

entitlements, and their ethical implementation by use of human rights principles, provides an ethos with which to guide doctors during war and peace. Second, the Geneva Conventions provide legally binding regulations that, outside of combat situations, require that everyone be treated humanely. Lastly, the binding UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment along with interpretations published by its UN monitoring body, provides an exhaustive list of prohibited behaviour.

Reducing moral decision-making processes to negotiating an algorithm risks euphemising contentious issues in much the same way as the Tokyo Declaration euphemises doctors and torture into a matter of ethics. Torture is a heinous international crime prohibited under international human rights law, the laws of armed conflict, and customary international law. So seriously is it taken that, as former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet found when visiting London, UK, is subject to universal jurisdiction. Military doctors should make themselves as familiar with these laws as any specialist over jurisprudence specific to their discipline.

I played a part in the development of General Comment 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

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Music of the heart

The mysterious power that music wields over many people has long been