## Protection of civilians in armed conflicts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Credits</strong></th>
<th>2 credits ECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates</strong></td>
<td>18 – 29 September 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Format</strong></td>
<td>Online (combination of self-study time and live sessions). Live sessions are mandatory and take place 2-3 times a week, usually in early afternoon CET. <strong>Online course requires 20-25 hours of dedicated work per week. We recommend that participants allow at least 50% of their time for the course and adapt their professional activity accordingly.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
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<td><strong>Fees</strong></td>
<td>CHF 1’700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Course director</strong></td>
<td>Baptiste Martin – <a href="mailto:baptiste.martin@unige.ch">baptiste.martin@unige.ch</a></td>
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### Course overview

**Short description**

This course provides a general introduction to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The first part sheds light on the multiplicity of operational contexts and threats found in complex conflict environments - from community-based or politically induced violence to violations by international or state security forces, or human rights abuses inflicted on civilian populations by non-state armed groups. It also explores the legal or normative frameworks applicable to the situation(s) at hand and the various mandates, roles and responsibilities of actors involved in the conflict. The second part provides a practical insight into humanitarian protection mainstreaming, risk assessments, programming and operations, and unveils inter-linkages between specialized protection mandates, including sexual and gender-based violence, child protection or the protection of IDPs and refugees.
Overall, this protection course applies comparative and critical thinking on concepts, principles and professional standards most common amongst protection actors in conflict settings, and helps designing and implementing a protection response in practice.

### Objectives of the course

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Discuss the main protection of civilians concepts and principles, operating environments and related legal or normative frameworks
- Explain the protection roles and responsibilities or mandates and objectives of states, non-state armed actors, humanitarian actors and international peace & security operations
- Analyse protection threats and risks and identify or distinguish the protection needs of specific individuals or groups (women, boys and girls, IDP, refugees, etc.)
- Understand protection mainstreaming, programming and operations
- Design and implement various field protection strategies

### Workload

Around 20-25 hours of work each week, including:

1. Asynchronous self-study activities (such as case studies, videos, recorded slideshows, readings, etc.)
2. Synchronous live sessions

### Thematic structure of the course

- Definition, complex environments and the applicable legal frameworks
- Mandates, roles and responsibilities of host states, non-state armed groups, humanitarian and international peace & security operations
- Concepts, principles, policies and procedures
- Information management and protection of sources, witnesses and victims
- Planning: protection mainstreaming and programming, community-based protection and field protection strategies
- Specialized protection mandates (SGBV, child protection, protection of IDPs, refugees or minorities at risk)


## ESC 2022-2023
Course at a glance

- Coordination and advocacy, interactions with parties to the conflict and/or international peace and security operations
- Scenario-based exercise and role play: design and implement a comprehensive protection response

## Prerequisites

### Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development or social sector who wish to increase their understanding in protection norms, policies, doctrines and strategies
- Professionals of international and regional peace operations, national defence and security forces who wish to develop their understanding of protection of civilians and institutional and field level
- Graduate students with relevant volunteer or intern experience (2-3 years), looking to undertake a postgraduate course with a view to entering the humanitarian sector

### Distance Learning

- Broadband/high speed connection - 2.5 Mbps minimum.
- Please note that most weekly content and activities is accessible via phone, but a PC/laptop/tablet is preferred
- Microphone and webcam

### Admission requirements

1. A university qualification (Bachelor’s degree or equivalent)
2. At least three years of relevant professional experience
3. Excellent command of English
4. Motivation working in the humanitarian sector