

7-11 July 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

# European and International Human Rights Standards in Conflict and Disasters

*Jean Monnet Chair – Intensive Course*  
SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA – Pisa

# BACKGROUND

In recent years, the impact of natural and technological disasters, as well as of other emergencies, has been constantly on the rise, both within and outside the EU. The recent COVID-19 pandemic is the most evident example of this trend. At the same time, Europe is once again experiencing the devastating effects of armed conflicts within its borders.

Looking at these phenomena through a legal lens, it is widely acknowledged that conflicts and disasters heavily impact the enjoyment of the human rights of the affected communities. Humanitarian organizations insist that human rights principles should be more thoroughly integrated into conflict and disaster management policies in order to strengthen prevention, response, recovery, and accountability, while increasing the protection of the affected individuals and communities.

However, efforts to disseminate human rights standards applicable in conflict and disaster settings have been limited, including in Europe. The intensive course on **European and International Human Rights Standards in Conflict and Disaster Settings (EIHR-SCaD)** aims at addressing these gaps.

## Nature of the course

The course is structured as a **5-day intensive course** (Monday-Friday).

The entire course runs for 38 hours (normally 8.30-18.00).

A **maximum of 25 participants** will be admitted.

## Direction and teaching staff

**The Course Director is Professor Emanuele Sommario**, Jean Monnet Chair holder.

The faculty will include teaching staff members of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna as well as academics, practitioners and other experts from Italian and foreign institutions.

# MAIN TOPICS

The Course is divided into 5 sub-modules, one for each day of classes:

- 1 **Introduction to International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Disaster Law**, providing a general introduction on the relevant legal frameworks and addressing the primary role of the affected State in conflict and disaster settings.
- 2 **Actors in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management**, focusing on non-State actors (UN, EU, IFRC, NGOs) that have a role in humanitarian assistance and disaster management activities, especially in those related to human rights protection.
- 3 **Protection Issues**, shedding light on the notion of 'vulnerability' and exploring the specific protection needs of vulnerable segments of the population.
- 4 **Applying Human Rights in Disasters and Armed Conflicts**, dealing with concrete human rights standards applicable to conflict and disaster settings, and describing the legal duties they impose on States and non-State actors.
- 5 **Human Rights, Disaster Prevention, and the Repression of International Crimes**, addressing the interplay between IHRL, IHL and other branches of international law that contribute to preventing and mitigating the effects of conflicts and disasters, and to establishing accountability for violations of international norms.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to:

- > Provide participants with a sound knowledge of the legal frameworks and principal actors relevant to humanitarian assistance activities in conflict and/or disaster settings, and of the role of human rights in the prevention and response to natural and technological disasters, as well as to armed conflicts.
- > Raise awareness of the critical role of human rights in conflict and disaster settings, and therefore favour a more human rights-sensitive approach to their management.
- > Offer a solid understanding of the specific needs of vulnerable groups affected by conflicts and disasters.



# CERTIFICATIONS AND CREDITS

Participants will be required to pass a final exam in order to obtain 2 university credits (ECTS).

Participants attending at least 80% of the classes will be anyhow awarded a certificate of attendance.

# METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology will be characterized by a combination of frontal lecturing and more interactive training techniques (case study solving, etc.).

Participants will have access to online resources ahead of the sessions to favour their active participation during classes and improve the learning experience.

# COURSE FEE

■ **Professionals working** in the field of human rights and/or humanitarian assistance in conflict and disaster settings will be required to pay a fee of **250 Euro**.

■ **PhD students** will be required to pay a fee of **100 Euro**.

■ **Other participants** (graduate students enrolled in a Master programmes, etc.) will be required to pay a fee of **50 Euro**.

The fee includes lunch on class days.

# APPLICATION DEADLINES

First round of selection: 10th April 2025

Second round of selection: 5th June 2025

Applications will be processed on a rolling basis, which means that the course may be booked up before that date.



# SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants will be selected on the basis of the information provided in their CVs and in the on-line application form, which is available at <https://rebrand.ly/application2025>. Upon submitting the application form, please remember to attach your CV.

In case of problems with the on-line procedure please contact: [luca.poltronierirossetti@santannapisa.it](mailto:luca.poltronierirossetti@santannapisa.it)

Successful applicants who require a visa to enter Italy are strongly advised to immediately contact the Italian Embassy or consular authorities in their country of residence.

For more info please see: <https://www.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari-e-visti/>.

Selection will be conducted by an ad hoc committee headed by the Course Director.

Selection criteria will include:

- academic background
- professional background
- experiences as a volunteer
- motivational statement.

# WHO CAN APPLY

The course is intended for graduate and post-graduate students, research fellows and other academics, practitioners working in humanitarian assistance or for national and international organizations, NGOs and other actors active in this field (ICRC, IFRC, national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, etc.). Applicants must have a sound working knowledge of English.

## FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **Course Secretariat**

tel: +39 050 882614

### **Course tutor:**

Dr. Luca Poltronieri Rossetti  
[luca.poltronierirossetti@santannapisa.it](mailto:luca.poltronierirossetti@santannapisa.it)

[www.eihrcad.santannapisa.it](http://www.eihrcad.santannapisa.it)



# Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

The course will be held at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna ("the Scuola") in Piazza Martiri della Libertà, 33 Pisa (Italy), within its Advanced Training Division.

The Scuola is a public, autonomous, special-statute university, which promotes education and research through undergraduate studies, master and PhD programmes in the fields of Social Sciences and Applied Sciences.

The Scuola has acquired a great experience in organizing advanced training courses for professionals engaged in humanitarian assistance and peace-keeping operations, and is particularly active in conducting state-of-the-art research on the protection of human rights in emergency contexts.