

Issue	Law of Armed Conflict	Human Rights Law
Applicability	Applies in international conflicts between nations or non-international internal conflicts against organized armed groups.	Applies in times of war or peace. Addresses the universal rights of citizens in their countries.
Participants	Combatants, belligerents, insurgents, non-combatants, and civilians.	Fighters, criminals, and civilians.
Principal References	Geneva Conventions I-IV (1949) and Additional Protocols (1977).	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).
Institutional oversight and management	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	United Nations, particularly the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR).
Main issues	Rights of combatants, noncombatants, wounded, prisoners, etc. More recent treaties include the use of chemicals, mines, biological, and laser weapons.	Political and economic rights, rights of women, children and people with disabilities, slavery, forced labor, racism, torture, and enforced disappearances.
Principles regarding the use of force	Discrimination, humanity, necessity, proportionality, and precaution.	Legality, accountability, necessity, and proportionality.
Violations	Gross violations of LOAC are "war crimes." "Crimes against humanity" and genocide can also occur during war.	Gross violations of human rights are "crimes against humanity" and can occur during times of war or peace.