

Czech National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law

Annual Report mid 2024–2025

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Introduction

The National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law ("National Committee") continued its mission to promote, implement, and disseminate International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the Czech Republic. In October 2024, members of the National Committee attended the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as part of the delegation of the Czech Republic. During the reporting period of June 2024 – December 2025, the Committee focused on strengthening legal frameworks, and advancing education, awareness of IHL principles, and fulfilling national pledges adopted at the 34th International Conference.

1) International Engagement

At the **34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**, the Czech Republic submitted four national pledges: (1) Dissemination of IHL, (2) Support for the auxiliary role of the Czech Red Cross (CRC), (3) Training for law enforcement and judiciary on IHL and international criminal law, and (4) Protection of cultural property under the Hague Convention and its Protocols. The Czech Republic also joined three open pledges: (1) Application of international humanitarian law to the use of information and communication technologies in situations of armed conflicts, (2) Support for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC), and (3) Enhancing the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel. Implementation of these pledges is ongoing, with relevant information available on the Committee's website.

The Czech Republic joined the **Global IHL Initiative** launched by the ICRC and chairing States in September 2024 and has been actively participating in 3 selected workstreams. It also endorsed the **Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel** during the UN High-Level Week in September 2025.

In December 2025, the Czech Republic took part in the **meetings of State Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention, its Second Protocol, and the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property** held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The sessions addressed key issues such as the implementation of the Convention, mechanisms for periodic reporting, and the development of a digital emblem for protected cultural property.

2) Domestic Legislation

In July 2025, the **Czech Red Cross Act** (126/1992 Col.) was amended to provide a clear legal basis for the Czech Red Cross (CRC) to process personal data in connection with its tracing service. The amendment requires public authorities to cooperate and share necessary information (including

personal data) with the CRC, in line with Geneva Conventions and resolutions of International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The National Committee also initiated discussions on establishing a **National Information Bureau**. The Ministry of Defence prepared a report assessing options, including entrusting this role to the CRC. The topic will be further discussed in 2026.

3) Promotion and Dissemination of IHL

The National Committee focused on implementing the national pledge to disseminate knowledge of IHL among members of the **judiciary, law enforcement and prosecution**. An overview of available courses was created with the goal of identifying existing resources and opportunities for the development of specialized courses. In this regard, the Ministry of Justice is in the process of organizing a **specialised seminar for judges and prosecutors** on investigating and prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity in spring 2026.

The CRC and Ministry of Defence continued organizing biannual **IHL Basics Course** for military and civilian participants, complemented by webinars and specialized sessions on the protection of cultural property. In cooperation with the National Pedagogical Institute (NPI), the CRC organises an 8-hour introductory **IHL course for teachers** at NPI in Prague and in Olomouc. CRC continued support universities in the dissemination of IHL. This cooperation is based on MoU between CRC and selected universities. The Ministry of Defence is also preparing a new module on defence and security issues, including the law applicable to and in armed conflict for university curricula.

4) Protection of Cultural Property

The National Heritage Institute and the Ministry of Culture finalized a preliminary **inventory of cultural property** for general protection under Article 5 of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention. The Ministry of Defence is reviewing the list with regard to objects essential for national defence.

In February 2025, the Czech Republic submitted a nomination for **Český Krumlov Castle and Chateau** to the UNESCO list of **cultural property under enhanced protection** pursuant to the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention. The Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict conducted a prima facie review in September 2025 and recommended inscription. At its 20th meeting in December 2025, the Committee decided to grant the request. This step is the result of a multi-year process of preparing documentation, coordinated by the National Committee and prepared by the Ministry of Culture and the National Heritage Institute in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions.

Conclusion

The National Committee remains committed to strengthening the implementation and dissemination of IHL, supporting humanitarian actors, and ensuring compliance with international obligations. The Committee will continue its work on cultural property protection, legal frameworks, and education initiatives in 2026.