

## Learning objectives

The Online Course on Cultural Property Protection (CPP) is organized by the Sanremo Institute's **Special Projects Department**, with the financial support of Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and in association with the [Master in Cultural Property Protection in Crisis Response](#) of the University of Turin.

It aims to equip participants with **legal knowledge and analytical tools to protect cultural property in armed conflict** by:

- Raising awareness of the **importance of CPP for humanitarian practitioners and military personnel**;
- Strengthening **understanding of relevant legal frameworks**;
- Improving knowledge of **military responsibility and accountability** for violations of international law;
- Addressing **operational challenges such as marking, targeting, and trafficking**, and exploring **new technologies** to overcome them;
- Promoting **civil-military cooperation**;
- Highlighting the connection of CPP to **peace processes and transitional justice**;
- Encouraging **collaboration among professionals** across sectors and countries.

## Background

Cultural heritage forms a vital part of the collective memory, identity, and values of communities.

In the event of armed conflict, heritage faces significant risks, not only from **incidental harm** such as collateral damage or looting but also from **deliberate attacks** aimed at erasing a population's connection to its history.

Recognising the universal importance of cultural heritage for fostering peace, **international law has developed and evolved to protect it during armed conflict**. This legal framework is reinforced by best practices from military and civilian actors.

By adapting such tools to safeguard cultural property, stakeholders contribute to a more **comprehensive and sustainable approach to the conduct of hostilities, conflict resolution and post-conflict recovery**, while preserving invaluable testimonies of specific communities and humanity at large.



Download the  
**Sanremo UNESCO  
Manual on CPP**

For an in depth look at the norms surrounding CPP, participants are encouraged to consult the [Sanremo UNESCO Manual on the Protection of Cultural Property](#) on the IIHL website.



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

Special Projects Department | Sanremo - Italy

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# Online Course on Cultural Property Protection in the event of Armed Conflict

9 - 30 May 2025  
*Online*

[www.iihl.org](http://www.iihl.org)

# Course Agenda

## Methodology

The program combines **live and self-paced training sessions**, allowing attendees to enhance their knowledge through coursework and interactions with selected high-level instructors.

Participants must complete assignments to finish the course. **Exercises and case studies will focus on practical applications of international legal standards** and best practices from relevant organizations.

### Module 1

## Opening session & history and basics of Cultural Property Protection in armed conflict

09 May 2025

Live session 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 90 min.

### Opening

- **Gian Luca Beruto**  
Secretary-General, IHL

### Main Facilitator

- **Anne-Marie Carstens**  
Associate Professor of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law

### Module 2

## Understanding the impact of armed conflict on cultural heritage and property

12 May 2025

Live session 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 90 min.

### Main Facilitator

- **Joris Kila**  
Researcher, University of Amsterdam's Institute for Culture and History

### Module 3

## Legal framework for Cultural Property Protection in armed conflict

15 May 2025

Live session 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 90 min.

### Main Facilitator

- **Kristin Hausler**  
Director, Centre for International Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

### Module 4

## Operational challenges in Cultural Property Protection in armed conflict

19 May 2025

Live session 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 90 min.

### Main Facilitator

- **Tim Purbrick**  
Former Commander, British Army Cultural Property Protection Unit

### Module 5

## Civil-military cooperation in Cultural Property Protection & CPP engagement of different armed actors

22 May 2025

Live session 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 90 min.

### Main Facilitator

- **Zeynep Gul Unal**  
Coordinator, Crisis Monitoring and Response Working Group; Vice President, International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness - ICOMOS ICORP

### Module 6

## Cultural property & peacebuilding

26 May 2025

Live session 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 90 min.

### Main Facilitator

- **Amra Hadzimuhamedovic**  
Director, Centre for Cultural Heritage, International Forum Bosnia

### Module 7

## New developments and technology for Cultural Property Protection

29 May 2025

Live session 2.00 pm (CEST), approx. 90 min.

### Main Facilitator

- **Emma Cunliffe**  
Secretariat, Blue Shield International; Senior Research Associate: Cultural Property Protection and Peace, Newcastle University