

Learning objectives

The **2nd Course on IHL and Children in Armed Conflict** is an international training programme on the protection of children in armed conflict, organized by the **Special Projects Department (SPD)** of the **International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL)**, in collaboration with the **Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC)**.

The Course will focus on many **key aspects of the special protection granted to children** in the era of polycrisis by:

- Promoting **awareness of bodies of law, international provisions and principles** governing child protection.
- Developing a **better understanding of the mechanisms for applying international provisions**, strengthening **compliance and accountability**.
- Enhancing participants' ability to **apply rules, assess risks, and develop policies and procedures** accordingly.
- Integrating **gender and age sensitive perspectives** into the action and **operating on the basis of a child-centred approach**.
- **Fostering cooperation** among institutional staff.
- Raising awareness on **children involvement** in the conflict-prevention, peacebuilding and reconstruction processes.

Background

The legal protection of children, as part of the specific protection accorded to civilians during armed conflict, is present in different **international conventions and multilateral human rights agreements**.

The **increased access to children's lives of military and civilian personnel** operating in humanitarian crises is well documented by the number of children currently affected by such phenomena. The continuous violations of the most basic IHL and IHRL provisions in international and non-international armed conflict, require an **increased effort in the training of all military and civilian practitioners**, and a better understanding of the positive impact of a **children-sensitive approach at the policy making level**.

Methodology

Expert practitioners and academics will work with participants to foster a deep understanding and proper implementation of IHL, IHRL, Refugee and Migration Law, and other related international rules protecting children in armed conflicts.

The Course is delivered through a **participatory and creative teaching methodology**, aimed at facilitating the learning process and implementing the knowledge gained throughout the training. Sessions include **lectures, presentations, case studies, group work**, and other activities such as **role play**.



International Institute of Humanitarian Law
Institut International de Droit Humanitaire
Istituto Internazionale di Diritto Umanitario

Special Projects Department

Sanremo - Italy



2nd Course on IHL and Children in Armed Conflict

26 - 30 October 2026
Villa Ormond, Sanremo

www.iihl.org

Monday

26 October 2026

Introduction to IHL and Children in Armed Conflict

Opening ceremony

9.00 – 9.15 am

Giorgio Battisti Lt. Gen. (rtd), Italy; President, IIHL

Who are children in armed conflict and how are they specifically impacted?

9.15 – 10.45 am

Federica Sola Political Affairs Officer, UN Liaison Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Overview of IHL, IHRL and other relevant treaties on children in armed conflict

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Marco Pedrazzi Full Professor of PIL, University of Milan; Council Member, IIHL

Lunch break

Thematic spotlight session: introduction to the Children and Armed Conflict Agenda

1.30 – 2.30 pm

Federica Sola UN Liaison Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Group exercise

2.45 – 4.30 pm

Marco Pedrazzi University of Milan; IIHL

Federica Sola UN Liaison Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Edoardo Gimigliano Coordinator, SPD, IIHL

Welcome cocktail

Tuesday

27 October 2026

Recruitment of Children and their Use in Hostilities

Prohibition of child recruitment and use of children

9.00 am – 12.15 pm

Fausto Pocar President, UNETCHAC; Honorary President, IIHL

Federica Favuzza Associate Professor of PIL, University of Milan; Member, IIHL

Lunch break

Thematic spotlight session: engaging with armed actors to increase the protection of children in armed conflict and facilitate reintegration

1.30 – 2.30 pm

Speaker TBC

Scenario-based exercise

2.45 – 4.30 pm

Fausto Pocar UNETCHAC; IIHL

Federica Favuzza University of Milan; IIHL

Edoardo Gimigliano IIHL

Wednesday

28 October 2026

Protection of Children during Military Operations

Rules on conduct of hostilities

9.00 – 10.30 am

Representative Military Department, IIHL

Civil-military cooperation and role of different actors during hostilities

10.45 am – 12.15 pm

Peter Chilvers Lt. Col., UK Armed Forces

Lunch break

Thematic spotlight session: specific vulnerability of children vis-à-vis military AI, new technologies and weapons, and latest trends in contemporary armed conflicts

1.30 – 2.30 pm

Speaker TBC

Scenario-based exercise

2.45 – 4.30 pm

Representative Military Department, IIHL

Peter Chilvers UK Armed Forces

Edoardo Gimigliano IIHL

Thursday

29 October 2026

Detention, Displacement, and Family Tracing

Legal framework and standards for children protection in detention operations and within displacement

9.00 am – 12.15 pm

Cristina Perozzi Counsellor Victims Committee, International Criminal Court (ICC) Bar Association; Volunteer, Italian Red Cross; Member, IIHL

Laura Guercio Secretary General, Executive Committee, International affairs and coordination of network activities, office manager, UNETCHAC; Member, IIHL

Lunch break

Scenario-based exercise

1.30 – 4.30 pm

Cristina Perozzi ICC; ItRC; IIHL

Laura Guercio UNETCHAC; IIHL

Edoardo Gimigliano IIHL

Social dinner

Friday

30 October 2026

Accountability and Prosecution

Accountability for violations against children in relation to armed conflicts

9.00 – 10.30 am

Fausto Pocar UNETCHAC; IIHL

Paolina Massidda Principal Counsel at the independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims, ICC

Guided Case Law review: analysis and collective reflection on key judicial decisions and specific aspects of ICL enforcement

10.45 am – 12.15 pm

Laura Guercio UNETCHAC

Paolina Massidda ICC

Closing ceremony

12.15 – 12.45 pm

Giorgio Battisti IIHL

Fausto Pocar UNETCHAC; IIHL

Lunch break & Farewell