



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Law

## **JAMR34, Children in Armed Conflict, 7.5 credits**

*Barn i väpnad konflikt, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Educational Committee of the Law Faculty Board on 2014-10-03 and was valid from 2014-10-03 , autumn semester 2014.

### **General Information**

The course Children in Armed Conflict is an elective course within the Master's Programme in International Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law. The course is open to students on the programme leading to a Swedish Professional Law degree and who follow the Master's Programme in International Human Rights Law in their studies at advanced level. The course is scheduled to require 5 weeks of full time studies.

*Language of instruction:* English

Lectures and course material are in English.

*Main field of studies*

Human Rights

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

The aim of the course is to enhance and deepen the knowledge on current debates in the field of children in army conflict world-wide and specifically in the Latin American region from a human rights perspective.

## **Knowledge and understanding**

To pass examination the student shall:

- show in-depth knowledge of the emergence, scholarly foundations and application of human rights law related to children in army conflict both internationally and regional –focusing the knowledge in Latin America.
- demonstrate knowledge of the current research in this field
- show an understanding of the role of states and international organizations in international human rights law as it relates to the global and regional phenomena of children in army conflict
- show a profound knowledge of the legal framework in which human rights of children in conflict with the law and children in army conflict in particular operate.

## **Competence and skills**

To pass examination the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to identify legal problems and to systematize arguments and to apply the relevant international body of legal materials to solve legal problems in particular within the field of human rights with a particular view to children in army conflict
- show the ability to produce a convincing legal argument within a limited period of time, and to present the results both in an oral and written manner.

## **Judgement and approach**

To pass examination the student shall:

- show the ability to discuss critically the development of legal concepts both globally and regionally related to children in conflict with the law and children in army conflict.
- show a scholarly understanding of the interactions of states, international organisations and treaty bodies on the subject
- be able to identify normative forces—regional and international-- impacting on the development of the law in this field.

## **Course content**

The course offers, from the perspective of children's rights, an advanced understanding of new and diverse threats to security and peace represented by the modern changing nature of contemporary armed conflicts. In recent years civil wars and conflicts have transformed civilians --and particular children--into strategic targets. This course seeks to comprehend and study substantives human rights concepts contained in international and regional children's human rights law and their practical application in the new geopolitical landscape of army conflicts.

The course also examines the different international community' responses expressed on proposed strategies and programmes for incorporating the rights of the child into the world peace agenda and the way in which humanitarian assistance is provided. Analysis of international justice initiatives and their decisions --especially in the Latin American region--as well as the real impact that they have produced in children's life will be part of the discussions. In addition, a basic understanding of the legal and social theory related to Latin

American children in conflict with the law and its relationship with fundamental concepts of international human rights law will be scrutinised.

Whereas the current focus of this phenomenon is concentrated in Africa, in Latin America and the Caribbean children are been affected not only by open civil wars and internal conflicts but mostly by international crime and organized armed violence. On this regard, while the course will invite students to participate in normative discussions on the subject it will also discuss relevant comments, observations and views of the existing United Nations Treaty bodies' work in monitoring and enforcing the international community decisions related to the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Students will apply their knowledge by questioning and exploring the most important trial on children on army conflict as well as on cases related to resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and its Sanctions Committees. This approach will enhance their ability to apply international human rights law when analysing practical situations related to the socio economic and historical phenomenon of Children in Army Conflicts, particularly within the Latin American context.

### **Course design**

The students obtain knowledge and competences as indicated above by individual studies of course literature and other course material, and by taking an active part in lectures and situational analysis.

Instruction is given in the forms of lectures and seminars, aiming at a deeper understanding and application of the legal framework and the current legal developments on the subject.

### **Assessment**

Examination on the course consists of a written take home exam at the end of the course. Submission of a short analytical paper and an oral presentation of the paper is mandatory, but not graded.

### **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction.

All grading criteria rest on the baseline set up for the grade B. Criteria for the grade BA are additional to those for the grade B. Criteria for the grade AB are additional to those for the grade BA. Each grade criterion consists of a qualitative and a quantitative dimension. To be awarded a specific grade, the grade criterion must be satisfied in its qualitative as well as its quantitative dimension.

Grading criteria are applied to all dimensions listed as "Learning outcomes" in this syllabus. By way of example, an AB would presuppose that the student's examination reflect her or his mastery with regard to knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities and values and attitudes as laid down in the syllabus as "learning outcomes". Grading is done primarily using Qualitative and Quantitative criteria. The Quantitative criterion reflects how well read the student is whereas the Qualitative criterion reflects how well the student can use his/her knowledge to make a well structured critical and analytical

argument and put it in a proper context.

#### *B – Basic command*

In order to achieve this grade the student must show good knowledge about how international and regional human rights law and the strategies on children in army conflict are taken and applied.

The students must achieve knowledge about the scientific foundation of the legal and psych-socio theory on children in conflict with the law.

#### *BA – Advanced command*

In order to achieve this grade the student must show very good knowledge about how international and regional human rights law and the strategies and legal decisions regarding their situation in army conflicts are taken and applied.

The students must achieve good knowledge about the scientific foundation of the legal and psych-socio theory on children in conflict with the law.

The student must be able to demonstrate good knowledge about current international and regional human rights law research and methodology as well as about the role and strategies of states, and those of the international and regional organizations on children in army conflict.

The student has to be able to put international human rights law on children in army conflict in its proper legal framework, regionally as well as internationally, showing an ability to identify legal problems independently, critically, creatively and be able to systematize arguments, as well as analyse, compare and assess theoretical and practical problems within the context of international human rights law on children in army conflict.

The student has to show a understanding of the societal impact of international human rights law on children in army conflict, in the interaction between states and individuals/groups and in the international and regional community as a whole as well as an important ability to understand the advantages and disadvantages of international human rights law related to children in army conflict and its impact on the world peace agenda' as well as in the international and regional legal systems and structures.

The student must show a good ability to analyse case law concerning international human rights law on children in army conflict, both in an oral and a written form and an ability to work both individually and in groups.

#### *Mastery – AB*

In order to pass the student must show an in-depth knowledge about how international human rights children's law and the strategies and legal decisions regarding their situation in army conflicts are taken and applied.

The students must achieve substantive knowledge about the scientific foundation of the legal and psych-socio theory on children in conflict with the law.

The student must be able to demonstrate an excellent knowledge about current international and regional human rights law research and methodology as well as about the role and strategies of states and those of the international and regional organizations on children in army conflict.

The student has to be able to put international human rights law on children in army conflict in its proper legal framework, regionally as well as internationally, showing an ability to identify legal problems independently, critically, creatively and be able to systematize arguments, as well as analyse, compare and assess theoretical and practical problems within the context of international human rights law on children in army conflict.

The student has to show crucial understanding of the societal impact of international human rights law on children in army conflict, in the interaction between states and individuals/groups and in the international and regional community as a whole as well as an important ability to understand the advantages and disadvantages of international human rights law children in army conflict and its impact on the world peace agenda' as well as in the international and regional legal systems and structures.

The student must show a very good ability to analyse case law concerning international human rights law on children in army conflict, both in an oral and a written form and an ability to work both individually and in groups.

### **Entry requirements**

Passed examination in courses corresponding to the first year of the Master's programme equivalent to 52.5 credits.

### **Further information**

The University views plagiarism as a very serious academic offence, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.