

Call for Applications

TRAINING COURSE ON PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS (PoC) IN PEACE MISSIONS

The Barcelona International Peace Centre (BIPC) and 2gedar-PeaceOps and Development Network, are pleased to announce the *Protection of Civilians (POC) in Peace Missions*, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, from September 2 - 6, 2019.

Overview

Following the failures of the international community to intervene in Rwanda, Srebrenica, Liberia, Sierra Leone and many other conflicts, and starting with the United Nations Security Council Resolution establishing the peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone in 1999, it is now unquestioned that, without prejudice of the host State, which has the first and foremost responsibility to protect civilians, peace keeping operations place Protection of Civilians (POC) as one their core mandates. Security Council Resolutions have stronger mandates than in previous decades and acknowledge that civilians must be protected from the consequences of violent conflicts. POC mandates are multi-dimensional, and focus on providing physical protection, the support to the establishment of a protective environment and political advocacy with the parties into the conflict. Current POC policies and guidelines are intended to take necessary action to enable these three different levels of responses to protection challenges.

Addressing these concerns is also key to creating lasting political solutions to conflicts. In this respect, the United Nations Secretariat, through its Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO), has responded to requests of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A63/19) and UN Security Council (S/RES/1894, 2009) and introduced standard operational guidance to inform implementation of civilian protection mandates, which have been supplemented by Mission-specific policies and practices that address specific local circumstances.

Objectives

This international training course will allow participants to understand the theory and practice of POC in UN field missions. Using case studies, interactive exercises and experience sharing, participants will expand their POC knowledge and skills to be better equipped to face the challenges of developing and implementing effective POC strategies.

The training course aims to familiarize participants with the concepts, tools and methodologies in place to implement POC strategies and programmes from a practical perspective. Specifically, it also aims to prepare participants for the recruitment processes as POC Officers with the UN Secretariat and field missions.

The overall objectives of the course are therefore to:

- Provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of POC practice in UN field missions;
- Receive extensive materials and practical guidance and insights from highly experienced current and former senior POC officers;
- Provide participants with effective tools in a highly specialised area of UN practice;

- Prepare candidates for recruitment as POC, Protection, and Child Protection officers with UN DPKO; and provide guidance for those seeking engagement with UN Agencies, Funds, & Programmes, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), etc; and
- Provide an opportunity for candidates to network and develop mentoring relationships with current and former practitioners within the United Nations.

Methodology

The course focuses on the technical aspects of the work of UN DPKO officers and other fundamental skills that POC Officers should apply in the field. The course format includes a combination of lectures, small group discussions, practical exercises and peer exchange of experiences.

It comprises practical exercises based in three different Missions and around 5 thematic areas:

- The Concept of POC in UN Peacekeeping;
- Legal Dimensions of POC;
- Operational Concepts;
- Implementation; and
- Lessons Learned.

The course will outline and probe the concept of POC in UN Operations; its policy guidelines; use of force; the legal framework and international legal instruments; individual and organizational responsibilities; POC operational concepts and their implementation; challenges to implementation, and will engage in discussions on overarching principles such as the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) and Intervene; the Right to Intervene; Limits to Sovereignty; and the evolving concept of the Responsibility of International Organizations. Case studies will focus on three (3) different Mission environments that will capture the widely different circumstances in which POC Officers need to operate.

Participants will be provided in advance with extensive range of documents and materials which they will be expected to become generally familiar with prior to their attendance to the course. The course itself will focus on the practical elements of the applicability of these materials to actual field practice.

For whom is this course?

The course is designed to benefit candidates wishing to become POC officers with United Nations Field Operations, and would be of interest to staff members in international entities, UN Agencies Funds and Programmes, NGOs and corporations operating in protection activities and programmes, officers in Ministries of Foreign Affairs dealing with UN portfolios, police and military officers contemplating peacekeeping and observation missions as part of their pre-deployment training, research institutes and other international organisations and donors supporting field missions.

Applicants holding degree/s qualifying for entry into the UN Civil Service and fully conversant with written and spoken English at a professional working level will be given priority to enrol. Candidates not meeting all these criteria may be accepted at the discretion of the organizers and subject to availability of places.

Trainers

The course will be led by [Miriam Ghalni](#), and [Begoña Gonzalez](#). Miriam is currently the Director of the POC Office with the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and has a long trajectory in POC and Human Rights with the UN. Begoña is currently working as a POC Officer with the UN Mission in Mali, MINUSMA and previously she has worked with UNAMID, UN Agencies, and international NGOs.

Other senior trainers and experts with experience of different programmatic areas may be brought in for particular sessions to ensure a variety of approaches and perspectives, including guest trainers from international organisations in order to share their experiences.

Dates & location

September 2-6, 2019 at Sant Felip Neri House in Barcelona, Spain. It will start at 9:00 on Monday 2 of September, and end around 15:30 on Friday 6 of September.

Language & cost

The course will be taught in English. The course fee is 2000 Euros. This fee includes course materials, refreshments, and lunch. It does not include the cost of traveling to/from Barcelona, visa, accommodation, insurance, and other meals, such as dinner.

Please note that this course requires a minimum number of participants. Unfortunately, the organizers cannot provide any scholarships or waivers for the course fees, but we can provide participants with letters of support in obtaining sponsorship, within the participant's country of residence or work. We can provide logistical assistance and letters in support of participants' visa applications upon request. Payment arrangement information will be included in acceptance letters.

Upon registration, the organizers will provide information about different accommodation options, including within the venue where the course will take place.

How to Apply

The application deadline is the **22 July 2019**, but acceptance onto the course will be granted on a rolling basis. To apply for the course, please submit your current Curriculum Vitae and the completed application form to Eva Lopez, course coordinator, at info@bcnpeacecenter.org. Please see the enclosed application form for further details. Alternatively, it can be downloaded [here](#).

If you have any questions about the application process, program, or logistics, please contact Eva Lopez at info@bcnpeacecenter.org

About Us

Barcelona International Peace Center (BIPC) – www.bcnpeacecenter.org

The Barcelona International Peace Center (BIPC) is the outcome of an initiative to promote the culture of peace through dialogue, awareness-raising, and training in crisis management and conflict resolution. Created in 2009, the BIPC is the only center of its kind in Spain. Its work is inspired by the philosophy of centers around the world specializing in crisis management and peace operations. The BIPC's main activity is an international specialised training program designed to meet the extensive learning needs of civilian personnel and to equip them with the skills they need to engage in field operations around the world. The center offers a range of training courses aimed at professionals working in peacebuilding, complex crisis management, and humanitarian affairs.

2GEDAR PeaceOps & Development Network - www.2gedar.com

2gedar PeaceOps & Development Network designs and presents specialist, practical and hands-on training programs in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and public development sectors. Our courses aim to prepare participants for the realities of actual field needs. Our courses and presentations seek to provide the required skills to successfully face entrance examinations and interview requirements into United Nations and UN Agencies, Funds and programs, each course focused on a very specific area of practice and occupational group. Specialized courses are also designed for pre-deployment training of peacekeeping missions' troop and police contingents.

Practice areas include political, legal affairs, protection, emergency response, security, intelligence, mission support and logistics, human rights, rule of law, civil affairs, gender, ethics and SEA, human resources, and internal justice processes.