



**American
Red Cross**

Int'l Humanitarian Law
Youth Action Campaign

American Red Cross' International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign: RAID Cross

This was an interactive simulation of the American Red Cross and a highlight of the 2025 IHL YAC Summit.

Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

Written by: Hannah Moon

SUMMARY: On July 23rd, Summit Representatives engaged in an event called RAID Cross.

During these activities, the advocates were able to further their understanding of the complexities of war by trying to keep civilians safe and limit unnecessary suffering during fake scenarios.

They learned about proportionality and military necessity in times of armed conflict, and the need for international humanitarian law.

On July 23rd, 2025, International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign (IHL YAC) advocates participated in a series of interactive activities called RAID Cross. RAID Cross is meant to give the firsthand experience of what it is like to be a member of the Red Cross within conflict through simulations that test teamwork, volunteership, and most importantly, IHL. Advocates were separated into three groups and attended three different stations—artillery, humanitarian assistance, & the battlefield—to test their abilities to apply their knowledge about IHL.

The Artillery station was led by Pranav, a graduate of Georgetown University and a current lawyer. The activity that Pranav facilitated was the ball & pin activity, with bowling pins of different colors representing either civilians, enemy troops, or infrastructure. The objective was to knock down as many enemy troops as possible with a small tennis ball while minimizing

civilian harm. This proved to be extremely challenging, as enemy troops fell at the expense of many civilians and infrastructure. The main takeaway was that war is much more calculative and sacrificial than it may seem to be, and it is through International Humanitarian Law that attacks can be deemed either beneficial or detrimental to a nation.

The Humanitarian Assistance station was led by Ms. Roberta Brown, a dedicated member of the American Red Cross. Overcoming an entanglement of trip wires, advocates were required to deliver a box of medical supplies to a “patient”. The key challenge was that the person who was avoiding the trip wires to give the patient medical aid was blindfolded. They had to rely on the instructions of their team members, making it a major test of teamwork. With multiple attempts, advocates were eventually able to make it through the trip wires and deliver the aid, successfully completing the simulation.

The final station was the Battlefield, where soldiers were scattered across the battleground, each with a different severity of wounds. One example was a fallen soldier who had been shot in the shoulder and was delirious, who needed immediate help. The mission was to tend to the soldiers and bring them to the hospital in an efficient manner. Advocates generally tended to the severely injured soldiers first, and then rapidly brought the less-injured afterwards.

Overall, advocates were able to participate in simulations that enhanced their active skills as members of the American Red Cross. Raid Cross was a great opportunity to utilize their knowledge of IHL in real life and a highlight of the 2025 IHL YAC Summit.