

Working Group 1:

Christian values:

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is continually evolving to cope with the changing face of world conflicts. However, its core ethos has become enshrined in an inalienable internationally recognised code of conduct.

It cannot prevent conflicts, nor can it ensure adherence to the code. Therefore as a Catholic Serviceperson we believe this to be the laudable necessary minimum.

However, because IHL cannot guarantee that all belligerents adhere to its precepts only a state which upholds and enforces the law and its ideals with respect, can hope to eradicate war crimes.

Where as moral structures based on the Christian values of charity, mercy, forgiveness, selflessness, respect for others as well as culpability to God is self enforced by the moral conscience of a Christian.

Furthermore, where IHL is incapable of preventing conflict, because it is applicable only after armed conflict has begun, these Christian morals and values may assist in the negotiation and prevention of conflict and war.