

Corporate Social Responsibility in Conflict Zones: Navigating the Intersection with International Humanitarian Law

Divya Singh¹, Dr. Rekha Verma²

¹Final Year Student, Amity Law School, Noida

²Assistant Professor-1, Amity Law School, Noida

Abstract

This paper examines the intersection of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and international humanitarian law (IHL), emphasizing the difficulties, responsibilities, and systems of accountability that businesses operating in conflict zones face. It gives a general review of IHL and CSR, emphasizing their applicability in regions impacted by war. This paper also examines the functions of corporate social responsibility in reducing the effects of armed conflicts on local communities using contemporary case studies from the Israel Palestine war and the Russian Ukraine war. This paper also delves into the protection and responsibility that international humanitarian law provides corporations along with the rules and regulations to hold corporations accountable in case they violate the law. It also stresses on the difficulties and gaps in accountability that are encountered by different other international law such as international criminal law, international human rights, law, and difference between other countries laws and legal system. Lastly, the paper discusses perspective suggestions and methods to incorporate IHL into various CSR activities which include partnership between businesses and humanitarian organizations, different NGOs, peace negotiations, mediations, economic recovery and socially responsible conduct and the most important adhering to human humanitarian laws, rules and guidelines.

Keywords: International Humanitarian Law, Conflict Zone, Accountability, Corporate Social Responsibility, Business Activity, Regulatory Frameworks, Human Rights, International Criminal Law, Human Rights Law.

Introduction

The convergence of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) has gained significance in today's globalized society, especially in areas plagued by violence and war. To understand this, there is need to have a thorough understanding of the main ideas behind IHL and CSR, such as their application and conflict area and the difficulties that they pose for companies who are doing their business there. There are a set of rules and regulations that is known as international humanitarian law also sometimes referred to as the law of armed conflicts or the law of war. It intends to control the behavior of people and corporations which are involved in armed conflicts and to reduce the effects of conflict and fighting on civilians and other parties. Its main goals are defending of those who are not directly involved in fighting like civilians, relief, workers and injured fighters and also to up, hold the fundamental humanitarian principles like humanity, neutrality and impartiality.

There are a wide variety of legal documents such as treaties, conventions and customary international laws are included in IHL. Contemporary international law is formed by 1949 Geneva conventions and additional protocol 1977 by offering detailed guidelines to protect the victims of armed conflicts. These agreements has set forth various fundamental values like helping those who needs humanitarian aid, difference between the combatants and the civilians, making the indiscriminate strikes illegal. Moreover, IHL also makes a distinction between domestic armed conflicts, which takes place inside the borders of a state and the armed conflicts which involves two or more nations on international armed conflicts. However, there are multiple similarities between the laws governing these two kind of armed conflicts except international conflicts have some subtle differences and protections.

The CSR activities had the potential to significantly contribute to peace, stability and development in conflict zone and also lessen the negative outcomes of armed conflict on the civilians and other parties. For example, companies can provide funds for community development programs, job creation, schemes or other infrastructure projects to help the reconstruction and recovery of economy after a conflict. Companies can also take action to safeguard human rights, stop the exploitation of natural resources, and encourage communication and peacemaking between parties involved in conflict. But carrying out CSR in war areas is not without its difficulties. Businesses may have to deal with concerns including legal uncertainty, political unpredictability, corruption, and security threats, which can make it more difficult for them to conduct business morally and responsibly.

Furthermore, companies that operate in conflict-affected areas run the risk of unintentionally accidentally fueling or exacerbating existing conflicts through their acts or inactions, which calls into question their CSR projects' efficacy and accountability.

Analyzing case studies from ongoing conflicts-like the Israel-Palestine conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war-offers important insights into the complexity of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in conflict zones and the approaches taken by companies to address humanitarian issues in the midst of hostilities. These case studies provide instances of how businesses have handled risks, negotiated moral conundrums, and supported attempts to promote peace and resolve conflicts in extremely unstable settings. Within this framework, CSR endeavors have emphasized the advancement of economic growth, the cultivation of intercommoned communication and the promotion of peaceful cohabitation.

Overview of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

IHL creates a set of guidelines with the goal of reducing the negative humanitarian effects of armed conflicts. It is also sometimes referred to as the law of war (*jus in Bello*) or the law of armed conflict. Its main objective is to place restrictions on the behavior of those engaged in war, protecting the welfare of others who are not directly engaged in fighting. IHL essentially establishes minimal human standards that have to be respected in any armed conflict scenario.

IHL is especially designed to be applicable in armed conflict scenarios, requiring adherence to humanitarian duties irrespective of the type or cause of the war. Parties to a conflict cannot use the terrible realities of war as an excuse for breaking IHL; they are always subject to its obligations. This principle emphasizes that respecting IHL is equally required of all parties involved in an armed conflict, irrespective of their reasons for doing so. In addition, belligerents are required to respect IHL even in cases when their opponents breach it, and there are strict guidelines governing any allowed retaliation. IHL is based on finding a middle ground between humanitarian concerns and military necessity. IHL places restrictions on the tools and techniques of combat, even as it recognizes the need for specific

measures to defeat enemies in times of conflict. It emphasizes the critical need of maintaining humanitarian standards throughout armed conflict by requiring that people who fall into enemy hands be treated humanely at all times.

Core Ideas of International Humanitarian Law

1. Distinction

The fundamental tenet of international humanitarian law, distinction, requires distinguishing between civilians and combatants as well as between military objectives and non-combatants. Parties to an armed conflict have an obligation to protect civilian populations and infrastructure while focusing their actions exclusively on military goals.¹

2. Precaution

During military operations, it is required by the principle of precaution to minimize harm to civilians and civilian-related items. Both the assaulting and defending forces must constantly exercise caution to safeguard civilians and their property from harm, taking all necessary precautions to shield non-combatants from the consequences of their actions.²

3. Proportionality

The harm that is done to civilians or civilian-related objects must be commensurate with the expected military advantage, according to the principle of proportionality. Attack planners and perpetrators are required to abstain from activities that would result in disproportionately high civilian casualties or damage compared to the desired military advantage.

4. Unnecessary Suffering

IHL forbids or limits the use of weapons and tactics that cause fighters needless suffering or needless injuries. These actions are in line with the larger humanitarian goals of international humanitarian law by attempting to lessen the pain endured by those engaged in armed conflicts.

5. Humane Treatment

The concept of humane treatment, which states that everyone under enemy control has a right to humane treatment regardless of their allegiance or status, is essential to international humanitarian law. This principle highlights how crucial it is to treat people with respect and dignity in order to protect their safety throughout violent situations.

In conclusion, the main objective of international humanitarian law is to minimize the humanitarian effects of war and preserve basic human rights by providing a framework for controlling the behavior of those involved in armed conflict.

IHL International Legal Order

Armed conflict circumstances are governed by international humanitarian law (IHL), which must be separated from other areas of international law that may apply concurrently but have distinct goals.

1. The Inter-State Force Prohibition and IHL

IHL is not the same as the regulation of the authorized use of force between States; it only takes effect when armed conflicts occur. With rare exceptions for acts approved by the UN Security Council to preserve or restore international peace and security, as well as for individual or collective self-defense against armed attacks, the UN Charter forbids the threat or use of force in international affairs. Assessing

¹ API, Art. 48; CIHL, Rule 1 and 7

² API, Art. 58; CIHL, Rule 22

violations of the ban on interstate force is different from enforcing compliance with international humanitarian law.

2. International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law

Although human rights law shields people from the arbitrary abuse of governmental power, international humanitarian law regulates behavior during armed conflicts. Despite certain overlap, the purview, obligations, and levels of protection of different legal systems vary. IHL is applicable in armed conflicts, emphasizing the behavior of the involved parties and providing direct protection to a variety of entities other than humans. By way of comparison, human rights legislation provides procedural guarantees and safeguards against capricious state actions for individuals falling under the jurisdiction of a State.

3. IHL Enforcement With the use of international criminal law

Through the prosecution of persons for grave IHL violations, international criminal law supplements IHL. The legal basis for prosecuting individuals for violating these responsibilities is provided by international criminal law, whereas IHL specifies the duties. Accountability for IHL violations is improved by the establishment of international criminal courts and the International Criminal Court.

4. The Law of Neutrality and International Humanitarian Law

One of the parts of the Law of war is law of neutrality that seeks to defend neutral governments and forbid them from providing military assistance to belligerent powers, and also preserve friendly ties within neutral and belligerent states. Though it has been historically only applicable during the times of international armed conflicts, its principles has also impacted non-international conflict parties, especially when it comes to use of neutral territory by the belligerent parties. Despite of many disagreements nations now acknowledge this that they have a duty to stop non-state groups from acting hostile against other state, which are on their soil.³

Overview of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

The Sustainable Business Strategy online course emphasizes the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR), which is the idea that companies have an obligation to the communities in which they reside. Companies that practice corporate social responsibility (CSR) usually organize themselves to operate in ways that benefit society; they engage in self-regulation by implementing a range of programs and tactics that support their mission. A lot of businesses use CSR reports to inform internal and external stakeholders about their initiatives. Different people have different ideas on what it means to be "socially responsible," and these interpretations are frequently influenced by the triple bottom line theory, which places an emphasis on evaluating both the influence on society and the environment in addition to financial success. Profit, people, and planet make up the "three P's" catchphrase.

Categories of CSR

The four primary categories of corporate social responsibility (CSR) are environmental, charitable, ethical, and economic.

1. Accountability for the Environment

This has to do with businesses trying to reduce their environmental impact. It entails cutting back on waste production, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, single-use plastics, water use, and pollution. It also entails controlling energy use by utilizing sustainable and renewable resources.

³ Nils Melzer, "International Humanitarian Law A Comprehensive Introduction", ICRC, February 2017, pp. 27-33

2. Moral Obligation

Ensuring just and moral operations is the main goal of ethical responsibility. Fair treatment of all stakeholders is required, including the executive team, investors, staff, suppliers, and clients. This could entail raising the minimum wage, making sure goods are obtained morally, and avoiding goods made using child labor or slavery.

3. Societal Duty

The goal of philanthropic responsibility is to make a meaningful difference in the world and society. Businesses can establish their own charitable organizations, donate a portion of their revenues to nonprofits and charities, or support causes that share their values.

4. Accountability for the Economy

Making financial decisions that support the company's commitment to doing good is a key component of economic responsibility. This ensures beneficial effects for the environment, people, and society in addition to maximizing profits.

The majority of businesses use CSR due to moral convictions, which can result in several advantages and significant social changes. CSR programs are an effective marketing technique that improves businesses standing with investors, customers, and government agencies. Along with drawing in likeminded candidates and increasing retention of those candidates, they also raise employee satisfaction and engagement by CSR. Many business executives are also prompted by CSR initiatives to review their employment and management procedure, product sourcing, and value delivery to customers. By reflecting on one, businesses often result in creating creative solutions that not only boost earnings, but also advanced social responsibility. For example, rethinking products and procedures to cut waste and energy use can benefit the environment and also lower the cost while producing value that suppliers and consumers can both benefit from.⁴

Corporate Business Activity in Conflict Zones

Business operations are hampered by a number of issues, such as taxes, political unpredictability, conventional crime, poor infrastructure, political instability, and corruption. Inadequate entrepreneurship abilities in areas like bookkeeping and customer service present further difficulties. Small and medium-sized businesses, or SMEs, are essential to the expansion of jobs worldwide but face obstacles such as restricted access to capital, networks, and business expertise.

An informal business structure, especially in conflict zones, is characterized by inefficiencies due to a lack of a robust and predictable regulatory framework, challenges in establishing enterprises, and difficulties enforcing contracts. Market leaders frequently engage in pricing manipulation, political influence, and vertical integration when they control a large portion of the market. Inadequate energy and transportation resources raise operating costs and impede the creation of jobs and economic progress. Businesses in war areas suffer from institutional fragility and corruption. Warlords in some nations build up substantial companies and establish monopolies through their assistance from influential political people. As demonstrated by the extractive industries—such as conflict diamonds in Angola or timber in Thailand and Cambodia—companies ought to abstain from supporting terrorists, criminals, or corrupt politicians.

Private sector is essential in order to create money, advance socio-economic development and avoid and

⁴ Tim Stobierski, “what is the corporate social responsibility? 4 types”, Harvard Business School Online, 8 April 2021, <https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/types-of-corporate-social-responsibility>

resolve conflicts. Collaboration between public private and non-profit sectors can result in effective entrepreneurship, especially in regions impacted by violence. Enterprises need to take into account the distinct commercial aspects as well as hazards in various conflict areas.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, there are some opportunities in conflict affected areas that are way too good to pass up, particularly in extractive sectors like the trillion dollar minerals of Afghanistan, etc. there are some successful economic endeavors in conflict areas which include women own companies like Kamila Siddiqui sewing business and DOTSI a woman led football enterprise as well as Roshan which is a largest mobile phone company in Afghanistan. The entrepreneurship training programs should be offered by the partners with proven track records and should be customized to meet local needs. As Rwanda's post-conflict history demonstrates, tourism not only contributes more to prosperity during peacetime but also plays a role in promoting peace.

As per the United Nations Global Compact Office, businesses that operate in conflict areas can engage in a range of business-promoting activities such as risk assessments, community dispute resolution, and adoption of global best practices for security. Collaborations between the public and private sectors, as well as between business groups and non-governmental organizations, have increased trade and decreased conflict, encouraging many businesses to abide by voluntary codes of behavior. While violence has detrimental repercussions, peace promotes economic development. Prosperous economies are the result of business investment flourishing in safe and stable conditions. Conflict, on the other hand, shatters established business practices and forces organizations into less open and competitive environments. Due to the financial and physical hazards involved, companies typically steer clear of investing in war zones, which stifles private sector activity and increases susceptibility to kidnapping and extortion. Macroeconomic activity can be weakened by conflict, which can also worsen supply and demand imbalances, degrade infrastructure, force workers from their jobs, and erode social capital. The degree of conflict varies according to the geographic extent and stage of the war; poor infrastructure, high levels of insecurity, and internally displaced people are common in armed conflicts, and these factors lead to lower GDP rates than in other regions.⁵

Contemporary Instances where IHL and Corporate Social Responsibility intersected

In the today's globalized world, there is a lot of interest in the intersection between corporate social responsibility and international humanitarian law. Many multinational companies find themselves working in context where violent hostility and violation of human rights takes place throughout the different parts of the world. Corporations have to balance in these kinds of complicated environments, adhering to their moral and legal applications with respect to international humanitarian law. There are many examples where both CSR and IHL intersect in the modern world. The corporation's whether they are directly involved in price zone or operate supply chains in conflict affected. Areas are have relationship with non-state actors and governments, have to face a growing number of ethical dilemma as a result of their operations in these conflict affected regions. In the circumstances, corporate decisions can have an impact on the lives and welling of conflict affected individuals as well as communities, and also will have an effect on their own reputation and financial statements.. Through a close examination of particular situations and patterns, valuable understanding can be obtained regarding the obstacles corporations' encounter, the obligations they assume, and their capacity to make significant

⁵ Dean Alexander, "Threats and Opportunities of Doing Business in Conflict Zones", Security Magazine, 8th May 2013, Available at: <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/84288-doing-business-in-conflict-zones-threats-and-opportunities>

contributions to relief efforts in areas impacted by war.

Russia-Ukraine War

Since obtaining independence in 1991, Ukraine has been one of the most important former nation influenced by Russia. Tensions between the two countries have arisen as a result of its politics, early and businesses being deeply entwined with the Russian institutions. In spite of this, Ukraine has worked hard to ingrain democracy after gaining independence. During the years, 2004 and 2005 orange revolution took place in Kyiv which was a very important protest against Russian political influence on the sovereignty of Ukraine.

After Viktor Yanukovich Was elected president of Ukraine in 2013. The tension between the Ukrainian people and political pressure from Russia grew more intense. The first significant confrontation between the Russian influence, and the Ukrainian public opinion was caused by Yanukovich's Opposition to sign association agreement with the European Union. But when military action took place in Crimea in 2014 things became far more explosive. The European Union, the United States and the United Nations were among the international actors who took notice of this incident, which result into a confrontation between Russia and Ukraine on the world stage. That is issue became more and more difficult to resolve due to the strong foreign policy of Vladimir Putin. Russia's invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014 signed the start of a full scale war between their countries. The annexation was made legitimate by making a contentious Referendum, which was marked by propaganda, demonizing the Ukrainian officials and by rigging of the results. Tensions were further arisen in 2021. When Russia began to bolster its troops near the borders of Ukraine. The two nations are still at war since Russia started it on February 24, 2022.

Up until recently, many laws in contemporary governments like Ukraine are mostly based on peace time legislation that addresses common security concerns, democracy, the rule of law and good governance. These large are mirroring the framework of legal system that is found in civilized countries. For example, individual rights such as life, health, honor, dignity, inviolability, and security are highly valued by society according to the Ukrainian Constitution. During a war, these ideas which are very important in times of peace, are interpreted and given more weight. Consequently, companies that truly value human rights and see CSR as more than just lip service will modify their operations to get out of the Russian market and stop working with its citizens. While not specifically addressing matters related to war, a number of international accords that have been ratified by the UN and other organizations require corporations to maintain and protect human rights throughout their activities. Businesses have an ethical obligation to abstain from participating in severe human rights breaches, such as war and the conduct of terrorist and aggressor governments.

Up until recently, the laws of contemporary nations—including Ukraine—had mostly dealt with peacetime matters, placing a strong emphasis on the rule of law, democracy, good governance, and shared security concerns. Nevertheless, these rules have frequently lacked detail about the legal frameworks during times of conflict and distinct sections devoted to such situations.

There are currently many examples of companies refusing to work with Russian-affiliated companies or conduct business in Russia. The dangers of sanctions harm to one's reputation, and the application of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies are the reasons for such acts. In addition to what is mandated by international sanctions, more than a thousand businesses have voluntarily reduced their activities in Russia, according to data from the Yale School of Management. Firms pulling out of the

Russian market have notably done well in the equity markets, with shareholder wealth outpacing the expenses of writing down Russian assets.

Due to the difficulties of doing business with an invading or terrorist state, ethically conscious multinational firms are recommended to leave the Russian market and stop cooperating with its citizens. Companies that continue to operate in Russia may also come under pressure from other counterparties, including termination of collaboration. Contemporary corporations are not solely economic organizations; they are also social and political actors, accountable for their deeds in the legal and ethical domains. Thus, moral principles ought to be respected, particularly when there isn't enough legal protection available due to armed conflict. International business websites have started to document their operations during the martial law regime after the full-scale invasion. There are numerous instances of CSR projects including humanitarian relief and stopping operations in states that commit acts of aggression. For example, businesses like Nova Poshta and National Company "Dnipropetrovskgaz" have supported the Ukrainian Armed Forces and helped with territorial defense initiatives.

Russian corporations may be subject to sanctions and have their assets taken under Ukrainian law. Applying the adjective "toxic" to businesses from Belarus and Russia implies that they won't work together because of possible penalties. Cooperation with these businesses is strongly opposed by the civil community, which results in financial losses and layoffs. Consequently, the CSR policy should include a prohibition against working with "toxic" (sanctioned) businesses in addition to putting the due diligence principle into practice. Companies now have the resources at their disposal to thoroughly investigate counterparties; in fact, CSR and due diligence rules require them to do so. Therefore, interacting with businesses from aggressor governments and carrying out operations there denotes endorsement of war and its funding, participation in transnational crimes against humanity, and a breach of corporate social responsibility duties.

A key document for CSR initiatives during this time is the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This Convention, which was ratified by the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada on June 20, 2022, attempts to shield women against psychological and physical abuse, especially in the workplace. Businesses that are socially conscious can create suitable rules to stop and prevent violence against women, demonstrating the role that companies can play in developing extra regulations based on self-regulation. In addition to conducting training, supporting gender equality efforts, campaigning for zero tolerance for violence, and providing support services including psychiatric aid, Ukrainian enterprises should incorporate the major principles of the Convention into their policies. Companies' ethical codes ought to contain such policies, reiterating their dedication to CSR principles and stringent adherence to Ukrainian law.⁶

Israel-Palestine war

In the past several years, the protest against the state of Israel and its settlements in the West Bank and Gaza strip have been more and more common as the Israeli Palestinian discussions have encountered obstacles. The main voice supporting this course of action is the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which was founded in 2005. The widely held perception of the boycott's economic aspects—which parodies Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu—as "classic anti-Semitism in modern attire" is found wanting. It is vital to understand the larger background, even though it is acknowledged that

⁶ Volodymyr kulikov, "Navigating wartime communications: multinational corporations in the Russia-Ukraine war", *ak journals*, volume 46: Issue 1, 2 Nov 2023, Available at: <https://akjournals.com/view/journals/204/46/1/article-p1.xml>

some elements of the call for an economic boycott of Israel and its settlements may have been inspired by anti-Israeli or even anti-Semitic feelings.

A normative and practical basis for various forms of political-consumerist activity has been supplied by the worldwide debate on corporate responsibility that has emerged during the 1990s. According to this paradigm, normative pressure and shame were essential elements in the boycott's growth and should be closely examined to learn more about its goals and beginnings. The economic boycott activities are similar to other cases of pushing, condemning, and economically penalizing firms for their direct or indirect violations of human rights, even if they are seen as a unique phenomenon in Israel. In recent decades, these behaviors have spread more widely in a variety of international contexts.

The discussion around Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is similar to that around responsible investing in that it attempts to reframe the reasons for financial activity. Its goal is to redefine the purpose of company activities. Businesses are spending a lot of money on social and environmental issues; this is especially true of multinational firms. This can be seen in the creation of Corporate Citizenship initiatives, the selection of executives with an emphasis on human rights and corporate social responsibility, and the implementation of "triple bottom line"-aligned processes, such as the growing prevalence of sustainability reporting.

The application of "normative pressure," which stands for the moral concerns of individuals impacted by matters of quality of life and their attempts to hold companies responsible, takes several forms, one of which is the act of shaming. Usually, this procedure consists of three steps: First, pinpointing a particular harmful conduct and linking it to the concerned company. The company will then be shamed into making amends and altering its conduct by spreading this information, which will also increase public awareness among lawmakers, investors, and consumers. Lastly, if demands are not met, a credible threat of material consequences (such boycotts, legal action, or more regulation) should be issued.

Businesses are realizing more and more that it is not in their best interests to ignore public pressure, particularly those that are highly visible. As a result, individuals choose to take on voluntary social responsibilities, boosting social expectations that have an effect on hiring, capital rising, and sales. The notion of a social license to function surfaces as a central theme, denoting the need for companies to attend to issues beyond their legal responsibilities in order to preserve their public legitimacy. This idea is often used in business literature as a strong case for corporate social responsibility. Business ethics, corporate responsibility, sustainability, and relationships with communities are becoming more and more prominent topics in academic management debate, especially in Europe. This change signifies a departure from the corporate contractual rhetoric that prioritizes the interests of shareholders exclusively and a shift towards taking into account the interests of all stakeholders. Consideration of larger public concerns beyond maximizing shareholder profits has been prompted by public scrutiny of negative societal repercussions, which has revived arguments about corporations' social responsibility requirements.⁷

Obligations and Safeguards for Companies under IHL

The significance of integrating International Humanitarian Law (IHL) into business risk management and human rights due diligence procedures, as well as related governance tools, is highlighted by the

⁷ Ofer Sitbon, "Human Rights, Normative Pressure and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict", *Heinonline*, 2020, Volume 52, Available at: <https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/geojintl52&div=8&id=&page=>

significant distinctions between International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and IHL. As Kolb (1998) pointed out, these two legal frameworks have different legal responsibilities and safeguards, which provide complementary but distinct frameworks for businesses operating in conflict-affected countries. IHL applies in specific circumstances and imposes constraints on corporate activities that might otherwise seem compliant with human rights obligations. Violations of IHL may result in breaches of IHRL, but it's essential to note that not all IHL violations necessarily constitute violations of IHRL. Thus, understanding and integrating both IHRL and IHL into corporate risk management strategies and human rights due diligence processes are crucial for companies operating in conflict zones. This approach helps ensure compliance with both legal frameworks and fosters responsible business conduct in complex environments.

1. Safety and security of civilians

In countries with instability where they conduct business, corporations frequently have a substantial influence over the public security forces. Companies are responsible for making sure these forces follow IHL guidelines. A number of factors, including attacks, requests for logistical support, and the participation of private corporate security in fighting alongside a conflicting party, can cause corporate locations and personnel to get involved in armed conflicts. No matter what the situation, the use of force by contractors or employees of corporations during an armed conflict is subject to IHL and must comply with the safeguards it affords to civilians.

Anvil Mining (Anvil) is an Australian-Canadian mining corporation that is accused of being involved in a 2004 massacre of civilians in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by Congolese military troops. This case should serve as a warning. Anvil supplied men and logistical support to the Congolese forces quelling a local uprising that had caused disturbances to its copper mine operations in the vicinity. Later on, the Congolese army was charged with multiple war crimes, including killing attacks on civilians. Many Anvil employees in the DRC were prosecuted as a result of the investigations that followed in Australia, Canada, and the DRC; however, none of them were found guilty. The Congolese government was then requested by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to launch a fresh criminal inquiry and bring Anvil Mining Company employees and state agents accountable. Legal channels for accountability, such a class action lawsuit in Canada, encountered procedural roadblocks in spite of best efforts.

2. Safeguarding individual property and forbidding plundering

Private property during armed conflicts has been protected for over a century under International Humanitarian Law (IHL). "Private property... must be respected [and] cannot be confiscated," according to Article 46 of the Hague Regulations. This is a principle that is also reflected in the Geneva Conventions (Geneva Convention IV, Article 33; Additional Protocol II, Article 4(2)(g)). As a result, businesses operating in conflict-affected areas need to take extra precautions to make sure they are obtaining resources or items with the prior owners' permission. If this isn't done, the firm or its directors may be accused of committing a war crime by pillaging people (Stewart, 2011).

Cases were filed against executives of many German corporations after World War II for allegedly taking part in the looting of assets from Nazi-occupied Europe (Simpson, 2002). Similar to this, in 2015, a Belgian-American diamond dealer was detained and accused of war crimes including plunder in Belgium because of his involvement in the trafficking of "blood diamonds," which fueled the civil conflict in Sierra Leone (CBS News, 2015). These instances demonstrate the potential legal ramifications of participating in plundering operations during armed conflicts, emphasizing how crucial

it is to follow IHL's private property rights rules.

3. Preservation of the Natural Resources and Population in Occupied areas

Even though they may not directly violate human rights law, businesses operating in occupied territory may unintentionally participate in actions that violate international humanitarian law (Azarova, 2018). For instance, companies engaged in manufacturing and construction that supply goods or services to Israeli settlements in the West Bank may enable Israelis to be transferred into occupied territory and assist in the creation and upkeep of settlements, which the International Court of Justice has determined to be in violation of IHL (OHCHR, 2014). Certain academics and advocates from civil society challenge the compatibility of any commercial endeavor in an occupied region with the Guiding Principles and international law. They propose that enterprises involved in such ventures ought to discontinue their operations entirely (Farah and Abdallah, 2019; Azarova, 2018).

4. Trading of Illegal Weapons

The kinds of weapons that are allowed in times of conflict are restricted under International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Humanitarian norms require that these weapons be able to discriminate between civilians and combatants (legitimate targets) (Additional Protocol I, Article 51(4)). Furthermore, according to Additional Protocol I, Articles 35(3) and 55(1); the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, preamble, IHL forbids the use of weapons or any activities that could result in extensive, persistent, or serious environmental harm. Under IHL, several types of weapons are prohibited altogether, including chemical, biological, and anti-personnel landmines. If businesses and their executives intentionally sell or provide arms meant to be used in the execution of war crimes, they risk facing legal repercussions.

In times of armed conflict, businesses are subject to obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which also offers them and their assets legal protection. These safeguards resemble those applied to citizens and civilian property. IHL guarantees firm employees the right to humane treatment at all times (Article 3 of the Geneva Convention IV). Furthermore, corporations' physical assets—like their buildings, vehicles, equipment, and factories—are shielded from warring parties' attacks, unauthorized uses, and seizures (Additional Protocol I, Articles 48, 52; Additional Protocol II, Articles 4(2), 13; Stewart, 2011).

Companies that are aware of these safeguards can modify their corporate policies and procedures or interact with communities, armed groups, and local governments in ways that do not endanger the protected civilian status of their employees or locations. The civilian status of company assets and personnel can be preserved, for instance, by refraining from direct involvement in conflicts or making sure that locations do not support military operations (Crawford, 2015; Henckaerts and Doswald-Beck, 2005).⁸

Accountability for Corporate IHL Violations

International criminal law, international human rights law, domestic legislation, and courts are some of

⁸ Jonathan Kolieb, "Don't forget the Geneva Conventions: achieving responsible business conduct in conflict - affected areas through adherence to International Humanitarian Law", Australian Journal of Human Rights, September 2020, Available at https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jonathan-Kolieb/publication/344180712_Don%27t_forget_the_Geneva_Conventions_achieving_responsible_business_conduct_in_conflict-affected_areas_through_adherence_to_international_humanitarian_law/links/62b011b623f3283e3af6b939/Dont-forget-the-Geneva-Conventions-achieving-responsible-business-conduct-in-conflict-affected-areas-through-adherence-to-international-humanitarian-law.pdf

the legal systems that make it possible to hold people accountable for breaking international humanitarian law (IHL). This accountability includes both non-legal repercussions like reputational damages and moral disapproval as well as legal ones like judicial remedies. Although the focus of this article is on legal accountability, it also acknowledges the possibility of non-legal remedies, which are especially pertinent to companies.

1. International Criminal Law

Lord Holt stated in an earlier decision from 1701 that "a corporation is not indictable, but the particular members of it are." The widely held opinion that corporations lack the mens rea, or guilty mind, required to commit a crime, was captured in this declaration. This idea served as the foundation for later legal innovations, such as the Nuremberg Tribunal, which placed a strong emphasis on personal accountability for transgressions of international law. In the Goering case, the tribunal stressed that people, not inanimate objects, commit crimes, and that in order to enforce international law, people must be held accountable for their actions. Representatives of groups and organizations engaged in wartime activities are now included in the Nuremberg Tribunal's jurisdiction, thanks to the Nuremberg Charter. In the case of I.G. Farben who is a well-known German industrial corporation, the US military tribunal confirmed that private individuals are subject to the criminal penalties of international law. The prominent German businessmen were charged with the crimes against humanity, war, crimes, and crimes against peace through these pioneering cases.

The idea about corporate criminal responsibility on a global scale developed gradually. Formalizing the corporate criminal responsibility has faced many positions during diplomatic negotiations that resulted in Rome conference, and the creation of international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Some states agreed to apply international criminal law to particular acts taken by legal organizations. Notwithstanding The modest proposal of French delegation for corporate accountability under the international criminal court, statute and agreement on a suitable formulation was impeded by practical constraints and national differences.

The international criminal law tribunals that was established after the World War II held business executive responsible for crimes. The trials of German industrialist have signal the resolve of world community to move beyond the state centric paradigm of responsibility. Although it exclusively placed accountability on national individuals Article 25(1) of the Rome statute extended the jurisdiction of the international criminal court to cover non-state actors. The ICTR Sentenced the employees of radio television des Mille Collines guilty of genocide in the media case, and the office of the prosecutor has stated that it is willing to look into corporate leaders.

According to David Scheffer the US ambassador at last for war crimes Issues, the completion of Rome treaty has led to growing emphasis of corporate criminal culpability. If the Malabo protocol gets ratified then it would provide legal person, accused of war crimes, more jurisdiction under the envisaged African criminal court. The special tribunal for Lebanon appeal panel decided that the court can move forward with prosecuting a media corporation that was allegedly in contempt. In the thought of ruling the special trial for Lebanon looked at the background information and came to the conclusion that corporate criminal culpability is getting very close to becoming a general legal norm that is governed by the international law.

Numerous international treaties provide more evidence of this acknowledgment. Both people and institutions are subject to criminal prosecution under the Apartheid Convention. The unlawful transportation of hazardous waste by natural or legal persons is prohibited by the Basel Convention.

States are required by the OECD's Anti-Bribery Convention to hold legal persons who try to influence public officials criminally liable. Corporations are required to pay criminal penalties for violating the Convention on Action against Trafficking. Comparably, both natural and legal people are subject to international crimes under the UN's Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The foundation for expanding responsibility to transgressions of international humanitarian law (IHL) is laid by the punishment of particular corporate behaviors, such as corruption, environmental degradation, and human trafficking. According to Andrew Clapham, there are no theoretical obstacles to corporate war crimes being prosecuted under the current international criminal justice system, which was created to deal with transgressions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Current legal frameworks offer remedies for corporate involvement in the most egregious breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), including reparations where legal entities are found liable for gross violations of IHL. These frameworks include the International Law Commission's Draft Articles on Crimes against Humanity and the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law.

2. International Human Rights Law

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) expands the scope of its universal principles to include "individuals and every organ of society" in its preamble. Louis Henkin claimed that because of the comprehensive phrasing, all parties were covered, including businesses, markets, and internet. Nevertheless, neither the UDHR nor the principal human rights instruments that came after it expressly acknowledged legal persons as right bearers or subjects.

Corporate responsibility for violations of human rights has progressively come to be accepted. The 1970s saw a number of events that sparked attempts to control corporate behavior through international legal systems, including the involvement of foreign firms in coups in Central and South America and corporate bribery scandals. Draft codes of corporate behavior that are not legally obligatory were created through initiatives by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations. These programs originally sought to establish a "level playing field" for businesses operating in areas where unregulated business practices were prevalent, with an indirect focus on human rights issues.

The Tripartite Declaration of Principles was adopted by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in 1977. It balanced the interests of government, business, and labor unions. This proclamation made it clear that the UDHR and related international covenants must be respected. The ILO Declaration advanced labor rights and gave corporations additional legal obligations through later revisions.

A number of voluntary declarations that broadly affirmed the ideas of human rights developed after the ILO Declaration. The United Nations Global Compact was established in 1999 as a result of the momentum that kept growing. This campaign called for companies to uphold and defend the rights of people around the world and to abstain from participating in violations of such rights. The standards on the responsibility of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights were being drafted at the same time by the U.N. Sub-Commission on Human Rights. Despite not having enough support to be adopted, these Norms—which were extensive and had characteristics of a treaty—had a lasting effect.

The Norms were unsuccessful, but their effect lingered. In contrast to earlier efforts, they took into account companies who operate in conflict areas and recognized that they had a duty to abide by

international accords, such as the Geneva Conventions. A wide range of human rights requirements, including civil, political, social, economic, consumer protection, and environmental rights, that are pertinent to corporate entities were covered by the draft Norms. They did not, however, expressly acknowledge the possibility that legal entities could profit from or prolong disputes.

John Ruggie was named Special Representative on the subject of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations, marking the continuation of efforts to address the nexus between economic organizations and human rights. A robust intergovernmental mandate resulted in the creation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). In accordance with UNGP Principle 7, states that corporations should not be complicit in human rights violations because of the increased danger of such violations in conflict-affected areas. Principle 12 highlights the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law principles when conducting business during armed crises.

Nonetheless, concerns persist about the application of duties drawn from international human rights law (IHRL) to guarantee corporate accountability, particularly in regions impacted by conflicts. A growing number of initiatives are taking these difficulties into consideration, such as the Legally Binding Instrument to Regulate, under International Human Rights Law, the Activities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises. Intergovernmental efforts are bolstered by civil society activities, and the UNGPs' operationalization process has drawn attention to the challenges of conducting business in conflict-affected areas.

3. Domestic laws and courts

The domestic enforcement mechanism plays a major role in holding people accountable for breaking the international humanitarian laws. State signatory to the Geneva Convention are required to incorporate international humanitarian law norms into their national legislation. It is anticipated that the national court will have a major role in controlling the behaviors of parties involved in armed conflicts. At first, many states did not have the necessary relative support to deal with the infractions of IHL. Nonetheless the governments have changed their criminal courts to incorporate international crimes under domestic lodge. Once the Rome statute was adapted As a result of this extensive legislative and presidential framework that provide an educate accountability choices across several countries have emerged. Marco Sassòli has observed that these improvements have contributed to the legitimacy and efficacy of IHL.

The application of domestic procedures to enforce corporate responsibility under IHL expands upon previous legal structures. Accountability is sought by means of solely domestic procedures as well as universal jurisdiction, in both criminal and civil contexts. The implementation of criminal accountability is based on the mandate found in all four of the Geneva Conventions, which requires parties to pass laws and establish penalties for transgressions deemed to be grave breaches. As to a 2006 assessment, incorporation initiatives frequently exceeded the boundaries of the global legal framework, with numerous states enforcing criminal culpability without making a distinction between natural and legal persons.

Subsequent cases have shown that domestic forums are prepared to hold companies accountable for their business dealings during armed crises. Frans van Anraat, the main supplier of thiodiglycol to Iraq, was found guilty of involvement in war crimes, and the Dutch Court of Appeal in The Hague, for example, enhanced his sentence. The leader of Oriental timber Corporation and the Royal timber company Guus Kouwenhoven was found guilty of adding and abetting war crimes; by supplying weaponry to Charles Taylor Who was the dictator of Liberia resulting in defiance of Security Council prohibitions. This judgment was stated by Netherlands Supreme Court.

Additionally, the French courts have also proven that they are able to hold corporations accountable for breaking the international humanitarian laws. Some of the notable instances include lawsuits that against the French branches of multinational firms for their part in providing surveillance equipment to repressive governments. A multinational corporation Lafarge Based in France was the first legal entity that was linked to the conduct of a war crime and was charged with participation in crimes against humanity.

The prosecution against the corporate actors are still uncommon, despite the growing readiness of the domestic courts to take criminal action against them . According to Leora Bilsky concentrating, only on the criminal remedies had the potential value of civil lawsuits means of holding the corporation accountable. Actors who intentionally or negligently cause harm can be held accountable under legal remedies; these paths have long been open. Claims of violations of international law, including war crimes and other IHL violations, against both corporate actors and people, have been made possible in part by the United States' Alien Tort Statute (ATS). But over time, the ATS's reach has shrunk significantly.

Other jurisdictions have more opportunities to seek compensation for corporate violations of international humanitarian law, despite restrictions in the US. By holding both the offending party and other actors who behave similarly to them accountable, civil accountability can have a substantial impact on social behavior and stop detrimental conduct from occurring again. However, due to a number of corporate form-related issues, it is still difficult to successfully transfer legal frameworks to firms operating in conflict zones. To effectively hold corporations that violate international humanitarian law accountable, it is necessary to address the structural and implementation issues that lead to accountability gaps.⁹

Gaps in Accountability of Corporate Violations of IHL

The operational and structural elements that impede the efficacy of current legal frameworks provide problems to the regulation of corporate organizations operating within conflict zones. The aforementioned issues stem from the utilization of legal frameworks that were initially intended for state regulation of enterprises. Regulatory frameworks that are ill-suited to handle the intricacies of business operations that involve International Humanitarian Law (IHL) arise from a failure to take into consideration the distinctive features of companies. IHL has widespread deficiencies in its application and enforcement, which make these problems worse. IHL is mostly dependent on domestic systems for implementation, oversight, and enforcement, in contrast to other areas of international law. However, domestic courts sometimes lack the knowledge and authority necessary to decide cases involving corporate responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law.

Complicating matters is the growing importance of companies in international relations; these entities are sometimes referred to as semi-states because of their state-like traits. There are many serious worries regarding the accountability gaps in international humanitarian law as a result of many corporations,

⁹David Hughes, "Differentiating the Corporation: Accountability and International Humanitarian Law", Michigan Journal of International Law, 2021, Available at https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2102&&context=mjil&&sei-redir=1&referer=https%253A%252F%252Fscholar.google.com%252Fscholar%253Fhl%253Den%2526as_sdt%253D0%252C5%2526qsp%253D16%2526q%253Dcorporate%252Bresponsibility%252Bhumanitarian%252Baction%2526qst%253Dbr#search=%22corporate%20responsibility%20humanitarian%20action%22

getting more involved in war and traditional monopoly of the state on the use of force being undermined. Moreover, it is very difficult to hold businesses accountable for their violations of IHL, due to their nature of shared the ownership, centralized administration, limited liability, and distinct legal personality. The corporate has unique characteristics that are frequently ignored in attempts to govern corporations using the state methodology, which is causing the widening of accountability gaps.

Despite various efforts to govern the companies by state methods, these initiatives frequently fail to take into the account the unique characteristics of the corporate form. In a nutshell to take down the difficulties that are being faced in policing corporation's behavior in conflict affected areas, there needs to be a sophisticated comprehension of the special characteristics of corporations as well as the nuances involved in implementing the IHL. The interaction between the national and international legal frameworks as well as the changing role of companies in the international affairs must be taken into account to close the accountability gaps.

1. International Criminal Law's (ICL) Limited Scope

- Although ICL can be used to hold serious violators accountable, its application is still limited.
- Developments since Nuremberg have mostly concentrated on punishing individuals, as opposed to legal entities like corporations.
- ICL tribunals can only hear cases involving fundamental crimes such war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and aggression. Business responsibility is sometimes limited to situations in which a corporation directly participated in a fundamental crime, undervaluing other types of business conduct that are not covered by ICL procedures.

2. International Human Rights Law's (IHRL) limited scope

- IHRL offers a framework for commercial entity regulation, but it frequently ignores the consequences of IHL.
- Accountability gaps result from the spread of limited liability and corporate separation to shield companies from accountability, as well as from an underdeveloped understanding of complicity that ignores the consequences of international humanitarian law.

3. Differing Characteristics of Domestic Law and Courts:

- Although domestic systems are important for guaranteeing accountability, their efficacy differs.
- Legal interpretation changes have made it more difficult for jurisdictions like the United States to pursue responsibility through domestic courts.

Legal roadblocks and power disparities may impede accountability efforts, and domestic courts frequently give precedence to human rights concerns over international humanitarian law.

- Regulatory arbitrage is made possible by the corporate form, which lets companies pick regulatory regimes and jurisdictions deliberately in order to reduce accountability. The intricate interactions between national legal systems, international legal frameworks, and the special qualities of corporate organizations are emphasized. These interactions frequently lead to accountability gaps for IHL violations in conflict areas.¹⁰

Prospective Courses and Suggestions

Promoting moral business conduct and reducing suffering in areas impacted by war need the integration of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) concepts into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

¹⁰ Ibid

programmers. First, companies can incorporate IHL standards and guidelines into their CSR policies to guarantee adherence to humanitarian principles. This could entail carrying out evaluations of the effects of their business on human rights in conflict areas and putting due diligence procedures in place to find and handle possible risks. Businesses can also collaborate with humanitarian groups to support initiatives aimed at safeguarding people and offering aid in places affected by war. In addition to halting the spread of illegal weapons, firms may guarantee that their operations do not contribute to violations of human rights by encouraging accountability and openness in their supply chains. In the end, including IHL into CSR initiatives helps businesses to fulfill their moral obligations while promoting safety and well-being in areas impacted by armed conflict.

1. Official Collaborations between Companies and Humanitarian Organizations

Large companies have been forming strategic alliances with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and humanitarian agencies in a noticeable trend that has surfaced in recent years. In order to successfully solve humanitarian emergencies, these alliances seek to capitalize on the knowledge of both parties. Representative instances of business-humanitarian collaborations are the logistics relationship between Deutsche Post and the United Nations, and Siemens with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. By bringing corporations and humanitarian organizations together, these official partnerships promote more effective and significant humanitarian initiatives by recognizing their complementary capabilities.

2. Peace talks and mediation

Leaders of businesses frequently have a crucial role in mediating peace negotiations between rival groups. As demonstrated by examples in conflict zones such as Sri Lanka, South Africa, and others, their ability to influence people and negotiate can help to promote communication and healing. Business leaders have contributed to dispute resolution procedures by bridging gaps and encouraging cooperation between disputing parties by making use of their networks and resources.

3. Reconstruction of economy

Companies also made an economic recovery after a conflict by mediating disputes, which is very essential for long-term peacekeeping. The conflict affected area has have seen economic growth and stability as a result of investments made by expatriate communities and private equity firms which have also created many job opportunities and encouraged peaceful cohabitation. There exist many examples of businesses endeavors which are supporting peace building goals and promote beneficial socioeconomic changes in conflict affected area as shown by projects like Manocap in West Africa, Africa which was started by people with prior expertise in humanitarian works.

4. Conscious behavior towards society

In order to reduce the possibility of human rights violations and conflict escalations in their operations, many firms implement various socially conscious procedures. The corporation can reduce the negative effects on the local communities and also help in preventing conflicts by holding ethical business conduct, such as making sure fair labor practices and supporting human units throughout their supply chains. These kinds of programs protect the interest of corporations by preventing the harm to the reputation from being connected with involvement in conflict or human eye violations, and being in line with corporate principles.

5. Standards and guidelines for industries

In attempts to prevent conflicts, there have been many international industrial standards and guidelines produced across a variety of sector. These frameworks provide thorough instructions and guide

corporations to ethical activities and highlight the significance of conducting the due diligence on human rights issue by using ethical business practices. The corporations can evaluate and resolve their impacts on human rights to ensure their accountability and transparency in their operations by using the UN guiding principles on businesses and human rights.

6. Monitoring the human rights violations

Many firms such as extractive firms have implemented human rights, monitoring systems, and conflict resolution techniques to reduce possible dispute resulting from their operations. These businesses by doing this work to resolve complaints, award, confrontations, and advanced peace and stability in the communities and the stakeholders they interact with. Case studies like Rio Tinto's activity in Australia, show that how incorporating human rights monitoring and conflict resolution into business operation can reduce conflict, build positive interactions with local communities and positive relationships.

7. Dissemination of humanitarian law

The dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law and principles is greatly aided by advocacy initiatives, which are directed towards companies. Many humanitarian organizations can enhance the comprehension of businesses, roles, and responsibility and conflict affected area or situations by interacting with business communities via the chamber of commerce, trade associations, and industry groups. This will help in bringing attention towards businesses, rights, and obligation under international law.

8. Advocating the rights of business victims

The companies which are impacted by hostility can contribute in encouraging public awareness of the vital effects of and conflicts on regional economy and communities. Many humanitarian organizations can help in promoting policies and initiatives that safeguard and support companies operating in conflict affected areas by drawing attention towards the unique vulnerabilities and difficulties that the enterprises experience. This will help in advancing efforts towards broader peace building.

9. Keeping the business continuity safe

Maintaining businesses as usual amid the armed conflict by being stable and resilient can also be greatly added by creative a programs. Many humanitarian organizations have the ability to sustain employment, protect livelihood, and foster economic recovery by offering the focus assistant to small and medium sized companies and businesses located in area affected by the armed violence. A few examples of such initiatives are credit, support, asset protection, and market taxes that might help businesses weather effects of violence and also enhance community resilience in general.

10. Planning and participating at the local level

Involving local businesses and people in the planning and needs assessment phases of human relief efforts can yield many important insights into the economic dynamics of areas affected by conflicts. The humanitarian organizations can better understand the concern concerns of businesses and can effectively customize their intervention to promote local economies and livelihood by interacting with business players at the grassroots level.¹¹

Conclusion

Businesses operating in conflict areas face a challenging but potentially rewarding environment when it

¹¹ Hugo Slim, "Business actors in armed conflict: towards a new humanitarian agenda", ICRC, 30 September 2012, Available at <https://www.icrc.org/data/rx/en/assets/files/review/2012/irrc-887-slim.pdf>

comes to the convergence of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). A lot of ground has been covered in this paper of the intersection between the IHL and CSR. From the general overview of IHL and CSR, the difficulties faced by companies operating in conflict, affected regions and various other points to indicate this intersection. There is an increase in understanding that companies play an important role in resolving humanitarian crisis. Many large corporations and humanitarian organizations are increasingly collaborating to work together to improve the humanitarian efforts in conflict zones. This kind of partnership can pull various resources and skills and make a greater impact and results in effectively respond to crisis.

Furthermore, the corporations are increasingly taking on peace building role to help resolve the disputes and support the reconstruction and growth of economy after the conflicts. The corporations are essential in promoting communications, harmony, and stability through ways like investment negotiations and mediation in conflict affected areas. This involvement is proactive and beneficially impacted many communities in a concrete way and also is consistent with the fundamentals of corporate social responsibility. Nonetheless there are still issues with the law guarantee, corporate social responsibility and filling the accountability gaps, which appears while application of international humanitarian laws. It is very difficult to hold the corporations accountable for their activities in conflict zone due to the limited scope of international criminal law and international human rights, law and the varying character of domestic lodge and tribunals, other organizations which are government. International organizations and civil society must work together to solve these kind of issues by fortifying legal frameworks so that there can be a guarantee to hold corporations accountable for their IHL transgressions.

There are some ways and suggestions to improve the corporation's role in context of humanitarian crisis, to minimize these kind of problems. To make it possible and to enable well-coordinated responses to there is a need to formally collaborations between corporations and humanitarian organization. These kind of collaborations needs to be promoted and strengthen. The businesses can significantly contribute through utilizing their resources, networks and experience to prevent conflicts, build peace and post conflict recovery. There is a need to educate people about their rights and responsibilities under international humanitarian law. The advocacy campaigns which are aimed at corporations to promote compliance and accountability of CSR, in addition to this by addressing the direct effects of armed conflicts on local economies and people and advocating on behalf of the businesses impacted by conflict can also help towards peace building initiatives.

In conclusion, corporations have a significant role to play in humanitarian situations and their involvement is essential for solving difficult problems in conflict zone. They can promote peace stability and resilience in conflict affected areas by accepting their responsibilities and accountability under international humanitarian law with the help of other humanitarian organizations. This will help in establishing a more sustainable and inclusive future for all.