



**47<sup>th</sup> Sanremo Round Table on Current Issues of IHL “From the Battle of Solferino of 1859 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: Challenges and Future Prospects of International Humanitarian Law”**

*12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September 2024*



“International Humanitarian Law is a legal reality that is called to adapt to the challenges posed by increasingly insidious conflicts, which are not always easy or clear-cut, from armed clashes between opposing factions to the use of new and devastating technologies. Daily headlines, unfortunately, are a sad testimony to this. The evolution of modern warfare and international dynamics, in fact, raise fundamental questions about the effectiveness and capacity of International Humanitarian Law to respond to today’s needs. All this generates and feeds, in all of us, the awareness of how imperative it is to promote knowledge of its principles to try to limit the dramatic impact of war on the civilian population - the defenceless victims of war operations - and on the military forces, and to make war less ‘inhuman’.” \*

\* Excerpt from the President’s remarks during the Round Table.

This year’s Sanremo Round Table gathered 220 attendees, with 181 joining us at the beautiful Villa Ormond to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The Conference hosted more than 30 expert speakers from military, civilian, humanitarian and academic backgrounds, who contributed to 6 interactive panels exploring the importance of International Humanitarian

Law (IHL) principles in today’s complex warfare scenarios.

Notable keynote speeches were also delivered by prestigious guests, including the representative from the Presidency of the Italian Republic, Italian Chief of Defence Admiral Cavo Dragone; US Army General Counsel, Hon. Carrie F. Ricci; and UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Ambassador Jean-Pierre Lacroix, who all enriched the conversation with their invaluable insights.

With participants from 28 nationalities from 5 different continents, this truly international event fostered meaningful dialogue on pressing issues of International Humanitarian Law.

The event consisted of six thematic sessions examining the historical continuum from the Battle of Solferino to the codification of the Geneva Conventions in 1949, exploring the transformative journey of IHL, fostering a deeper understanding of the development of IHL and acknowledging the importance of humanitarian principles in shaping the landscape of modern conflict resolution and protection of vulnerable populations.

**The President visits the Italian Chief of Defence, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone**

*11<sup>th</sup> July 2024*



On Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup>, the President of the Institute, Lt. General (Ret.) Giorgio Battisti, met with the Italian Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone.

During this courtesy visit, President Battisti and Admiral Cavo Dragone discussed potential future

synergies between the Institute and the Italian Armed Forces, particularly in the areas of IHL compliance and training.

### **The Institute at the Command Ceremony of the Commissioners' Corps of the French Armed Forces**

*17<sup>th</sup> July 2024*



On Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, the President of the Institute, Lt. General (Ret.) Giorgio Battisti and Secretary-General a. i. Mr. Gian Luca Beruto, accompanied by the Deputy Director of the Institute's Military Department, Col. Rudolph Stamminger, attended the Change of Command Ceremony of the Commissioners' Corps of the French Armed Forces in Salon de Provence, France. The presence of the Institute's highest offices at this significant occasion further cemented its collaboration with the École des Commissaires des Armées (ECA). This event underscores their enduring partnership, dedicated to the development and advancement of humanitarian law in the field of military training and research.

### **The President interviewed for a documentary developed by the Italian Red Cross**

*11<sup>th</sup> September 2024*



On 11<sup>th</sup> September, a crew of documentarists and video makers from the Italian Red Cross was welcomed at the Institute, as the authors of a project on the life of Dr. Giuseppe Cipolat, Director of a Red Cross hospital during the Congolese civil war of the early '60s.

Considering the valuable contribution of the Institute's President to such a project, General Battisti was interviewed on the historical trajectory of peacekeeping and the use of force by UN forces in Congo at the time.

Stay tuned for the release of the documentary.

### **Meeting of the Institute's Council**

*13<sup>th</sup> September 2024*



The Council of the Institute was held on-site on Friday afternoon, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The agenda of the meeting included the assessment of the recently concluded 47<sup>th</sup> Sanremo Round Table, followed by the preparation for the 48<sup>th</sup> edition. Additionally, reports of activities were presented by the Director of the Military Department, the Director of the Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law, and the Director of the Special Projects Department. The agenda also covered a financial situation analysis and the approval of new experts' applications for membership.

### **The Institute at the UK Army Legal Services' Annual Professional Training**

*18<sup>th</sup> September 2024*

On Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Lt. General (Ret.) Giorgio Battisti, President of the Institute, and Mr. Gian Luca Beruto, Secretary-General a.i., participated in the UK Army Legal Services' Annual Professional Training (APT), held at the Defence School of Logistics and Administration (DSLA). This two-day event featured discussions on different operational law issues, culminating in a formal regimental dinner.

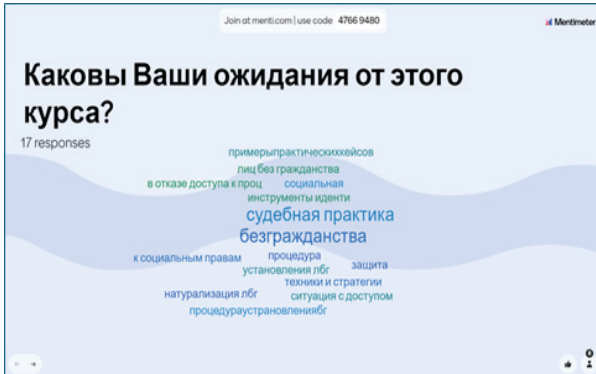
The attendance of the Institute's delegates at this important event reaffirmed its strong relationship with the UK Ministry of Defence, highlighting the long-lasting and close collaboration between the two institutions in promoting and advancing International Humanitarian Law through military and civilian specialised training and research.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Online Course on Statelessness

10<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

The Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law co-organized the 12<sup>th</sup> Online Course on Statelessness along with UNHCR and the United States Government (Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration), welcoming 31 participants from 9 country operations.



The Programme, delivered in Russian, specifically targeted officials from government bodies focusing on migration, internal affairs, and human rights, as well as scholars, members of the judiciary, and representatives from local non-governmental organizations. The course addressed the need to enhance knowledge and capacity to prevent, reduce and examine statelessness and to protect stateless persons worldwide. The course curriculum covered topics ranging from international conventions and national legislation on statelessness to working with stateless persons on the ground. In addition to the international legal framework related to citizenship, the course sessions examined the causes and consequences of statelessness, an overview of stateless populations worldwide, including stateless children, and the relationship between statelessness and forced displacement. The course also aimed to promote the implementation of the UNHCR Global Action Plan to End Statelessness through the #IBelong campaign, its latest update with the new Global Alliance to End Statelessness, as well as UNHCR's Strategic Plan on Statelessness.

The following guest speakers joined the Sanremo Team in the facilitation of the training: Mr. Azizbek Ashurov, Fergana Valley Lawyers Without Borders and Head of the Central Asian Network on Statelessness; Ms. Anne-Marie Deutschlander, UNHCR; Mr. Oleg Palii, NGO Legal Center of Advocates; Ms. Maha Mamo, Statelessness activist and motivational speaker; Mr. Sergiu Gaina, UNHCR; Ms. Alevtina Jumanova, Expert on statelessness; Mr. Iulian Popov, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova; Ms. Sofiia Kordonets, Right to Protection; Ms. Valeriia Cherednichenko, UNHCR; Mr. Denis Dzhivaga, Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law; Ms. Makhabbat Akhmetbekova, Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law; Ms. Anait Alekyan, Ministry of Internal Affairs

of the Republic of Armenia; Mr. Sergey Mikhailov, Right to Protection.

The Online Course was directed by Mr. Claudio J. Delfabro D., Director of the Department, and coordinated by Ms. Malika Karieva, Deputy Coordinator of the Academic Unit, with the support of Mr. Yaroslav Halieiev, Online Learning Assistant of the Department.

## 37<sup>th</sup> Online Course on International Refugee Law

24<sup>th</sup> June – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024



A cohort of 54 participants from 20 country operations attended the 37<sup>th</sup> Online Course on International Refugee Law, delivered in French, which was organized in cooperation with UNHCR, the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, and the United States Government (Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration). The online course covered the essential aspects of international refugee protection, drawing from the analysis of International Refugee Law and other related legal frameworks that safeguard the rights of displaced individuals. To this end, it highlighted the specific aspects of refugee protection in West and Central Africa as enshrined in the regional legal instrument. The course explored the various stages of displacement, delving into the causes that compelled people to flee, the risks they faced during their journey, and the pursuit and implementation of long-term, sustainable solutions. A comprehensive approach was taken to address issues affecting refugees, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the protection of stateless and internally displaced persons. The course was presented within the framework of developments arising from the Global Compact on Refugees.

The following guest speakers joined the Sanremo Team in the facilitation of the training: Ms. Selma Sassi Safer, Special Rapporteur on Refugees, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; Prof. Vincent Chetail, Center for Global Migration; Ms. Catherine-Amélie Chassin, University of Caen-Normandie; Ms. Dalila Zenati, IIHL; Prof. Trésor Maheshe Musole, Catholic University of Bukavu; Prof. Hélène Raspail, University of Le Mans; Dr. Bilal Sabloulh, ICRC; Dr. Thibaut Fleury Graff, Panthéon-Assas; Dr. Isidore Ngueuleu, World Organization Against Torture; Mr. Bertin Nzonza, MOSAICO Association Actions for Refugees; Mr. Ibrahim Sallet Mahamat, Vivre Ensemble; Mr.

Hayat Akbari, boniği; Ms. Eve Lester, boniği; Mr. David Safari Zabulon, Academic advisor; Ms. Marie Eychenne, UNHCR; Ms. Bénédicte Voos, UNHCR. The online course was directed by Mr. Claudio J. Delfabro D., Director of the Department and coordinated by Ms. Dalila Zenati, Head of the Capacity Development Unit, with the support of Ms. Yasamin Yousif Yacoub, Online Learning Assistant of the Department.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Online Course on Advocacy for Protection 8<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024



The Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law organized and implemented the 4<sup>th</sup> Online Course on Advocacy for Protection with the support of UNHCR, welcoming 53 participants from 28 countries.

The programme, delivered in English, presented the key elements for supporting the transformation of policies, public perception of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless people, and migrants. Based on the main protection principles deriving from International Refugee Law, Human Rights Law, and Humanitarian Law, the Course assessed challenges and opportunities related to given protection situations and identified relevant stakeholders towards which advocacy interventions can be addressed. A specific focus was also dedicated to practical sessions on protection analysis, advocacy strategy design, and message crafting to ensure that advocacy efforts are effective and sustainable. The course specifically targeted national human rights commission bodies, representatives of civil society, national and international non-governmental organizations, as well as international organizations, including UNHCR and the Red Cross.

The following guest speakers joined the Sanremo Team in the facilitation of the training: Mr. Barthélemy Mwanza Ngane, Global Refugee Youth Network; Mr. Kristijan Mihajlovski, IHL; Ms. Beth Eggleston, Humanitarian Advisory Group; Ms. Christianna Mourouzi, MSF Greece; Ms. Elisa Massimino, Georgetown Law; Ms Leila Shifteh, Refugee Solidarity Network; Mr. Matthew Byrne, Inter-Agency Standing Committee; Mr. Nikola Kovačević, Center for Research and Social Development IDEAS; Ms. Rez Gardi, Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table; Mr. James Milner, The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network; Ms. Martina Ranieli, IHL.

The online course was directed by Mr. Claudio J. Delfabro D., Director of the Department and coordinated by Ms. Martina Ranieli, Head of the Institutional Engagement Unit, with the support of Ms. Mouna El Moudni, Project Assistant of the Department.

#### Leadership in Emergency Training Programme Cycle

24<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

From June 24<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 32 participants working for national-based organizations and local authorities from 12 countries of the African Continent joined the Leadership in Emergency Training Programme Cycle which was delivered in collaboration with UNHCR and the Sanremo Institute. The Programme aimed to enhance the effectiveness of participants in their roles as emergency team leaders in disaster responses and humanitarian settings and to build knowledge and create a culture of continuous learning and knowledge sharing.

The two online sessions on Protection in Emergencies and Emergency Coordination were delivered by the Director of the Refugee Department, Mr. Claudio Delfabro, and focused on presenting the fundamental principles of protection according to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the main categories of persons in need of protection in forced displacement, and the legal framework applicable to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in emergency settings, as well as the main coordination models in humanitarian emergency response. They featured a highly participatory and interactive methodology, including role-play, simulations, case studies, and exercises. The Workshop was developed thanks to UNHCR.

#### Advanced Course on Mediation in International Conflict, University of Genoa

24<sup>th</sup> July 2024



The Advanced Course on Mediation in International Conflict is a Summer School organized by the University of Genoa (Department of Political and International Sciences) and by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. It was designed to delve into the dynamics of international conflicts

and to develop advanced skills in conducting mediation. Experts of the Refugee Department, Mr. Patrick Wall, Fellow at the Sanremo Institute, and Ms Donna-Marie Fry, Violence Prevention Educator and Trainer, delivered in-depth sessions on: “The Role of Mediation in Peace-building,” “Approaches to Peace-building: Top-down vs. Bottom-up”, and “Peace and Sustainable Development.” Their insights and expertise provided participants with essential tools for navigating post-conflict mediation and fostering lasting peace.

**Pilot Workshop on the Introductory Module on International Protection of Refugees at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, Skopje, North Macedonia**

*11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2024*



The Refugee Department supported the pilot Workshop at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors in Skopje, North Macedonia, at the invitation of the UNHCR Representation in the country. Judges and legal associates participated in the two-day workshop, focusing on basic concepts of international protection to deepen their understanding of the topic. The Department will continue supporting key entities in North Macedonia on issues of international protection.

**IDP Law and Policy Forum on the Domestication of the Kampala Convention**

*18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024*



The Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement in Africa co-organized by UNHCR, the IDP Protection Expert Group (IPEG), and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, with the support of the International Institute of

Humanitarian Law (IHL), took place in Dakar from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September. Successfully implemented, the Forum gathered government officials from 13 countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan) that are at various stages of domesticating and implementing the Kampala Convention. The multi-day facilitated peer-to-peer exchange aimed at promoting the exchange of practice and concrete ways to make progress on law and policy and to overcome recurrent barriers as well as advance prevention, protection, and solutions for Internally Displaced Persons.

**Tailored Workshop on Statelessness**

*23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024*



Between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September, the Refugee Department had the privilege of hosting 29 participants from the MENA region for a 4-day intensive workshop focused on equipping them with the tools and best practices to prevent and examine statelessness. The workshop sessions addressed the relationship between statelessness and forced displacement and focused on promoting the use and implementation of UNHCR’s Global Action Plan to End Statelessness as part of the #BeLong campaign. Through engaging discussions, hands-on activities, and knowledge exchange, these professionals are now empowered to take the next steps in combating statelessness in their respective countries. The workshop was organized in cooperation with UNHCR with the support of the Government of the Netherlands.

**“Security and Democratic Life in Latin America: a Community Effort”**

This Project was developed by the IHL with the financial support of the Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale Italiano (MAECI).

It began with a virtual workshop on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, which was followed by a research phase that lasted until the end of March of the following year and led to intense in-person work in the Republic of El Salvador during the month of May, which included activities with the National Civil Police, groups of women in vulnerable

situations, and youth sectors.

During the period covered by this Newsletter (third quarter of 2024) this Project was completed with the following events:

- **Focus group:** took place during the month of July to determine the nature and scope of the tasks performed;
- **Virtual laboratory:** held at the end of the previous activity to draw conclusions on the work carried out;
- **Webinar:** public and free to share the Project's findings, it was held on August 8th 2024.

The Project Director, Prof. Roberto A. Moreno introduced the Webinar. The work carried out with the National Civil Police was commented on by Dr. Carlos Mercado Casillas, Professor at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico); Master Daira Arana Aguilar, Director of Global Thought, A.C (Mexico), referred to the work carried out with women's groups, and Master Juan Carlos Torres, Director of the Master's Programme in Policies for the Prevention of Youth Violence in a Culture of Peace at the Don Bosco University (El Salvador), referred to the work carried out with youth.

Dr. María Eugenia Suárez de Garay, Professor-Researcher at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico) and Jacqueline Margarita Quintanilla Peña, Document Management Officer of the Attorney General's Office (El Salvador), were invited to offer a commentary on the Project's findings.

Dr. Alejandrina María José Sanabria Córdova, General Coordinator of the SEVIDELSA Project (El Salvador), and Dr. Marcos Pablo Moloeznik, Professor-Researcher at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico), oversaw the conclusions and closing of the Webinar.



- At the end of the quarter, the trilingual publication (Spanish/English/Italian) was published in print and digitally. This publication illustrates all the activities carried out within the framework of the Project, its findings and conclusions.

**Women and Law Enforcement: Promoting Synergy**  
 Within the framework of the call issued by the Direzione Generale per gli Affari Politici e di Sicurezza del Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale of Italy, dated July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, in order to obtain contributions for the implementation of initiatives aimed at implementing the Fourth National Action Plan on

“Women, peace and security” the IHL's Special Projects Department for Latin America worked intensively on the preparation of a project targeting two major areas: women in vulnerable situations and police personnel, in order to develop it simultaneously in two countries characterized by the problems they present in this area: Colombia and Ecuador.

In accordance with the Decree approving the final evaluation of the entities selected to receive the respective contributions, the Project presented by the IHL was chosen for this purpose, and the procedures for the implementation of the actions foreseen in the Project were immediately set in motion.



**Security and Democratic Life in Latin America: Community and Police Working in Harmony**

Within the framework of the call issued by the Direzione Generale per la Mondializzazione e le Questioni Globali del Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale of Italy, dated July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, in order to obtain contributions for the implementation of projects aimed at enabling Italian participation in international peace and humanitarian initiatives, the IHL's Special Projects Department for Latin America actively worked on the preparation of a project to be implemented in the Republic of El Salvador, with the overall objective of generating a synergistic effect with the combined forces of the various sectors of the community and government bodies, in order to consolidate peace, security and development. The outcome of this proposal is expected to be known approximately in the first days of November 2024.

**24<sup>th</sup> Sanremo Summer School**  
 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

On Monday July 1<sup>st</sup> the Special Projects Department at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law proudly kicked off the 24<sup>th</sup> Sanremo Summer School. Held from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the course welcomed 21

participants from 16 countries, including staff from UN agencies, international organizations, and governmental institutions, engaging them in insightful discussions with leading global experts. The programme aimed to deepen participants' knowledge by blending theoretical insights with hands-on case studies.

The first week offered a comprehensive introduction to International Humanitarian Law, exploring its basic rules and principles, the methods and means of warfare, and key issues of accountability. It also examined how IHL applies to military operations beyond traditional warfare and addressed the protection of water-related infrastructure during armed conflicts.

During the second week, the Refugee Department led three days of sessions focusing on topics such as the international protection framework, the role of UNHCR, inclusion and exclusion criteria, other categories of persons in need of protection, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, protection at sea, refugees' rights and responsibilities, the age, gender, and diversity approach, and durable solutions. The final two days covered International Disaster Law and International Criminal Justice.

This year's Summer School struck a perfect balance between theory and practice, using a participatory and creative teaching methodology. Sessions included lectures, presentations, case studies, group work, and various interactive activities, catering to diverse learning styles.

At the end of the programme, participants were awarded an official certificate of attendance by the Sanremo Institute, marking the successful completion of this enriching experience.



#### Publication of the Proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> Sanremo Round Table 2023 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

The Institute published the Proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> Sanremo Round Table on current issues of IHL on the topic "Strengthening IHL Compliance: the Conduct of Hostilities, the Protection of Essential Services and Humanitarian Assistance in Contemporary Armed Conflict".

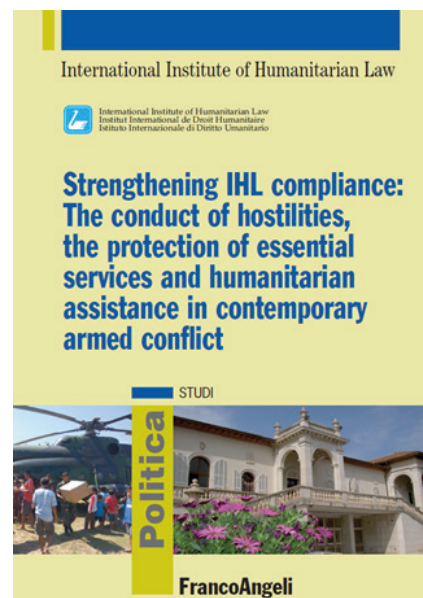
The 46<sup>th</sup> Round Table on current issues of international humanitarian law, jointly organised by the Institute and the International Committee of the Red Cross, was held in Sanremo, with live broadcasting online, on the 14th and 15th

September 2023.

The Round Table examined the applicability of IHL principles and rules to multi-faceted humanitarian crises, extending its scope by delving into international human rights law and the many complementary legal regimes directly or indirectly safeguarding civilians, essential services, and humanitarian aid in crisis scenarios.

Its Proceedings explore the effectiveness of the existing IHL-mandated tools and highlights the importance of a comprehensive implementation of impactful practices to ensure access to humanitarian relief for civilian populations.

The specialized debate also discussed the interplay between different stakeholders and parties, as well as the establishment of most essential long-term cooperation between military and non-military law enforcement bodies, public institutions, civil society organizations, private entities (e.g. financial and economic stakeholders), NGOs and humanitarian actors.



#### The Institute at the Rotary's International Day of Peace

21<sup>st</sup> September 2024



On Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Rotary Club of Sanremo-Hanbury celebrated the International Day of Peace in the suggestive location of Forte San Tecla. The event saw strong participation

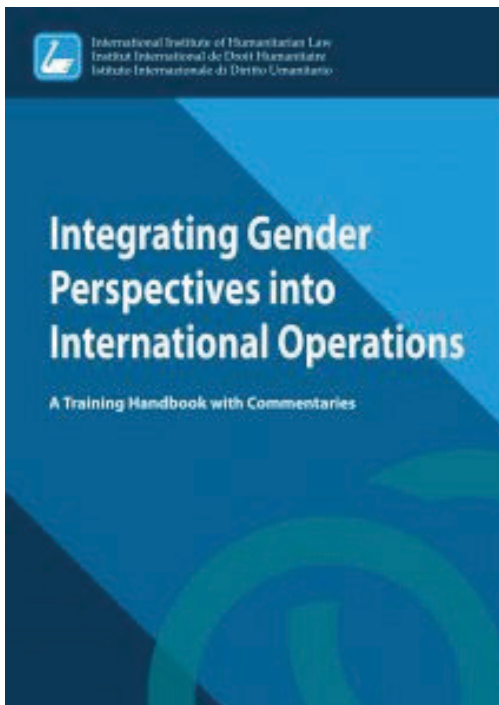
from the local community and was also attended by the most prominent regional authorities.

The event provided an important opportunity to reflect on crucial themes such as peace and non-violence. During the day, Ms. Gaia De Salvo, Junior Collaborator of the Special Projects Department at the Institute, delivered a presentation on the Institute's history and the daily objectives it pursues.

Concluding the event, the Institute's President, Lt. General (Ret.) Giorgio Battisti, delivered a speech in which he shared his vision and commitment to promoting peace on a global level.

### **Update of the Handbook on Integrating Gender Perspectives into International Operations**

*23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024*



The Institute is very pleased to announce that the updated English Handbook on “Integrating Gender Perspectives into International Operations” is now available for consultation and download.

With this publication, the Sanremo Institute wants to give its contribution to the promotion of gender perspectives with specific regard to the protection of groups of individuals in conflict areas.

The Handbook – prepared by international civil and military experts convened in Sanremo by the Institute – provides a practical framework for gender mainstreaming in the training of the military, police officers and civilians who are involved in conflict scenarios.