inter-agency collaboration in addressing global challenges, and featured Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Catharina Boehme, Assistant Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO); Agi Veres, Director, Geneva Representation Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and Arnold Kreilhuber, Regional Director, Europe Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

## Treaty Body Review 2020 and Beyond

In 2014 the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a landmark resolution (A/RES/68/268) on strengthening the treaty bodies system, which had set out specific dates for further review. The Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP) contributed to this review process by providing expert input via different avenues, by facilitating dialogue on the review among various stakeholders, as well as by accompanying the development of a follow-up to the TB Review 2020 process, both in New York and Geneva.

In June 2024 the GHRP organized a two-day expert meeting, linked to the 36th Annual Meeting of the Treaty Body Chairpersons, which included meetings with delegations and NGOs in New York. A meeting with delegations of the ‘group of friends of TBs’, and the Chairpersons of UN TBs, explored ideas for further strengthening the treaty body system, including the way in which the three pillars of suggested updates – on a predictable schedule of reviews, harmonization of working methods and the digital uplift – can implement the decisions taken back in 2014 via Resolution 68/268.

Through the year, the GHRP, in collaboration with TB-Net partner NGOs and GQUAL, organized three online public presentations of candidates for the UN Treaty Body elections, aiming to promote transparency in the nomination and election processes for the Human Rights Committee (CCPR), the Committee on the

Rights of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Follow-Up Review Pilots

In 2024 the GHRP concluded its Treaty Body Follow-Up Review Pilot Series, releasing the final report of this initiative conducted in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Community. The pilot series contributed to the broader goals of the treaty body strengthening process, following previous pilot reviews in Sierra Leone (2021), Grenada (2022) and the Pacific Region (2023).

The series explored how follow-up reviews could be conducted more effectively at both national and regional levels. In line with the eight-year review cycle agreed by the Chairpersons of the treaty bodies, the pilots aimed to improve predictability, reduce the burden on states and enhance the system’s cost-effectiveness. Two distinct models were tested. National-level follow-up reviews allowed for in-depth engagement with local stakeholders, strengthening coordination between government ministries, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, while ensuring context-specific recommendations. In contrast, multi-country regional follow-up reviews promoted cross-country cooperation, leveraged regional UN hubs for accessibility and broadened participation, while reducing financial and logistical burdens.

To share the findings of this initiative, the final report was launched at two key events: the 36th Annual Meeting of Treaty Body Chairpersons in New York (28 June 2024) and the 56th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva (9 July 2024). Discussions at both events emphasized the need for a meaningful and interactive follow-up review mechanism to enhance the efficiency and impact of TB recommendations.

The report outlined several policy recommendations, including the adoption of a regional follow-up review model at UN offices on a predictable schedule. Other recommendations focused on the inclusion of targeted regional sessions for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) and the use of hybrid or online follow-up reviews to promote inclusive and comprehensive engagement.

Local Implementation of Global Human Rights

In 2024 the GHRP reinforced its commitment to strengthening human rights implementation at the national and local levels through a series of strategic initiatives. A key milestone was the Expert Roundtable on Data Planning and Collection by National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRFs), co-hosted with the Department of Legal Studies at the University of Bologna, with support from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Held on 18 April 2024 in Bologna, Italy, this event brought together NMIRF delegates from Italy, Portugal, Paraguay and Morocco, as well as representatives from Italian local and regional governments (LRGs), the Italian National Statistics Office, OHCHR, academia, think tanks and national human rights institutions.

A Summary and Main Takeaways Report of the roundtable provides details on the discussions and recommendations.

The findings from the Bologna Expert Roundtable have contributed to ongoing discussions on strengthening NMIRF institutionalization. As a result, the GHRP was invited to present, at two key intergovernmental meetings, the Second International Seminar on NMIRFs in Asunción, Paraguay (May 2024) and the 2024 Glion Human Rights Dialogue in Marrakech, Morocco (October 2024). These forums provided critical opportunities to share best practices and shape the future of NMIRFs in global human rights governance.

Treaty Body Members’ Platform

Launched in 2014, the Treaty Body Members’ Platform (TBMP) connects experts in UN TBs with one another, as well as with UN Special Procedures mandate holders and practitioners from Geneva-based international organizations to share expertise, exchange views on topical questions and develop synergies.

In 2024 the GHRP organized nine meetings to enhance cooperation and exchange between the treaty body members. Members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Committee on Enforced Disappearance (CED), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) met to discuss potential avenues for harmonization. UN Special Procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), also participated in some of the exchanges.

Additionally, specific meetings on the Individual Communications procedures of all committees offered further opportunities for discussing strategies to ensure further strengthening of the treaty body system.

On the occasion of UN Human Rights Day, on 10 December 2024, the GHRP and the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs organized an ‘All-Mechanisms’ Reception for Treaty Body members and Special Procedure mandate holders. This was the first in-person meeting between the treaty body members and Special Procedures mandate holders in such a comprehensive format.

Treaty Bodies Individual Communications Procedures

On 18 June 2024, the Geneva Human Rights Platform, the Paris Human Rights Centre (CRDH) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Human Rights Hub, organized the third retreat on Treaty Bodies Individual Communications Procedures.

Bringing together all the relevant members (Rapporteur on communications or Chairperson of the Working Group on Communications) from each of the eight treaty bodies that currently examine individual communications (CCPR, CESCR, CERD, CAT, CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, CED) along with OHCHR members of the Petitions Section and representatives of the GHRP and the CRDH, these closed meetings

provide an informal space for participants to discuss issues of common interest and to identify possible diverging practices and ways to harmonize procedures for dealing with communications.

Support to UN Special Procedures

The Geneva Human Rights Platform continued its ongoing support to the UN Special Procedures. Several mandate holders are actively involved in sessions of our Training Hub courses and are regularly invited to meetings of the Treaty Bodies Members’ Platform.

Additionally, one of our Human Rights Conversations specifically focused on the work of UN Special Procedures, addressing the emergence and relevance of Open-Source Information and Intelligence for their work and mandates.

The GHRP also hosted part of the Annual Meeting of Special Procedures in December 2024, followed by the UN Human Rights Day ‘All-Mechanisms’ Reception for Treaty Body members and Special Procedure mandate holders.

Human Rights Conversations

Human Rights Conversations are a series of events, hosted by the Geneva Human Rights Platform, aimed at discussing contemporary issues and challenges related to the promotion and protection of human rights in Geneva and beyond. Aimed at a broader audience, the Human Rights Conversations reached a large number of participants. By default, the Human Rights Conversations were held in hybrid format. In 2024 the GHRP organized Human Rights Conversations on the following topics:

**Klimaseniorinnen v Switzerland: Relevance for UN human rights mechanisms, 15 May 2024**

This Human Rights Conversation, co-organized with the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), explored the significance of the *Klimaseniorinnen v Switzerland* ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, and assessed how other human rights bodies can draw from this decision and further strengthen the interrelation between human rights and climate change and clarify the legal obligations of states in protecting human rights from environmental harm. In particular, the discussion explored the meaning and impact of regional human rights systems’ decisions for the debate at the UN level.

**The Emergence of Open-Source Information and Intelligence: What Challenges and Opportunities for UN Special Procedures? 10 June 2024**

This Human Rights Conversation explored the potential of Open-Source Information and Intelligence in advancing the work of UN Special Procedures, identifying and analysing challenges and risks, as well as assessing how they could be mitigated in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of UN Special Procedures.

Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools and Databases

In 2024 the GHRP advanced its work on Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools and Databases (DHRTTDs), with a focus on enhancing coordination, accessibility, sustainability and interoperability of digital tools used for human rights monitoring and reporting. This ongoing initiative builds on the foundation laid by two expert roundtables in 2022 and 2023, which played a key role in shaping the field by fostering dialogue between developers, human rights practitioners and policy-makers to improve the effectiveness and integration of these tools within human rights mechanisms.

A key milestone was the publication of the Human Rights Data Revolution in April 2024, authored by Dr Domenico Zipoli. This Geneva Academy Briefing explores the increasing use of digital tracking tools by UN bodies, regional mechanisms, NMIRFs, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, assessing their potential for strengthening human rights monitoring, implementation and reporting. Drawing on insights from over 50 experts, the publication highlights challenges related to knowledge sharing, sustainability and interoperability, while also showcasing best practices in digital human rights tracking. Findings from this publication were presented at several high-level events, including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Consultation on Human Rights Index (Jakarta, April 2024); the Second International Seminar on NMIRFs (Asunción, May 2024); a panel discussion at the UN headquarters in New York; the EU Fundamental Rights Agency Expert Workshop on Civic Space Monitoring and Protection (Vienna, September 2024); and a side event at the 57th Human Rights Council session (September 2024), co-organized with OHCHR and UNDP, which examined the integration of human rights and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring through digital technologies.

One key event of the year was the III Expert Roundtable on Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools and Databases, co-organized by GHRP, OHCHR, and HURIDOCS, which took place in Geneva and online. It focused on interoperability through artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in human rights monitoring. Discussions addressed standardized data formats and information sharing, the role of AI and ML in automating data processing and predictive analytics, and ethical challenges related to algorithmic bias, data privacy and accountability. Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring that AI-driven tools remain transparent, ethical and aligned with human rights objectives, while enhancing the efficiency of human rights tracking.

Lake Room Meetings

The Lake Room Initiative, launched to support constructive dialogue among Human Rights Council Ambassadors, aims to reduce polarization and build trust through informal, high-level discussions by facilitating monthly meetings in a neutral, confidential setting, enabling strategic guidance on the HRC’s efficiency and institutional issues.



From its inception, the Lake Room Initiative garnered strong support and positive assessment from all concerned. Ten Lake Room meetings were convened between February and November, with the participation of ambassadors from 76 countries, representing diverse regions and political groupings within the international community.



# The Training Hub: Building Capacity in the International Human Rights System

The GHRP Training Hub aims at offering public trainings and a series of customized trainings organized for a range of key partners, and aims at becoming a federating structure for practical trainings on the functions and use of the UN human rights system for NGOs, academics and governmental actors.

In 2024 the GHRP offered 11 training courses – 4 regular and 7 customized courses. The courses took place either in Geneva or online, and were funded by third parties (including the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, WWF), donors and/or individual participants’ fees.

## Courses in 2024: 11



## Attendance: 165



## Open Courses in 2024

### The International Human Rights Standards and System: Monitoring and Implementation Strategies at the National Level (8–12 July 2024)

The implementation of internationally agreed human rights standards in national contexts requires the participation of the UN human rights system as well as rigorous monitoring and implementation strategies by national human rights actors. This training course delved into the means and mechanisms through which national actors can best coordinate their human rights monitoring and implementation efforts, enabling them to strategically navigate the UN human rights system and use the various mechanisms available in their day-to-day work.

**Ahmed Badr**  
Human Rights Adviser  
at the Danish Institute for Human Rights

*Attending the one-week training course on international human rights standards and system has been an invaluable experience for my role as a Human Rights Adviser at the Danish Institute for Human Rights. This programme’s comprehensive and practical approach, featuring experts from OHCHR, UN agencies, civil society, national human rights institutions and UN treaty bodies provided a well-rounded view of the international human rights system. Moreover, the training included hands-on exercises that allowed us to apply our knowledge in practical scenarios. This training course is essential for human rights professionals seeking a deeper understanding of international human rights standards and their real-world application.*

### Business and Human Rights (2–6 September 2024)

Participants in this training course examined the way in which the UN Guiding Principles have been utilized to advance the concept of business respect for human rights throughout the UN system, including within the UN Human Rights Council, UN human rights treaty bodies, UN Special Procedures, UNCTAD, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme. In examining the impact of the Guiding Principles on other international organizations such as the International Labour Organization and the OECD, participants also explored the impact of standards and guidance developed by these different bodies and how governments, civil society and businesses interact with different organizations.

*Emilie Coralie Bouchard*  
Senior Legal Counsel, Product, Booking.com

*I really enjoyed the course and found it very insightful, as it provided a comprehensive overview of the business and human rights field and its latest developments. It was a privilege to learn from distinguished scholars and practitioners from various UN agencies, corporations and NGOs, through interactive sessions. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet fellow participants from diverse backgrounds and learn from their own experiences and perspectives – this was a key highlight of the course for me.*

**Protecting Human Rights and the Environment (2–20 September 2024)**

Participants in this training course, made up of two modules, examined the major international and regional instruments for the promotion of human rights and the environment, familiarizing themselves with the respective implementation and enforcement mechanisms. The course also provided practical insights into the different UN human rights mechanisms pertinent to advancing environmental issues and protecting environmental human rights defenders.

*Prajwol Rana*  
Membership Engagement Coordinator,  
World’s Youth for Climate Justice-Asian Front

*The training on Protecting Human Rights and the Environment 2024 edition helped me uncover the nitty-gritty of environmental law and human rights. The best part of the training was meeting three Special Rapporteurs in a week. The training brought participants from diverse backgrounds, and the discussion among us was an enriching experience for me. This course has motivated me to continue my research on this subject.*

**The Universal Periodic Review and the UN Human Rights System:  
Raising the Bar on Accountability (11–15 November 2024)**

The emergence of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has brought new life into the measures taken at the international and national levels to hold states accountable to their international human rights and humanitarian law obligations. This training course explored the origin and evolution of the UPR and its functioning in Geneva and will focus on the nature of implementation of the UPR recommendations at the national level.

*Alenka Nemani*  
Alioness’ Art

*I was pleasantly surprised by the organization and content of this course. It has renewed my hope that civil society can drive meaningful change for the benefit of all humanity, especially when utilizing the tools provided by the UN, which we learned throughout the course. I am extremely grateful for this invaluable opportunity.*

**Customized Courses in 2024**

**Executive Course for Diplomats: Leading in the Human Rights Council –  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (17–19 January 2024)**

This executive course, tailored for Geneva-based diplomats, addressed the negotiation practices at the multilateral level, by taking the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) as an example of formal and informal negotiation and decision-making processes by an international intergovernmental body.

*Andualem Yalelet Tessema*  
Diplomat in charge of human rights,  
Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic  
Republic of Ethiopia to the UN in Geneva

*The training course provided me with a detailed knowledge of the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms, with a focus on the UN Human Rights Council, and allowed me to share my experiences with leading scholars and practitioners on a broad range of core subjects addressed by UN human rights mechanisms. Overall, the course helped me to advance my professional knowledge and skills in analysing multiple domestic and international human rights issues, which I address as a diplomat in charge of human rights.*

**Training on the UN UPR – Norwegian Centre for Human Rights  
(22–24 January 2024)**

This three-day training course was specifically tailored for professors visiting Geneva for the UPR review of their country. This training course examined the UPR’s role within the UN human rights system and the critical role of various stakeholders in advocacy. It covered reporting processes, research methodologies and good practices, while incorporating visits to key UN sessions to enhance practical understanding.

**Training on Women’s Rights – Irene M Staehelin Foundation  
(1 March–7 May 2024)**

From 1 March to 7 May 2024, the Geneva Human Rights Platform’s Training Hub organized an online customized training course on women’s rights. The course was sponsored by the Irene M Staehelin Foundation, whose work focuses on supporting organizations and causes in the areas of humanitarian aid, human rights, development assistance and nature and species protection. Over 10 weeks, 15 staff members of 9 different civil society organizations working in Asia, Africa and Latin America learned about the major international human rights instruments for the promotion and protection of women’s rights and how to engage with UN human rights mechanisms in their advocacy work.

*Fridah Githuku*  
Head of Programme,  
Women’s Rights, IMS Foundation

*The training course has equipped me with skills that enhance my effectiveness as a development practitioner. I was glad to learn how constituencies in different parts of the world have leveraged on the international human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its committees to bring justice to victims in their countries.*

**Terminology Matters: One-Day In-House Training Course on Human Rights  
Terminology – FDFA (5 June 2024)**

This one-day training course focused on the importance of human rights terminology, with a specific focus on engagement at the multilateral level. The training course offered an overview of general human rights terminology to then delve in more detail into the priorities of the FDFA defined in its human rights guidelines.

**Training Workshop: UN Human Rights Mechanisms – Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (24–28 June 2024)**

The training focused on multilateralism and mechanisms, organs and proceedings at multilateral level at the UN, by placing the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and its processes (UPR and others) at the heart of the training. A special ASEAN angle was sought for through the programme, bearing in mind that the training is on universal human rights mechanisms and bodies.

**Training Course on the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment – WWF (30 September–4 October 2024)**

This training course on the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment was designed and realized in cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and with the support of the Canton of Geneva to introduce professionals with a nature conservation background to the UN human rights mechanisms in Geneva.

Claude Kandem  
People & Places, WWF International

*The programme was very engaging and interactive. The sessions on Human Rights Defenders and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment were particularly enlightening for me, and were facilitated by experienced speakers who provided valuable insights on private actors’ accountability and conflict resolution in the conservation context. The opportunity to learn alongside colleagues from diverse backgrounds really enriched the learning experience.*

**Human Rights/International Law for IOM HQ Staff – IOM (2–4 December 2024)**

This three-day training course equipped IOM HQ staff with key insights into the UN human rights system, focusing on migration issues and practical advocacy strategies. Participants learned to engage effectively with UN and national human rights bodies, develop actionable recommendations and address challenges such as the impact of climate change on migration. Sessions also highlighted inter-agency cooperation to enhance the protection of migrants’ rights.

Key Facts and Figures

- 63 events
- 10 initiatives
- 11 training courses attended by more than 165 participants
- 1 annual conference
- 1 Advisory Board
- More than 50 partners





# 2024 PUBLICATIONS

p. 61 Books and Reports

p. 62 Briefings

p. 62 Research Briefs

Our publications address current issues and challenges and stimulate debates in the academic community and in policyWmaking institutions and governments:

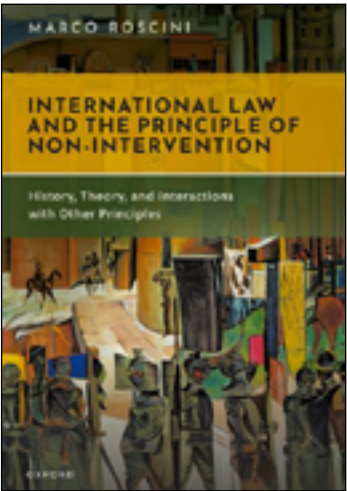
- Books and Reports – these are the outcome of fundamental research carried out at the Geneva Academy
- Briefings – elaborate policy advice with academic depth and rigour
- Research Briefs – give targeted policy advice in a short and accessible format on on-going projects and summarize the main messages of longer academic publications



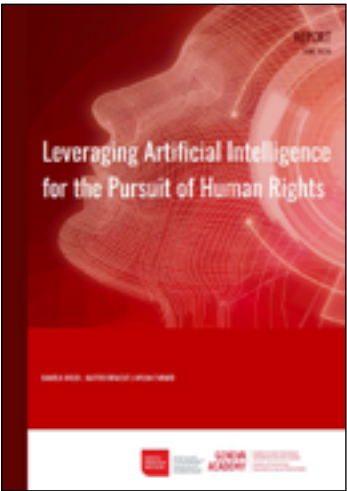
# Books and Reports



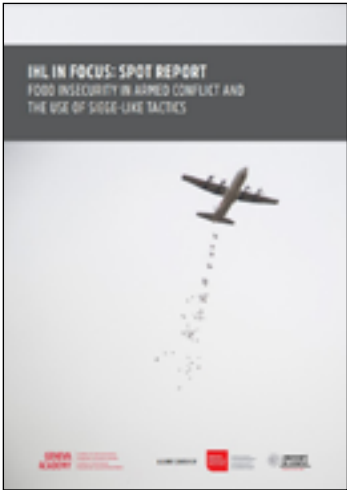
*Artificial Intelligence and Related Technologies in Military Decision-Making on the Use of Force in Armed Conflicts: Current Developments and Potential Implications*  
May 2024  
Anna Rosalie Greipl, Neil Davison, Georgia Hinds



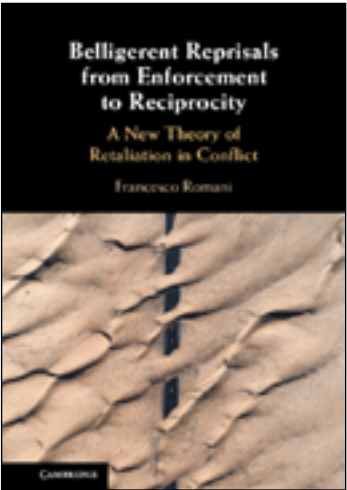
*International Law and the Principle of Non-Intervention: History, Theory and Interactions with Other Principles*  
June 2024  
Marco Roscini



*Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for the Pursuit of Human Rights*  
June 2024  
Daniela Wildi, Matteo Braizat, Mylan Evrard



*IHL in Focus Spot Report: Food Insecurity in Armed Conflict and the Use of Siege-Like Tactics*  
October 2024  
Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights



*Belligerent Reprisals from Enforcement to Reciprocity*  
December 2024  
Francesco Romani



Briefings



*The Human Rights Data Revolution*  
April 2024  
Domenico Zipoli



*Le Droit à l'Alimentation à Genève*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

Research Briefs

*Environmental Human Rights as a Tool in Early Warning and Conflict Prevention: The Role of the Human Rights Council*  
January 2024  
Erica Harper, Baïna Ubushieva

*Policy Brief— Environmental Human Rights as a Tool in Early Warning and Conflict Prevention*  
January 2024  
Baïna Ubushieva

*Navigating the Nexus: Climate Insecurity, Environmental Rights Violations and Conflict in Fragile Settings*  
March 2024  
Erica Harper

*The Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment: Understanding its Scope, States’ Obligations and Links with Other Human Rights*  
March 2024  
Christophe Golay, Baïna Ubushieva

*Unpacking the Climate Migration Extremism Nexus: Mapping the Coping Strategies of Kenyan Pastoralists*  
April 2024  
Erica Harper, Yosuke Nagai

*Unpacking the Burgeoning Challenge of Environmental Protection and the Right to Food in the Context of Armed Conflict*  
April 2024  
Erica Harper, Junli Lim

*Between Science-Fact and Science-Fiction: Innovation and Ethics in Neurotechnology*  
May 2024  
Milena Costas, Timo Istace

*Sending Up a Flare: Autonomous Weapons Systems Proliferation Risks to Human Rights and International Security*  
August 2024  
Leif Monnett

*Beyond Power and Politics: Engaging Russia in a Fractured Multilateral Order*  
September 2024  
Robin van der Lugt, Chhime Sherpa

*United Nations Treaty Body Individual Communications Procedures: What is at Stake in the Strengthening Process?*  
October 2024  
Claire Callejon

*Navigating Pathways Toward Transitional Justice in Ukraine*  
October 2024  
Robin van der Lugt, Chhime Namdol Sherpa

*From Signals to Action: How the UN Human Rights System Can Deliver Early Warning and Conflict Prevention*  
November 2024  
Adam Day, Emma Bapt

*War on Minorities Under the Guise of Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism*  
December 2024  
Beatrice Meretti

*The 1%: Doing Business with Proxy Military Companies*  
December 2024  
Robin van der Lugt

*The Implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 76/300 Recognizing the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment*  
December 2024  
Baïna Ubushieva

*Droit à l'alimentation à Genève*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

*Recht auf Nahrung in Genf*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

*Diritto All'Alimentazione a Ginevra*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

*Right to Food in Geneva*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

*Neurodata: Navigating GDPR and AI Act Compliance in the Context of Neurotechnology*  
December 2024  
Timo Istace

*Behind the Lens – Surveillance Cyber Targeting and Disinformation*  
December 2024  
Erica Harper, Jonathan Andrew, Florence Foster, Joshua Niyo, Beatrice Meretti, Catherine Sturgess

*Harnessing Digital Technology to Disrupt, Repress and Intimidate: A Deep Dive into Surveillance and Monitoring Trends in Authoritarian States*  
December 2024  
Erica Harper, Jonathan Andrew, Florence Foster, Joshua Niyo, Beatrice Meretti, Catherine Sturgess

*Operationalizing Prevention: How the UN Human Rights System Can Connect Early Warning to Action*  
December 2024  
Emma Bapt, Adam Day

*The United Nations Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

*Le groupe de travail des Nations Unies sur les droits des paysan.nes et des autres personnes travaillant dans les zones rurales*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

*Grupo de trabajo de las Naciones Unidas sobre los derechos de los campesinos, de las campesinas y de otras personas que trabajan en las zonas rurales*  
December 2024  
Christophe Golay

*Digital Disinformation Operations: Part I – Synthetic Forces vs Humans and Human Rights*  
December 2024  
Steven J Barela





# EVENTS

p. 66 Our Event Types

p. 68 Geneva Academy Events in 2024

p. 72 Geneva Human Rights Platform Events in 2024

# Our Event Types

Our events provide a critical and scholarly forum for experts, practitioners and policymakers to discuss and debate topical human rights and humanitarian issues, as well as the outcomes and content of our research.

In 2024, we ran more than 90 private and public events that took place at Villa Moynier, our parent institutions, the United Nations in Geneva and online.

Our staff also participated in high-level conferences throughout the year to address key accountability and implementation challenges in the field of international humanitarian and human rights law.

## Expert Meetings

These private events bring together those working in our academic fields with the experts and policymakers who may benefit from the in-depth discussions and networking that we are able to facilitate. Invitees are often selected to bring a wider perspective or to advance an issue, by forging connections between otherwise unconnected groups.

## Human Rights Conversations

The Human Rights Conversations are a series convened by our Geneva Human Rights Platform, focusing on contemporary issues and challenges related to the promotion and protection of human rights in Geneva and beyond. These discussions are aimed at diplomats, policymakers, experts, civil society representatives and staff from the UN and other international organizations.

## IHL Talks

The IHL Talks are a series of events on international humanitarian law and current humanitarian topics. Aimed at academic experts, practitioners and policymakers, they discuss burning humanitarian issues and their regulation under international law. Each event was typically followed by an ‘In and Around War(s)’ podcast with further in-depth discussion.

## Lake Room Meetings

The Lake Room Meetings provide a safe space for ambassadors from diverse backgrounds to discuss substantive, non-consensual issues in a discreet and constructive manner. These meetings are a critical tool for upholding multilateralism in the human rights field and contribute to International Geneva.

## Military Briefings

This unique series of events relating to military institutions and the law aim to improve the knowledge of military actors and operations and build bridges between the military and civilian worlds. Guest speakers share insights into their

respective organizations, detail their missions and discuss the operational and legal challenges they encounter in their daily work.

## PhD Forums

These forums bring together PhD researchers and experts – in Geneva and beyond – who work in our scientific focus areas: IHL, international human rights law, international criminal law, transitional justice, international refugee law and selected public international law topics.

## Public Academic Discussions

Typically panel discussions or online presentations, these events form the core of our programme and often involve expert collaborators. Students in our advanced master’s programmes are encouraged to participate, gaining access to specialists and networking opportunities following the presentations.

## Public GHRP Events

The Geneva Human Rights Platform holds regular events, diplomatic briefings, conferences, aimed at a larger public in Geneva and beyond, complementary to its expert roundtables and private meetings.

## Side Events

Organized in conjunction with major conferences at the UN or elsewhere, these events are designed to complement ongoing discussions and give participants further opportunity to network and expand on the topics covered.

## Treaty Body Members Platform

The Treaty Body Members’ Platform (TBMP) connects experts in UN treaty bodies with one another, as well as with UN Special Procedures mandate holders and practitioners from Geneva-based international organizations to share expertise, exchange views on topical questions and develop synergies. TBMP meetings are always informal and held in private.

## Voices From the Ground

Primarily intended for students taking our Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, the Voices from the Ground series provides a platform for engaging with practitioners and activists contributing to transitional justice.

## Women’s Perspectives on a Career in International Law

Co-organized with the Geneva branch of ATLAS Network, these events feature women who share their experience and advice regarding a career in international law. The events were followed by individual podcasts with some of the participants in our new series ‘Women in International Law’.

# Events in 2024

## Geneva Academy Events

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
29 January	Yazidi Survivor’s Law: Reflecting on Progresses, Challenges and Way Forward	Public Academic Discussion	Global Survivors Fund
21 February	Equality and Non-Discrimination in Armed Conflict, Humanitarian and Human Rights Law in Practice	Book Launch	
27 February	The Weaponizing of Water in Contemporary Armed Conflicts	IHL Talk	Geneva Water Hub
5 March	The Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment: Consensus Building on its Scope and Links with Other Human Rights	Side Event to the 55th Human Rights Council	Permanent Missions of Costa Rica, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland
7 March	Navigating Humanitarian Negotiations	Women’s Perspectives on a Career in International Law	ATLAS network
11 March	Law Enforcement and Digital Technologies: Strengthening Human Rights Safeguards for Facilitation of Peaceful Protests	Public Academic Discussion	UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, the University of Essex and Queen Mary University of London, with the support of OHCHR and UNODC
13 March	From Rhetoric to Action: Putting Human Rights at the Centre of the Fight against Terrorism	Side Event to the 55th Human Rights Council	
14 March	The New Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas	Side Event to the 55th Human Rights Council	
27 March	Prohibited Force: The Meaning of ‘Use of Force’ in International Law	Book Launch	
9 April	Engaging with Military to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts	Military Briefing	

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
9 April	International Humanitarian Law Rules, Controversies, and Solutions to Problems Arising in Warfare, 2nd Edition	Book Launch	
11 April	The Prosecution of Ecocide and Other Environmental Crimes: State of the Law and Way(s) Forward	IHL Talk	
16–17 April	Neurotechnology and Human Rights: Mapping Risk, Strengthening Regulation and Promoting the Development of International Human Rights Law	Expert Meeting	University of Sydney Law School
17 April	Biracial Children, African Mothers and Colonization: A Global Case for Reparations	Side Event to the 3rd Session of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent	African Futures Lab and Amnesty International, in partnership with the Justice Initiative, L’Association des Enfants des Belges Laissés au Congo (AEBLC), l’Association des Métis des Grands Lacs (AMGL Burundi) and the Association of Mixed Race Irish
18 April	Recognition of Gender Apartheid as an International Crime: Significance and Challenges	Public Academic Discussion	
25 April	Digital Military Technologies and Their Impacts on the Protection of Civilians	IHL Discussion Series	
26 April	The Criterion of Internal Legitimacy as a Benchmark to Decide Which NSAGs Can Be Included in Law Making	PhD Forum	
14 May	Artificial Intelligence in Military Decision Making: Legal and Humanitarian Implications	Public Academic Discussion	ICRC
22 May	Detention: NATO versus UN	Military Briefing	
23 May	The Role of Open-Source Information in the Documentation of International Humanitarian Law Violations	IHL Discussion Series	
14 June	Event to Honour Professor Marco Sassòli on the Occasion of His Retirement	Public Academic Discussion	University of Geneva and Henry Dunant Prize Foundation
20 June	Towards a Neurotechnology-Integrated Society: Seizing Opportunities, Managing Risks and Pathways Forward	Expert Meeting	



Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
25 June	Global Justice Through International Human Rights Law	PhD Forum	
26 June	Access to Goods and Services Essential to the Survival of the Population	IHL Discussion Series	
1 July	The Quest for Accountability for the Violations of Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association in Peru: Challenges and Perspectives	Side Event to the 56th session of the Human Rights Council	Centre Europe – Tiers monde (CETIM), Red Wiphalas – Suiza, and Quinto Suyu Peru – Suiza
26 July	Pro Patria Mori: When States Encourage Civilian Involvement in Conflict	PhD Forum	
7 September	Journées du patrimoine	Public Opening of Villa Moynier	
9–10 September	Preventing Harm: A Driver of Responsible AI Development and Use	Breakout Session, REAIM Summit	OHCRC
18 September	Counter-Terrorism Measures and International Humanitarian Law: A Humanitarian Exemption to Sanction Regimes	IHL Discussion Series	
19 September	The Right of Peasants and Rural People to Determine Their Own Food and Agricultural Systems: Food Sovereignty to Tackle the Multi-dimensional Crisis	Side Event to the 57th session of the Human Rights Council	Permanent Missions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Republic of South Africa, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Cuba and Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, Kyrgyz Republic, La Via Campesina, CETIM, FIAN International, South Centre, OHCHR, Friends of the Declaration – Switzerland, and the RAISE Project
7 October	International Law and the Principle of Non-Intervention: History, Theory, and Interactions with Other Principles	Book Launch	
10–11 October	Freedom of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation	Book Launch and Symposium	University of Lausanne
17–18 October	The Proposed New EU Regulation on the Production and Marketing of Seeds and Other Plant Reproductive Material	Public Academic Discussion	Arche Noah and the European Coordination Let’s Liberate Diversity
17 October	Implementing International Law in Contemporary Military Operations: Lessons Learned and Perspectives	Military Briefing	

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
22 October	Implementing the Right to Food Guidelines and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants in Africa and Europe: A Civil Society Perspective	Side Event of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security	Switzerland, Germany, Fastenaktion and RAISE, People-Centred Food Systems project at Columbia University, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, FAO Right to Food Team, FIAN International, European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), the Rural Women’s Assembly, Centre for Minority Rights (CEMIRIDE), VSF-Suisse, Welthungerhilfe, Mater Fondazione
5 November	A New Resolution on the Right to Food in the Council of Europe	Public Academic Discussion	
8 November	Voices from the Ground: Forced Disappearance in Mexico	Voices From the Ground	
13 November	The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, the Right to Seeds, and the EU Seed/PRM Marketing Reform: Perspectives from Hungary	Public Academic Discussion	Agroecology Europe and Hungary Agroecology Network
18–19 November	Mis- and Disinformation in the Digital Age	Expert Meeting	
25 November	Broken – A Palestinian Journey Through International Law	Film Screening	
27 November	Private Military and Security Companies: A Global Mapping and Analysis	Expert Meeting	
5 December	The Authority of the International Committee of the Red Cross: Determining What International Humanitarian Law Is	Book Launch	
9 December	Transitional (In)justice and Human Rights in Nepal	Voices From the Ground	
10 December	Food Insecurity in Armed Conflict	IHL Talk	
10 December	Le droit à l’alimentation pour une transition juste vers des systèmes alimentaires durables à Genève	Public Academic Discussion	Mater Fondazione and Fondation Leenaards
11 December	The Implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 76/300 Recognizing the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment	Panel Discussion	

# Events in 2024

## Geneva Human Rights Platform Events

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
5 February	Briefing for CEDAW on Treaty Body Follow-up Review	Treaty Body Members Platform	
7 February	Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 1	Lake Room Meeting	
13 February	Treaty Body Members Platform meeting CESCR / CEDAW	Treaty Body Mem- bers Platform	Global Commission on Drug Policy
28 February	TBMP meeting CED	Treaty Body Mem- bers Platform	
5 March	Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 2	Lake Room Meet- ing	
6 March	Gaza and the Battle for Humanity: How International Law Provides Meaning to Violence	Public GHRP Events	Geneva Graduate Institute's Global Governance Centre and International Law Department
8 March	Towards an International Human Right to Claim Innocence	Expert Meeting	European Innocence Network, University of Cincinnati College of Law, Ohio Innocence Project, Projet Innocence Suisse, Duke Law Centre for International and Com- parative Law and the Duke Law Wilson Centre
13 March	Film Screening Linked to HRC55: The Recovery Channel	Film Screening	International Geneva Global Health Platform, Think-Film Impact Production and the Perma- nent Mission of Norway to the UN in Geneva
12 April	Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 3	Lake Room Meeting	
18 April	Bologna Expert Roundtable	Expert Meeting	
29 April	Presentation of Candidates to the United Nations Human Rights Committee	Public GHRP Events	TB-Net, CCPR Centre and GQUAL

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
3 May	Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 4	Lake Room Meeting	
14 May	Presentation of Candidates to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Public GHRP Events	TB-Net, International Disability Alliance and GQUAL
15 May	KlimaSeniorinnen vs Switzerland: Relevance for UN Human Rights Mechanisms	Human Rights Conversation	Centre for International Environmental Law
21 May	Presentation of Candidates to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	Public GHRP Events	TB-Net, IWRAW Asia Pacific and GQUAL
30 May	ESCR of the Child	Treaty Body Members Platform	
4 June	Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 5	Lake Room Meeting	
10 June	The Emergence of Open-Source Information and Intelligence: What Challenges and Opportunities for UN Special Procedures?	Human Rights Conversation	
18 June	UNTB Individual Communications Retreat n.3: Steps towards harmonization of procedures for dealing with communications	Treaty Body Members Platform	Paris Human Rights Centre (CRDH), and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
26 June	Establishing Effective Helpdesks on Business and Human Rights	Public GHRP Events	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva office and OHCHR
28 June	Strengthening Human Rights Through Regional Engagement: Lessons from the Treaty Body Follow-Up Review Pilot Series	Side Event to the 36th Annual Meeting of the Treaty Bodies Chairpersons	Permanent Missions of Switzer- land and Tonga to the UN in New York, the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Commonwealth Secretariat
1–2 July	Briefing for States on the UN Human Rights Treaty Body Strengthening Process	Treaty Body Mem- bers Platform	Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN and OHCHR
3 July	Digital Bridges to Justice: Enhancing Human Rights and SDG Monitoring through Innovative Technologies	Public GHRP Events	Permanent Missions of Samoa and Germany to the UN in New York, the Pacific Community (SPC), UNDP and OHCHR

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
9 July	<a href="#">Strengthening Human Rights Through Regional Engagement: Lessons Learned from the Treaty Body Follow-Up Review Pilot Series</a>	Side Event to the 56th Human Rights Council	
17 July	<a href="#">Fifth Annual Nelson Mandela Human Rights Lecture</a>	Public Lecture	Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria
27 August	<a href="#">Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 6</a>	Lake Room Meeting	
28 August	<a href="#">Geneva Policy Workshop on Children and Armed Conflict: Strengthening Coordination Between Geneva- and New York-based Mechanisms</a>	Expert Meeting	
28 August	<a href="#">‘After the Rain’ – UN Committee on the Rights of the Child – Philip Jaffé</a>	Film Screening	
3 September	<a href="#">Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 7</a>	Lake Room Meeting	
9 September	<a href="#">Convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters</a>	Expert Meeting	
11 September	<a href="#">Digital Bridges to Justice: Enhancing Human Rights and SDG Monitoring Through Innovative Technologies</a>	Side Event to the 57th session of the Human Rights Council	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Pacific Community (SPC) and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Korea, Paraguay and Sweden to the UN in Geneva
11 September	<a href="#">Treaty Body Members Platform CRC/ CESCR</a>	Treaty Body Members Platform	
18 September	<a href="#">Treaty Body Members Platform CRC/ CESCR/SR CC</a>	Treaty Body Members Platform	
19 September	<a href="#">GMC – Consultation on xenophobia and migration</a>	Expert Meeting	

Date	Event	Type	Partner(s)
19 September	<a href="#">Xenophobia and its Impact on Human Rights in Migration: Launching of the CERD-CMW Joint General Comment/ Recommendation Consultation Phase</a>	Side Event to the 57th session of the Human Rights Council	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), in partnership with the Graduate Institute’s Global Migration Centre, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Additionally co-sponsored by UN Women and the Permanent Missions of Australia, Colombia and Mexico
24 September	<a href="#">TBMP GHRP CED, WGEID Short-Term ED</a>	Treaty Body Members Platform	
1 October	<a href="#">International Adoptions: A Global Scandal</a>	Film Screening and Debate	Department of International Law, the Graduate Institute and the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances
4 November	<a href="#">Third Expert Roundtable on Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools and Databases (DHRTTDs): Interoperability Through Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning</a>	Expert Meeting	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and HURIDOCs
4 November	<a href="#">Human Rights Council Lake Room Meeting 8</a>	Lake Room Meeting	
5 November	<a href="#">2024 Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform</a>	Annual Conference	Global Cities Hub, Geneva Internet Platform, Geneva Environment Network, Geneva Graduate Institute, ICJ, Geneva Peace Building Platform, OHCHR, Earthjustice, UNDP, SPC, Danish Institute for Human Rights and Huridocs
11 November	<a href="#">Breakfast Talk Business and Human Rights</a>	Expert Meeting	Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN in Geneva
2 December	<a href="#">ICJ Oral Hearings on Climate Justice – Diplomatic Screening and Commentary   GEN @ 25</a>	Public GHRP Events	Geneva Environment Network, the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), World’s Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ) and Earthjustice





# PODCASTS

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p. 78 Episodes in 2024

# Our Podcast Series

**In and Around War(s)** focuses on contemporary legal issues related to wars. Each episode discusses issues relating to wars with expert guests, who use the law as a powerful shield to protect peace, human dignity and non-discrimination, bring justice and alleviate human suffering during armed conflicts.

**Women in International Law**, presented by the Geneva Academy and the ATLAS Network, showcases women with diverse experiences and career paths in the field. Together, we explore their journeys, pivotal moments and challenges, and gain valuable insights and advice. Each episode will focus on the guest’s career and stories, uncovering the inner workings of the international legal profession.



# Episodes in 2024

**In and Around War(s): Season 3, Episode 1: The Weaponizing of Water in Contemporary Armed Conflicts**

Dr Eugenie Duss, researcher at the Geneva Academy speaks to Mark Zeitoun, Director General, Geneva Water Hub and Professor of Water Diplomacy, Geneva Graduate Institute, and Abby Zeith, Legal Adviser, Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross. Subjects covered include the role of expert engineers in decision-making processes related to the targeting of water during hostilities, the historical and contemporary use of water as a weapon and the need for more research around these topics.

**In and Around War(s): Season 3, Episode 2: The Prosecution of Ecocide and Other Environmental Crimes**

Following the IHL Talk ‘The Prosecution of Ecocide and Other Environmental Crimes: State of the Law and Way(s) Forward’ which took place in April, Research Fellow Eugénie Duss speaks to Jelena Aparac from UN SWTP, and Stavros-Evdokimos Pantazopoulos from of the Erik Castrén Institute at the University of Helsinki. The discussion covers the recent and ongoing proceedings addressing climate change outside the criminal framework, in particular focusing on the case of *Verein Klimaseniorinnen Schweiz and Others v Switzerland*.

**In and Around War(s): Season 3, Episode 3: The Geneva Conventions on Trial**

This episode of ‘In and Around War(s)’ was co-produced with the Asymmetrical Haircuts podcast, who lead the discussion by presenting three charges against the Geneva Conventions. Acting as defenders are Andrew Clapham, Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute, and Gloria Gaggioli, Associate Professor and Vice-Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Geneva. The verdict is ultimately delivered by Francesco Romani, Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy.

**Women in International Law – Episode 01 – Lucy McKernan**

Lucy McKernan, Deputy Director for United Nations at Human Rights Watch’s office in Geneva, discusses her career in Human Rights Advocacy with Nathalie Mivelaz Tirabosco, Head of Communication and External Relations at the Geneva Academy.

**Women in International Law – Episode 02 – Jelena Aparac**

Jelena Aparac, Head of Policy, Advocacy and Research at Legal Action Worldwide, discusses her career in Human Rights Advocacy with Paige Morrow, Co-Chairperson of ATLAS Geneva and Senior Legal Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.



# RESOURCES

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# Expenditure

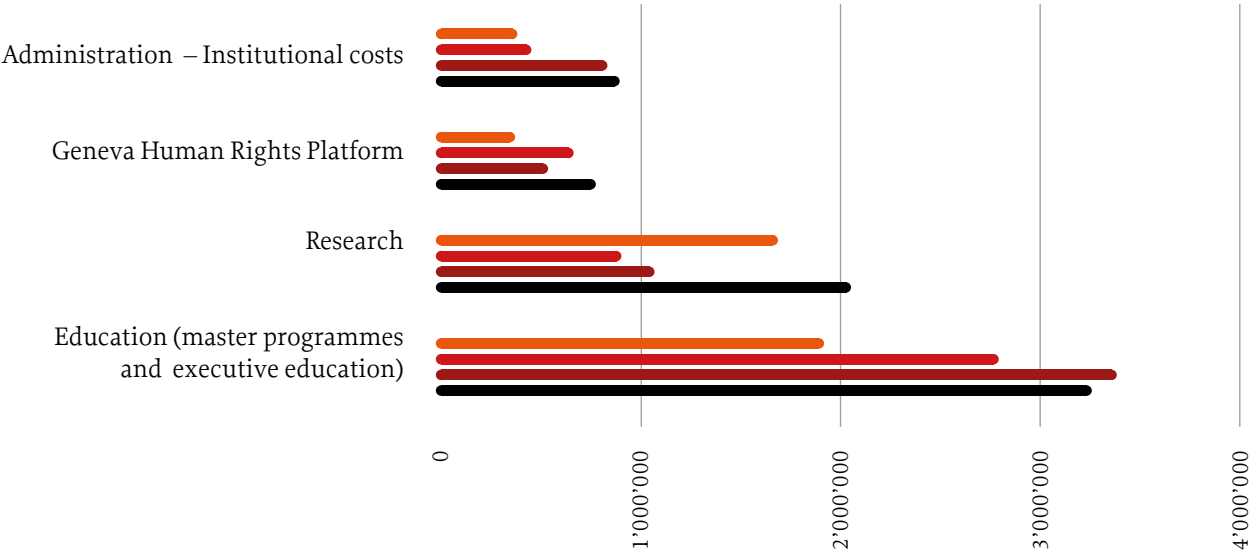
Ensuring our financial sustainability is a high priority and a constant challenge. We closed the year with a positive financial result of CHF 121,473. With an initial 2024 budget of CHF 6.1 million, we attained a total operational result of CHF 7.4 million at the end of the year following the implementation of our activities.

Our expenditure for 2024 increased to CHF 7.3 million, compared to CHF 6.5 million in 2023. As illustrated by the diagram below, our education programmes and research activities remain the two main pillars of our institution.

Proportion of Expenditure Per Activity



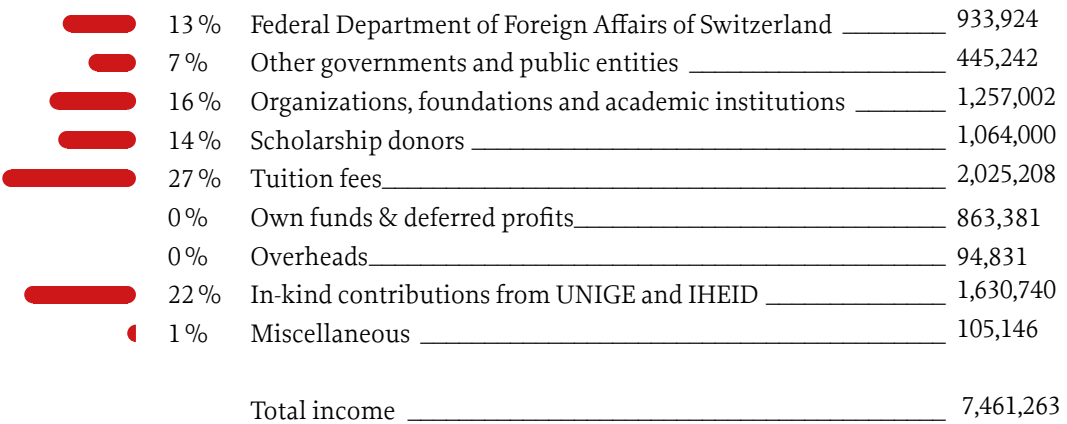
Evolution of Expenditures per Activity in CHF



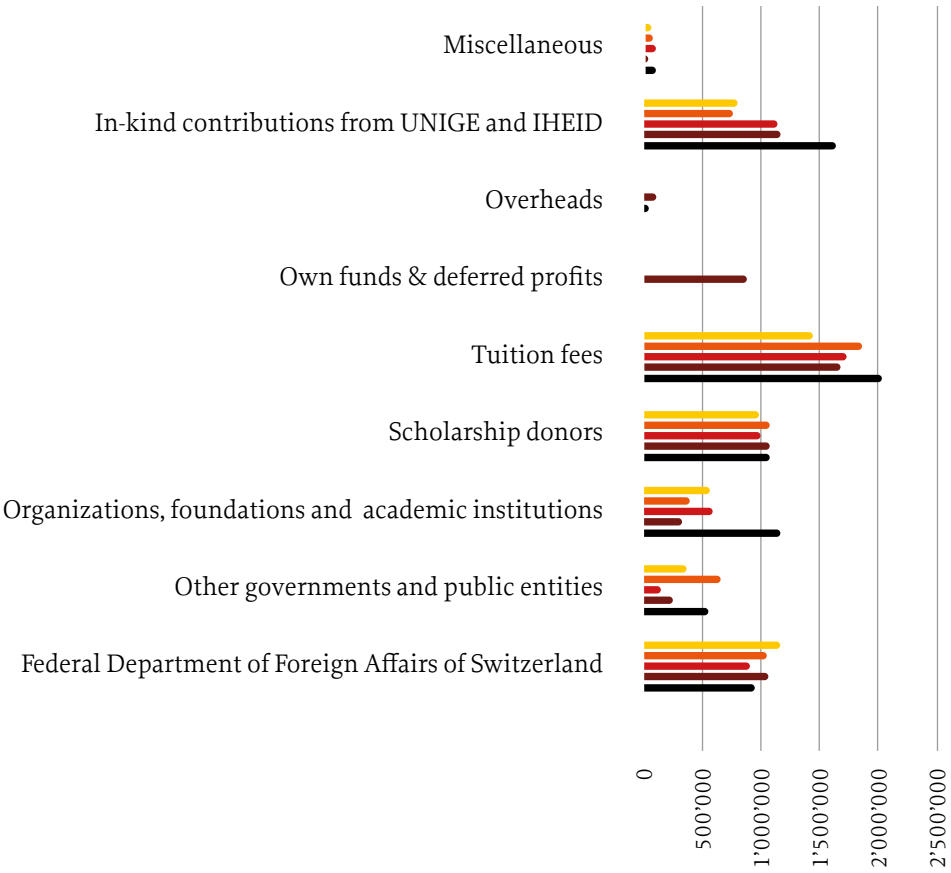
# Income

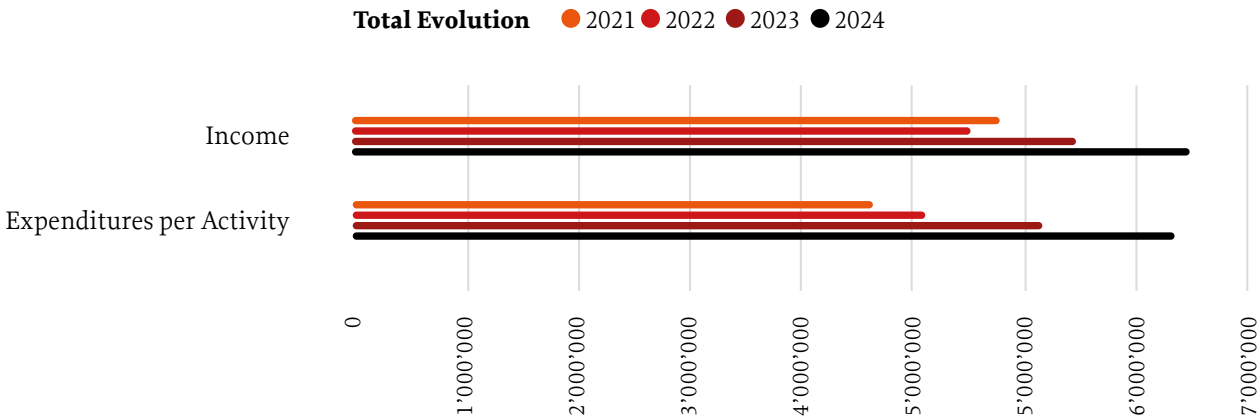
In 2024 the Geneva Academy’s total income was CHF 7.4 million, compared to CHF 6.4 million in 2023.

Income in 2024



Evolution of Income: 2020 to 2024





# Donors

The Geneva Academy is deeply grateful to all the donors who generously supported our work in 2024. Thanks to their contributions and commitment, we were able to promote, through our research and education, better respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

## Institutional Donors

- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN
- Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN
- Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand to the UN
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the UN
- The Government of the Kingdom of Sweden
- The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Republic and Canton of Geneva
- UN-Habitat
- The UK mission to the UN
- Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

## Other Organizations and Academic Institutes

- CETIM
- CEDI
- FAO
- International Bar Association
- Freedom House
- Institut Allemand des Droits Humains
- University of Oslo
- Oxfam Great Britain
- Solidarity Centre
- SNIS
- Innocence Network
- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
- Welthungerhilfe
- Global Commission on Drug Policy
- JRR Association
- UNIL
- Universität Zurich
- SEVE

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- Women Win

## Private Donors

- Jenö Staehelin

# ABOUT US

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# 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 the protection of human rights.

Established in 2007 by the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and the Geneva Graduate Institute, the Geneva Academy has acquired a global reputation for excellent teaching and research, and it attracts exceptional students to its Master’s and training programmes. Our graduates are employed around the world, promoting and protecting international humanitarian law 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, governments and the private sector, we actively participate in global discussions on international humanitarian law, human rights, international criminal law and transitional justice.

# How We Work

## Training Professionals and the Next Generation of Humanitarian and Human Rights Experts and Practitioners

Our three Master of Advanced Studies programmes and various training and short courses disseminate legal knowledge in IHL, IHRL and transitional justice. Our teaching enables specialists to apply these legal frameworks to complex situations – Ukraine, Gaza and South Sudan – and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, political transitions, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

## Informing Policy

Our research examines issues that are under-explored, in need of clarification or unconventional, experimental or challenging. It thus advances under-

standing 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 international humanitarian law, 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 international humanitarian law, 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 United Nations 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 gender diversity. This is implemented through all types of measures: our pursuit of diversity in recruitment and invitations to guest speakers, 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, we will not convene or participate in the organization of events where none of the speakers are women.



# OUR PEOPLE

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# Governance

## Supervisory Committee

As our main supervisory body – composed of the Rector of the University of Geneva, the Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute and two professors nominated by them – this committee nominates the Geneva Academy Director and approves our annual budget, along with decisions related to the institution’s financing.

**Yves Flückiger**  
Rector, University of Geneva  
(until March 2024)

**Audrey Leuba**  
Rector, University of Geneva  
(from April 2024)

**Marie Laure Salles**  
Director, Geneva Graduate Institute

## The Board

The Board is composed of independent individuals representing our founding institutions – the Geneva Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva – along with our main partners. Major management decisions and the Geneva Academy’s strategy are discussed with and approved by the Board.

**Vincent Chetail**  
President of the Board (until August 2024; Board member from September 2024); Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute; Director, Global Migration Centre

**Madeline Garlick**  
Chief, Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**Maya Hertig Randall**  
Professor of Constitutional Law and Vice-Dean, University of Geneva Law Faculty

**Christian Bovet**  
President of the Board (from September 2024); Honorary Professor of Law, University of Geneva

**Alexis Keller**  
Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty

**Etienne Kuster**  
Senior Adviser for Relations with Academic Circles, International Committee of the Red Cross

**Nico Krisch**  
Professor of International Law and Head of the International Law Department at the Geneva Graduate Institute (Board member from September 2024)

**Andreas Ziegler**  
Professor of International Law, University of Lausanne

**Joost Pauwelyn**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute (Board member until August 2024)

## Master's Committee

The Master’s Committee oversees our three advanced Master’s programmes, including study plans and the faculty, and is presided over by our Director.

**Gloria Gaggioli**  
Associate/Swiss National Science Foundation Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty; Director, Geneva Academy (until July 2024)

**Paola Gaeta**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute; Director, Geneva Academy (from August 2024)

**Clotilde Pégorier**  
Head of Education

**Vincent Chetail**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute; Director, Global Migration Centre

**Maya Hertig Randall**  
Professor of Constitutional Law and Vice-Dean, University of Geneva Law Faculty

**Robert Kolb**  
Professor of International Law, University of Geneva (substitute member)

**Andrea Bianchi**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute (substitute member)

# Faculty

## Resident Faculty

Resident faculty for the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 academic years:

**Andrea Bianchi**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute

**Paola Gaeta**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute

**Robert Kolb**  
Professor of International Law, University of Geneva

**Vincent Chetail**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute; Director, Global Migration Centre

**Gloria Gaggioli**  
Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty; former Director, Geneva Academy

**Marco Sassòli**  
Professor of International Law, University of Geneva

**Andrew Clapham**  
Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute

**Sévane Garibian**  
Professor of International Criminal Law and Transitional Justice, University of Geneva Law Faculty; Adjunct Professor of Legal Philosophy, University of Neuchâtel

**Neus Torbisco Casals**  
Visiting Professor, Geneva Graduate Institute

## Visiting Professors and Lecturers

Visiting professors and lecturers for the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 academic years:

**Foluke Adebisi**  
Professor of Law, University of Bristol

**Sareta Ashraph**  
Senior Legal Adviser, US Holocaust Memorial Museum and Centre for Justice and Accountability

**Lindsey Cameron**  
Head of Thematic Legal Advisers, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross

**Ahmed Al-Dawoody**  
Legal Adviser for Islamic Law and Jurisprudence, International Committee of the Red Cross

**Giulio Bartolini**  
Professor of International Law, Roma Tre University

**Alessandro Chechi**  
Senior Researcher, University of Geneva; Lecturer in Public International Law, Université Catholique de Lille

**Cécile Aptel**  
Deputy Director, Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, United Nations Children’s Fund

**Vincent Bernard**  
Senior Policy Advisor, International Code of Conduct Association

**Gabriella Citroni**  
Professor of International Human Rights Law, University of Milano-Bicocca



**Jérôme De Hemptinne**  
*Lecturer, University of Louvain, Sciences-Po Paris and Université Catholique de Lille*

**Olivier de Frouville**  
*Professor of Public Law, Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas University; Director, Paris Human Rights Centre*

**Jérôme De Hemptinne**  
*Assistant Professor, University of Louvain, Sciences-Po Paris and Université Catholique de Lille*

**Giovanni Distefano**  
*Professor of International Law, University of Neuchâtel*

**Tarcisio Gazzini**  
*Professor of International Law, University of Padua*

**Julia Grignon**  
*Research Director, IRSEM and Visiting Professor, Laval University and at Paris-Panthéon-Assas*

**Brandon Hamber**  
*Professor and John Hume and Thomas P O'Neill Chair in Peace, Ulster University*

**Sandra Krähenmann**  
*Senior Policy and Legal Adviser, Geneva Call*

**Claudia Martin**  
*Co-Director, American University Washington College of Law*

**Fionnuala Ní Aoláin**  
*Regents Professor and Robina Professor of Law, Public Policy and Society, University of Minnesota Law School; Professor of Law, Queens University*

**Katia Papagianni**  
*Director, Policy and Mediation Support, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue*

**Marco Roscini**  
*Swiss IHL Chair, Geneva Academy; Professor of International Law, University of Westminster*

**Ibrahim Salama**  
*Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

**Clara Sandoval**  
*Professor, University of Essex School of Law; Director, Essex Transitional Justice Network*

**Ben Saul**  
*Challis Chair of International Law, University of Sydney; United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism*

**Damien Scalia**  
*Professor of Criminal and Prison Law, Université libre de Bruxelles*

**William A Schabas**  
*Professor of International Law, Middlesex University; Professor of Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law, Leiden University; Emeritus Professor of Human Rights Law, National University of Ireland*

**Sandesh Sivakumaran**  
*Professor of International Law, University of Cambridge; Director, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law*

**Hélène Tigroudja**  
*Professor of Law, University of Aix-Marseille; Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee*

**Eric Tistounet**  
*Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

**Howard Varney**  
*Practising Advocate, Johannesburg Bar; Senior Programme Adviser, International Centre for Transitional Justice*

**Julia Viebach**  
*Lecturer, Queen's University of Belfast*

**Michael Wiener**  
*Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

**Jamie Williamson**  
*Executive Director, International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers Association*

**Domenico Zipoli**  
*Senior Research Fellow and Project Coordinator, Geneva Academy*

**Stefan Ziegler**  
*Humanitarian Advocate and Practitioner, Educator and Filmmaker*

# Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law

Professor *Marco Roscini* has been our Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law (Swiss IHL Chair) since early 2022. In this position, he develops and promotes our expertise in IHL via policy work, cutting-edge research, expert meetings, the development of partnerships and teaching.

He also pursues research projects on disruptive military technologies and the digitalization of armed conflicts, with a particular focus on the legal and ethical challenges raised by cyberwarfare and AI-supported decision-making in military affairs.

# The Team

## Direction

**Gloria Gaggioli**  
*Director (until July 2024); Associate/Swiss National Science Foundation Professor, University of Geneva Law Faculty*

**Paola Gaeta**  
*Director, (from August 2024); Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute*

**Maud Bonnet**  
*Executive Director*

## Student Office

**Clotilde Pégurier**  
*Head of Education*

**Alina Kondratiuk**  
*Assistant to the MAS in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law*

**Lotte Walstra**  
*Assistant to the LLM - MAS in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights*

**Ana Kilibarda**  
*Assistant to the Executive Master - MAS in International Law in Armed Conflict*

**Gregory Pasche**  
*Coordinator of Professionalizing Activities*

## Communication and External Relations

**Nathalie Mivelaz Tirabosco**  
*Head of Communication and External Relations (until March 2024)*

**Lina Borén**  
*Head of Communications and External Relations (from August 2024)*

**Tim Young**  
*Communication Officer*

**Romain Allamand**  
*Events and Executive Assistant*

## Teaching Assistants

Teaching assistants for the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 academic years:

**Agustina Becerra Vazquez**  
**Tafadzwa Christmas**  
**Shima Esmailian**  
**Dor Hai**  
**Zoi Lafazani**

**Ralph Loren-Eisendecker**  
**Victoria Priori**  
**Mina Radončić**  
**Katia Rosenblat**  
**Ankita Shanker**

**Ashley Stanley-Ryan**  
**Revaz Tkemaladze**  
**Tihao Zeng**

Research

*Dr Erica Harper*  
Head of Research and Policy Studies

*Dr Claire Callejon*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Christopher Roberts*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Christophe Golay*  
Senior Research Fellow

*Grace Chen*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Chiime Sherpa*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Jonathan Andrew*  
Research Fellow

*Dr Milena Costas*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Baïna Ubushieva*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Eugénie Duss*  
Research Fellow

*Chiara Gabriele*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Robin van der Lugt*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Nataliia Hendel*  
Research Fellow

*Timo Istace*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Prof Claudia Martin*  
Visiting Research Fellow

*Dr Francesco Romani*  
Research Fellow

*Dr Lim Junli*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Vance Culbert*  
Visiting Research Fellow

*Anna Rosalie Greipl*  
Researcher

*Sonya Merkova*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Alice Edwards*  
Visiting Research Fellow

*Clément Voule*  
Researcher

*Leif Monnett*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Yosuke Nagai*  
Visiting Research Fellow

*Rogier Bartels*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Joshua Niyo*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Fulya Batur*  
Associate Research Fellow

*Dr Karine Peschard*  
Associate Research Fellow

Geneva Human Rights Platform

*Felix Kirchmeier*  
Executive Director

*Dr Domenico Zipoli*  
Project Coordinator

*Victoire Berrebi*  
Project Assistant

*Stefania Di Stefano*  
Project Officer

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