



UNIVERSITIES NETWORK FOR CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

10 -21 June 2024

THE AIM OF THE COURSE

The Advanced Training Course organized by the Universities Network intends to develop the skills of academia and legal professionals in the field of international justice on issues related to children affected by armed conflicts.

In the past decade alone, armed conflicts are estimated to have claimed the lives of over two million children and physically maimed six million more. Conflict deprives children of parents, caregivers, basic social services, health care and education. There are some twenty million displaced and refugee children, as well as one million orphans, while others are held hostage, abducted, or trafficked. Thousands of boys and girls are used as soldiers in armed conflicts around the world. Children suffer specific harm as a result of armed conflict and have short- and long-term post-conflict needs, including redress and social reintegration, psycho-social rehabilitation, and right to justice at the national and international level.

The Advanced Training Course aims at bringing conceptual clarity to the issue of children and justice in times of armed conflict by analysing the evolution of the rights of children, the relevant legal provisions and the current status of the practice at the international level. The Course will focus on the phenomenon of children in armed conflict and present the legal basis for the protection of children in armed conflict in Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law. Specific attention will be given to the crimes committed against and affecting children, including sexual and gender-based crimes, as well as to the sociological and psychological approach to children affected by armed conflict.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The Course will be held **in English**. The approach will be theoretical and practical.

Lessons will be given by leading international experts and practitioners with experience in national and international proceedings, including before international organizations, International Tribunals and the International Criminal Court. The sessions will consist of keynote lectures followed by discussions through questions and answer session aiming at stimulating interaction among participants. Each session will be broadcast live on a dedicated digital platform. In addition, during the Course, participants will have access to video recordings of all sessions via a dedicated online page.

The Course will take place each day between 10 and 21 June 2024.



A Certificate will be issued at the end of the Course. At the end of the Course, the Scientific Committee will award two scholarships to the best trainees evaluating the attendance to the Course and engagement and the performance during the Course. One of the scholarships is dedicated to the former Italian Ambassador to Australia, Mrs. Francesca Tardioli, who passed away prematurely in 2022, for her deep commitment to human rights protection.

REGISTRATION TO THE COURSE

Registration to the Course is open from 1 April until 30 May.

A maximum of 20 candidates will be admitted to the Course.

Candidates will have to complete the Registration Form available [here](#).

Please note that a good understanding of English (written and spoken) is essential to be admitted to the Course. Should the candidate have a Language Certificate(s), she/he should mention it in the Registration Form and provide such a Certificate.

Only a complete online application will be processed.

A complete online application consists of the completed Registration Form and the following documents:

- 1) Valid Identity Card (with photo);
- 2) *Curriculum Vitae* (CV) in English;
- 3) Motivation Letter in English (max 400 words) stating the relevant background and reasons for choosing to apply for the Course, as well as how the Course will support the candidate's future endeavours in the field of HRL, IHL or ICL.

All the mentioned documentation must be sent to the following email address:

networkadvancedcourse24@gmail.com

The Scientific Committee will evaluate applications on their completeness, persuasiveness, and professional presentation. If admitted to the Course, the candidate will be required to proceed with the payment of the relevant fees and she/he will need to provide proof of payment before the start of the Course.

FEES

250 EUROS (incl.VAT) for all candidates.

Students coming from disadvantaged areas, will be entitled of discounted rates.

CREDITS :

Academic credits will be recognized by the Participants Universities



PROGRAMME

**10 June 2024
14.30 - 15.00 CET**

INAUGURAL SESSION

- Welcoming address from members of the Scientific Committee of the Universities Network
- Address by Ms Virginia Gamba de Potgieter, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- Address by H. E. Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala, First Vice- President International Criminal Court (ICC)

15.00-17.30 CET

The phenomenon of children in armed conflict

1. *Children in armed conflicts: current data and analysis of the geopolitical situation* - Mr. Ljubomir PETRULJESKOV, Program Lead Eastern Europe and Central Asia at International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
2. *The United Nations system and the Office of the UN Secretary-General Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict* - Ms Federica SOLA, Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
3. *The Regional systems to combat the phenomenon of children in armed conflict* - Prof. Vasilka SANCIN, Professor at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

11 June 2024

14.30-17.30 CET

The development of international provisions protecting children

1. *The protection of children under IHL and IHRL* - Prof. Ahmed Al FATLAWI, Professor at University of Kufa (Iraq)
2. *The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols* – Dr. Mikiko OTANI, Member and former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
3. *The six grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict and the instruments in the CoE framework protecting children in armed conflict* – Prof. Laura GUERCIO Counsel before the ICC, Secretary -General UNETCHAC

12 June 2024

14.30 -17.30 CET

What is justice for Children?

1. *Challenges to justice for children* - Prof. Yvonne M. VISSING –Director Center for Childhood and Youth Studies, Salem State University (USA)
2. *Ending impunity and children accountability* - Prof. Jan Marie FRITZ, Professor at the University of Cincinnati (USA)
3. *Maximizing justice for children* - Dr. Sanar Taha DARWISH, Legal Adviser, ICRC Baghdad, Iraq Delegation



13 June 2024

14.30-17.30 CET

Accountability mechanisms for children affected by armed conflict at the international level

1. *Ad hoc tribunals: Children before the ICTY and ICTR* - Prof. Fausto POCAR
2. *Hybrid courts: Children before the Special Court for Sierra Leone* - Ms Dato' Shyamala ALAGENDRA International Criminal Lawyer and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji
3. *Non-judicial mechanisms* - Ms Dato' Shyamala ALAGENDRA International Criminal Lawyer and former Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji

14 June 2024

14.30-17.30 CET

The role of the ICC in advancing the investigation and prosecution of crimes against or affecting children

1. *The ICC legal framework for the investigation and prosecution of crimes against or affecting children* – Ms Paolina MASSIDDA, Principal Counsel OPCV, ICC
2. *The OTP Policy on Children* - Ms Dianne LUPING, Trial Lawyer, OTP, ICC
3. *Investigation of crimes against or affecting children* - Ms Alice ZAGO or Ms Nicole SAMSON, Trial lawyer, OTP, ICC

17 June 2024

14.30-17.30 CET

CONFERENCE (TO BE CONFIRMED)

18 June 2024

14.30-17.30 CET

Participation of children in ICC proceedings and reparations

1. *The innovative feature of the Rome Statute: victims' participation in ICC proceedings* - Mr Philipp AMBACH, Head Victims Participation and Reparations Section, Registry ICC
2. *Participatory regime under article 68(3) Rome Statute* - Ms Ludovica VETRUCIO, Legal Officer, OPCV, ICC
3. *Reparations for children* - Ms Paolina MASSIDDA, Principal Counsel OPCV ICC or Ms Adeline BEDOUCHA, Legal Officer, Trust Fund for Victims, ICC

19 June 2024

14.30-16.30 CET

Support and protection to children in judicial proceedings and non-judicial processes

Ms An MICHELS, Psychologist Victims and Witnesses Section, Registry, ICC

1. *Challenges regarding the participation of children in judicial proceedings and non-judicial processes.*



2. *Protective and special measures in judicial proceedings.*
3. *The rights of the child during judicial proceedings and the concept of a child-friendly justice*

20 June 2024

14.30-16.30 CET

Impact of crimes on children exposed to armed conflict

Prof. Daryn Reicherter, Director Human Rights in Trauma Mental Health Laboratory, Stanford University

1. *How exposure to violence and armed conflict impact on the development of children?*
2. *Which are the short term and long-term effects of the exposure of children to violence and armed conflict?*
3. *Which programmes can be put in place to alleviate the effects of the exposure of children to violence and armed conflict?*

21 June 2024

14.30 – 16.30 CET

Analysis of Case Law

Responsible for the Course

Laura Guercio
Paolina Massidda

Tutors

Simona Lanzellotto
Giovanna Gnerre Landini

Secretariat

Andrea Ciommei
Antonino Pola

Media and Communication

Elena Rossi
Lisa Faccin

Scientific Committee

Laura Guercio,
Paolina Massidda, Fausto Pocar