



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin



ICRC

Addressing the Human Cost of War: Upholding IHL to Protect the Wounded, Sick and Dead

Provisional programme

26th Bruges Colloquium on IHL
Bruges, 19-20 November 2026

Provisional programme

All sessions will take place in Bruges (in-person) and in English

Day 1 – Thursday 19 November 2026, 08:45 – 18:00 (CET)

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| 08:45 - 09:15 | Welcome and registration |
| 09:15 - 09:45 | Opening statements |
| 09:45 - 10:45 | Introductory session – From Solferino to Today’s Battlefields: How Does IHL Protect the Wounded, Sick, and Dead? |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:15 - 12:45 | Panel 1 – Securing the Scene: Navigating IHL Requirements for the Search, Collection, Recovery, and Evacuation of the Wounded, Sick and Dead |
| 12:45 - 14:00 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:00 - 15:45 | Panel 2 – Impartial Care for the Wounded and Sick: Addressing the Realities of Armed Conflict |
| 15:45 - 16:15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 16:15 - 17:45 | Panel 3 – Dignity in Death: Protecting, Identifying, and Accounting for the Deceased |
| 17:45 - 18:00 | Conclusion of Day 1 |
| 18:30 - 20:30 | <i>Ceremony & reception at the Bruges City Hall</i> |



Day 2 – Friday 20 November 2026, 09:00 – 13:00 (CET)

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| 09:00 - 09:15 | Welcome back |
| 09:15 - 10:45 | Panel 4 – The Lasting Human Cost of Certain Types of Weapons: Anti-Personnel Mines and Cluster Munitions |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:15 - 12:45 | Panel 5 – How IHL Shapes Hope: Returning the Wounded, Sick and Dead to their Loved Ones |
| 12:45 - 13:00 | Concluding remarks |