Location and Purpose

*International Committee of the Red Cross*
- Independent Swiss organization founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1863;
- Mandate for work specified in the four Geneva Conventions for the protection of and assistance to victims of armed conflict.
- [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

*Amnesty International*
- International non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in London, United Kingdom in 1961;
- “Amnesty’s vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty’s mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights.” ([Source: Amnesty International](http://www.amnesty.org))
- [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

*Human Rights Watch*
- Independent non-governmental organization founded in 1978 and based in New York, United States;
- “We stand with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom, to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime, and to bring offenders to justice. We investigate and expose human rights violations and hold abusers accountable. We challenge governments and those who hold power to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law.” ([Source: Human Rights Watch](http://www.hrw.org))
- [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Focus of Activities

*International Committee of the Red Cross*
- Civilians caught up in armed conflict;
- People deprived of their freedom, including prisoners of war (POWs) in international armed conflict; and
- Detainees in internal conflicts, including ‘security’ or ‘political’ detainees; internees.

*Amnesty International*
- Prisoners of conscience;
- All prisoners subjected to unfair trial;
- Death penalty;
- Torture and all cruel treatment; and
- Refugees, especially those facing forcible return.
Human Rights Watch
- Prisoner-related concerns;
- Discrimination, censorship and other restrictions on civil society;
- Issues of democratization and the rule of law;
- A wide array of war-related abuses; and
- Rights of special groups, including women, children, workers, common prisoners, refugees, migrants, academics, gays and lesbians, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Objectives

International Committee of the Red Cross
During armed conflict, the ICRC endeavors to:
- Protect and assist victims of armed conflict;
- Visit prisoners of war and civilian internees;
- Transmit Red Cross Messages to and from family members;
- Establish hospital and safety zones for the civilian population;
- Participate in relief programs for displaced persons; and
- Actively disseminate the rules and principles of IHL

Amnesty International
In all circumstances, Amnesty International endeavors to:
- Abolish the death penalty;
- Oppose torture and combat terror with justice;
- Free prisoners of conscience;
- Protect rights of refugees and migrants;
- Regulate the global arms trade;
- Stop violence against women; and
- Defend the rights and dignity of those trapped in poverty;

Human Rights Watch
In all circumstances, Human Rights Watch endeavors to:
- Protect the human rights of people around the world;
- Stand with victims and activists to prevent discrimination;
- Uphold political freedom;
- Protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime; and
- Bring offenders to justice.

Guiding Laws and Principles

International Committee of the Red Cross
- Resolutions of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences
- Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
At a Glance: Comparison of the ICRC and Human Rights Advocacy Organizations

Amnesty International
  ➢ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights standards

Human Rights Watch
  ➢ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights standards

Methods of Work

International Committee of the Red Cross
  ➢ Maintaining dialogue with the warring parties and acting as a neutral intermediary;
  ➢ Preparing confidential reports that are given to the detaining authorities and not intended for publication; and
  ➢ Working with the national societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Amnesty International & Human Rights Watch
  ➢ Amnesty International also investigates and reports on abuses and derives its real strength from being a mass membership organization. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, the largest global human rights organizations, have differing, yet complementary, roles. Human Rights Watch tends to look at more systemic human rights abuses and be more policy-oriented. It puts pressure on governments by exposing abuses through the media, and by convincing powerful leaders or stakeholders to use their influence on behalf of human rights. The world needs both. (Source: Human Rights Watch).

Program Resources

For more information about the IHL program and EHL curriculum, please visit www.redcross.org or www.redcross.org/ehl or contact us at ehl@redcross.org.