

## GENERAL COURSE PROFILE

### Aim

The aim of this course is to address and explore the vital topic of the Protection of Civilians (POC) and to place the POC in its context and importance for contemporary military operations.

### Objectives

The overarching teaching objectives of the course are to:

1. Equip participants with an understanding of the legal, ethical, and operational frameworks for POC, to include IHL and Human Rights.
2. Explore the challenges of contemporary conflict and evolving threats to civilians, including technology, i.e. cyber risks, AI, UAV, and the interplay of military and civilian actors.
3. Explore how the challenge of contemporary conflict complicates the protection of civilians.
4. Foster a culture of awareness of the nature and complexity of the need to protect civilians.
5. Promote practical application through scenario-based learning and interactive discussions and exercises.

The course is designed for the following personnel:

- Civilian, military and police personnel who are deployed on missions with POC mandates.
- Policy makers who work in defence, foreign affairs, interior, or law enforcement.
- Personnel working in IOs, NGOs, etc. and/or missions of the UN and any of the regional organisations.
- Our Academic partners.

The teaching methodology used for this course comprises a combination of presentations, case studies, panel discussions and syndicate work. Attendees will participate in group case study exercises addressing current POC-related issues. Exercises are facilitated by teaching staff utilising examples of POC situations experienced by deployed military, police and civilian officials. The focus throughout the course is an experienced based methodology which practically addresses topics.

## ADMINISTRATION

The registration fee is €1,100. The fee should be remitted before the start of the course, or on arrival in cash or Euro currency cheque. Credit cards are also accepted. The registration fee covers:

- Transfers to/from Nice Airport.
- Course materials.
- Lunch and coffee breaks on working days.
- Welcome Reception.
- Course dinner.
- Photograph, and Diploma

The registration fee does not cover all other expenses incurred by the participant such as hotel accommodation, laundry or telephone calls, or any other incidentals. Accordingly, participants should bring with them sufficient funds to pay for such expenses or have access to such funds in Sanremo via their bank.

Registrations and administrative questions should be directed to [military.department@iihl.org](mailto:military.department@iihl.org). For any further information please consult our website [www.iihl.org](http://www.iihl.org).

International Institute of Humanitarian Law  
Villa Ormond – Corso Cavallotti 113  
18038 Sanremo, IM – Italy  
Tel.: + 39 0184541848 – Fax: + 39 0184 54160  
Cell: +39 324 046 8785  
E-mail: [military.department@iihl.org](mailto:military.department@iihl.org) – Web: [www.iihl.org](http://www.iihl.org)



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

## The Protection of Civilians

A fundamental moral, political, legal and strategic priority in modern combat operations.

Sanremo: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## PROGRAMME



Colonel (ret'd) Jerry Lane  
Ireland

Professor Chris Jenks  
SMU Dedman School of Law, USA

TBC  
CoESPU Research Head of Office

Dr Darragh Murray  
School of Law  
Queen Mary University of London, UK

TBC  
Department of International Refugee Law and Migration  
Law, IIHL

Ms Esther Grinich  
POLAD, Op ASPIDES

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 – Introduction to the POC**

08.30–09.00 **Registration of participants.**

09.00–09.15 **Course opening:**  
Lt Gen G. Battisti, President, IIHL,  
Dr G. Beruto, A/Sec General, IIHL,  
Col. N. Heppenstall, Director Military Dept.

09.15–09.45 **Course Introduction, followed by Participants Introductions.**  
Col Lane & Prof Jenks.

09.45–10.30 **POC in the contemporary operating environment – Risk, Relevance, Reward.**  
Col Lane & Prof Jenks.

10.30–11.00 **Morning Coffee** (incl. Course photograph).

11.00–12.30 **Framework 1 – The Law. IHL, IHRL, Refugees Law, UN Charter and UN SC Resolutions.**  
Prof Jenks & Dr. Murray.

12.30–13.30 **Lunch.**

13.30–15.00 **Framework 2 – Applicable references NATO, EU, UN, US (C–HRM).**  
Ms. Grisnich.

15.00 – 15.30 **Afternoon Tea.**

15.30–16.15 **Takeaways 1: Realities of Operations & the language of POC- risk, harm and mitigation.** [e.g., CHMR, EWIPA/ Rev effects, Human shields/ Critical infrastructure/ ERW] – TBC.]  
Prof Jenks.

16.15–17.00 **Case Study: Iraq in 2025** (with discussion).  
Ms. Grisnich.

17.00–17.15 **Reflections on Day 1.**  
All staff.

17.15 **Welcome Reception.**

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – Situations of Violence.**

0830–09.00 **A. Morning Brief – Scar Island.**  
**B. Spotlight on EU doctrine for and POC.**  
Col Lane.

09.00–10.30 **A. POC in Situations of Violence below the threshold of Armed Conflict.**  
**B. Case study – Haiti.**  
Col Lane.

10.30–11.00 **Morning Coffee.**

11.00–12.30 **Course themes – POC & Law Enforcement.**  
Col Gareffi.

12.30–13.30 **Lunch.**

13.30–15.15 **Takeaways 2: Resilience, threat assessment, analysis and risk mitigation.**  
Ms. Grisnich.

15.15–15.30 **Afternoon Tea.**

15.30–16.30 **Course themes – Hand in hand? Human Rights and POC.**  
Dr. Murray.

16.30–17.00 **Syndicate Presentation and reflections on Day 2.**  
All staff.

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – The POC in NIAC.**

08.30–09.00 **A. Morning Brief.**  
**B. Spotlight on UN doctrine for POC.**  
Col Lane.

09.00–10.30 **A. POC in NIAC.**  
**B. Case study – Somalia.**  
Prof Jenks & Dr. Murray.

10.30–11.00 **Morning Coffee.**

11.00–12.30 **Takeaways 3: The vulnerable human environment:** [E.g. Mapping, Gender-based violence and vulnerable populations – assessment of needs. [Cross cutting e.g., CAAC, CR–SV, WPS, CPP] Protection strategies.]] Ms. Grisnich.

12.30–13.30 **Lunch.**

13.30–15.00 **Takeaways 4: Displaced persons.**  
Refugee Dept, IIHL. – TBC

15.00–15.30 **Afternoon Tea.**

15.30–16.30 **Themes: Our neighbours and our spoilers.**  
**Analysis and Understanding.** [Who is my neighbour? (Military, NGOs, UN agencies, ICRC, local communities) Towards a comprehensive and/ or integrated approach while recognising neutrality and impartiality: stakeholders and Assets. Who is my enemy? Spoilers, risk and resilience. What then? 'Avoid and Protect' – FABN, C–SASE.] All staff.

16.30–17.00 **Syndicate Presentation and reflections on Day 3.**

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – The POC in IAC.**

08.30–09.00 **A. Morning Brief.**  
**B. Spotlight on NATO doctrine for POC.**  
Col Lane.

09.00–10.30 **A. POC in IAC.**  
**B. Case study – Ukraine.**  
Prof Jenks & Dr. Murray.

10.30–11.00 **Morning Coffee.**

11.00–12.30 **Takeaways 4: Urban challenges: CHMR and Incorporating Civilian Harm Mitigation Risk into Military Planning.** [Case study US War College POC, challenges of populated areas, applicable law, EWIPA?, Gaza, etc.] Prof Jenks and Col Lane.

12.30–13.30 **Lunch.**

13.30–15.00 **Course themes: The benefits and responsibilities of Technology, AI, Cyber Threats and POC: New Frontiers of Conflict.**  
Dr Murray & Prof Jenks.

15.00–15.30 **Afternoon Tea.**

15.30–16.30 **Case study: Tough lessons learned? The UN and POC.**  
Col Lane.

16.30–17.00 **Syndicate Presentation & reflections on Day 4.**  
20.00 **Course Dinner.**

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – POC is core business.**

08.30–09.00 **Exercise Preparation**

09.00–11.00 **Exercise POC Wargame**  
All staff.

11.00–11.30 **Exercise Conclusion.**

11.30–12.15 **POC is core business ... looking to the future & emerging issues.**  
All teaching staff.

12.30–13.00 **Course closing ceremony.**  
Lt Gen G. Battisti, President, IIHL,  
Dr G. Beruto, A/ Secretary General, IIHL,  
Col. N. Heppenstall, Director Military Dept. IIH

13.00–13.30 **Lunch.**