

Research, flagship initiatives and operational tools on the Protection in Practice of Humanitarian Aid Workers

7 October 2026

Online

In view of the upcoming conference on the Protection of Humanitarian Aid Workers, to be held on 15 and 16 October, the European Commission and the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union is hosting **a preparatory day online on 7 October.**

The following selection of concrete initiatives for the protection of humanitarian aid workers will be presented. Presentations are short (30mn) and online, open to all. Connections details here below.

- 10:00 **PRESENT 1** *Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel,*
by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 10:30 **PRESENT 2** *IHL in Focus,*
by Oxfam, Insecurity Insight, Geneva Academy, and IHL Centre
- 11:00 **PRESENT 3** *HOPES Project,*
by ACF, HI, MdM, NRC, Insecurity Insight
- 11:30 **PRESENT 4** *IHL Compliance Monitoring Database*
by Raoul Wallenberg Institute
- 12:00 **PRESENT 5** *Security Coordination in Response to Rapid-Onset Emergencies*
by INSO
- 12:30 **PRESENT 6** *Negotiating for the Protection of Aid Workers*
by the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations
- 14:00 **PRESENT 7** *Developing an NGO-Owned Mutual Insurance Mechanism*
by GISF
- 14:30 **PRESENT 8** *Monitoring, Advocacy and Accountability for Attacks on Health Care*
by Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC)
- 15:00 **PRESENT 9** *Justice for Aid Workers: A Lawyers and Investigators Network*
by Legal Action Worldwide
- 15:30 **PRESENT 10** *Equipment as a Protection Measure for 1st Responders in the West Bank*
by World Vision
- 16:00 **PRESENT 11** *Protecting Those Who Reach the Unreachable in Sahel*
by DRC
- 16:30 **PRESENT 12** *Duty of Care in Ukraine*
by PiN

PRESENT 1 - Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel

By the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT),

Update on the UNGA 2026 discussions regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel

The Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel is a global political commitment to safeguard humanitarian workers and ensure their access to civilians in conflict zones under international humanitarian law launched on 21 September 2025 by Australia and endorsed by 106 countries and the European Union. The session will highlight key discussions and outcomes from UNGA and provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about the next steps in advancing the Declaration and strengthening international efforts to protect humanitarian personnel.

Time: 10:00

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3875800270154769?p=X8riF20EIInSUf49rQ>

PRESENT 2 - IHL in Focus

By Oxfam, Insecurity Insight, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and IHL Centre

Coordinated, evidence-based action to address critical gaps in compliance with International Humanitarian Law and the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

The initiative combines monitoring, legal analysis, and advocacy to strengthen compliance with International Humanitarian Law and improve civilian protection. The Geneva Academy documents patterns of civilian harm and attacks affecting civilians, aid workers, and humanitarian infrastructure through its WAR WATCH platform. The IHL Centre and Insecurity Insight produce rapid legal analyses and alerts to inform diplomatic engagement on priority violations. Oxfam translates this evidence into advocacy efforts and works with frontline humanitarian organizations to amplify their perspectives and influence decision-makers.

Time: 10:30

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3649267491720536?p=7p7TJZBLNk5yPWSIIR>

PRESENT 3 - HOPES Project

By ACF, HI, MdM, NRC, Insecurity Insight

Strengthening awareness and political will to address disinformation and criminalization affecting humanitarian actors and operations

The HOPES (Humanitarian Opportunities: Protect, Engage and Stand For) project aims to tackle the growing challenges posed by disinformation, misinformation, and the criminalization of humanitarian action. Through evidence generation, advocacy, and awareness-raising, the project seeks to strengthen political engagement around these issues. It promotes an enabling environment for principled humanitarian action and highlights the impact of harmful narratives on aid workers and affected populations. The initiative brings together humanitarian organizations and research partners to advance collective solutions.

Time: 11:00

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/394916966826247?p=CE4A6CmPC4sgt9SLBu>

PRESENT 4 - International Humanitarian Law Compliance Monitoring Database

By Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)

Strengthening legal assistance, accountability and access to justice for humanitarian aid workers affected by attacks, arbitrary detention, and other serious violations.

The International Humanitarian Law Compliance Monitoring Database (ICMD) is an ambitious initiative to build a clearer global picture of how international humanitarian law is respected or violated in armed conflicts. By bringing together currently scattered information into one continuously updated platform, the ICMD will combine legal expertise, partnerships with actors on the ground, and innovative technologies, including AI, to identify trends and strengthen the evidence available to researchers, policymakers and humanitarian practitioners. Turning fragmented information into actionable knowledge that can support better-informed humanitarian responses, stronger accountability, and greater respect for IHL.

Time: 11:30

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/34093200057898?p=kCeJEfzYFMJq0ZoV02>

PRESENT 5 - Strengthening NGO Security Coordination in Response to Rapid-Onset Emergencies and Natural Hazards

By INSO

The initiative seeks to strengthen preparedness, surge capacity, security coordination, and access to timely risk information for humanitarian responders operating in highly dynamic environments.

Through the PARTAGE initiative, local civil society organizations in Mali and Niger are supported to strengthen security risk management, duty of care, and equitable risk-sharing practices. National NGO platforms lead the governance and implementation of the project while international partners provide technical expertise and training. Local security coaches deliver peer-to-peer mentoring and operational support through decentralized regional hubs. The initiative also combines direct funding for security measures with efforts to mitigate digital threats and strengthen advocacy for more equitable partnerships.

Time: 12:00

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/360036579751153?p=Jm9y3VoeTPx2rO0n6x>

PRESENT 6 - Negotiating for the Protection of Aid Workers: Building Systemic, Field-Driven Negotiation Capacity to Protect Humanitarian Aid Workers

By the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations (CCHN)

Building negotiation capacity at the frontlines, helping local actors manage risks, sustain operations, and maintain assistance to the communities they serve.

The session will emphasize the critical role of negotiation in protecting humanitarian personnel, beyond traditional security measures. Humanitarian access, acceptance strategies, deconfliction mechanisms, and operational agreements all require effective negotiation with a

wide range of stakeholders. CCHN has trained more than 10,000 humanitarian negotiators worldwide and developed practical tools informed by frontline experience in contexts such as Sudan, Yemen, Ukraine, Syria, and the DRC. Its work strengthens the ability of humanitarian organizations to operate safely while maintaining principled action.

Time: 12:30

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/368297359458811?p=pKLhEoxPHOZzdU5TdI>

PRESENT 7 - Developing an NGO-Owned Mutual Insurance Mechanism

By GISF

A platform enabling NGOs to collectively own and govern their own insurer, sharing risk more effectively between donors and implementing organisations, and between international and national NGOs.

GISF is leading the development of an innovative, NGO-owned insurance platform designed to address growing challenges in accessing commercial insurance. The mechanism would allow humanitarian organizations to pool and share risks while strengthening duty-of-care provisions for staff operating in high-risk environments. As a not-for-profit initiative, it could also invest in collective loss-prevention and risk-mitigation measures. The long-term goal is to extend affordable and sustainable protection to national and local organizations that face significant frontline risks but often lack adequate coverage.

Time: 14:00

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/32580386026594?p=wHeksJZGewfHJWRsUP>

PRESENT 8 - Safeguarding Health in Conflict: Coalition-Led Monitoring, Advocacy and Accountability for Attacks on Health Care

By the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC)

Presentation of the annual report on attacks on health care, produced with Insecurity Insight, including key findings and lessons learned from ten years of UN Security Council Resolution 2286

SHCC coordinates global advocacy efforts to protect health workers, health facilities, and health services in situations of armed conflict. Bringing together nearly 40 academic, medical, human rights, and humanitarian organizations, the coalition documents attacks on health care and promotes accountability. The presentation will highlight key findings from attack monitoring data collected with Insecurity Insight, as well as lessons learned from a decade of implementation of UNSCR 2286. Particular attention will be paid to the experiences and protection needs of local health and humanitarian workers.

Time: 14:30

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/336238392957718?p=ANcRQxWm6ur7eTbMIo>

PRESENT 9 - Justice for Aid Workers: A Lawyers and Investigators Network

By Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)

Strengthening legal assistance, accountability and access to justice for humanitarian aid workers affected by attacks, arbitrary detention, and other serious violations.

On 7 October 2026, LAW will launch a new practical guide on accountability pathways for aid workers, exploring how existing legal frameworks can be leveraged to obtain justice and redress. The organisation will also launch the Lawyers and Investigators for Aid Workers Network, a new platform bringing together legal and investigative expertise to support aid workers and improve accountability for attacks against humanitarian personnel.

Time: 15:00

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332733727991264?p=W4XHqq4KJ9v7K99WrG>

PRESENT 10 - Equipment as a Protection Measure for 1st Responders in the West Bank

By World Vision

Strengthening protective equipment for frontline responders in the West Bank.

Since October 2023, World Vision has supported Palestinian Civil Defence teams and community volunteers operating in an increasingly insecure environment marked by violence, movement restrictions, and chronic underfunding. The initiative provides modern equipment, protective assets, and psychosocial support to strengthen responder safety and wellbeing. Better-equipped teams can respond more effectively while reducing their exposure to attacks and operational risks. The project also enhances local response capacity and resilience by enabling trained volunteer units to manage emergencies closer to affected communities.

Time: 15:30

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/385750826670985?p=QMH6uvuBmIDX4c9XVo>

PRESENT 11 - Protecting Those Who Reach the Unreachable

By Danish Refugee Council

Programming in hard-to-reach areas and the challenges faced by frontline humanitarian responders, with a focus on the Sahel.

As humanitarian needs continue to rise amid shrinking funding and worsening insecurity, local responders increasingly shoulder operational and security risks. Drawing on experiences from ECHO-funded initiatives in Cameroon and the Sahel, the session will explore the realities faced by frontline actors working in access-constrained environments. It will examine duty-of-care challenges, risk transfer dynamics, and operational considerations from both DRC and local partner perspectives. The presentation will conclude with recommendations to strengthen support and protection for local humanitarian actors.

Time: 16:00

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/333352037521864?p=8rL0juLEp7hnBo6nPD>

PRESENT 12 - Approach to Duty of Care in Partnerships

By People in Need

Duty of care in Ukraine

The presentation will explore approaches to duty of care in humanitarian partnerships within the context of the war in Ukraine. It will focus on how risk management responsibilities are shared with local partners and integrated into program implementation. Particular attention will be given to capacity strengthening, security support, and safeguarding measures. The

session aims to contribute practical lessons on equitable partnerships in high-risk environments.

Time: 16:30

Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/323800147536239?p=gPe5JTq3dd2wcyI0I4>