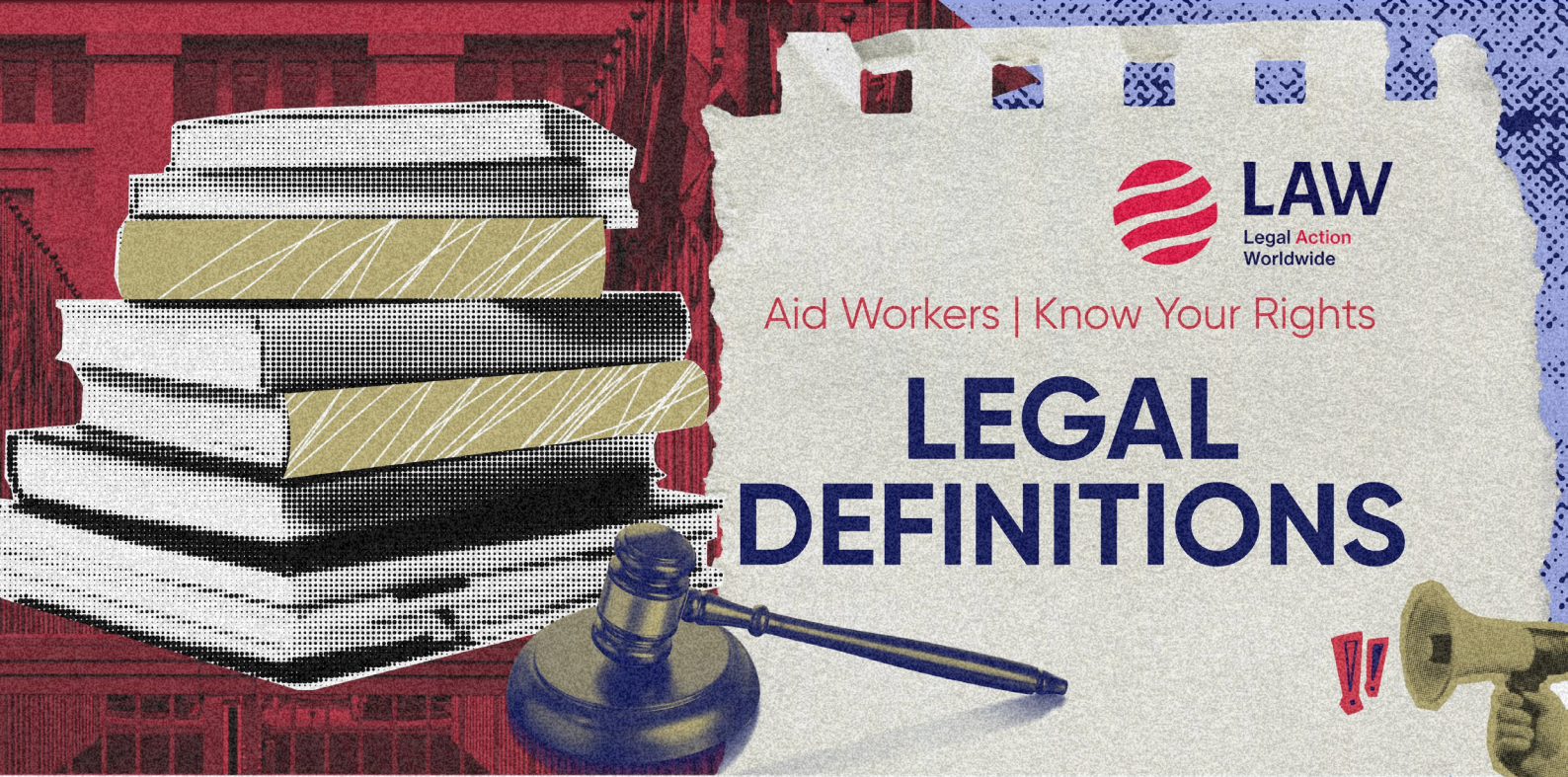




Aid Workers | Know Your Rights

LEGAL DEFINITIONS



Aid workers often work in fragile and conflict-affected regions, or in places where the rule of law has devolved. However, in the majority of situations, both domestic and international laws continue to apply.

Aid workers are first and foremost civilians who are protected under the Geneva Conventions in times of armed conflict. They are also rights holders under international human rights law, which continues to apply in armed conflict. Additional specific protections for humanitarian workers exist under treaty law and customary international law. Depending on the circumstances, an attack may have various legal consequences:

Incident	Potential Domestic Crimes/Civil Claims	International human rights and International humanitarian law	Basis for accountability
Death	Murder Manslaughter Wrongful death	Willful killing Violence to life and person Intentionally directing attacks against humanitarian personnel, the civilian population, or individual civilians	War Crimes Violations of IHL
		Extra judicial killing	Violation of the Right to Life
		Willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health Violence to life and person Torture and cruel treatment	War Crimes Violations of IHL
Torture/ Serious bodily injury	Battery Assault Torture Grievous bodily harm	Torture and other cruel degrading and inhumane treatment	Violation of the prohibition on torture and other cruel degrading and inhumane treatment
		Violence & unlawful bodily harm	Violation of the right to liberty and security of person

Sexual Violence	Rape Sexual assault Battery Sexual violence	Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence	War Crimes Violations of IHL
		Violence & unlawful bodily harm	Violation of the right to liberty and security of person
Kidnapping, arrest and detention	Kidnapping False imprisonment Deprivation of liberty	Arbitrary detention Enforced disappearance	Violation of the prohibition on arbitrary arrest or detention. Violation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Violation of the right to recognition as a person before the law
Threats and intimidation	Assault Intentional infliction of emotional distress Intimidation Harassment	Outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment.	War crimes Violation of IHL
Obstruction/attacks on Humanitarian Operations	Unlawful destruction of property.	Intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects Intentionally directing attacks against hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected	War crimes Violations of IHL

If these crimes take place on a widespread or systematic basis, they may constitute Crimes Against Humanity, and in some cases where the attacks on aid workers and humanitarian operations are part of a specific intent to destroy whole or part of the population, it may constitute Genocide.