



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations

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Mr/Madame Chair,

The United Kingdom welcomes the discussion on the Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

In accordance with the UN General Assembly's resolution 73/204, we are preparing a detailed statement outlining the UK's activities related to implementing and promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) domestically and internationally. In the meantime, we would like to highlight the following, which demonstrate the UK's continuing activities and efforts in the field of IHL.

In March 2019, the UK published a Voluntary Repo

In August 2020, the UK published its approach paper on Protection of Civilians. The paper builds on the published 2010 Protection of Civilians strategy, highlighting the work done by the UK Government in the past 10 years to further this important agenda. We are firmly committed to promoting the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict and has been at the forefront of initiatives in recent years promoting the issue, including in strengthening state capacity and encouraging all States to respect IHL.

More widely, the UK continues to support the international dissemination activities of the British Red Cross including the joint British Red Cross/ICRC project which ensures that the practice section of the ICRC Study on Customary IHL is kept up-to-date and is accessible on a database. The UK offers general IHL training to our own policy and legal advisers but also to legal advisers from partner armed forces.

The UK National Committee on IHL meets biannually to develop further, and disseminate understanding of, IHL policy and practice nationally, and to discuss ways to encourage international partners to do likewise, particularly with the Commonwealth. The Committee, composed of legal and policy representations across government departments, also encourages the dissemination and training of IHL to the armed forces, police, civil servants, teachers, the judiciary, the medical profession, journalists and others.

The UK also participated in the Fifth Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on International Humanitarian Law, held in Kigali, Rwanda. A UK delegation was also sent to the 33rd International Conference

