

These notes refer to the Geneva Conventions and United Nations Personnel (Protocols) Act 2009 (c.6) which received Royal Assent on Thursday 2 July 2009

GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL (PROTOCOLS) ACT 2009

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Section 1: Amendments of the Geneva Conventions Act 1957

5. This section amends the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 to give effect to the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, adopted on 8 December 2005, which introduced a new humanitarian emblem, the Red Crystal. That emblem will have the same status as the existing Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Act provides protection under the criminal law against misuse of the new emblem. As a result of the amendment to section 1A of the 1957 Act, a grave breach of the Protocol will be punishable by up to thirty years' imprisonment. And as a result of the amendment to section 6 of the 1957 Act, unauthorised use of the emblem will be punishable by a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale.