



We are pleased to invite you to apply for participation at the twelfth Master Class on Law, History, Politics and Society in the Context of Mass Atrocities run by the Geoffrey Nice Foundation and being held at the Inter University Centre (IUC) in Dubrovnik **30th June to 5th July** (travel 29th June - 6th July) 2025, titled:

WHY GO TO WAR; WHAT if ANY LAW CAN STOP US?

CRITERIA:

This Master Class is devised for MA, PhD and Post-PhD students in the fields of Law, History, Sociology, Politics, International Relations, Journalism, European Studies or related subjects.

Please send your application, consisting of a CV and a short motivation letter, to:

geoffreynicefoundation@gmail.com and kucher.na.vi@gmail.com (Please always use both addresses for all correspondence)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The interdisciplinary approach of the Master Class contributes to developing the skills needed for legal and non-legal professionals, who are interested in working in the fields of human rights, international humanitarian law and global justice, in the overall setting of mass atrocities.

FORMAT:

The Master Class is a combination of lectures provided by academics, practitioners of law and NGO activists, and others together with exercises and - if time allows - group reviewing of a few relevant films.

METHOD/SPIRIT OF MASTER CLASS:

This is to be an intensive – immersive – course working largely what might be thought of as northern European working hours (not Mediterranean/Adriatic hours with late starts and siestas): 0900 to 1300; 1430 to 1900, with breaks. Punctuality required at start, and will be respected at the end, of all sessions. Lunch is provided in short 90-minute midday breaks. It is expected that groups of students from different countries - into which the Master Class will be divided - may continue discussions and preparation of exercises over lunch.

There may be a pre-reading list. It is recognised that pre-reading where required for courses like this is rarely done and with that in mind *required* pre-reading will be kept to a minimum of – say – one day. Please do not apply if you think you will not be able to do this much pre-reading because lecturers (all speaking *pro bono* and to be properly respected) who address subjects covered in part by pre-reading will assume that it will have been done.

It will be desirable – essential in reality – that apart from required pre-reading all students will have a basic understanding (internet/google equivalent) of WWII, The wars of: the Western Balkans 1991-1999 (Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo); Russia-Ukraine; Israel-Gaza; Rwanda 1994.

There may well be additional opportunities for those who find these conflicts hard to follow in addition to regular lectures (for example it has proved helpful in previous Master Classes to take half an hour from the end of the 90 minutes lunch break to summarise with maps the Balkan Wars; this helps those not from the Balkans and avoids those from the Balkans having to hear what would seem a bit like primary school education! Similar exercises *may* be done for other conflicts).

The first five of the six days will start with a lecture or talk on one of the subjects of the Master Class – Why go to war; Pacifism; Peacemaking; Concept of war by the non-West; Accountability mechanisms for wrongdoing done in conflict.

These first-in-the-day lectures/talks will be more in line with regular (old-fashioned) university teaching where note taking by students achieves the best result.

Each day - after a first break - these lectures can be followed by more relaxed methods of teaching – interactive sessions, seminar-style presentations along with group exercises, possibly films to be discussed etc. Several advantages will flow from this, including everyone having the benefit of true academic learning (if only as a new experience!) for evaluation as against other methods. It will also allow speakers at these sessions to prepare lectures in the way that allows for deepest understanding (possibly assisted by pre-lecture handouts that may be part of the limited pre-reading).

THE FOCUS OF THIS YEAR'S MASTER CLASS:

The end of the Cold War may have left the world more secure and yet more unstable. Old states disintegrated and new states have been emerging leading to active wars and increasing risk of more wars for us and our families, now and to come.

Wars are failures and disasters for all sides involved from the moment they start. Few people want wars. There have already been many wars around the globe since World War II.

It may be reasonable and accurate to say that most humans would prefer to live in peace and to see fellow humans around the world living in peace. Yet, time after time, citizens are taken to war by political and military leaders and required to be willing to lose their lives in a political cause.

The Master Class will focus on the philosophy/approach to war - in the West and elsewhere - on pacifism and peacemaking and on accountability mechanisms that come into play after conflicts are concluded.

Case study conflicts will feature in specific segments of the Master Class covering such issues as:

‘Genocide’, a term used widely these days, and in different ways by courts and by the general public which needs to be properly understood if to be used constructively;

How different forms of accountability, such as imprisonment, and compensation can work;

What, if anything, citizens as well as politicians might do to prevent the conflicts happening.

COSTS AND FEES:

GNF is a Dutch registered charity with limited funds from donations. All GNF officers and all visiting speakers – provided by GNF - as well as ‘permanent’ speakers are unpaid and give their time free for the benefit of the students of the Master Class.

GNF covers costs of being part of the IUC programme at University of Zagreb premises in Dubrovnik.

STUDENT FEES:

The ‘tuition fee’ for the Master Class - which includes IUC fees, reading material and accommodation fee for seven night’s accommodation in shared rooms, lunch on the six days of the Master Class and the individual IUC fee per student and local taxes (all actual costs - nothing goes to GNF funds which subsidise some individuals fees, see below) is EUR 544. For a single occupancy room, *if* available, the cost is EUR 656.

If you are to be selected as a participating student and fund yourself or are to be funded by another (for example by a university) please ensure transfer of this amount is made to the GNF's account by Friday 6th June 2025.

A limited number of scholarships/bursaries may be available including:

- Marija and Mirjan Damaška Scholarship Fund

Beneficiaries can be from non-EU countries in Southeast Europe, and exceptionally from other countries if they are affected by conflict or instability, and if the courses relate to ways to overcome them.

<https://iuc.hr/scholarships/damaska-scholarship-fund>

- IUC SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beneficiaries can be from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

<https://iuc.hr/scholarships/iuc-support>

- CROATIAN MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
Four scholarships per course are available for participants from Croatian higher education and scientific institutions taking part in IUC courses (students, professors, scientists).
<https://iuc.hr/scholarships/croatian-ministry>
- The IUC website also has a link to a database with some scholarship options for those from Austria and Germany
<https://iuc.hr/scholarships/other>
- GNF *may* be in a position from its own funds to provide some support to some individuals who have no funding from elsewhere.

Anyone wishing to apply for a place on the Master Class seeking a GNF scholarship is invited in the first instance to explain the position and the need for financial support to Anastasia Kucher when sending in the application at the same time and always to two addresses: kucher.na.vi@gmail.com and geoffreynicefoundation@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION:

Shared accommodation covered by the student course fee from Sunday 29th June to Sunday 6th July (no later than 6 July) is in same-sex shared rooms at neighbouring, Ulica branitelja Dubrovnika 19, 20000, Dubrovnik, Croatia (a Cloister run by an order of nuns), at the IUC dormitory or at the University of Dubrovnik Dormitory.

Meals: 3-course lunches will be provided each day for all participants. Breakfast and evening meals are at participants' own cost. Breakfast may be available at reasonable cost (about 7 Euros) at the IUC building where the Master Class is held, next to the Cloister. Accommodation has some cooking, microwave etc facilities within reach. There are modest supermarkets about 200 metres away, so it is possible to prepare breakfast and evening food at regular home-cooking prices.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES:

Travel costs to and from Dubrovnik and costs of breakfast and evening meals are for students to meet. Dubrovnik generally is now expensive. For eating or drinking out in the evenings GNF will identify restaurants – and possibly bars – where significant discounts may be available for Master Class participants.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

All participants must arrive by Sunday 29th June – informal lunch/supper gatherings in Dubrovnik Old Town to be arranged *ad hoc* for those arriving in time.

Dress code Monday-Saturday: Smart casual (no shorts) – the teaching room is efficiently air-conditioned.

The timetable does not allow for tourist activities apart from an organised sightseeing trip to Dubrovnik on Monday evening. For those wanting to extend time in Dubrovnik for tourism, it will probably *not* be possible to stay on in the relatively inexpensive accommodation provided for the Master Class as it may all be required by other courses starting on Sunday 6th July. Anyone wishing to extend for tourist purposes must make their own arrangements.

Several speakers/lecturers will visit and stay only for a couple of days. Others will be present throughout, able to fill tutor/pastoral roles.

If you need any advice, please contact Anastasia Kucher (kucher.na.vi@gmail.com) with your questions. She will be able to help you on a wide range of topics.

COURSE DIRECTOR:

- Sir Geoffrey Nice KC

Lead Prosecutor Slobodan Milošević for the UN; Emeritus Gresham Professor of Law; Chair China Tribunal; Chair Uyghur Tribunal, (UK)

- **Dr Aldo Zammit-Borda.** Reader in Law at City University, London

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FACULTY MEMBERS:

In addition to Course Director (a list of faculty will be amended on the website as further acceptances to invitations to contribute are received; for level of those who accept invitations to speak see GNF website and lists of previous speakers in all earlier Master Classes):

- General Sir Nicholas Ralph Parker, KCB, CBE former British Army officer who served as Commander Land Forces (formerly Commander-in-Chief, Land Forces) until December 2012 UK's advisor on reform to the Ukrainian Minister of Defence 2016-2019
- Lord Iain Bonomy, former judge of the ICTY and court of Appeal of Scotland.
- Dr Aldo Zammit Borda, Associate Professor in International Law at City, University of London; previously Director of the Centre for Access to Justice and Inclusion at Anglia Ruskin University
- Dr Robert Muharremi, Assistant Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology – Kosovo campus
- The Right Honourable Sir Konrad Schiemann, former judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union and of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales
- Huub Jaspers, journalist and filmmaker
- Hamid Sabi, International lawyer and Human Rights activist, London, UK
- Jill Sinclair, Canada's representative to the Ukraine Defence Reform Advisory Board and co-leads a course on geopolitics and national security at the Canada School of Public Service
- Dmytro Myhalov - Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in Donetsk and Luhansk regions

case studies

WWII; ; Rwanda; Western Balkans 1993-1999; Ukraine-Russia; Israel-Gaza'

DRAFT TIMETABLE

Sunday 29th June

→ Arrival

Monday 30th June

→ General introduction and 'housekeeping' Sir Geoffrey Nice KC

→ "Why human beings go to war?"

Moderator: Dr Robert Muharremi

- Rt Hon Sir Konrad Schiemann

Other speakers to be announced.

→ Organised sightseeing trip of Dubrovnik Old Town

Tuesday 1st July

→ "Pacifism"

Moderator: Hamid Sabi

Peter Glasgow

Markus Findlay

Other speakers to be announced

Wednesday 2nd July

→ “Conflict Prevention. PeaceMaking in and after conflicts”

Moderator: General Sir Nicholas Ralph Parker

Jill Sinclair

Arber Ahmeti

Other speakers to be announced

Thursday 3rd July

→ “Approach to war in Africa; Rwanda genocide 1994”

Moderator: Lord Iain Bonomy

Other speakers to be announced

Friday 4th July

→ “Methods of accountability during and after conflicts are concluded. What works.”

Moderator: Dr Aldo Zammit Borda

Huub Jaspers

Horst Junk

Harry Rogers

Andrea Pelliconi

Saturday 5th July

→ Concluding lectures on all topics

Moderator: Sir Geoffrey Nice

Sonja Biserko

- Student group presentation of two exercises on which they will have worked in spare time throughout the week.

Student groups each to prepare (through week) written observations for plenary discussion with a view to publication on the website.

- Evening social event (subsidised financially if possible; organised by students)

Sunday 6th July

- All depart