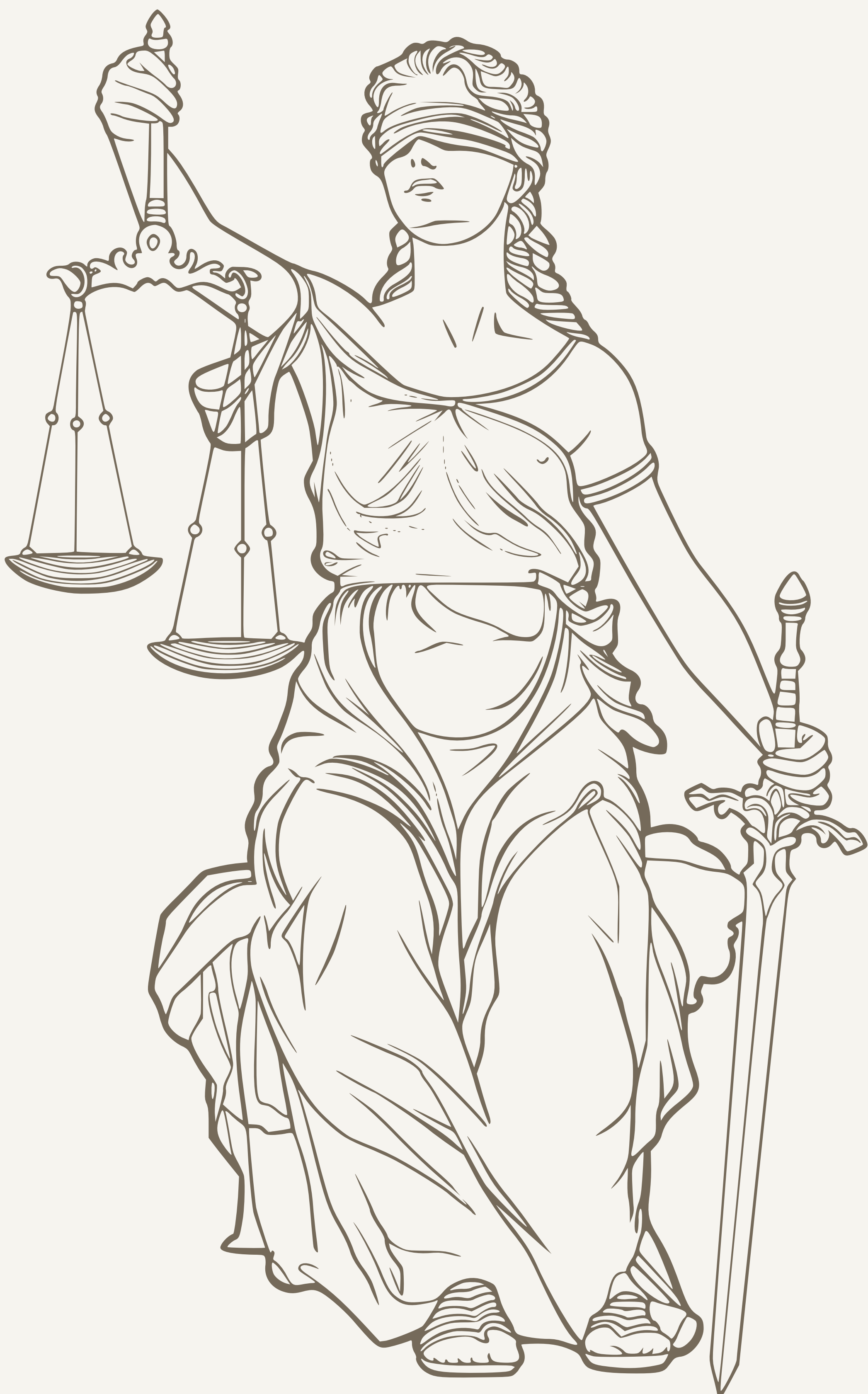


LESSON 3: THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Law & Citizenship Course • *Ghid practic de educație juridică - „Elevul și legea”* • Judecător Cristi Danileț



LIFE IS THE FIRST RIGHT



Every human being has the right to live in safety and dignity. From birth to death, the law protects life — even in times of war, danger, or despair.

LESSON CONTENTS

PART 1

BEGINNING OF LIFE

How legal protection starts at birth and what it means to be a person under the law

PART 2

END OF LIFE

Death, euthanasia, and how dignity continues even after life ends

PART 3

WAR AND TERRORISM

How the law protects life during armed conflict and punishes those who destroy it

PART 4

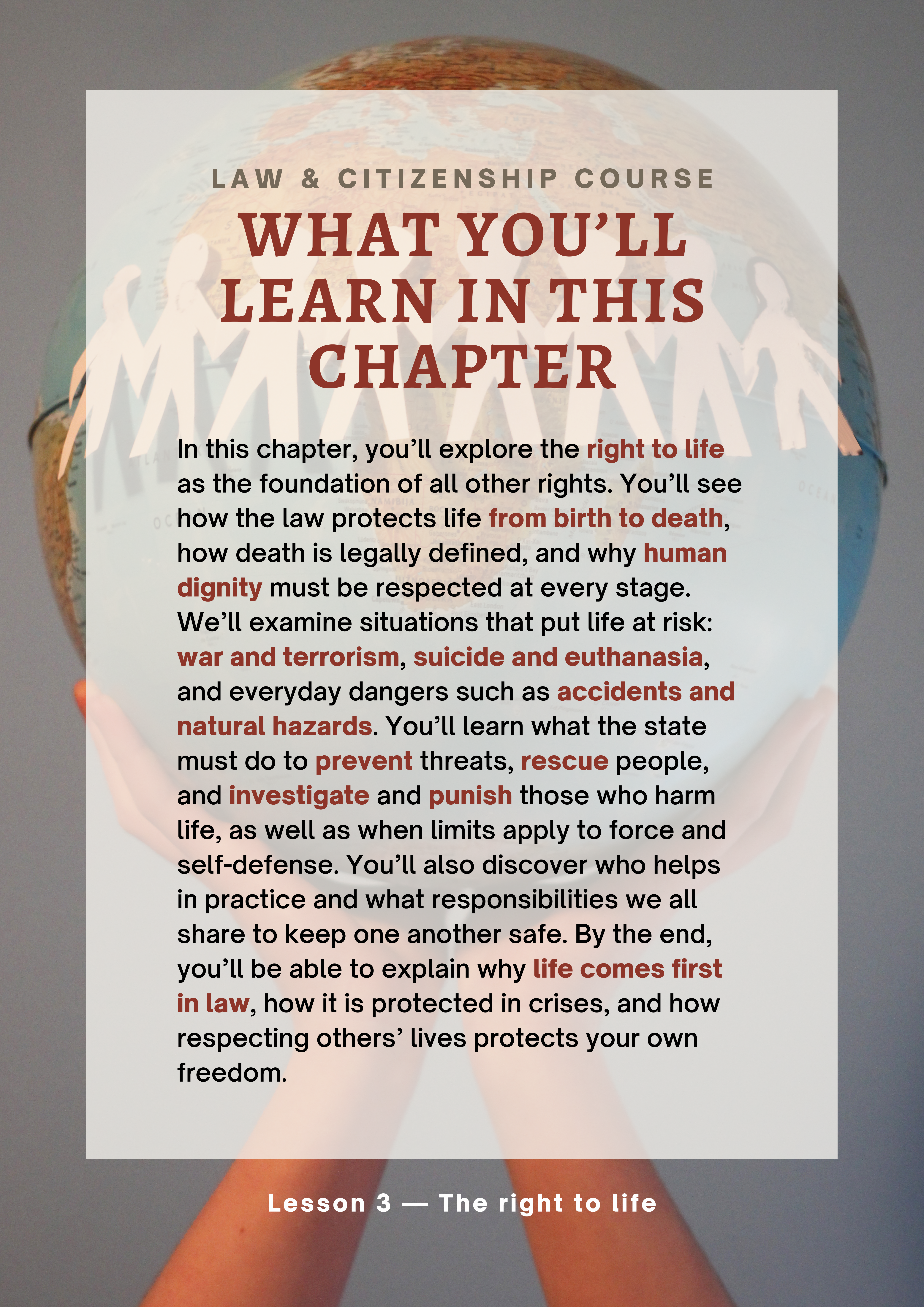
NATURAL & HUMAN DANGERS

Protection against natural disasters, accidents, and other risks to life

PART 5

REVIEW & PRACTICE

Summary, quiz, and reflection: how do we protect life in everyday situations?



LAW & CITIZENSHIP COURSE

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN IN THIS CHAPTER

In this chapter, you'll explore the **right to life** as the foundation of all other rights. You'll see how the law protects life **from birth to death**, how death is legally defined, and why **human dignity** must be respected at every stage. We'll examine situations that put life at risk: **war and terrorism, suicide and euthanasia**, and everyday dangers such as **accidents and natural hazards**. You'll learn what the state must do to **prevent** threats, **rescue** people, and **investigate** and **punish** those who harm life, as well as when limits apply to force and self-defense. You'll also discover who helps in practice and what responsibilities we all share to keep one another safe. By the end, you'll be able to explain why **life comes first in law**, how it is protected in crises, and how respecting others' lives protects your own freedom.

Lesson 3 — The right to life

FIRST BREATH, FIRST RIGHTS

HOW LIFE BEGINS UNDER THE LAW

THE MOMENT LIFE BECOMES A LEGAL RIGHT

From the moment a child is born, **the law recognizes a new person** with **full human rights**. Birth activates **protection for life, health, identity**, and **care** from family and society.

Parents and doctors have duties to **keep the newborn safe**; the state must **support** them and **prevent harm**. Even before birth, the law forbids actions that endanger the unborn child, but **full legal personhood** starts at birth.



Warm-Up Activity



Write one thing every newborn needs to live safely. Who provides it, and why does it matter?

Share your answer with a classmate.

Protecting life comes first.

WHY DIGNITY MATTERS WHEN LIFE ENDS

When a person dies, the law marks the **end of legal life** but keeps **human dignity**. Death must be **certified by a doctor** and **registered** so families can arrange **funerals and inheritance**. The deceased must be **treated with respect** — desecration or hate-motivated acts are illegal. **Euthanasia** is not allowed in Romania; palliative care and pain relief are. **Suicide** isn't a crime, but helping or encouraging it is. In **war or terror**, targeting civilians is a serious crime.



At Home & Community

If someone dies, call 112 or the family doctor; arrange death registration at the civil registry.



Respect for the Deceased

Protect graves, memorials, and remains; no desecration, theft, or hateful acts.



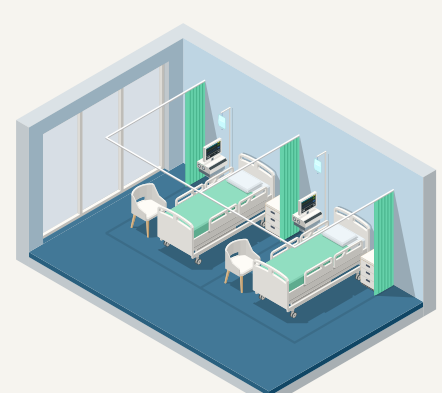
Accidents & Emergencies

Give first aid if trained, keep the scene safe, and call 112; don't move victims unless in danger.



Organ & Tissue Donation

Donation is allowed only with proper consent and strict medical rules.



Euthanasia vs. Care

Euthanasia/assisted suicide is illegal; palliative care and pain control are legal and encouraged.



War & Terrorism

In armed conflict, civilians and aid workers are off-limits; attacking them is a crime.

Imagine and Reflect

Imagine how people remember and honor those who have passed. What actions show respect for life even after it ends?

Write 2–3 sentences below.

WHO PROTECTS LIFE IN WAR & TERROR

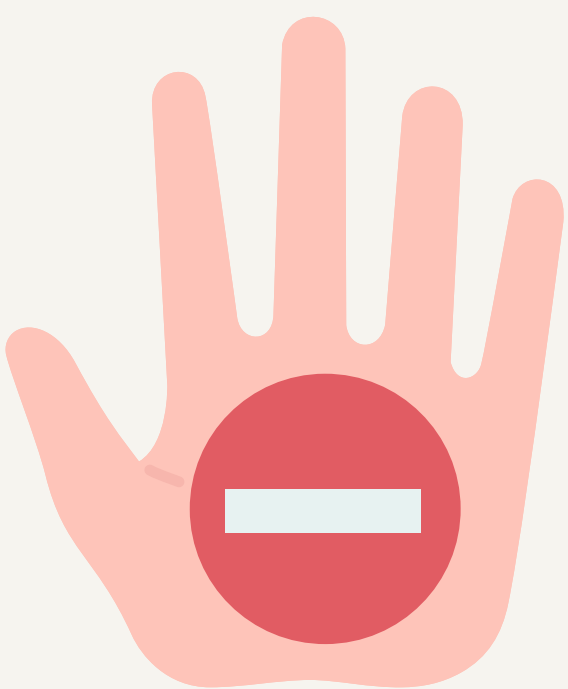
Protected



Protected People

- **Civilians, medical staff, aid workers, prisoners, journalists.**
- They must **not be targeted**; help must reach them.

Forbidden



Forbidden Acts

- **Killing or injuring civilians**, torture, rape, hostage-taking.
- Starvation, using **human shields**, **banned weapons** — all crimes.

Rules



Rules in Armed Conflict (IHL)

- **Distinction** (fighters vs. civilians) and **proportionality**.
- **Humane treatment** for the wounded and captives.

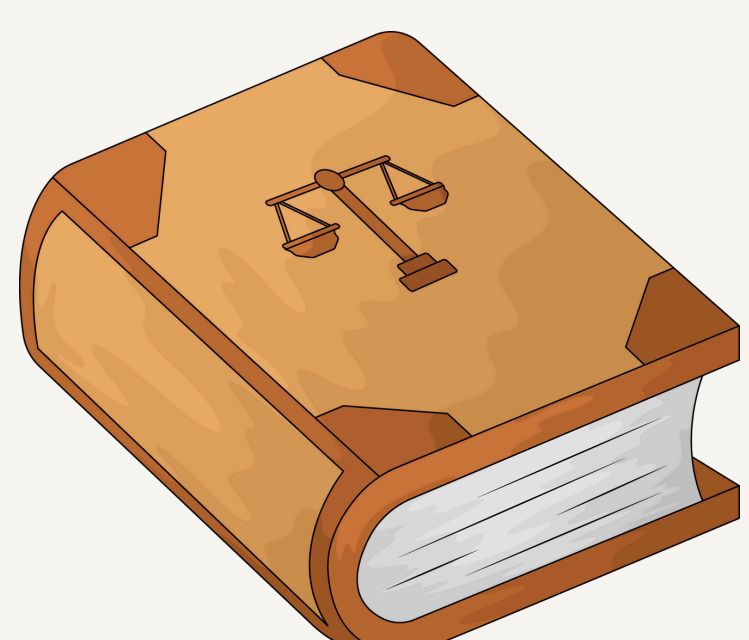
Response



Terrorism Crimes & Response

- Attacks that **spread fear among civilians** are crimes.
- **Planning, funding, recruiting, threats** are punished by law.
- **Call 112**, follow shelter/evacuation orders, report dangers.

Key terms



Mini-Glossary

- **IHL** = International Humanitarian Law (Geneva Conventions).
- **Protected person** = not taking part in fighting.
- **War crime** = serious breach of IHL (e.g., targeting civilians).
- **Asylum** = protection for people fleeing war.

STAY SAFE: NATURAL & HUMAN DANGERS

In Romania, Civil Protection rules and local authorities issue **RO-ALERT warnings** and **emergency orders** to **prevent injuries and deaths**. Preparation, **following official instructions**, and helping **vulnerable people** are **civic duties**. During floods, storms, heatwaves, or fires, clear roles keep everyone safer. Good habits plus the law protect lives when nature (or people) put them at risk.



HAZARD TYPES

Storms & floods – heavy rain, swollen rivers, flash floods.

Heat & cold – heatwaves, frost, blizzards.

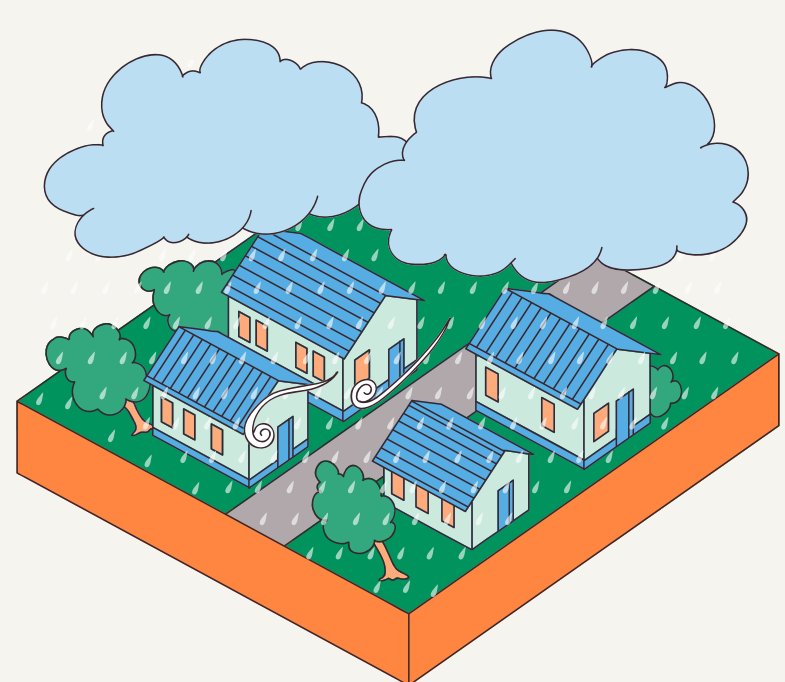
Wind & lightning – strong gusts, falling branches, strikes.



BEFORE (PREPARE)

Follow alerts (RO-Alert, radio, local authorities).

Home ready – secure objects, clear drains; pack water, meds, flashlight.



DURING (PROTECT)

Flood – move up, cut power, avoid driving through water.

Storm/wind – stay inside, keep away from trees, metal, and windows.

Heat/cold – hydrate, cool/warm rooms, check children & elders.



AFTER (RECOVER)

Avoid hazards – downed wires, contaminated water, unstable buildings.

Document damage for insurance/aid; follow clean-up guidance.

PROTECTING LIFE

Prevention Rules

Safety laws reduce risks in traffic, workplaces, buildings, and around chemicals.



Safer by design

Warning & Reporting

RO-ALERT and 112 spread urgent info; quick reporting stops escalation.



Speak up fast

Emergency Response

Police, firefighters, and SMURD secure the area, rescue people, and give first aid.



Help arrives

Investigation

Evidence is collected to find causes and identify negligent or violent acts.



Truth & accountability

Justice & Recovery

Offenders are prosecuted; victims get protection, medical care, and compensation.



Protection & support

So what for me?

Report threats, weapons, or dangerous behavior — even if you're not sure.

In an incident, keep distance, follow instructions.

Share verified info; support classmates and don't spread rumors.

Try it: Think of one human-caused danger near you (traffic, pollution, fire). How can the law help prevent it?

QUIZ — Lesson 3

Check what you've learned about how the law protects life and dignity. Read each question carefully and choose the correct answer.



- 1** When does legal personhood begin?
 - a) At birth
 - b) When you get an ID
 - c) At 12 years old
- 2** Who certifies a death so it can be registered?
 - a) The police officer on duty
 - b) A doctor/medical examiner
 - c) The priest
- 3** In Romania, euthanasia is...
 - a) Allowed with written consent
 - b) A criminal offence
 - c) Allowed only for terminal minors
- 4** In Romanian law, suicide is...
 - a) Not a crime; aiding/abetting is
 - b) Punished as a crime
 - c) Allowed only with medical approval
- 5** Who is a “protected person” in armed conflict?
 - a) Soldiers on leave
 - b) Civilians, medics, and aid workers
 - c) Foreigners only
- 6** Which act is clearly forbidden under IHL?
 - a) Using civilians as human shields
 - b) Night attacks on a military base
 - c) Taking enemy soldiers prisoner
- 7** “Distinction” means...
 - a) Separating police from the army
 - b) Targeting fighters, not civilians
 - c) Operating only in daylight
- 8** RO-ALERT exists to...
 - a) Publish election results
 - b) Warn the public about emergencies
 - c) Collect tax information
- 9** Organ/tissue donation is legal when...
 - a) There is proper consent and medical procedure
 - b) The family insists, even without consent
 - c) Payment is offered to the donor
- 10** After a person dies, families must...
 - a) Skip registration if the death was at home
 - b) Register the death and follow burial rules
 - c) Wait 40 days before any paperwork

QUIZ — Lesson 3

ANSWER KEY



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KEY CONCEPTS FROM LESSON 3



RIGHT TO LIFE

The foundation of all human rights; protected by law from birth until death.



HUMAN DIGNITY

Every person deserves respect, even after death.



EUTHANASIA & ASSISTED SUICIDE

Illegal in Romania; palliative care is legal and encouraged.



PALLIATIVE CARE

Medical and emotional support that relieves pain without ending life.



WAR CRIMES

Serious breaches of humanitarian law (e.g., attacking civilians or medics).



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

Rules that protect people not taking part in fighting.



CIVIL PROTECTION

System of alerts and emergency measures (e.g., RO-ALERT) that prevent disasters.



RO-ALERT

National warning system that informs citizens of emergencies.



TERRORISM

The use of violence to spread fear among civilians; punished by law.



RESPECT FOR THE DECEASED

Protecting graves, remains, and memorials preserves peace and dignity.



DUTY TO HELP

Providing aid, reporting danger, and preventing harm are civic obligations.