

INTRODUCTION	1
I. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS AND JURISPRUDENCE.....	6
A. The international legal framework	7
B. Human Rights Committee	9
C. Regional human rights courts and commissions.....	14
D. Commission on Human Rights	17
E. Selective conscientious objection.....	20
F. Limitations on freedom of thought, conscience and religion in the context of conscientious objection	21
G. Definitions, applicability and related discrimination.....	21
H. Exemption from military service on other grounds and the obligation to recognize conscientious objection	24
I. Conscientious objection for persons serving in the armed forces	25
J. Legal basis and process applicable to conscription	26
K. Minimum age for recruitment, including conscription	28
L. Conscription: international humanitarian law and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.....	30
M. National implementation procedures: access to information and decision-making process.....	31
N. Imprisonment and the death penalty for conscientious objectors	33
O. Prohibition of repeated punishment	34
P. Post-conflict amnesties.....	37
Q. Alternative service.....	37
II. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION AND ALTERNATIVE SERVICE: NATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE.....	44
A. Exemptions from conscription unrelated to conscientious objection	45

B. Registration for conscription where compulsory service has been abolished or suspended.....	47
C. Legal basis in national law.....	48
D. Definitions in national law.....	49
E. Application for conscientious objector status: time limits, treatment pending a decision, formal requirements and conditions resulting in disqualification.....	51
F. Conscientious objection for those serving voluntarily	55
G. Conscientious objection for those serving in the reserves.....	57
H. Selective conscientious objection.....	58
I. Information about applying for conscientious objector status.....	59
J. Decision-making process.....	62
K. Alternative service: non-combatant and civilian service.....	65
L. Documentation issued at the conclusion of military or alternative service.....	68
M. Arrangements during periods of transition.....	69

III. PROTECTION OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS IN INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW..... 72

A. United Nations action relating to international protection.....	73
B. Determining the international protection needs of conscientious objectors, draft evaders and deserters	74
C. Persecution.....	75
D. Underage recruitment and participation in hostilities	78
E. Links to the grounds set out in the 1951 Convention	79
F. State practice	81
G. Post-conflict situations	81

FINAL OBSERVATIONS: THE CHALLENGE TO STATES 83