

Trilateral Conference

PROTECTING CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Thursday, 16 April 2026

Golden Lecture Hall, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Poljanski nasip 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Registration Deadline: 10 April 2026 [Registration Link](#)

9.00-9.30	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS
9.30 – 9.45	WELCOME REMARKS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Maruša T. Veber, Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana; • Ana Žerjal, President, Slovenian Red Cross • Dr. Anja Oberkofler, Vice President of the Austrian Red Cross • Rosario Valastro, President, Italian Red Cross (<i>video address</i>)
9.45 – 10.00	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
	<p>Positive human rights obligations of States related to the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure in armed conflicts Dr. Vasilka Sancin, Judge, European Court of Human Rights</p>
9.45 – 11.15	PANEL 1: POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO THE IHL: GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO GALVANIZE POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
	<p>Moderator: Dr. Maruša T. Veber, Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</p> <p>Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law Dr. Kosuke Onishi, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</p> <p>Protecting Critical Infrastructure under International Humanitarian Law: Slovenia's Role and Initiatives Dr. Marko Rakovec, Director General of the Department for International Law and Protection of Interests at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia;</p> <p>Cyber activities and the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure under IHL – an Austrian perspective Dr. Konrad Bühler, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of Slovenia;</p> <p>Protecting Vulnerable Civilians: An Italian Perspective on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Conflict Situations Matteo Petrini, Deputy Head of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Department at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation</p>
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee break

11.45 – 13.15	PANEL 2: THE ROLE OF NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN CIVILIAN PROTECTION: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS
	<p>Moderator: <i>tb</i>c</p> <p>The Role of National Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies in Safeguarding the Rule of Law as Members of National IHL Committees Dr. Bernhard Schneider, Head of Migration & Legal Affairs, Austrian Red Cross</p> <p>The Slovenian Red Cross and the Protection of the Emblem under International Humanitarian Law Nuška Jerman, Legal Advisor, Slovenian Red Cross</p> <p>The Role of Red Cross Volunteers and Local Branches in Disseminating International Humanitarian Law Tomasso Natoli, Italian Red Cross, Head of Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Law</p>
13.15 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.00	PANEL 3: ACADEMIC DISCUSSION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER IHL
	<p>Moderator: Dr. Kosuke Onishi, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</p> <p>Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Dr. Giulio Bartolini, Full professor of international law, Roma Tre University/Coordinator Scientific Committee, IHL Section, Italian Red Cross</p> <p>Civilian Participation in Modern Armed Conflicts Dr. Birgit Haslinger, Professor and Head of the Institute of Public International Law, Air Law and International Relations of the Johannes Kepler University Linz</p> <p>Civilians and the right to life in armed conflict Dr. Astrid Reisinger Coracini, 'Senior Scientist, Department of Legal Theory, International and European Law, University of Salzburg'</p> <p>Modalities of Humanitarian Assistance and the Role of Consent under International Humanitarian Law Dr. Maruša T. Veber, Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</p>
16.00 – 16.30	Concluding remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cvetka Tomin, Secretary General Slovenian Red Cross