



13th Yerevan International Conference for Young Researchers on International Humanitarian Law

“Laws of Armed Conflict: Taking Stock of 45 Years of Additional Protocols”

March 2022

Call for papers

Event date: March 10-12, 2022

Deadline for submissions: January 21, 2022

Location: Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan, Armenia

Working languages: English and Russian

Contact email: ihl@rau.am

The Russian-Armenian University (RAU) in cooperation with the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Armenia (ICRC) is pleased to announce the call for participation in the 13th Yerevan International Conference for Young Researchers on International Humanitarian Law, which will be held from 10 to 12 March 2022 in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. The conference will take place in an in-person format while allowing for the remote participation of speakers who cannot travel.

The organizers of the Conference are inviting young researchers under the age of 35 to be key speakers and/or moderators at the conference. Authors of selected submissions will receive sponsorship of costs for registration, meals, local transportation, and accommodation.

An academic publication will follow the conference.

The Conference is a unique international platform for the discussion of contemporary issues and perspectives related to IHL development among young scholars. Since 2007, the geography of the Conference has grown having hosted participants from more than 30 countries and almost 100 universities and institutions.

Each year the participants of the Conference along with seasoned national and international experts of law are offered a vibrant platform to share views on a range of issues related to IHL development and implementation. Over the years the organizers have hosted renowned international experts in the field of International Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law, and Public International Law. Young scholars get a chance to be heard by the renowned professionals and engage in an open discussion over different opinions and views. The Conference is a convergence of networking, learning, inspiring keynote speeches, discussions, and workshops along with publication opportunities. It also provides a unique opportunity for the alumni to become a part of an established network of legal professionals from all over the world. Finally, this event is a rewarding cultural experience thanks to visiting beautiful and hospitable Armenia and meeting old and new friends.

A. Eligibility

Speakers: Young researchers in the field of IHL and related fields under the age of 35 are invited to take part in the Conference by submitting a research paper strictly within the scope of the announced themes presented below but not limited by sub-topics.

The **application package** should be sent to ihl@rau.am mentioning the author's name and the respective panel of the Conference in the subject line ("NAME SURNAME RESPECTIVE PANEL"). The application package shall include:

1. Duly completed application form (according to **Annex 1**, the form can be downloaded from RAU's website <https://ilp.rau.am/page/ihl>).
2. A paper abstract (please, use the template given in **Annex 2**) stating, among others, author's original thesis, objectives and conclusions with a maximum of 500 words. The abstract can be written in English or Russian language.
3. Professional resume also stating IHL-related research (if any) and academic interests.

Moderators: The Organizing Committee will also consider applications for three positions of moderators for one of the below sections. If you wish to apply for the position of moderator, please submit:

1. A professional resume stating IHL-related research.
2. Motivation letter (maximum 500 words) describing the reasons for willingness to be a moderator for one of the sections listed below.
3. Duly completed application form (according to Annex 1, application form can also be downloaded from the following website <https://ilp.rau.am/page/ihl>).

B. Selection

A selection jury consisting of members of the Organizing Committee will choose the winning entries. The top candidates will be chosen to speak and/or moderate at one of the panels of the Conference.

Submissions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- ✓ Clarity of the thesis;
- ✓ Inclusion of conference theme in the thesis;
- ✓ Background and reference.

The deadline for submitting the application package is January 21, 2022, at 23:59 (Yerevan time, GMT + 4:00). The selection results will be announced by February 3, 2022.

Full papers of about 8,000 words in English to be submitted by selected applicants will be due by March 1, 2022. Submissions must be original and should not have been published previously or been under consideration for publication while being evaluated for this conference. Please, see **Annex 3** for details on formatting.

Upon request, the Organizing Committee will provide letters in support of the applicants' visa requests.

C. Funding

The costs of accommodation, meals, local transportation and materials during the Conference days will be covered by the organizers.

Please note that travel expenses are to be covered by the participants of the Conference and will not be reimbursed by the organizers.

COVID-19: The Organizing Committee will continue to monitor and reflect on policy and procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety and well-being of participants of our events, including guests and visitors, remains the top priority. We collaborate with state agencies to implement best practices aimed at managing the spread of the novel virus. Closer to the event the Organizing Committee will announce the measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus during the conference days. These measures may include requirements to use personal protective items (masks and disinfectants), testing, proofs of recovery or vaccination, and signature of a COVID-waiver. Should sanitary measures prevent in-person meetings, the Conference will take place in a fully virtual format or will be postponed.

For more information, please send your inquiries to Mr. Narek Abgaryan at ihl@rau.am

THE CONFERENCE PANELS

1. OUTSOURCING PEACE AND WARFARE: WHO IS WHO IN CONTEMPORARY ARMED CONFLICTS

- ✓ “Foreign fighters” and IHL
- ✓ Challenges posed by the treatment of “foreign fighters” and the legal regime applicable to them (from capture to return)
- ✓ Private Military and Security Companies in modern armed conflicts
- ✓ Peacekeeping operations and IHL

2. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIMES OF VIOLENCE

- a. Application and interpretation of norms in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and other international human rights institutions
- b. IHL in UN treaty bodies and courts
- c. IHL and regional human rights mechanisms
- d. Right to know and right to the truth at the intersection of IHL and IHRL

3. DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND WAR

- ✓ Risks and benefits of global digitalization for IHL
- ✓ 'Digitalization' of armed conflicts: consequences for humanitarian action
- ✓ Digital technologies and the means and methods of warfare
- ✓ Legal implications of misinformation and hate speech
- ✓ LAWs (lethal autonomous weapons) and laws of war
- ✓ Military application of artificial intelligence

4. BRINGING IHL HOME: NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF IHL

- ✓ The obligation to ensure respect for IHL: best practices and challenges
- ✓ Domestic measures during peace time, conflict and post-conflict for the implementation of IHL
- ✓ Development of knowledge as a prerequisite of the respect for the international law
- ✓ National IHL commissions and other national instruments for IHL implementation
- ✓ Integration of IHL into the education, training, doctrine and operations of Armed Forces

5. ENFORCING IHL: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ Detention in armed conflict: strengthening IHL protection
- ✓ The interplay between detention regimes under IHL, IHRL and refugee law

- ✓ Detention in multinational operations (including peace support operations) and transfers to national authorities
- ✓ The Updated commentary on the Third Geneva Convention – an updated understanding of the law
- ✓ Repression of IHL violations

6. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARMED CONFLICTS

- ✓ Means and methods of warfare particularly dangerous for environment
- ✓ Environmental implications of disarmament
- ✓ Criminalization of prohibited behaviors: crime of ecocide
- ✓ Climate change and armed conflict