

# GENEVA CONVENTION 1949

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The Geneva Conventions are four treaties, and three additional protocols, that establish international legal standards for humanitarian treatment in war.

→ The First Geneva Convention protects wounded and sick soldiers on land during war.

→ The Second Geneva Convention protects wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel at sea during war.

→ The Third Geneva Convention applies to prisoners of war.

→ The Fourth Geneva Convention protects civilians, including those in occupied territory.

The Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 supplement the Geneva Conventions.

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They protect people who do not take part in the fighting (civilians, medics, aid workers) and those who can no longer fight (wounded, sick and shipwrecked troops, prisoners of war).

The treaties of 1949 were ratified, in their entirety or with reservations, by 196 countries.

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The four 1949 Conventions have been ratified by 196 states, including all UN member states.

While the 1949 Geneva Conventions have been universally ratified, the Additional Protocols have not.

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At present, 168 States are party to Additional Protocol I and 164 States to Additional Protocol II, this still places the 1977 Additional Protocols among the most widely accepted legal instruments in the world.

Under the Geneva Conventions, the three distinctive emblems of the red cross, red crescent and red crystal are intended to identify and protect medical and relief workers.

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