

2025 | 2026

Humanitarian Advocacy:

From Bearing Witness to Activism

 **Credits**

2 ECTS

 **Dates**

18 – 29 May 2026

 **Format**

Online (combination of self-study time and live sessions). Live sessions are mandatory and take place 2-3 times a week, usually in early afternoon CET.

This online course requires 20-25 hours of weekly work. To fully engage in learning activities, we recommend that participants take some time off and adjust their professional activities accordingly, with flexibility in working hours.

 **Language**

English

 **Fees**

- **Full price:** CHF 1'700
- **Partner rate (MSF, ICRC):** CHF 1'360 (20% discount)
- **Special Rate for Government and NGO/CBO Staff:** CHF 850. Available exclusively to staff from local and national NGOs, CBOs, and government employees in low/middle-income countries. Proof of local employment and salary required.

 **Lecturer**

Claire Barthélémy – claire.barthelemy@unige.ch

 **Short description**

This course addresses two main competences related to advocacy in the humanitarian sector. The first relates to the critical analysis of the definition and dynamics of advocacy for humanitarian assistance – including discussions around the positioning of humanitarian actors towards witnessing, activism and human rights, or the assessment of public campaigns for policy change or protection. Then, it provides participants with the overall methodology to create an advocacy plan. The course will focus on operational advocacy specifically, so that programme managers can learn how to address operational needs and field constraints in their advocacy strategy.



Learning outcomes of the course

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Critically discuss the concept of humanitarian advocacy
- Understand the dynamics of advocacy within the humanitarian sector
- Explain the main components of an advocacy plan
- Analyse an advocacy context and decide on the most appropriate modes of action



Workload

Around 50 hours of work overall, including:

1. Asynchronous self-study activities (such as case studies, videos, recorded slideshows, readings, etc.)
2. Synchronous live sessions



Structure of the course

- Day 1: Concept and origin of advocacy
- Day 2: Advocacy and neutrality
- Day 3: Advocacy and access
- Day 4: Advocacy and local communities
- Day 5: Case study
- Days 6-7: Advocacy contexts and advocacy plan
- Days 8-10: Designing an advocacy strategy



Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development or social sector looking to develop their competences in humanitarian advocacy
- Professionals from other sectors (PR, policy makers, government representatives, grassroot groups, association representatives) who wish to increase their understanding of humanitarian advocacy
- Graduate students with relevant volunteer or intern experience, looking to undertake a postgraduate course to explore the specificities of advocacy in the humanitarian sector



Admission requirements

1. A university qualification (Bachelor's degree or equivalent)
2. At least three years of relevant professional experience
3. Excellent command of English
4. Motivation working in the humanitarian sector



Application deadline and registration: