definition

Civilian person
“Civilian” means, in an international armed conflict, any person who does not belong to the armed forces [1] and does not take part in a “levée en masse [2]”. In case of doubt whether a person is a civilian or not, that person must be considered to be a civilian.

“Civilian [3]” means, in a non-international armed conflict, all persons who are neither members of state armed forces nor members of an organized armed group [4].

Civilian population
The civilian population is made up of civilian persons. In international armed conflicts, the presence within the civilian population of individuals who do not come within the definition of civilians does not deprive the population of its civilian character. Appropriate rules protect the whole population of a party to a conflict without any adverse distinction. Both in international [5] and non-international armed conflicts [6], the civilian population enjoys general protection against the dangers of military operations.

Special protection
journalists See Journalists [7]
women See Women [8]
children See Children \[9\]
refugees and stateless persons See Refugees \[10\] and Stateless persons \[11\]
protected persons See Protected persons \[12\]

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Chapter 8, IV. Special rules on occupied territories [49]

Chapter 9, Prohibited attacks [50]

Chapter 5, introductory text [51]

Chapter 9. II. 7. Loss of protection: The concept of direct participation in hostilities and its consequences [52]

Chapter 9, b) the presence of a combatant or military objective among the civilian population [53]

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ICRC Appeals on the Near East

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Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/civilian-population

Links
[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/armed-forces