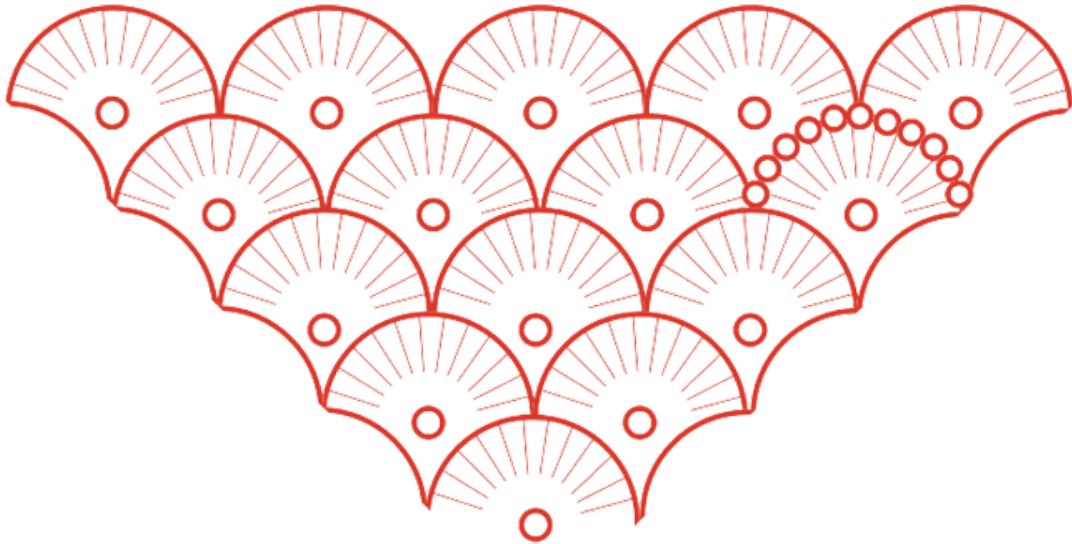




**YEREVAN
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN
LAW

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: September 7

**NOVEMBER 27-28
YEREVAN, ARMENIA**



Yerevan International Conference on International Humanitarian Law

Protecting Humanity in Armed Conflict: Contemporary Challenges for International Humanitarian Law

27–28 November 2026 | Yerevan, Armenia

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Armenian International Law Association (AILA), with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Delegation in Armenia, invites scholars, practitioners, humanitarian actors, diplomats, military experts, and students to submit abstracts for the Yerevan International Conference on International Humanitarian Law.

Conference Background

Contemporary armed conflicts continue to test the effectiveness of international humanitarian law (IHL) in protecting individuals, communities, and societies affected by war. Humanitarian actors increasingly encounter obstacles to reaching affected populations; starvation and the deprivation of objects indispensable to civilian survival have re-emerged as central concerns; and cultural heritage remains threatened by destruction, looting, neglect, and deliberate attack. The Conference will bring together academic and operational perspectives to examine these challenges and to contribute to strengthening respect for IHL worldwide.

Conference Objectives

- Examine the legal framework governing humanitarian access under IHL;
- Discuss the adaptation of IHL rules vis-a-vis technological changes and emerging domains of warfare;
- Explore contemporary operational challenges faced by humanitarian organisations in obtaining and maintaining access to affected populations;
- Analyse developments in the repression of serious violations of IHL such as starvation of civilians and the denial of humanitarian assistance;
- Facilitate dialogue between academics, practitioners, humanitarian actors, and policy-makers to promote greater awareness and understanding of IHL.



Thematic Panels

Abstracts are invited under one of the following four thematic panels, developed in line with the priorities of the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to IHL:

PANEL 1 Preventing Violations of IHL: Compliance, Deterrence and Early Warning

Building the domestic, diplomatic, and operational tools needed to stop violations before they occur.

- Domestic implementation - national frameworks, military training, and accountability systems.
- Influencing armed groups - diplomatic, economic, and political tools to encourage compliance among State and non-State actors.
- Early warning systems - monitoring and rapid-response mechanisms to detect and prevent violations before escalation.

PANEL 2 Protecting Civilians, Essential Services and Cultural Heritage

Safeguarding the people, infrastructure, and heritage on which civilian survival and identity depend.

- Safeguarding hospitals - medical neutrality and the protection of healthcare workers in conflict zones.
- Defending schools - preventing attacks on learning spaces and ensuring continuity of education.
- Securing essential services - protecting water, electricity, housing, and other infrastructure indispensable to civilian survival.
- Protecting cultural heritage during and after armed conflict.

PANEL 3 Modernizing IHL for Emerging Threats and New Domains of Warfare

Testing and adapting IHL's rules against technological change and new theatres of conflict.

- Cyber operations - digital warfare, civilian data protection, and attacks on critical infrastructure.
- Autonomous weapons - legal and ethical challenges posed by AI-driven military technologies.
- New and re-emerging domains of warfare - applying IHL to maritime conflicts and outer space activities.
- IHL and personal data protection- application of humanitarian law in social media space.

PANEL 4 Linking IHL to Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

Using respect for humanitarian norms as a foundation for de-escalation, dialogue, and lasting peace.

- Mediation and dialogue - using humanitarian norms as a foundation for negotiation and trust-building.
- Reconciliation processes - how adherence to IHL supports transitional justice and post-conflict healing.
- Conflict de-escalation - leveraging compliance with IHL to reduce violence and foster sustainable peace.



Submission Guidelines

- **Abstract:** Abstracts of 350–500 words, clearly indicating the thematic panel to which the submission relates.
- **Bio note:** A CV (up to 2 pages) or a short biographical note (max. 250 words) including institutional affiliation.
- **Language:** The official language of the conference is English, however, abstracts are accepted in English, French, Russian, and Armenian
- **How to submit:** Abstracts and accompanying documents should be sent to conference@aila.am
- **Paper submission:** *Full paper submission* before the Conference is not expected. Some selected papers may be considered for publication in a Conference Articles Collection in 2027.

Key Dates

Application submission deadline: **7 September 2026**

Notification of selection results: **by 25 September 2026**

Conference dates: **27–28 November 2026**

Location: Yerevan, Armenia (onsite).

Practical Information

There is no participation fee. Participants are responsible for covering their own expenses, including travel, accommodation and other logistical costs.

Meals: Lunches and coffee breaks during the conference days will be covered by the Organizers.

Visa: The Organizers do not provide visa support; participants requiring a visa to enter Armenia are responsible for arranging it themselves. Accepted participants might be provided with invitation letters upon request.

For questions or more information, please contact us at: conference@aila.am