



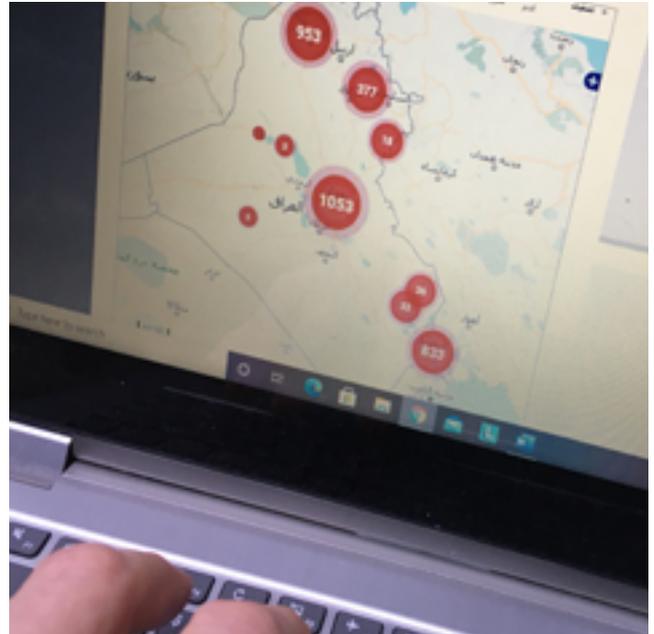
STRATEGY 2021 – 2024

From civilian protection to civilian rights

What is Ceasefire?

The Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights is an international initiative to develop civilian-led monitoring of violations of international humanitarian law or human rights in armed conflict; to secure accountability and reparation for violations; and to develop the practice of civilian rights.

Civilians are often recognized as the principal victims of war but rarely as the holders of rights. Insecurity and repression make it difficult to document violations on the ground, and both legal and practical obstacles prevent access to justice. We promote the access of civilians to the range of mechanisms and remedies under both human rights law and the laws of armed conflict, working to ensure that their rights can no longer be denied.



Ceasefire online platforms have enabled documentation of over 4,000 cases of violations against civilians

What is civilian-led monitoring?

In many locations civilian activists are the only source of reliable information about the effects of conflict. Advances in technology present an historic opportunity. Mobile telephones and internet access continue to spread worldwide, even in countries in crisis. Civilian-led monitoring empowers activists to make information available in a way which is more systematic, secure and, crucially, can be verified. Ceasefire's programmes of civilian-led

monitoring involve the deployment of innovative online reporting tools, supporting a range of sources including crowd-sourcing and social media, backed up by extensive training and in-country support, enabling bilingual real-time reporting on violations. Civilian-led monitoring goes far beyond open source information and its multipliable potential has been affirmed by senior representatives of the UN, humanitarian agencies, and rights monitoring institutions.

The Ceasefire story

Following decades of progress, the basic rights of civilians in situations of conflict or widespread insecurity have deteriorated seriously in recent years. Conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, South Sudan and elsewhere have seen not only a huge rise in the violent deaths of civilians, but also the erosion of humanitarian norms by almost all parties to the conflicts. This is partly made possible by what the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has referred to as ‘a growing refusal to grant access to the UN human rights mechanisms’.

In conflicts around the world, the monitoring of violations is often poor or non-existent. Many of the world’s deadliest conflict zones are effectively closed to UN special rapporteurs and other international human rights monitors and the official body mandated to investigate grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions has in 25 years only undertaken one investigation.

But that doesn’t mean violations go unrecorded. During years of experience working in Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia and other conflict zones, our staff and trustees have been inspired by the courageous efforts of local civilian activists on the ground and the evident influence of their work on both officials and militia leaders, even in apparently chaotic situations. In a growing number of countries, civilian activists have quickly become the primary, and in many locations the only, source of reliable information about the effect of the war on the civilian population.



Advances in technology present a historic opportunity”

Ceasefire has developed a system of civilian-led monitoring to ensure that reliable and up-to-date information on violations is made widely available, in a secure manner, from countries or territories where the security situation makes existing reporting inadequate.

Monitoring and documenting violations are necessary for securing rights, but they are not enough. Both the legal rules regulating armed conflict (known as international humanitarian law or IHL) and the law of human rights establish a series of rights that, at least in theory, protect civilians. But the capacity and the standing of civilians to bring claims are very limited. At Ceasefire we work to remove both legal and practical obstacles facing civilians in securing their rights to protection and reparation.

Ceasefire now works with established civil society partners and UN agencies on the ground in conflict zones around the world to empower civilians to monitor violations and promote their access to justice.



Raqqa, Syria ©Tim Dirven /Panos Pictures

The challenges of modern warfare

Warfare is evolving. Although most attention is devoted to technology-led developments – such as the use of automated weapons, the deployment of unmanned drones, and the development of cyber warfare – more civilians are affected by a wide range of other factors, from the growth of new armed movements, shifting patterns of population settlement and developments in great power politics and military alliances.

In the countries at war where Ceasefire works, communities on the frontline describe how parties to conflict are:

- Turning towns and cities into battlefields. Urban warfare has increased in frequency and intensity, and a series of prolonged city sieges in recent conflicts have had a devastating effect on civilians. The urban environment brings military targets into close proximity with civilians, and the widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure has long-lasting reverberating effects on the population.
- Bombing and shooting civilians. In conflict after conflict, civilians are targeted deliberately or fall victim to indiscriminate attacks. Even where attacks are aimed at military objectives, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the intensity of repeated attacks mean that the incidental civilian death toll is high.
- Denying access to food, medical supplies and other objects indispensable to survival, and politicizing the delivery of aid. In many conflicts, more civilians



In South Sudan, Ceasefire is helping build an early warning system to ensure violence against civilians is prevented.

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are killed by hunger and disease than by violence. Yet these scourges are often not incidental: they form part of the tactics used by conflict parties to punish and/or displace populations.

- Promoting campaigns of disinformation and propaganda. The deployment of propaganda is hardly novel, but with contemporary technologies it has taken new and insidious forms. While civilians can now be better enabled to monitor and document violations, their testimonies and even their status can be cast into doubt by disinformation campaigns on social media.

Our review of current challenges for civilians also draws on the most up-to-date analysis from leading international authorities, including the latest work from the International Committee of the Red Cross

Geneva Conventions API Art 35.1. In any armed conflict, the right of the Parties to the conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited.

“ When we discovered international humanitarian law it was a revelation. This was something that was relevant to what we were living, that could protect us”

– Radhya Al-Mutawakel, Mwatana Organisation for Human Rights, speaking at Ceasefire event



Baghdad roadblock ©Frontpage/Shutterstock

(ICRC) and the United Nations ‘Protection of Civilians’ agenda. In addition to the factors noted above, they also draw attention to:

- The protracted nature of today’s conflicts, and high numbers of internally-displaced people (IDPs) and refugees
- The need to address the specific capacities and perspectives of people with disabilities
- The negative effect on humanitarian efforts of certain counter-terrorism measures which can impede impartiality and the protection of non-combatants
- The impact of the climate emergency and environmental devastation
- The threats presented by the COVID pandemic to vulnerable civilians, including IDP and refugee populations. Civilians in many conflicts fear authoritarian measures that use the pandemic as a pretext, or even ‘weaponise’ the pandemic by deliberately destroying or withholding access to health or sanitary facilities.

In this complex environment, Ceasefire has highlighted a number of opportunities, as well as further specific challenges, for the development and realization of the rights of civilians. These are outlined below.

Geneva Conventions API Art 57.1. In the conduct of military operations, constant care shall be taken to spare the civilian population, civilians and civilian objects.

Challenges and opportunities for defending rights of civilians

Proliferation of armed actors, and complexes of actors

Recent conflicts around the world have seen a very large number of armed opposition groups, with dozens or even scores of such groups operating in a given conflict. International intervention by states is also a growing characteristic of modern warfare, either individually or as part of multi-national coalitions, creating complex practical and legal challenges for the accountability of individual states or conflict parties.

Use of partners or proxies to wage war

The way in which the major powers fight their wars has changed significantly. Expeditionary wars are now largely fought from the air and 'by, with and through' partner forces on the ground. While limiting the danger to service personnel, this strategy has led to a sharp decline in public scrutiny and blanket official denials of responsibility where civilian rights have been violated. Meanwhile, the sponsorship of armed opposition groups by states – effectively using such groups as proxy forces in conflict – is widespread and poorly addressed by existing rules of state responsibility under international law.

Expansion of the battlespace

IHL only applies during an armed conflict. But new techniques in hybrid warfare, including cyber warfare, extend belligerent activity far beyond traditional zones of conflict, with potential widespread effects on the civilian population. Campaigns of targeted killings across borders have similarly seen incidental civilian harm in countries where there was no extant armed conflict. Civilians harmed in such situations face multiple challenges in seeking justice for violations.

Erosion of humanitarian norms

Humanitarian norms have come under deliberate attack in recent years. The celebration of convicted war criminals as heroes, the deliberate misrepresentation of civilian populations as 'terrorists', and the dismissal of advocacy for civilians as 'lawfare' or 'ambulance-chasing', are all evidence of a deterioration of respect for IHL.

--- but development of humanitarian practice

At the same time humanitarian agencies – both governmental and non-governmental – have developed extensive good practice around the protection of civilians, from negotiating humanitarian access and the management of displacement camps and mobile health facilities, to the operation of reparations schemes. In addition to the positive effect on the ground, such agencies constitute a powerful constituency for supporting humanitarian norms.

Extra-territorial application of human rights

The jurisprudence of international and regional human rights bodies, such as the European Court of Human Rights, has confirmed the applicability of human rights in armed conflict. It has also recognized, in a wide range of situations, the extra-territorial application of human rights law. Such forums offer civilians whose rights have been violated an avenue of redress.

Civilian rights litigation

Even where a human rights jurisdiction is not established, civilians may be able to use tort law to obtain a remedy where a violation of international law has occurred. There is now growing interest in the potential for recognizing a direct right to reparation for civilians under both national and international law.



Syrian refugees at Suruç, Syria/Turkey border ©Quetions123/Shutterstock

Creating change: from theory to practice

In the face of the multiple and complex challenges presented by contemporary conflict, we need both focus and a clear vision for how change can be brought about.

Our work is complementary to global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals – including SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions – and to the work of international criminal justice institutions to prosecute those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity. But we need to bear in mind our more limited mandate and our limited resources, as well as our commitment to focusing attention on issues or innovative interventions that we believe are insufficiently addressed by others.

The gap in promoting civilian voice

While consultation with beneficiaries has improved in international development, and some development agencies seeking to achieve best practice follow a ‘human rights-based approach’ to development, the lessons are yet fully to permeate the humanitarian sphere. The immediate imperative of providing assistance in emergency situations, and the difficult and often insecure conditions in which humanitarian agencies operate, all complicate the meaningful involvement of beneficiaries. Displaced populations, separated from their own resources and networks of influence, experience an acute form of disempowerment, aggravated by existing inequalities, including on grounds of gender, disability, or minority status.

Recent decades have also seen a marked increase in the number of territories or even whole countries where conflict insecurity or governmental secrecy have denied access to human rights monitors or humanitarian actors. Civilians in such situations typically experience the worst of conflict-related violations, but they are effectively silenced.

The gap in enforcing international law protecting civilians

The greatest gap in international humanitarian law is not in the law itself but in its implementation and enforcement. Humanitarian norms, including the prohibition on targeting civilians, are universally accepted by the world’s governments (the Geneva Conventions are ratified by every state in the world) but implementation is not monitored or enforced by any international mechanism. IHL has nothing to compare to the UN, regional and national human rights institutions and courts, an imperfect but powerful architecture designed to bring rights home.

At the national level, civilians seeking to assert rights are confronted by formidable obstacles. In non-international armed conflicts, the institutions for the administration of justice and the rule of law itself may be fatally compromised. In international armed conflicts, distance, language differences and unfamiliarity with legal systems may make access to justice before the courts of a belligerent state effectively impossible. And despite guarantees in the Geneva Conventions, many governments refuse to acknowledge that their IHL obligations correspond to a right to reparation for civilians. Once again, the civilian is reduced to the status of victim.

Geneva Conventions Common Article 3. Persons taking no active part in the hostilities ... shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria.

Our theory of change

Civilian-led monitoring of violations

The denial or suppression of civilian experience in armed conflict begins from ignorance about what is happening on the ground. Supporting civilian activists and civil society organisations in conflict zones with the knowledge and technical tools to monitor and document violations advances change by: 1) significantly improving the availability of violations monitoring information from hard-to-access zones; 2) enabling civilians on the ground to report violations directly and securely, rather than relying on middlemen or hearsay; 3) encouraging documentation of violations according to international standards, facilitating accuracy, analysis and characterization under the law.

Civilian-led monitoring has particular strengths in supporting inclusive reporting of violations against women and disadvantaged or marginalized groups in society, who may lack well-placed advocates or existing platforms to have their case heard.

Securing reparations and accountability

As the predominant victims of armed conflict, civilians are generally treated within the paradigm of humanitarian aid. While such aid may be life-saving, in isolation it reinforces a view of civilians as essentially passive, the object of charity, and of civilian harm as an unfortunate side-effect of war.

Supporting civilians to seek reparation and accountability for violations has the potential to achieve transformative change



In Iraq, Ceasefire is working to strengthen the national reparations scheme. Over \$355 million has been paid to victims of conflict.

©Lattimer/Ceasefire

by challenging this paradigm. It empowers civilians to become actors in conflict situations, to assert their rights, and to advance their interests independently of any parties to the conflict. Humanitarian aid may well continue to be necessary, especially in the short-term, but the situation of civilians in war fundamentally engages questions of justice too.

Proper representation of civilians is vital to ensuring redress, including restitution, other civil reparation, prosecution of war crimes, and policy or legislative change to ensure that violations are not repeated. Empowering civilians to secure justice also has the practical advantages of making any positive changes to their situation more sustainable, and helping to promote reconciliation.

Geneva Convention IV Art 32. The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands.

Strengthening the practice of civilian rights

Despite the development of the ‘Protection of Civilians’ agenda at the UN, there remains a multi-lateral failure to address widespread attacks on civilian populations. As civilian deaths rise, the international community has appeared caught between rhetorical condemnation and military intervention – risking making the situation even worse. But the development of alternative, non-violent approaches to civilian protection, based on realization of the rights of civilians, can deliver concrete change. These include civilian harm mitigation policies, reparations programmes, the improvement of early warning systems, and civilian ceasefire monitoring, all underpinned by improved civilian representation.

Equally important is the need to track and anticipate shifts in the means and methods of warfare and their likely impact on civilians. While there has been necessary attention on the development of drone, ‘robot’ and cyber warfare, recent military developments that have carried the greatest cost in civilian lives have received less attention: the expansion in sieges and blockades, use of explosive weapons in urban areas, and the growth of partnered or proxy wars.

The effective implementation of international law depends on regulation, training and military accountability mechanisms keeping up to date with the changing face of warfare. Developing and promoting policy responses based on civilian rights will support real improvements to civilian protection on the ground.



In northern Syria, Ceasefire has trained judges and legal monitors in the law of the Geneva Conventions.

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“ *The world doesn’t change with more information – but it just might, with good information*”

– *Senior official, International Committee of the Red Cross*

BASELINE

Medium-term OUTCOMES

CIVILIANS ARE:

...ignored

Civilian experiences ignored, suppressed and/or denied

IHL and other conflict violations recorded and documented on civilian-led platforms

...dismissed

Civilian views or agency dismissed or side-lined, civilians treated as victims or as expendable

Reparations claims and test cases supported, and prosecutions enabled, in cases of civilian rights violations

...unprotected

Civilians targeted or accorded low priority by parties to conflict. High public tolerance for civilian harm as excusable or unavoidable

Policy reform advanced on civilian harm mitigation

ACCELERATORS:

International cooperation
New/developing legal regulation

PREVENTORS:

Internationalization of conflicts
New weapons; erosion of legal norms

Long-term OUTCOMES

IMPACT

CIVILIANS ARE:



...enabled

Civilians in armed conflict are able to monitor and document violations of their rights

Civilian testimony is documented, voiced and recognized



...empowered

Justice and accountability are delivered for violations of the rights of civilians

Civilians are able to assert their rights and secure redress for violations



...protected

Civilian rights practice strengthened in humanitarian, military and policy arenas

IHL is implemented /enforced; civilian harm is avoided or at least minimised

Mobile telephony, internet, social media

Goodwill and resources from humanitarian agencies

AI and open source (OSINT)

Data overload, data misuse, surveillance

Agencies applying band-aid solutions, creating cycles of dependency

Disinformation and propaganda

Our objectives 2021 – 2024

The rising civilian death toll in today’s armed conflicts, the development of new means and methods of warfare and the revival of old ones, and the piecemeal erosion of humanitarian legal norms together present daunting challenges for the protection of civilians. At the same time, advances in technology, the law, and international cooperation offer new entry points in meeting some of these challenges.

Objective 1: To empower civilians in situations of armed conflict or prevailing insecurity to monitor and document violations of their rights

In the face of conflict insecurity and access restrictions, local civilian activists and rights defenders, enabled with the right technology, become key actors in the monitoring and documentation of violations. Working with expert developers, and in consultation with UN and other official human rights and IHL bodies, Ceasefire has developed and piloted online tools for civilian-led documentation of violations according to international reporting standards, based on the application of latest technologies combined with training and networking of activists on the ground. To be effective, civilian-led monitoring needs to conform to international legal standards, demonstrate rigour and professionalism, and ensure the safety of monitors from threats and attack by armed actors.



Ceasefire is working to ensure Congolese communities who faced crimes against humanity are represented before courts in Europe.

We will:

- Expand our online violations monitoring platforms with dual English/Arabic language functionality, and provide online and in-person training and support to researchers and super-users
- Deepen and strengthen the network of civilian monitors in our current focus countries in the Middle East and in Africa, including building the sustained and long-term engagement of monitors
- Promote inclusion of monitors from or working with specially vulnerable groups
- Expand support for civilian-led monitoring to further conflict situations in other world regions, based on rigorous assessment of existing provision, and civilian capacity and impact.

Geneva Conventions API Art 32. In the implementation of this section the activities ... shall be prompted mainly by the right of families to know the fate of their relatives.



Kivu, DRC @Lattimer

Objective 2: To seek justice and accountability for violations of civilian rights

We seek to use the results of civilian-led monitoring to bring about change. That requires effective international advocacy for justice, and also ensuring redress for individual civilians and their families on the ground. Securing reparation for victims is central to delivering both realization of civilian rights and accountability of perpetrators.

Some conflict-related reparations programmes already exist, at both national and international level. However, unclear procedures, administrative hurdles and long delays all impede access to justice. Legal costs, displacement and security challenges also serve to prevent some families from accessing compensation mechanisms at

all – as does the refusal of governments to recognize their legal obligations to provide reparation.

Supporting credible reparations claims and assisting claimants in obtaining redress will contribute to the effective functioning of reparations schemes and will be a practical method of delivering real change to civilians affected by conflict.

We will:

- Use the documentation secured through civilian-led monitoring to found reparation claims
- Provide legal support and representation to claimants to enable them to access national and international reparations programmes
- Undertake targeted advocacy to ensure the voices of civilians are adequately reflected in fact-finding inquiries, and in the formulation of civilian protection and reparations policies.

Objective 3: To develop the practice of civilian protection and raise public support for the promotion of civilian rights

‘Protection of civilians’ is a field of practice that is dominated by states and inter-governmental organisations. The elaboration of PoC policies rarely reflect properly the views of civilians on the ground, and their implementation fails to take account of the agency of civilians themselves or make provision for the realization of their rights.

Geneva Conventions API Art 91. A Party to the conflict which violates the provisions of the Conventions or of this Protocol shall, if the case demands, be liable to pay compensation. It shall be responsible for all acts committed by persons forming part of its armed forces.

A military approach to civilian protection continues to be advocated by a number of governments, including most permanent members of the Security Council, yet mandates almost never stipulate civilian impact assessments.

This results in a perception that civilians are passive victims whose suffering is the unavoidable and inevitable corollary of war, compounded in the case of protracted conflicts by compassion fatigue. There needs to be better public awareness of the laws protecting civilians and support for what civilians themselves can do, and are doing, to improve their situation.

We will:

- Undertake applied research and technical assistance to advance emerging practice which has the greatest impact on civilian protection, including recognition of rights to reparation; formulation of civilian harm mitigation policies; legal limits on siege and other forms of urban warfare; and state responsibility in proxy conflicts.
- Pilot the application of civilian-led monitoring techniques to further humanitarian challenges, including early warning for conflict prevention, and the monitoring and implementation of ceasefire agreements.
- Expand communications outreach and grow the supporter base for civilian rights among key target audiences, including officials and experts in foreign policy, defence and law, the media, and the general public.



Ceasefire is building the case for reparations for civilians harmed by UK and other international forces.

“ I insist on reparations: the measures that give survivors compensation and satisfaction and enable them to start a new life. It is a human right.”

– Denis Mukwege, Nobel Lecture 2018

Geneva Convention IV Art 144. The High Contracting Parties undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention as widely as possible in their respective countries..., so that the principles thereof may become known to the entire population.



Dhiyaldin Shamsaldin takes notes as body of a man killed by an airstrike is exhumed, Mosul, Iraq ©Tommy Trenchard /Panos Pictures

Delivering the strategy: innovation and best practice

Ceasefire’s strategy has benefitted from the experience of civilian activists on the ground, partners and donors, and by a series of Expert Advisory Panels, consisting of senior experts in IHL, human rights, humanitarian affairs and strategic studies. Throughout we have been guided by our principles, focused on innovation and best practice.

Innovation

Civilian-led monitoring of violations represents a significant innovation in the field of international human rights and humanitarian law. The technique was specifically developed to empower civilian activists, including those in remote regions, and to enable effective monitoring in situations where traditional international monitors have no or limited access. Ceasefire’s report *Eyes on the Ground: Realizing the potential of civilian-led monitoring in armed conflict* describes the development of these techniques, the challenges – including verification, quality control and victim protection – and the wide potential for replication.

An intelligent approach to technology

Ceasefire aims to optimize existing technologies, working with leading non-profit technology providers to make the best of available tools to support civilian-led



Ceasefire is advising MPs in Iraq on new laws to deliver justice for the disappeared and for survivors.

monitoring. But where required technology is not yet available, we work with computer scientists to develop new tools, including those that use artificial intelligence to support violations monitoring.

Legal mechanisms protecting civilian rights

The implementation of international law protecting civilians is riddled with major gaps. International humanitarian law has a longer history than the law of human rights, but in recent decades it has fallen behind on mechanisms of implementation. Ceasefire supports pioneering efforts to use legal mechanisms to advance justice for violations against civilians in armed conflicts.

Best practice

For Ceasefire, best practice means putting

Geneva Convention IV Art 27. Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs



Nineveh, Iraq ©Lattimer/Ceasefire

civilians first. Rather than seeing them as helpless victims, or the collateral damage of war, we believe in recognizing their agency, and promoting their participation in measures to assist and protect them. Above all, it means realizing their rights.

Safeguarding and ‘do no harm’

Ceasefire takes responsibility for ensuring that people working with us are not harmed in any way. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of bullying, harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse. We are acutely aware of wider vulnerabilities among those living in conflict situations, including those living in refugee camps or IDP settlements, and victims of rights violations or those in similarly vulnerable situations. The overarching principle of ‘do no harm’ guides the development of our activities and has a special application with regard to the safety and security of partner organisations, rights activists and other civilians with whom we work.

Gender and multiple discrimination

The treatment of women and men, and girls and boys, during armed conflict exhibits significant differences. Some violations are less visible and are often discounted or ignored. We take steps to ensure the equal participation of women in our work, and some activities are specifically targeted at women.

Ceasefire also recognises that communities are not homogeneous and that within them there may be groups who have differing access to power and resources. This requires keen attention to how multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination operate, including on grounds of religion, ethnicity, age, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation. Equality and diversity are principles fundamental to our priorities and objectives, and we are committed to ensuring they are respected and promoted in all aspects of our work.

A learning organisation

Ceasefire strives to be a learning organisation. We aim to design a feedback loop in all our activities, to enable evidence to be gathered on performance and inform learning. Project evaluation reports are shared with donors, partners, participants and other relevant stakeholders, and lessons learned from the intervention are disseminated amongst like-minded NGOs and the wider sector to encourage progress. This supports improvements in our work methods and performance, and also promotes a culture of critical reflection and development.

The concept of the learning organisation means believing in people, investing the time and resources in developing skills and

capacities. Through publications, seminars, public events, and articles in academic journals, we share our learning to encourage wider discussion and opportunities for renewed insight.

Maximising the use of resources

As a relatively new organization, Ceasefire has low overhead costs and benefits from a high degree of flexibility. We intend to keep headquarters and fixed costs as low as possible, and ensure that maximum resources are dedicated to where they are needed most on the ground.

Although we believe in using the best of available new technology, people remain our most valuable resource. As Ceasefire grows over this strategic period, we plan to support our work with further specialist staff in law and communications, as well as programme management and development.

In addition to an experienced and dedicated staff and governance team and skilled pro bono support, Ceasefire is honoured to work in partnership with leading rights defenders in Africa and the Middle East. Independent civil society organisations leading the work to monitor and document conflict violations in their own countries are best placed to support civilian activists and researchers.



“ I do not seek more sympathy; I want to translate those feelings into actions on the ground”

– Nadia Murad, Nobel Lecture, 2018



In Yemen, Ceasefire has supported partners to document 380 attacks on schools and push for accountability.

Destroyed school, Taiz, Yemen ©Anas Alhadj /Shutterstock



IDP camp, Idlib, Syria ©Quetions123/Shutterstock

Our partners include

Allen & Overy LLP

ASUDA for Combating Violence
against Women (Iraq)

Community Empowerment Progress
Organization (South Sudan)

Essex University

European Commission

Fondation Pro Victimis

Innovate UK

International Institute for Law and
Human Rights

Minority Rights Group International

Mwatana Organization for Human
Rights (Yemen)

Norwegian Agency for Development
Cooperation

Robert Bosch Stiftung

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

SANAD for Peacebuilding (Iraq)

Swiss Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs

Syria Justice and Accountability
Center

UKAID (UK Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development
Office)

UN Women

YASA Kurdish Centre for Legal
Studies



Protecting civilians requires us to do much more to ensure compliance with international law and accountability for violations”

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, UN Security Council, May 2020

Front cover: Kerbala, Iraq @Jasmin Merdan/GettyImages

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