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Country/ entity	Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (former)
Region	Europe and Eurasia Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Geneva Agreement on humanitarian principles
Date	22 May 1992
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict ( Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001) )
Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bosnia peace process
Parties	Mr. K. Trnka, Representative of Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina; Mr. A. Kurjak, Representative of Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Party of Democratic Action; Mr. D. Kalinic, Representative of Mr. Radovan Karadzic, President of the Serbian Democratic Party; Mr. J. Djogo, Representative of Mr. Radovan Karadzic, President of the Serbian Democratic Party; Mr. S. Sito Coric, Representative of Mr. Miljenko Brkic, President of the Croatian Democratic Community
Third parties	-
Description	This agreement was signed in Geneva at the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The parties agree to act according to humanitarian principles and within the jurisdiction of International Humanitarian Law.

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## Groups

Children/ youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ ethnic/ national group	<p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES The parties commit themselves to respect and to ensure respect for the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, which states, in particular:...Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed groups who have laid down their arms and those placed “hors de combat” by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, 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.</p> <p>Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION [3] In the treatment of the civilian population there shall be no adverse distinction founded on race, religion or faith, or any other similar criteria.</p>
Religious groups	<p>Groups→Religious groups→Anti-discrimination Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES The parties commit themselves to respect and to ensure respect for the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, which states, in particular:...Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed groups who have laid down their arms and those placed “hors de combat” by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, 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.</p> <p>Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION [3] In the treatment of the civilian population there shall be no adverse distinction founded on race, religion or faith, or any other similar criteria.</p>
Indigenous people	No specific mention.

Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/ displaced persons	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION [4] The displacement of the civilian population shall not be ordered unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand. Should such displacements have to be carried out, all possible measures shall be taken in order that the civilian population may be received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition.
Social class	Groups→Social class→Anti-discrimination Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES The parties commit themselves to respect and to ensure respect for the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, which states, in particular:...Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed groups who have laid down their arms and those placed “hors de combat” by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, 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.

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## Gender

Women, girls and gender	Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES The parties commit themselves to respect and to ensure respect for the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, which states, in particular:...Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed groups who have laid down their arms and those placed “hors de combat” by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, 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.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

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## State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

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## Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral  
commission      No specific mention.

Political  
parties  
reform            No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

An impartial body, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, may offer its services to the Parties to the conflict.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION

[5] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall have free access to civilians in all places, particularly in places of internment or detention, in order to fulfil its humanitarian mandate according to the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.4. CAPTURED COMBATANTS

[2] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall have free access to all captured combatants in order to fulfil its humanitarian mandate according to the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.6. ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

[2] They shall consent to and cooperate with operations to provide the civilian population with exclusively humanitarian, impartial and non-discriminatory assistance. All facilities will be given in particular to the ICRC.

Page 3, 3. RED CROSS EMBLEM

The Red Cross emblem shall be respected. The Parties undertake to use the emblem only to identify medical units and personnel and to comply with the other rules of international humanitarian law relating to the use of the Red Cross emblem and shall repress any misuse of the emblem or attacks on persons or property under its protection.

Page 3, 4. DISSEMINATION

The Parties undertake to spread knowledge of and promote respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law and the terms of the present agreement, especially among combatants. This shall be done in particular: by providing appropriate instruction on the rules of international humanitarian law to all units under their command, control or political influence; by facilitating the dissemination of ICRC appeals urging respect for international humanitarian law; by distributing ICRC publications.

Page 4, 5. IMPLEMENTATION

[1] Each party undertakes to designate liaison officers to the ICRC who will be permanently present in meeting places determined by the ICRC to assist the ICRC in its operations with all the necessary means of communication to enter in contact with all the armed groups they represent. Those liaison officers shall have the capacity to engage those groups and to provide guarantees to the ICRC on the safety of its operations. Each party will allow the free passage of those liaison officers to the meeting places designated by the ICRC.

Traditional/  
religious  
leaders      No specific mention.

Public  
administration      No specific mention.

Constitution      No specific mention.

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## **Power sharing**

Political  
power  
sharing      No specific mention.

Territorial  
power  
sharing      No specific mention.

Economic  
power  
sharing      No specific mention.

Military  
power  
sharing      No specific mention.

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## **Human rights and equality**

Human  
rights/RoL  
general      No specific mention.

Bill of  
rights/  
similar      No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 1, Untitled Preamble  
Therefore...reiterating their commitment to respect and ensure respect for the rules of International Humanitarian Law; the Parties agree that, without any prejudice to the legal status of the parties to the conflict or to the international law of armed conflict in force, they will apply the following rules:...

Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The parties commit themselves to respect and to ensure respect for the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, which states, in particular:

Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed groups who have laid down their arms and those placed “hors de combat” by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, 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.

Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

To this end, the following acts shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons: violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; taking of hostages; outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment; the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

Page 1-2, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Parties to the conflict should further endeavour to bring into force, by means of special agreements, all or part of the other provisions of the present Convention. The application of the preceding provisions shall not affect the legal status of the Parties to the conflict.

Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT

In accordance with the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, the Parties agree to bring into force the following provisions:

Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.1. WOUNDED, SICK AND SHIPWRECKED

The treatment provided to the wounded, sick and shipwrecked shall be in accordance with the provisions of the First and Second Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, in particular: All the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, whether or not they have taken part in the armed conflict, shall be respected and protected. In all circumstances, they shall be treated humanely and shall receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition. There shall be no distinction among them founded on any grounds other than medical ones.

Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION

[1] The civilians and the civilian population are protected by Articles 13 to 34 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949. The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against the dangers arising from military operations. They shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.



Civil and political rights

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Life

Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

To this end, the following acts shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons: violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; taking of hostages; outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment; the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Torture

Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

To this end, the following acts shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons: violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; taking of hostages; outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment; the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Equality

Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The parties commit themselves to respect and to ensure respect for the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, which states, in particular:...Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed groups who have laid down their arms and those placed “hors de combat” by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, 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.

Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION

[3] In the treatment of the civilian population there shall be no adverse distinction founded on race, religion or faith, or any other similar criteria.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.6. ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

[2] They shall consent to and cooperate with operations to provide the civilian population with exclusively humanitarian, impartial and non-discriminatory assistance. All facilities will be given in particular to the ICRC.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Liberty and security of person

Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

To this end, the following acts shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons: violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; taking of hostages; outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment; the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Humane treatment in

Socio-economic rights      No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

Citizenship      No specific mention.

Democracy      No specific mention.

Detention procedures      No specific mention.

Media and communication      Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media logistics  
Page 4, 5. IMPLEMENTATION  
[1] Each party undertakes to designate liaison officers to the ICRC who will be permanently present in meeting places determined by the ICRC to assist the ICRC in its operations with all the necessary means of communication to enter in contact with all the armed groups they represent. Those liaison officers shall have the capacity to engage those groups and to provide guarantees to the ICRC on the safety of its operations. Each party will allow the free passage of those liaison officers to the meeting places designated by the ICRC.

Mobility/  
access

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION

[5] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall have free access to civilians in all places, particularly in places of internment or detention, in order to fulfil its humanitarian mandate according to the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.4. CAPTURED COMBATANTS

[2] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall have free access to all captured combatants in order to fulfil its humanitarian mandate according to the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.6. ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

[1] The Parties shall allow the free passage of all consignments of medicines and medical supplies, essential foodstuffs and clothing which are destined exclusively to the civilian population.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.6. ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

[2] They shall consent to and cooperate with operations to provide the civilian population with exclusively humanitarian, impartial and non-discriminatory assistance. All facilities will be given in particular to the ICRC.

Page 4, 5. IMPLEMENTATION

[1] Each party undertakes to designate liaison officers to the ICRC who will be permanently present in meeting places determined by the ICRC to assist the ICRC in its operations with all the necessary means of communication to enter in contact with all the armed groups they represent. Those liaison officers shall have the capacity to engage those groups and to provide guarantees to the ICRC on the safety of its operations. Each party will allow the free passage of those liaison officers to the meeting places designated by the ICRC.

Protection measures Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians  
Page 2,

### 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION

[1] The civilians and the civilian population are protected by Articles 13 to 34 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949. The civilian population and individual civilians shall enjoy general protection against the dangers arising from military operations. They shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.

Page, 3,

### 2.5. CONDUCT OF HOSTILITIES

Hostilities shall be conducted in the respect of the laws of armed conflict, particularly in accordance with Articles 35 to 42 and Articles 48 to 58 of Additional Protocol I, and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and other Devices annexed to the 1980 Weapons Convention. In order to promote the protection of the civilian population, combatants are obliged to distinguish themselves from the civilian population.

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups  
Page 2, 2. Special Agreement

All the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, whether or not they have taken part in the armed conflict, shall be respected and protected. In all circumstances, they shall be treated humanely and shall receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition. There shall be no distinction among them founded on any grounds other than medical ones.

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other  
Page 2, 2. Special Agreement

### 2.2. PROTECTION OF HOSPITALS AND OTHER MEDICAL UNITS

[1] Hospitals and other medical units, including medical transportation may in no circumstances be attacked, they shall at all times be respected and protected. They may not be used to shield combatants, military objectives or operations from attacks.

[2] The protection shall not cease unless they are used to commit military acts. However, the protection may only cease after due warning and a reasonable time limit to cease military activities.

Other No specific mention.

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## Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

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## Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES [Summary] Punishment must be pronounced by a court. See Right to Life.

Prisons and detention	<p>Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES</p> <p>The parties commit themselves to respect and to ensure respect for the Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, which states, in particular: Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed groups who have laid down their arms and those placed “hors de combat” by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, 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.</p> <p>Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION</p> <p>[2] All civilians shall be treated in accordance with Articles 72 to 79 of Additional Protocol I. Civilians who are in the power of an adverse party and who are deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the armed conflict shall benefit from the rules relating to the treatment of internees laid down in the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949.</p> <p>Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.3. CIVILIAN POPULATION</p> <p>[5] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall have free access to civilians in all places, particularly in places of internment or detention, in order to fulfil its humanitarian mandate according to the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949.</p> <p>Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.4. CAPTURED COMBATANTS</p> <p>[2] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall have free access to all captured combatants in order to fulfil its humanitarian mandate according to the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.</p>
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

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## Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance</p> <p>Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.6. ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION</p> <p>[1] The Parties shall allow the free passage of all consignments of medicines and medical supplies, essential foodstuffs and clothing which are destined exclusively to the civilian population.</p> <p>Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.6. ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION</p> <p>[2] They shall consent to and cooperate with operations to provide the civilian population with exclusively humanitarian, impartial and non-discriminatory assistance. All facilities will be given in particular to the ICRC.</p>
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

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## Land, property and environment

Land reform/ rights	No specific mention.
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Pastoralist/  
nomadism  
rights No specific mention.

Cultural  
heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or  
riparian  
rights or  
access No specific mention.

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## **Security sector**

Security  
Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed  
forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence  
services No specific mention.



Parastatal/  
rebel and  
opposition  
group  
forces

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.4. CAPTURED COMBATANTS  
[1] Captured combatants shall enjoy the treatment provided for by the Third Geneva Convention.  
[2] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall have free access to all captured combatants in order to fulfil its humanitarian mandate according to the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

Page 3, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.5. CONDUCT OF HOSTILITIES  
Hostilities shall be conducted in the respect of the laws of armed conflict, particularly in accordance with Articles 35 to 42 and Articles 48 to 58 of Additional Protocol I, and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and other Devices annexed to the 1980 Weapons Convention. In order to promote the protection of the civilian population, combatants are obliged to distinguish themselves from the civilian population.

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Page 4, 5. IMPLEMENTATION

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Withdrawal  
of foreign  
forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/  
organised  
crime

No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims Page 1, 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES  
The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for.

Page 2, 2. SPECIAL AGREEMENT, 2.1. WOUNDED, SICK AND SHIPWRECKED  
The treatment provided to the wounded, sick and shipwrecked shall be in accordance with the provisions of the First and Second Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, in particular: All the wounded, sick and shipwrecked, whether or not they have taken part in the armed conflict, shall be respected and protected. In all circumstances, they shall be treated humanely and shall receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition. There shall be no distinction among them founded on any grounds other than medical ones.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

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## Implementation

UN  
signatory No specific mention.

Other  
international  
signatory No specific mention.

Referendum  
for  
agreement No specific mention.

International  
mission/  
force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement  
mechanism No specific mention.

Related  
cases No specific mention.

Source International Committee of the Red Cross, Former Yugoslavia, Special Agreements between the Parties to the Conflicts, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Agreement No. 1 of May 22, 1992  
<https://www.icrc.org/casebook/doc/case-study/yugoslavia-agreements-case-study.htm>

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