

SHORT COURSE |
Continuing Education



THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF WATER IN ARMED CONFLICTS

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Online Course



FACULTY OF LAW



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

Enhancing understanding and implementation of legal frameworks protecting water in armed conflicts

Water is increasingly a collateral victim of armed conflicts. The impacts of the destruction or damage to water infrastructure, the intentional or non-intentional pollution of a river, or a groundwater resource continue well beyond the end of the hostilities: they affect the life, dignity, and health of civilians in both the short and long terms and have cumulative impacts over time.

This short online course aims to address a knowledge gap by providing a specific course on the protection of our most precious resource.

Course Objectives

The course has the following core objectives, to:

- Introduce participants to the legal frameworks protecting water in armed conflicts;
- Define the key principles and norms of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) related to the protection of water in armed conflicts;
- Understand how human rights law and its mechanisms may complement the protection of water in the time of armed conflicts;
- Apply the concepts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to the protection of water in armed conflicts;
- Identify and discuss the challenges faced and opportunities encountered in the legal protection of water during armed conflicts;
- Evaluate and make recommendations for a better implementation of norms of international law protecting water during armed conflicts.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the legal protection of water in armed conflicts;
- Critically assess the various legal frameworks protecting water in armed conflicts;
- Identify and assess the legal frameworks and mechanisms related to the protection of water in armed conflicts;
- Identify the environmental impacts of armed conflicts on water and analyse international legal frameworks protecting the environment;
- Identify the challenges and opportunities in the field of the legal protection of water in armed conflicts.

Audience

Professionals from the humanitarian, peace and development sectors, military and government officials (including diplomats, technical and scientific specialists), international organisation staff, civil society representatives, academics (including researchers, PhD candidates) and professionals from the private sector working in conflict-affected areas.

Course Content

The course is divided into three major themes:

Module 1: The Protection of Water in International Humanitarian Law.

Module 2: Using Human Rights Law and Mechanisms to Protect Water in Armed Conflicts.

Module 3: The Protection of Water under International Criminal Law .

Duration and Workload

This training course is designed for full-time professionals and will take place over 7 weeks. On average, participants will have a workload of 8 hours per week for an approximate total of 90 learning hours.

The course is mainly organised around asynchronous activities, which allow participants to access content and learning materials at any time. Nevertheless, there are some synchronous group activities—such as webinars and video conferences—which take place on the dates and times indicated in the course program.

Methodology

The course is hosted on the University of Geneva's Moodle Platform. It offers interactive modules, videos, webinars, and additional resources (legal instruments, specialized articles, etc.).

For the graded assessment, participants must pass online self-assessment quizzes at the end of each module. As a final evaluation, they must analyse a case study and apply the knowledge acquired during the course.

Participants who successfully complete the course will be awarded a micro-credential issued by the University of Geneva worth 3 ECTS credits.

This micro-credential will be sent digitally by e-mail approximately 3 weeks after the end of the course.

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ICRC, Jorid Raich, Tripoli, Nahr el Bared Palestinian camp. Rehabilitation of water reservoir

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Tuition fee and Scholarships

Registration fee for the course is 600 CHF (approximately 600 USD). Partial scholarships are available for participants from non-OECD countries.

Registration Procedure

Candidates can register for the course at <https://www.unige.ch/formcont/en/courses/legal-protection-water>

They must also enclose a CV, a copy of their passport or ID, a motivation letter and a copy of their last university degree.

The candidates requesting scholarships must state the reason why in their motivation letter.

Registration deadline: 20 October 2025.

For any questions related to registration, tuition fees and scholarships, please contact Monica NUNEZ by email monica.nunez@unige.ch

Course Director

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Steering Committee

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www.genevawaterhub.org

Coordination

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Organisers

The online course on the Legal Protection of Water in Armed Conflicts has been developed jointly by the Geneva Water Hub and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.



International Institute of Humanitarian Law
Institut International de Droit Humanitaire
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For more information



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