

Invitation - Special media briefing on International Humanitarian Law & civilian protection

The IHL Centre warmly invites Swedish-based journalists to a **special media briefing** on the escalating global challenges to international humanitarian law (IHL) and the vital role of journalists in safeguarding civilians ([see here](#) the recent article by the Centre's Director).

Helio Slussen, Peter Myndes backe 16, Stockholm

9-10 am, 23 September

Coffee and sandwiches will be served from 8.30 am

Why does this matter? And why now?

- Armed conflicts are intensifying globally, from Gaza to Sudan to the DRC, putting civilians and critical infrastructure at growing risk.
- IHL remains the key framework for monitoring conduct, advocating for accountability, and protecting civilians.
- The complexity of the law, rising threats to its authority, persistent impunity, and double standards leave serious violations unaddressed.
- Credible, evidence-based reporting is essential to support accountability and justice. Journalists are often the first to expose abuses, trigger scrutiny, and support justice.
- To support the media, humanitarian actors, and other stakeholders in their key role in protecting civilians, the IHL Centre will launch the [Stockholm Manual](#) on 24 September 2025. The Manual is an innovative tool for monitoring IHL compliance and advocating stronger civilian protection.
- Journalists themselves face serious risks when reporting from conflict zones, and IHL provides them with specific protections as civilians. The Manual also offers guidance on how journalists and media organisations can advocate for these protections in practice.

Who are we?

For over two decades, the IHL Centre has been a trusted, independent hub of expertise on the laws of war. From Gaza to the DRC, we have worked in more than 20 conflict settings, helping humanitarian actors navigate some of the most complex legal challenges of our time.

We exist to make IHL clear, practical, and accessible; because at its heart, this technical field is about protecting human life and dignity. Through our free, confidential [advisory service](#), capacity-building, and expert analysis, we equip humanitarian organisations, decision makers, civil society, and the media with the tools they need to uphold the rule of law, safeguard civilians, and ensure that humanity prevails even in the darkest of times. The IHL Centre is part of Swedish international development organisation Diakonia.

What to expect

- Expert insights on the mounting challenges to IHL around the world from our IHL specialists, and how media coverage can make or break civilian protection.
- A first look at the Stockholm Manual, and tailored guidance on how the media can effectively use it to produce evidence-based, legally sound reporting.
- Interview opportunities with IHL experts working on contexts including Sudan, the DRC and Palestine, to support your reporting.

The briefing will be delivered by:

Alice Priddy manages the Centre's Global Projects and the East & Central Africa region and is based in Geneva. Alice is an international lawyer who has been working on the law of armed conflict for over ten years; she has particular expertise in the inclusive application of IHL and is currently finalising a report on how IHL can be applied consistently and inclusively to protect all civilians.

Sofia Poulopoulou PhD is a Legal Adviser at the IHL Centre, based in The Hague, and part of the drafting team for the Stockholm Manual. Sofia specialises in IHL and human rights, with a strong focus on monitoring and implementing IHL.

Olivia Njoroge is a Legal Adviser with the Centre, based in Kenya and working on contexts across East Africa.

Please RSVP to sm@ihlcentre.org.