

Working Group TWO

CONSCIENCE VERSUS HUMANITARIAN LAW (TO ACT IN GOOD FAITH)

- Servicemen today are required to make sudden decisions, which may be life and death. This relies heavily on judgement.
- Military forces prepare their soldiers for the moral challenges and to make these judgements, but this cannot be addressed just in time for a deployment. Therefore there is a requirement for ongoing moral development; one model for this is Christian values.
- Amongst leaders character is all important, as this is the standard subordinates follow. Again, the Christian model provides a workable vehicle.
- One key facilitator is the chaplain and it is essential that they are adequately prepared, supported and resourced. Sharing of experiences and knowledge among chaplains (*belonging to AMI nations*) is to be encouraged.
- Chaplains however cannot meet the need entirely and so (*potential*) lay leadership is to be identified and encouraged.
- Humanitarian law provides the minimum standard, but values, of which Christian values provide one example, can complement these laws and can further reduce superfluous suffering *and help establish the moral justification for the action taken (Jus in Bello)*.
- Christians can provide to others, through their actions, an example of how to behave morally.
- The individual has to take responsibility for their decisions and must be convinced that their decisions are morally as well as legally defensible. This is even more important as a commander, whose example will inform the moral decisions and actions of others.