

Concept Note
Annual INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW Conference

“75 years of Geneva Conventions - A Time to Reaffirm Commitments to the Rules of War”

Full details of speakers:

Minister of State Sean Fleming (Keynote Speaker)



Sean Fleming is Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for International Development and Diaspora. He was appointed to this role in December 2022.

He previously served as Minister of State at the Department of Finance.

Seán was elected to represent the Laois-Offaly constituency at the 2020 General Election, having been first elected to the Dáil in 1997.

He was also elected as a member of Laois County Council in 1999 and served in the role for more than 4 years. An accountant educated at University College Dublin, Sean has served on the Dáil Public Accounts Committee. He was also a member of the Finance and Public Expenditure Committee and was Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Public Expenditure and Reform.

Dr. Hanna Kaade



Hanna Kaade is a Syrian/German medical doctor based in Berlin - Germany, specialized in general surgery, proctology, and emergency medicine. He also serves as a Guest Researcher at Brandenburg Medical University. After completing the first two years of his residency in Aleppo, Syria, Dr. Kaade relocated to Germany in 2016. With over a decade of volunteer experience with

the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and three years of work with the World Health Organization in Syria, Dr. Kaade has developed a deep passion for humanitarian work and its impact on health systems.

Dr. Kaade is actively engaged with the German Red Cross, where he serves as an International Delegate and Health Advisor, focusing on public and clinical health, and emergency response. As the focal point for Health Care in Danger, he plays a vital role in advocating for the protection of healthcare services in conflict zones and is a member of the Community of Action for Ambulance Services in Risk Situations. Additionally, Dr. Kaade is a mentor with the Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Initiative at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Hichem Khadhraoui



Mr. Hichem Khadhraoui is the Executive Director for the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC). Mr. Khadhraoui spent the last two decades working in the field of protection of civilians, including in Senior Manager positions and as the Head of Protection for Near and Middle East at the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and most recently as the Director of Programmes and Field Operations at Geneva Call. Hichem has extensive field experience with a presence in conflict-affected places including Somalia, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Chad and Yemen.

Mr. Khadhraoui holds Masters degrees in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and in International Law and European Law from the University Paul Cezanne in France, underscoring his expertise in international law which is critical to the protection of civilians.

Karol Balfe



Karol Balfe is CEO of ActionAid Ireland and oversees the organisation's work on women's rights, emergency and development work. ActionAid focuses on systems change that are needed to secure women's rights and end poverty, particularly in response to economic and climate injustice. ActionAid's humanitarian work focuses on women's leadership and seeking feminist change across the humanitarian system.

Karol has worked for over 20 years in the fields of international human rights, development and peacebuilding and has published policy and learning papers on a range of human rights, peacebuilding and development issues. Karol has a Masters in Globalisation and has worked extensively with a range of civil society partners and communities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

Dr. Christiane Ahlborn



Christiane Ahlborn is an Assistant Professor of Public International Law at Trinity College Dublin's School of Law with extensive practice experience. She is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the European Society of International Law Interest Group on International Organizations and the International Law Association (ILA) Committees on 'Business and Human Rights' and 'Urbanisation and International Law – Potentials & Pitfalls', a Co-Chair of the United Nations (UN) Law Committee of the ILA's American Branch, and she is on the Editorial Board of the Arab Yearbook of Public and Private International Law. Before joining Trinity, Christiane worked as a Legal Officer (Public International Law and Treaty Law) in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Office of Legal Affairs and the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs in New York. She also held academic positions at the Vienna School of International Studies and the University of Amsterdam.

More speakers to be announced.