

Established in January 2008 within the Law Faculty of La Sagesse University, with the early support of the American Bar Association, the Human Rights Legal Clinic (HRLC) brought a new perspective to the way Law is being taught in Lebanon. First Legal Clinic of its kind in the country, the HRLC provides La Sagesse students with skills-building mandatory curriculum on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law, with a special focus on providing students their first stages of professional experience.

Building Legal Professional Experience

Through the mandatory internship program in the fourth year law curriculum, the HRLC offers students to integrate professional workplaces within Human Rights related NGOs and international organizations, hence achieving the following educational goals:

- Developing students' fundamental knowledge, skill and know-how related to various legal professions.
- Providing students with the capacity to engage in complex legal practice.
- Enabling students to learn how to make judgments under conditions of uncertainty.
- Teaching students how to learn from field experience.
- Introducing students to the disciplines of creating and participating in a responsible and effective professional community.
- Forming and encouraging students to join an enterprise of public service and public interest.

Providing Learning Opportunities

The HRLC regularly joins forces with the relevant sectors of academic and civil society circles working on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, in Lebanon and abroad, in order to offer additional learning opportunities to its students and further prepare them to meet the professional requirements of the multiple legal professions.

Promoting an academic space for dialogue, debate and research on Human Rights issues

The HRLC created an established research pole on legal approaches regarding Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. Moreover, it cultivates the spirit of dedication towards Human Rights campaigns and advocacy projects among its students and works with multiple partners to promote a platform of legal debates, dialogue and exchanges on Human Rights related issues and challenges in Lebanon.



Summer School on Law & Conflict

In collaboration with the Amel Association, the HRLC has set up in 2011 an educational landmark

with the Summer School on Law Armed Conflict. This unique Arab regional program offers students, lawyers, activists and legal professionals a deep insight into the international – and local – legislative frameworks which govern all aspects of conflict,

hence tackling the qualification of the conflict, conduct of hostilities, protection of the civilian population, the means and methods of combat, peacekeeping law and International Criminal Law with the Summer School partners such as the ICRC and other local and international organizations.

Students and graduates from La Sagesse University, along many other faculties, participate each year to the Summer School on Law and Conflict, as the sixth edition is expected to take place in September 2016.

Research Pole on Human Rights & IHL



In May 2011, a Legal Study was carried out with Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center on the issue of “**False Theft Complaints against Migrant Domestic Workers by their Employers in Lebanon**”.

The HRLC contributed to an ALEF-Act for Human Rights project on **Fair Trial in Lebanon** in 2014-2015.

The HRLC supervised **19 researches in International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law** since 2011, produced by Summer School on Law and Conflict Alumni. They were compiled in four different booklets.

Inter-University Program on ICL



Since 2012, the HRLC is part of the **Inter-University Program, gathering 10 Lebanese Universities, on International Criminal Law** with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and in partnership with the Asser Institute - The Hague.

This program is the first of its kind to give students in Lebanon the opportunity to gain knowledge of international criminal law and criminal procedure directly from prominent international experts and practitioners in the field. The top students of each promotion are given the chance of visiting various international tribunals in The Hague.

Supporting Legal Aid Project in Lebanon



Since April 2015, La Sagesse University, through its Human Rights Legal Clinic (HRLC) and its Research Center, in partnership with local organizations and the European Research Institute, is working to **improve the access to a quality legal aid in Lebanon**. This 2years project (2015-2017) funded by the EU, aims at improving Legal Aid quality, provide necessary support and expertise on an institutional level and ensure the promotion of international human rights standards through their incorporation within the Lebanese legal aid system.