



## Protection of civilians in armed conflict: addressing the challenges posed by the presence of non-state armed groups

### Thematic cluster:

**Terrorism and Organised Crime**

### Course dates:

**4 - 5 April 2019**

### Course location:

**Geneva, Switzerland**

This course will offer a unique focus and will unpack the multiple challenges posed by the presence of NSAGs in the field of protection of civilians and humanitarian action.

NSAGs are key actors in today's conflicts and can affect the lives of millions of civilians who are victims of conflict. The course will help you in improving your knowledge and understanding of the issues related to these groups, in addressing the challenges and in discussing solutions that can be put in place to ensure a better protection of the civilian populations.

### COURSE FOCUS:

The course will help participants to understand the multiple national and international legal frameworks, the humanitarian and political challenges and the security aspects posed to deciders, donors as well as to humanitarian workers who must navigate in a very complex and sensitive environment in order to engage NSAGs on access to, and protection of civilians, caught up in the conflict.

The impact of counter-terrorism measures will also be addressed.

### COURSE BENEFITS

The course will enable participants to:

- Have a better picture of the new types of conflict, mainly of non-international character, but also involving proxy-States.
- Acquire knowledge about the various types of NSAGs and the multiple characteristics of these armed actors as well as the links between these different groups across various conflicts. Who are they, what guides them, what can be done to diminish the threat they often pose to civilians as well as to the local and international humanitarian workers sent to protect them.
- Enhance skills in understanding how to address the challenges faced in protecting civilians in current armed conflicts and in delivering humanitarian action and how to cooperate with local actors on the ground and with the international community at large.
- Understand how the legal national and international frameworks, including counter-terrorism measures, may pose difficulties, constraints and risks in accessing areas that are under the control of NSAGs and in dealing with them on the protection of civilians or the deliverance of humanitarian assistance.



**GCSP**  
Geneva Centre for  
Security Policy



## Course Directors

**Dr Christina Schori Liang** is a Senior Programme Advisor and Senior Fellow in the Emerging Security Challenges Programme at the GCSP. She leads GCSP's Terrorism and Organised Crime Cluster and has over 20 years of international security expertise. Dr Liang was an Adjunct Professor in International Relations at Boston University and is currently a Visiting Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), Sciences Po, Paris.

**Ms Elisabeth Decrey Warner** is an Associate Fellow at the GCSP. She is the Founder of the NGO Geneva Call, and now its Honorary President. For 20 years she led negotiations with armed non-State actors on the protection of civilians in armed conflict by respecting humanitarian and human rights laws. Former member of the Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva she has been elected its rotating President in 2000.

Please visit the course page on the **GCSP website** for further details on speakers.

### Who should attend

The course is designed for professionals working in:

- governmental ministries,
- international organisations,
- non-governmental organisations and,
- Individuals and representatives of organisations implementing humanitarian programmes on the ground, including community-based organisations.

### Tuition fees

CHF 1'000

Apply by 4 February to qualify for a 15% discount. Alumni qualify for a 20% discount. A limited number of partial tuition waivers may be available.

GCSP reserves the right to modify the programme dates, location and fee at any time. Discounts are not cumulative.

### Registration deadline

4 March 2019

### Language requirements

The course will be held in English; no translation will be provided

### Venue

GCSP, Maison de la paix,  
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2D, Geneva  
Switzerland

### Contact

For further details about the course or customised solutions, please contact:

**Email:** [excedu@gcsp.ch](mailto:excedu@gcsp.ch)

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**Web:** <http://www.gcsp.ch>

### Alumni Community

Completing the executive course gives you access to a global and expanding network of over 7'000 experts. Alumni are able to connect online through our Alumni Portal, attend numerous conferences and events, and benefit from reduced rates in future courses.

### GCSP

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy is an international foundation with 52 member states from across the globe and the Canton of Geneva. We bring people from every sector and nation together so they can thrive in today's ever-changing security landscape.

### In the heart of international Geneva

Home to over 35 international organisations, some 380 non-governmental organisations, and more than 175 diplomatic missions, representations and delegations, Geneva is a leading hub for international expertise.

### Customised Solutions

This course can be adapted to meet the needs of your organisation. The GCSP has more than 20 years of experience in delivering executive education for professionals working in government, non-profits, international organisations, as well as in the private sector. Contact us to discuss your needs and requirements.

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