



Reducing Suffering during Times of Armed Conflicts, the Interface between Buddhism and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Andrew Bartles-Smith

At Buddhism's core is the recognition of suffering and the promotion of means to alleviate it. These means have been applied both to the quest for salvation and to the troubles that afflict society. Moreover, Buddhism has grappled with the reality of war throughout its long history. This suggests a possible convergence of some of the aims of Buddhism and International Humanitarian Law operating during times of armed conflicts. But what guidance does Buddhism provide to those caught up in the midst of hostilities, and how do Buddhism and IHL compare in this respect? Exploring these two distinct bodies of ethics and legal traditions with scholars doing research in different disciplines has already been rich and fruitful. Andrew will announce an upcoming publication.



Andrew Bartles-Smith is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Manager for Humanitarian Affairs in Asia. He has twenty years of conflict and emergency-relief related experience in Asia, with particular expertise in insurgency and engagement with non-state armed groups. He has pioneered ICRC engagement with religious circles in Asia, including the arrangement of conferences, seminars, and workshops to promote research and debate on correspondences between IHL and religious teachings. He leads the ongoing ICRC project on 'Reducing Suffering During Conflict: The Interface Between Buddhism and IHL'. Andrew has extensive cultural knowledge of South and Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. He is fluent in Hindi, Urdu, Nepali, Pashto & Bahasa Indonesia.

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