

OVERVIEW

All around the world we are confronted on a daily basis by the suffering and loss caused by armed conflicts and other situations of violence. Humanitarian agencies can bring some relief to protect life and health, and uphold human dignity during armed conflicts. However, such agencies have to deal with questions of life and death for their beneficiaries and their staff while working in such situations. On a daily basis, they must draw on a variety of tools to further their work and protect their personnel.



One of these tools is International Humanitarian Law (IHL). IHL consists of rules that, in times of armed conflict, seek to protect people who are not or are no longer directly participating in the hostilities, and to restrict the methods of warfare. It provides a normative framework to facilitate humanitarian action for all actors and agencies engaged in bringing relief to mitigate suffering caused by armed conflict.

Therefore, it is desirable that humanitarian professionals and policy makers are familiar with the basic concepts of IHL and how they work in practice.

The ICRC's 20th course in IHL for humanitarian professionals and policy makers is designed to acquaint participants with the international rules, principles and instruments applicable in times of armed conflict. It offers participants practical knowledge in IHL applicable in their fieldwork and their decision-making processes.



THEMES

The course will provide in-depth instruction in the following broad themes:

- Relevance of IHL and other legal regimes, such as human rights law, refugee law and laws concerning internally displaced persons, for humanitarian practitioners.
- How IHL protects persons in the power of a party to the conflict.
- How humanitarian professionals may contribute to ensuring better respect for the law.
- Protection of the humanitarian and medical missions by IHL, with particular reference to discussion on this topic at the World Humanitarian Summit and global campaigns to raise awareness of the protection of the medical mission.
- Contemporary challenges surrounding regulation of weapons and methods of warfare; particularly, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.
- Challenges to humanitarian action in light of the changing nature of armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

Participants will be provided with both expert lectures and participative exercises based on the ICRC's experience in more than 150 years of humanitarian action and IHL. The course draws on the participants' collective experience to further illuminate the role and importance of IHL in the daily work of their respective organisations.

PARTICIPANTS

The course is open to senior representatives of non-governmental organisations, international organisations, state agencies and humanitarian donor agencies. Applicants should have decision-making roles in their respective organisations at the national, regional or global level.

A legal background is not required and the course is open to participants from any country. **The application form can be obtained from nairobi@icrc.org. Completed application forms should be sent to the ICRC Regional Delegation in Nairobi to reach before 15 June 2016. Participants are strongly urged to send their applications by email.**





PRACTICAL DETAILS

Venue: Lake Naivasha Country Club, Naivasha, Kenya, a beautiful lake resort town in the Rift Valley, about 1 - 1 ½ hours' drive from Nairobi. All participants will be accommodated in single rooms at the resort.

Dates: 11 –17 September 2016 - Participants are expected to arrive in Naivasha on Sunday, 11 September (Check-in) and leave on Saturday, 17 September (Check-out).

Fees: Payments will only be made after the selection process. Selected applicants will be given a bank account in which to deposit the money.

Transport: Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangement to and from Nairobi. A shuttle service will be arranged for all participants from Nairobi to Naivasha and back. Details will be sent to selected participants. Participants coming from abroad are expected to make their own travel arrangements to and from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Language: All participants must have good understanding of English as all working sessions will be conducted in this language. Participants will be provided with reading materials on all modules included in the course.

Programme: A detailed programme for the entire course and other practical details will be sent to selected participants.

Course fees: 1000 USD to cater for food, conference and full accommodation in Naivasha.



"The simulation exercise enabled us to identify the needs of people affected by armed conflict and how to address them. The course was professionally run with the instructors providing a balance between theory and practical scenarios. It also provided an avenue for networking and learning from people working in various contexts such as Iran, Iraq and Somalia."

Linda Gerald, Protection Manager
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade Canberra, Australia

20TH COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW FOR HUMANITARIAN PROFESSIONALS AND POLICY MAKERS

11-17 September 2016 - Naivasha, Kenya



ICRC

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Intensive training in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for humanitarian professionals and policy makers from NGOs, state agencies, international organisations and humanitarian donor agencies.



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