

**TRAINING MATERIALS**

**ON THE MARCH 2017 INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE DOCUMENTATION AND INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

*Institute for International Criminal Investigations*

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**NOTES FOR USERS**

These *Training Materials on the March 2017 International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict: Best Practice on the Documentation of Sexual Violence as a Crime or Violation of International Law* (Training Materials) have been written by the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI) (www.iici.global) as part of a project supported by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office of the government of the United Kingdom (FCO).

These Training Materials are available online at https://iici.global/publications/. They may also be published in due course on the website of the FCO.[[1]](#footnote-2)

The Training Materials are based on and accompany the English version of the second edition of the International Protocol (also, Protocol), which is published by the FCO. Different language versions of the second edition will be available for download from the website of the FCO by the end of 2018.[[2]](#footnote-3) The first edition of the International Protocol was launched at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which was held from 10-13 June 2014 in London. The second edition of the International Protocol was launched on 13 March 2017 to mark the 5th anniversary of the FCO’s Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI).

The second edition of the International Protocol is considerably different from the original one. For example, it has nine entirely new chapters, and the original chapters have been substantially rewritten. It is therefore essential that trainers using these Training Materials, including those who are familiar with the first edition of the International Protocol, read the second edition of the Protocol.

The Training Materials largely reflect the content of, and must be used in conjunction with, the International Protocol. In a few rare instances, including in Module 15 (Trauma) and Module 16 (Sexual Violence against Children), there are slight divergences or differences in emphasis given to certain issues between the Training Materials and the Protocol.

The Training Materials comprise 17 modules. Each module contains a narrative document, “Guidance Notes for Trainers” (Guidance Notes), and PowerPoint slides.[[3]](#footnote-4) Roughly, a minimum of about 1,620 minutes and a maximum of about 2,625 minutes as training time (including exercises) would be required to cover the content of the Training Materials; that translates into about 4-7 training days. This estimate duration is a very rough guide based on the assumption that all or most participants would be new to several concepts and topics. Trainers could compress or expand modules, or drop some.

Every training is unique. Accordingly, designers and managers of training courses and trainers must consider for themselves the degree to which the Guidance Notes and slides may have to be adapted to the particular needs of each group of trainees or participants and the circumstances of each training course. Trainers are strongly encouraged to tailor the Training Materials to the specific context in which participants are working, and, if possible, include short videos and other additional materials or exercises to complement or replace some of the suggested content. Trainers could also delete, skip or simplify, or otherwise tailor slides as appropriate, especially the text-heavy slides.

The relevant sections or page numbers of the Protocol are set out at the top of each slide where appropriate, including references to other modules where relevant information can be found. The practicality and adaptability of the International Protocol and such training materials have been tested and proven in training courses conducted by IICI and other users.

IICI has produced annotations or supplements to the International Protocol for Iraq, Myanmar and Sri Lanka (Protocol Supplements) which are available in English and relevant local languages (Arabic and Kurdish for Iraq, Burmese for Myanmar, and Sinhala and Tamil for Sri Lanka). They highlight specific considerations to take into account in view of the legal framework and other circumstances in or in relation to those countries. Trainers with target audiences from Iraq, Myanmar and Sri Lanka could refer to the relevant Protocol Supplements, which can be downloaded from IICI’s and REDRESS’ websites.[[4]](#footnote-5)

The Training Materials are designed for use by appropriately qualified and experienced trainers and designers and managers of training courses. Depending on the context, this topic (sexual violence) may be very sensitive. Trainers should be mindful that some of the participants may have personally experienced or witnessed sexual violence and other violent crimes. With the responsible assistance of training participants, they should be able to create an atmosphere where participants feel safe to freely discuss their views and, should they wish so, experiences. Trainers should put in place the necessary and appropriate ground rules and other measures to properly and sensitively deal with any related issues that may arise during and/or as a consequence of the course.

**DISCLAIMER**

IICI is not and will not be responsible for how the International Protocol and/or the Training Materials[[5]](#footnote-6) are used and/or adapted by others (including trainers and trainees/participants), and for any related consequences, including for any consequences for participants of putting the content of the International Protocol and/or Training Materials into practice.

Every user of the International Protocol and/or the Training Materials, including participants and trainers, is responsible for assessing the suitability and safety of using and/or putting into practice the content of the International Protocol and/or the Training Materials in their specific context.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Training Materials have been written by Danaé van der Straten Ponthoz, co-author of the International Protocol, IICI consultant and partner of the Transitional Justice Clinic. Maxine Marcus, founder and director of the Transitional Justice Clinic, has advised on and reviewed a draft version. IICI’s Programme Director, Gabriël Oosthuizen, has reviewed the final version of the Training Materials. The content of the Training Materials does not necessarily reflect the views of all three on all points, and the content does not necessarily reflect the views of the FCO.

IICI would also like to thank the external experts who have kindly offered their time to review specific modules of these Training Materials. To the extent possible, these Training Materials used as starting point the training materials which Niamh Hayes developed on behalf of IICI to accompany the first edition (June 2014) of the Protocol. However, much of the content of this edition of the Training Materials is new.

The development of these Training Materials has been made possible by the support of the PSVI of the FCO.

**ABOUT IICI**

The Institute for International Criminal Investigations specialises in building and strengthening the capacity of international, national, civil society and other investigators and practitioners to document and investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and grave human rights violations. Its offerings include training courses and mentoring assistance on the investigation of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. More information on IICI can be found at www.iici.global.

1. The Training Materials may be linked from this FCO page: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-protocol-on-the-documentation-and-investigation-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. At the time of writing, the Protocol had been translated into Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Burmese, French, Kurdish, Lingala, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili and Tamil. The English version can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-protocol-on-the-documentation-and-investigation-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict>. Albanian, Arabic, French and Spanish were about to be launched and posted on that website, while the launch of the earlier mentioned language versions is expected to follow by the end of 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Where PowerPoint facilities are unavailable, the slides can also be printed, if possible, as handout for participants. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The Protocol Supplements can be found at <https://iici.global/publications/> and at https://redress.org/resources/publications/. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. IICI did not produce the International Protocol and does not necessarily agree with all of the Protocol’s content. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)