

Official U.S. Documents Related to the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law and Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Submitted to the First International Follow-up Conference to the Adoption of the *Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, Oslo, Norway, April 22-24, 2024

The United States appreciates the opportunity to share documents related to its implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and to its efforts to mitigate and respond to civilian harm. We do this in order to: provide transparency on U.S. practice; encourage others to share their practice and to consider U.S. practice; and facilitate further discussion and work on good practices in these areas.

- **U.S. Statement, [Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare](#)**, June 17, 2022. This statement outlines key U.S. understandings regarding the Political Declaration.
- **U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 2311.01, [DoD Law of War Program](#)**, July 2, 2020. This directive establishes the overall DoD policy and program to implement IHL.
- **[DoD Law of War Manual](#)** (June 2015, Update July 2023). This manual provides DoD personnel an authoritative statement on IHL.
- **Other documents** related to the U.S. implementation of IHL are available at: <https://ogc.osd.mil/Law-of-War/Practice-Documents/>.
- **[Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Action Plan](#)** (August 2022). Approved by the Secretary of Defense, this action plan outlines specific actions under 11 objectives to systematically improve DoD's ability to mitigate and respond to civilian harm caused by U.S. military operations.
- **DoD Instruction 3000.17, [Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response \(CHMR\)](#)**, Dec. 21, 2023. Approved by the Secretary of Defense, this more than 50-page document establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and provides procedures for CHMR.
- **Other documents** related to CHMR are also available at: <https://policy.defense.gov/OUSDP-Offices/Civilian-Harm-Mitigation-and-Response/>.
- **[To Walk the Earth in Safety](#)** (April 4, 2024). This annual U.S. State Department report documents the United States' commitment to conventional weapons destruction programs, supporting stability around the world.
- **[Practical Measures to Strengthen the Protection of Civilians During Military Operations in Armed Conflict](#)**, Nov. 18, 2019. This technical compilation of good practices for the implementation of IHL and protection of civilians was jointly submitted in 2019 by Belgium, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.