Supplement to
War, Law and Business:
A module on international humanitarian law for future business leaders

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Introducing *'War, Law and Business'*
International humanitarian law for future business leaders

Welcome to *War, Law and Business,* an interactive and immersive experience on international humanitarian law (IHL) for future business leaders! It is free to do and accessible to all via:

https://www.redcross.org.au/war-law-and-business

The objective

This module is designed to introduce future business leaders – at university or already in industry – to the relevant rules and principles of IHL. Throughout this module, students will learn about IHL as an ethical decision-making and evaluation framework that helps one manage the unique risks associated with doing business in a conflict-affected area. Most importantly, respecting and promoting IHL protects the lives and dignity of civilians and communities.

The significant increase in the number and complexity of armed conflicts is presenting new challenges for those doing business in these environments, and for those seeking to improve humanitarian outcomes for impacted individuals and communities. Consequently, business decision-making in conflict-affected areas comes with significant responsibility and requires informed and nuanced leadership and risk-management; not least, an understanding of the risks, rights and responsibilities under all relevant international legal frameworks. This includes the specialised legal framework that regulates behaviour in situations of armed conflict, which is known as IHL or the laws of war. The idea behind IHL is simple and compelling: even wars have limits.

In this module, the participant plays the role of CEO of Ruskin Resources – a global, diversified (and fictitious) extractives company. They must learn and apply the fundamental rules of IHL to help navigate a conflict-related crisis.

Intended audience

War, Law and Business has been designed for students in **business-related disciplines**. The module is relevant to a range of study-areas – the social responsibilities of business, business leadership and ethical decision-making – so is conducive to integration into a range of courses. It aims to teach business students the significance and relevance of IHL to the corporate world and is the first educational tool of its kind.

War, Law and Business is also **suitable for law students.** Traditional international law and IHL courses invariably focus on the applicability of IHL to governments and military actor. The applicability of IHL to businesses – as significant societal actors that operate in, or have supply chains in, conflict-affected areas – is often excluded from traditional IHL education. This module thus provides an additional perspective on the relevance and value of IHL to regulating behaviour in conflict-affected areas.

Finally, this module is **relevant to those already in industry, including early career professionals but also business managers, lawyers and in-house counsel, security personnel and other professionals**. The insights shared in this module will be useful in helping corporate actors deepen their knowledge

and understanding of IHL, and its relevance to business operations in fragile states and conflict-affected regions.

Possible usages

This module can be used in a range of ways:

- As stand-alone training or continuing professional development;
- As an additional, voluntary learning activity; or
- Integrated into the core teaching and learning of a relevant university course.

The module can be deployed as a single, standalone learning experience. It is fully-self-contained, including a brief assessment at the end and certificate of completion from Australian Red Cross and RMIT University. Therefore, it can be offered as an "Additional Activity" or type of "Microcredential" related to a course.

War, Law and Business may also constitute a 1.5-hour Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity for the legal profession (under Australian standards). Noting that CPD requirements very between different jurisdictions, so users should investigate the specific rules in their own State or Territory.

The module can also be used as a basis for discussion and deeper learning. Contained in this pack are some discussion questions to help facilitate such dialogues in tutorials or workshops after completion of the module.

Learning objectives

At the end of this module, users should be able to:

1. Identify fundamental principles of IHL including distinction, humanity and proportionality.
2. Recognise factors that impact application of IHL in a business-related situation
3. Describe the risks and responsibilities inherent in doing business in and beyond conflict areas
4. Explain the urgency of companies becoming familiar with IHL
5. Identify resources for increasing understanding and application of IHL, including the *Seven Indicators of Corporate Best Practice in International Humanitarian Law*

Who we are

Australian Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network – the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. As a National Society in this network, Australian Red Cross has a responsibility to ensure that IHL is understood and respected in times of war and peace – not only by governments and militaries, but also by businesses and their personnel.

www.redcross.org.au

RMIT University is a global university of technology, design and enterprise. RMIT's College of Business and Law educates over 10,000 students annually, providing high quality, industry responsive business, management and law programs relevant to the national and global marketplace.

www.rmit.edu.au

Core project team

Fauve Kurnadi, Erik Styles – Australian Red Cross.
Jonathan Boymal, Jonathan Kolieb, Sarah Muldoon, Vicki Saray – RMIT University

The core team was assisted by others within the two organisations, including the International Humanitarian Law Program at Australian Red Cross and the Learning and Teaching and Digital Development Teams at RMIT University.

Feedback Form/Points of contact

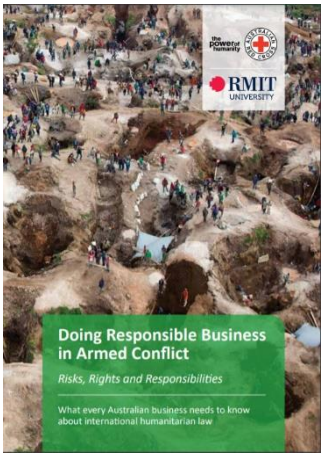
Please let us know how you go! We would love to receive feedback.

A feedback form can be accessed here:
https://forms.office.com/r/x64jxntTt2

Any queries, bugs or follow up questions can also be emailed direct to Ms Fauve Kurnadi (fkurnadi@redcross.org.au) and/or Dr Jonathan Kolieb (jonathan.kolieb@rmit.edu.au).

Online resources

Core resources



Doing Responsible Business in Armed Conflict: Risks, Rights and Responsibilities

An introductory, practical guide for businesses on international humanitarian law.

To download, click here.

Seven Indicators of Corporate Best Practice in International Humanitarian Law

An implementation framework for businesses wishing to integrate knowledge and respect for international humanitarian law into their policies and practices.

To download, click here.

Further resources

- Australian Red Cross, *Business and International Humanitarian Law Hub*, https://www.redcross.org.au/ihl-hub
- RMIT University, *Business and Human Rights Centre* https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/centres-collaborations/business-and-human-rights-centre
- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) and the International Committee of Red Cross, *Addressing security and human rights challenges in complex environments: Toolkit (3rd edition),* https://www.securityhumanrightshub.org/
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, www.business-humanrights.org
- IHL Casebook, International Committee of Red Cross, https://casebook.icrc.org/

Access pathway

Direct link

To access the *War, Law and Business* module directly, visit the Australian Red Cross website here: https://www.redcross.org.au/war-law-and-business

Promotional materials

Teaser trailer

Duration: 1min, 30sec

https://youtu.be/ZCN6Sk1BqME

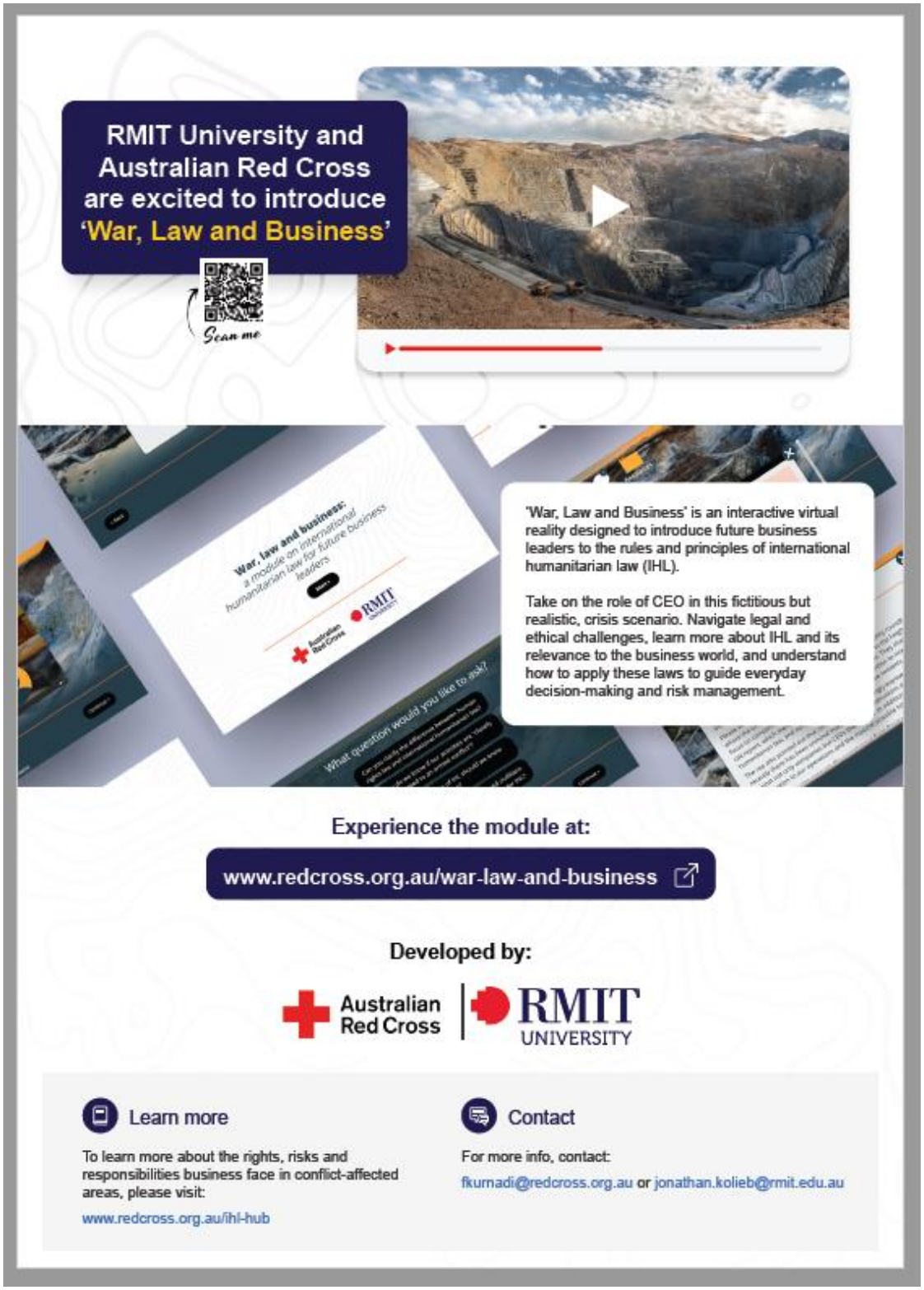
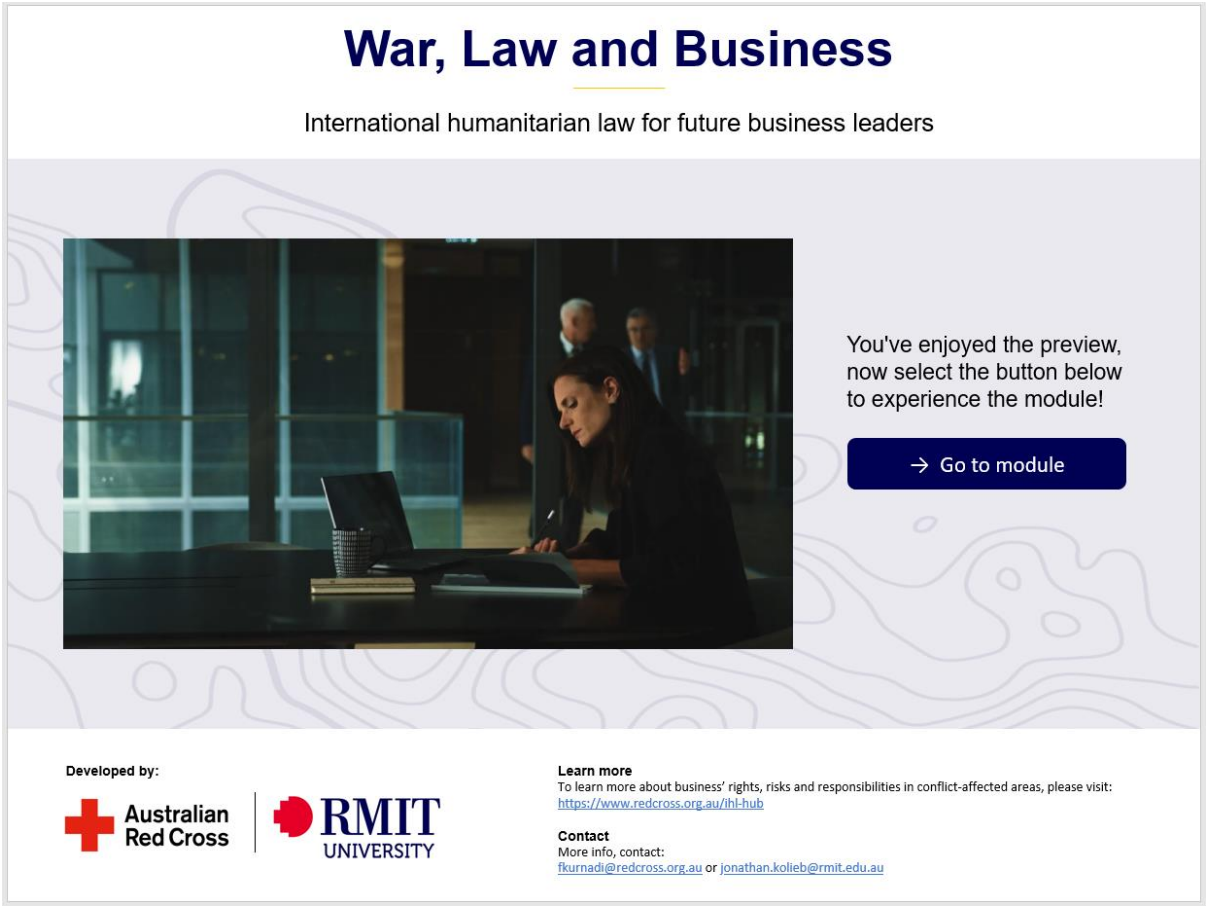
PDF poster and PowerPoint slide

A PDF poster (with scannable QR code) and a PowerPoint slide (with embedded trailer video) can be downloaded from Dropbox here.

Copies (with non-clickable links) of flyer and slide are on following pages.

PDF poster

To download a copy, click here.



PowerPoint slide
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