

# HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

TEACHERS, PROFESSORS AND ADMINISTRATORS



Join the St. Louis Area Chapter in teaching local students the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law (IHL).

**Teachers, Professors and Administrators,** we invite you to schedule a **free** IHL presentation

for your students. Presentations are 45 to 90 minutes in length, are customizable for grades K-12 and college students, and are led by American Red Cross trained law and college students.

**All presentations are free of charge.**

This is the only program of its kind in the country with thousands of students receiving training.

**“The IHL program provides a wonderful way of connecting students to real life problems faced by people in all parts of the world. American students are often moved to want to help those who are less fortunate after hearing the presentation.”**

—**Jane Garvin**  
Teacher, St. Joseph Academy

For more information or to schedule a presentation, contact the St. Louis Area Chapter International Services at 314-516-2737.



**International Services**  
American Red Cross  
10195 Corporate Square  
St. Louis, MO 63132  
314-516-2737

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

### *Humanity*

We strive to prevent and alleviate suffering, protect life and health, and ensure respect for the human being.



### *Impartiality*

We do not discriminate as to nationality, race, religion, class or political opinions.

### *Neutrality*

We do not take sides in hostilities or political, racial, religious or ideological controversies.

### *Independence*

We must always maintain our autonomy.

### *Voluntary Service*

We are not prompted by a desire for gain.

### *Unity*

There is only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent society in any one country and it is open to everyone.

### *Universality*

The Movement is worldwide.



## EVEN THE POWERLESS IN WARTIME HAVE RIGHTS



## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW TEACHING PROJECT OF ST. LOUIS

## WHAT IS IHL?

Most victims of war today neither wear a uniform nor carry a gun. Tragically they are often civilians—and among them the most vulnerable, including women, children and the elderly.

In an imperfect world, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) serves as the internationally agreed upon standard of humane treatment and response to non-combatants and combatants during armed conflict. Its principal legal documents are the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and two sets of protocols that further expand these rights. These documents establish protections for civilians, prisoners of war, and wounded combatants.

◀ *Cover photograph: A mother and daughter wait to be seen at an International Red Cross limb-fitting and rehabilitation centre in Afghanistan. © ICRC/J. Barry*

▼ *An International Red Cross representative conducts a private interview with a Djibouti prison detainee in his prison cell. ©ICRC/B. Hedger*



## WHY EXPLORE HUMANITARIAN LAW WITH YOUTH?

Nations party to the Geneva Conventions have a legal obligation to encourage the study of humanitarian law. As one of the most widely ratified treaties in the world, this body of rules and principles can be viewed as an integral part of today's basic education.

Presentations are relevant to many areas of study:

- World History
- Contemporary Issues
- Peace and Justice
- Holocaust Studies
- Military History
- Government
- Economics
- Sociology
- Political Science

Specific topics include:

- landmines
- child soldiers
- refugees
- protections for POW's
- tracing and messaging
- reasons to respect IHL
- consequences of non-compliance with IHL

Students today will address and advocate the use of humanitarian law during the conflicts of the future—as leaders, as members of the military and as informed members of the public.

By studying this subject, students will better understand the laws of war and armed conflict, not only as they relate to historic events, but also as they apply to conflicts faced by many nations and people today.

***“I know that the Red Cross IHL program influences kids right here in St. Louis in a positive way. As an instructor, I could see it on their faces—this information struck a nerve.”***

—Jennifer Crum  
IHL Instructor,  
Washington University Law School Graduate

## LEARNING GOALS

The American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter International Humanitarian Law program contributes to the formation of a well-informed citizenry and specifically focuses on positive changes to:

- Create a core of well-informed global citizens by preparing students to become more responsible and sensitive individuals.
- Teach critical humanitarian principles that exist in times of war and the responsibility of the civilized nations of the world to adhere to these principles.
- Help create understanding of the refugees in our midst, and the situations that forced them to flee their homes.
- Increase capacity to view conflict situations at home and abroad that recognize respect for, and protection of, life and human dignity.
- Gain appreciation for the potential complexities in the application of humanitarian law.
- Increase awareness of humanitarian laws, limits and protections in situations of armed conflict.

▼ *New arrivals at camp for displaced persons in Sudan. © ICRC*

