



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday, 13 October 2016

International experts meet to discuss improving respect for laws of war

Ways to improve respect for international humanitarian law will be discussed during a two-day symposium being held in Hobart from today.

The multi-disciplinary conference, *Generating Respect for the Law: An Appraisal*, will gather views from up to 25 local and international experts in law, international relations, social sciences, conflict studies and more.

It is being co-hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the University of Tasmania's Institute for the Study of Social Change.

"In conflict zones around the world, the laws of war are often blatantly disregarded: hospitals are attacked, cultural property destroyed, and civilians are displaced in their millions," Vincent Bernard, head of the ICRC's Law and Policy Forum and the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, said.

"The ongoing disrespect for the rules is a critical issue for the ICRC, an organisation mandated to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict."

University of Tasmania researchers including Professor Richard Eccleston, Dr Matt Killingsworth and adjunct Professor Tim McCormack will join Mr Bernard and other key participants including Leonard Blazeby (Head of Mission at the ICRC Australia Mission).

The seminar is part of a global series of high-level events, *The Conference Cycle on Generating Respect for the Law*.

"This week's conference in Hobart will make a key contribution to our global series of events exploring new ways of improving compliance with international humanitarian law," Mr Bernard said.

“We are looking forward to hearing thought-provoking perspectives on how the ICRC and other key actors can encourage and reinforce respect for the law, and continue to ensure that humanity in war is a reality, not just an ideal.”

The seminar will conclude tomorrow (Friday, 14 October) and is being held at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) Building in Hobart.

Information released by:

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