

# DCAF's Approach to Economic and Social Rights in Armed Forces Contexts

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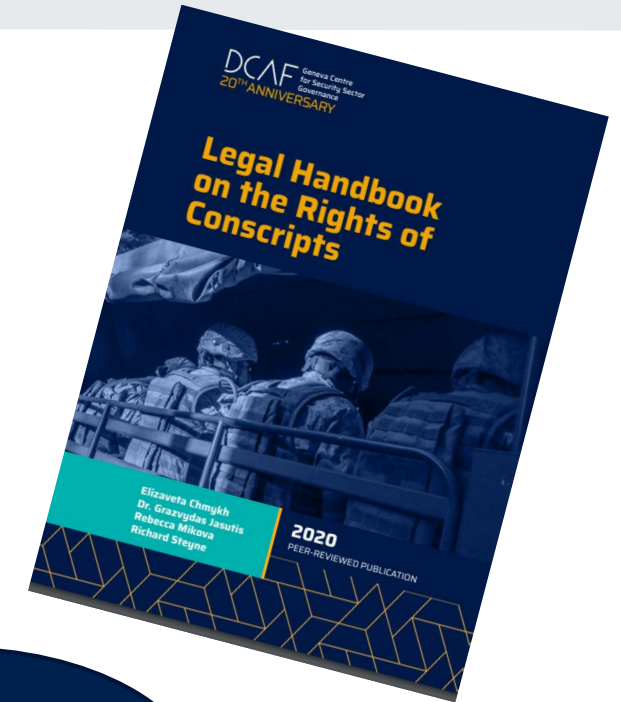
Project Officer

DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance

# DCAF's work

*Supporting democratic governance of the security sector (rule of law, accountability, protection of rights in the armed forces)*

Regional Track	National Track
Development of knowledge products	
Standardized survey on the rights of conscripts (and officers)	
Regional Exchange Mechanism	Policy and Legal Advice
	Capacity-building and awareness-raising



Social and  
Economic  
Rights?

Why?  
Morale, retention,  
discipline, legitimacy

# Comparative Overview: Key Findings

- ❖ Intersection of rights (S&E and C&P rights)
- ❖ Lack of awareness about rights (and legal clarity)
- ❖ Limited **access & trust** in complaint mechanisms (**30%+ feared retaliation**)
- ❖ Lack of information (need for monitoring)
- ❖ Demographic factors: age (mil. hierarchy), ethnicity & language, education
- ❖ Nutrition

# Comparative Overview: Key Findings – Remote military units

- ❖ Limited access
- ❖ Limited monitoring
- ❖ Lack of access/presence of medical personnel, supply of medication, psychological support
- ❖ Limited ability to report complaints or contact family
- ❖ Higher risk of suicide

# Legal Gaps

- ❖ Enforcement
- ❖ International law
- ❖ Forced labour (disciplinary measures, maintenance of premises)





# Good Practices

- ❖ Monitoring
- ❖ Awareness raising (training, roundtables, posters/leaflets/memos)
- ❖ Reporting systems





# Human rights training



**Duration:** 1,5-2 days

**Trainers:** International + Legal department

**Barriers:** Language, representativeness (location), resources, knowledge retention

# Human rights training

## Day 1: Core Rights and Legal Protections

- Introduction to human rights in the armed forces
- Application of human rights law to conscripts (incl. restrictions & discipline)
- Freedom of expression, use of social media & phones
- Freedom of assembly and association
- Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, and right to life
- Prohibition of forced labour
- Economic and social rights:
  - Adequate housing & accommodation
  - Sufficient and nutritious food

## Day 2: Inclusion and Accountability

- Rights of minorities & managing diversity
- Protection of rights during national emergencies
- Reporting and complaints mechanisms: procedures and practical exercise



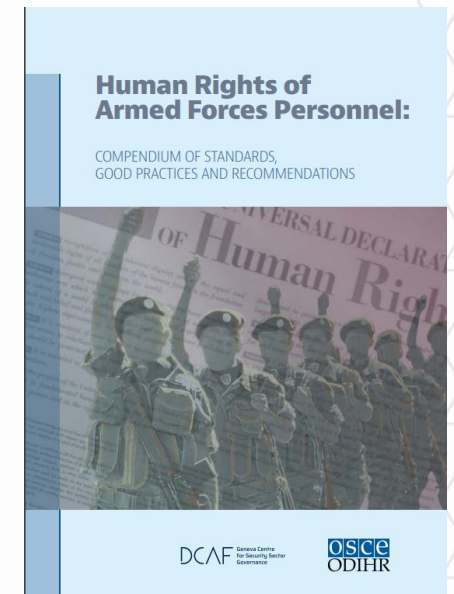
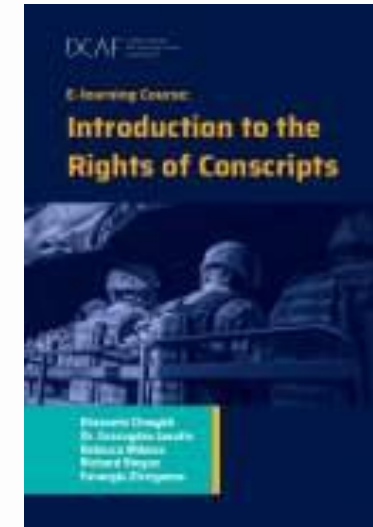
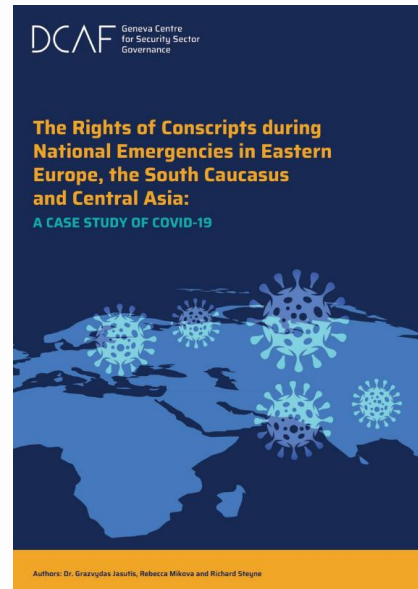
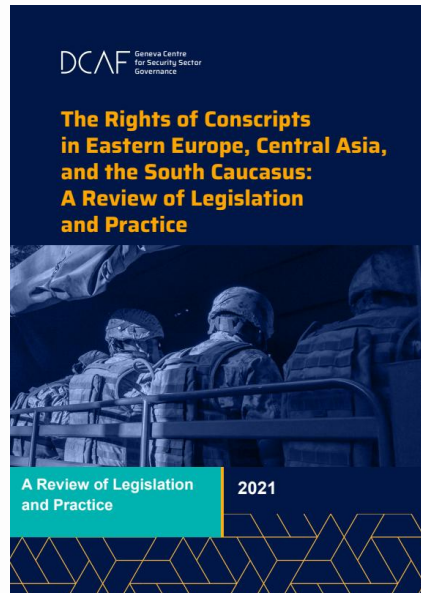
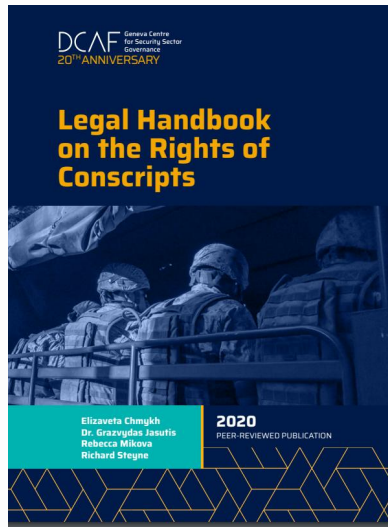
# DCAF Tools

- ❖ Training program & materials
- ❖ Standardized survey

...Knowledge products



# Knowledge products



## Contact and follow us

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