



**American
Red Cross**

**Int'l Humanitarian Law
Youth Action Campaign**

American Red Cross Presents the 2025 International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign Summit Recap

This article discusses what happened during the 2025 IHL YAC Summit and the profound impact it had on Summit Representatives.

July 2025

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SUMMARY: After an application and selection process, 30 students were chosen to be Summit Representatives. These advocates worked virtually throughout July to broaden IHL's reach and further their knowledge of IHL themes. They then met in Washington D.C. for the experience of a life-time, creating new friends and new experiences that will help shape who they are. They were able to collaborate, learn, and practice essential skills promoting good leadership and further instilling the benefits of volunteerism and taking care of our world.

As summer comes to a close, it is time to reflect on the 2025 International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign (IHL YAC) National Summit. After submitting applications that were reviewed by members of the IHL YAC Team at American Red Cross National Headquarters, 30 talented advocates were chosen as Summit Representatives, representing their respective Red Cross Divisions. These individuals were divided into subteams, completing virtual tasks and participating in webinars throughout July. At the end of the month, Summit

Representatives met in Washington D.C. with a full-expense paid trip and the opportunity to meet new friends and develop themselves professionally.

From June 30th to July 18th, Summit representatives collaborated virtually within their subteams and participated in a series of educational webinars designed to deepen their understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and hone their advocacy skills. The Political Discourse subteam created a rigorous presentation on space law policy issues presented by speakers Yoonseo Linda Lee and Eleanor Song. The Masters of Ceremonies (MC) team, in charge of moderating events, hosted webinars with guest speakers—most notably NASA Astronaut Francisco “Frank” Rubio, who discussed the achievements and challenges of his career with the advocate. They prepared the scripts and questions beforehand, and wrote ‘Thank You’ emails to speakers afterwards. The Writing subteam worked on recording activities through taking detailed notes and writing press releases throughout Summit, ensuring its impact would resonate beyond the event. Meanwhile, the Communications subteam worked to create informational guides and strategies for future IHL YAC advocates to use. On a more creative front, the Video Communications subteam created fun 2-3 minute promotional videos to be posted on Instagram to give new advocates insight into campaigning and Summit. The Pop Culture subteam wove movies, TV shows, and other media into a nuanced webinar aimed at sparking fresh interest in IHL.

Additionally, all of the representatives were placed into their divisional Showcase groups to highlight achievements in their respective regions and give advice to future advocates, excited to participate in next year’s campaign on Journalism and Armed Conflict. Each Showcase group was mentored by a past Summit representative from their division to prepare them for the National Showcase on July 18th. Throughout the online portion, the representatives significantly

expanded their skillsets and strengthened their understanding of IHL to drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

The in-person portion from July 21st to July 24th offered opportunities to network with peers, engage with IHL experts, and further refine their advocacy skills in a collaborative environment. Summit Representatives had the opportunity to listen to presentations from guest speakers Michael Jordan, Allison Leader, and Clarissa Ward. They were able to visit the Air & Space Museum, engage in RAID Cross activities, get a tour of Headquarters, go on a tour of famous D.C. monuments, partake in a leadership bootcamp, and complete a mock Clara Barton Contest module. They also had the opportunity to work on professional development stations, practicing vital skills such as building resumes, creating Linkedins, practicing interview questions, and getting professional headshots. Most important of all, however, Summit Representatives were able to build life-long connections with passionate peers dedicated to making the world a better place.

Warm Regards,

International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign Summit Representatives

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