American Red Cross Presents the 2026 International Humanitarian Law Summit Representatives

These are biographies of all of the advocates who attended the 2026 Youth Summit.

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Isis Chand is a rising high school senior from Brooklyn, New York. An aspiring International Relations major, she was motivated to participate in Summit because she hopes to work in foreign policy. Consequently, she helped lead the first-ever IHL campaign at her school, the Academy of Innovative Technology. Her dream career is to become a Foreign Service Officer (FSO), acting as a diplomat to represent the USA and helping shape global policy. She hopes to make a positive impact by spreading awareness and fostering productive conversations about international humanitarian law within her community. Outside of advocacy, she has a strong background in coding and web design, with certifications in App Development and Graphic Design. She is the projected valedictorian and is set to graduate with an Advanced Regents Diploma, a CTE seal, and a Civics Seal. She also enjoys learning languages and is self-studying Spanish in hopes of taking a proficiency test next year.

Sadie Davis is an incoming freshman at the University of Memphis, double-majoring in Biology and Anthropology. She was inspired to participate in the YAC program to experience a new side of JROTC and help raise awareness about the importance of IHL. Her primary role in the project was creating history-focused slideshows. As an aspiring bioarcheologist, she found that the IHL YAC helped her develop teamwork and communication skills, which she hopes to use alongside her passion for making people care about the past and present in order to build a brighter future. This past year, she served as the S-5 of her JROTC unit, vice president of Spruce Up Sparta, and president of her school's National Honor Society. She was also a two-time semi-

finalist in the Optimist International Oratorical Competition during her freshman and sophomore years, and she loves to run in her free time.

Ellie Fernando is an incoming Nursing major at the University of Memphis. During her sophomore year of high school, a JROTC briefing on the Red Cross IHL sparked her curiosity, especially since her sister was already involved. She made it her goal to join the IHL Service Learning team, and this year was her first time volunteering with them! Her favorite moment was delivering the final presentation to her own JROTC class. Seeing the students reminded her of when she sat in those exact chairs, and experiencing the culmination of the team's hard work made the moment incredibly rewarding. Believing the world needs more advocates than ever, Ellie hopes to use her skills to raise awareness about underreported global issues. Her ultimate dream is to become a NICU nurse and save lives. Outside of the Red Cross, she plays the piano, flute, piccolo, and guitar.

Anika Godavarti is a rising high school senior from Texas. She joined the Red Cross her freshman year as an IHL advocate and has served as a YAC Coordinator for the last two years. She also serves as the North Texas Youth Executive Board Philanthropy Officer and a mental health specialist as a part of the MII team. Additionally, she leads her school's Red Cross chapter and champions IHL events. Her favorite event was a Harry Potter night that discussed the IHL principles present in the movies, chosen for its popularity and accessibility. Through IHL YAC, she learned the importance of advocacy and educating others. She hopes to use these skills as a future physician to improve healthcare and support underserved communities. Outside of the Red Cross, she works in a laboratory and loves listening to music, reading, and spending time outdoors.

Romtin Golabi is an incoming Bioengineering major at UC Berkeley. He began his journey at the Red Cross Leadership Development Camp (LDC), where he first learned about IHL. Over the years, he rose from camper to Advisory Board Programs Lead, executing annual programs across various Red Cross lines of service. In the past season, he served as Regional Coordinator, overseeing 13 campaigns and 55 events, and earned the International Humanitarian Services Award in the Northern California Coastal Region. He hopes to be a pioneer in humanitarian biotechnology, using his IHL experiences to advocate for the ethical distribution and development of advanced technologies. Outside the Red Cross, he plays the piano and trumpet. In the midst of his adventures, he has dislocated his kneecap twice, followed by two grueling knee surgeries (2 is also his least favorite number).

Charlie Ha is a rising high school senior from California. After volunteering for other organizations, he joined his school's Red Cross club as a sophomore. Over the past two years, he has served as an active member and youth advocate. He also attended LDC last summer. Charlie hopes to use the research, social media creation, and communication skills he gained from IHL YAC to create professional deliverables and collaborate with peers to solve global issues. Driven by a desire to constantly learn and help others, he is tentatively considering becoming a psychologist. Alongside working with the Red Cross, Charlie is the president of his school's Creative Writing Club, volunteers at a cat shelter, teaches English to Spanish speakers, and

coaches tennis. In recognition of his deep dedication to the community, he earned the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award.

London Jordan is a rising high school senior from Memphis, Tennessee. Previously, he worked at a nonprofit and led campaigns focused on education and juvenile justice policy. This advocacy inspired him to continue his work with the American Red Cross as a participant in IHL YAC. Harnessing his skills in community education and outreach, he wants to address and redesign education systems on both regional and international scales. He also hopes to conduct extensive research on protecting students from the negative impacts of their social environments, especially in urban climates. Ideally, he hopes to build a career with the United Nations, specifically on the Education Committee, or as a Commissioner of Education. He is a Mentorship Officer at JROTC and loves gaming in his free time. His special talent: he can jump very high and very far!

Dylan Kim is a rising high school junior from California. Uplifted by Clara Barton's compassion on the battlefield alongside Henry Dunant's principles of IHL, he sought to understand the Red Cross' operations firsthand. He has been volunteering with the organization since seventh grade, serving as vice president of his school's club for two years and stepping in as president for the upcoming year. He also completed Leadership Development Camp and the Ready Teens Program, earning certifications in FEMA training and First Aid. Within the Los Angeles region, he served as a Communications Officer, International Services and Services to the Armed Forces and Veterans Officer, and current Club Liaison on the Youth Executive Board. Aspiring to work in medicine, Dylan is drawn to the intersection of healthcare and humanitarian law, particularly protecting medical personnel and maintaining operations during conflicts. He is grateful to connect globally through the Red Cross.

Libby Link is a rising high school senior from Tennessee. She was inspired to volunteer by the core values of the Red Cross, which she believes are especially relevant in today's world. She has been a volunteer for six years and a member of her JROTC program's Red Cross advocacy group for the last three, serving as its president this past year. Using the skills learned from the IHL YAC, she hopes to continue her advocacy work beyond the Red Cross to raise awareness of modern international issues that impact both her community and vulnerable populations worldwide. Her dream is to become a Naval Officer and travel the world helping others. Alongside serving as the Battalion Commander of her JROTC program, she plays club rugby, performs the violin locally, and serves as the president of her school's Latin Club.

Lucy Liu is a rising high school junior from North Carolina. She first joined her school's Red Cross club to give back to her community. Alongside this two-year membership, she served as an engagement officer for the North Carolina Central Regional Red Cross Club for the last year. Recently, she was named mapping co-chair for the North Carolina Youth Council and president of her school's Red Cross club, roles she is excited to begin. Lucy hopes to apply the leadership skills she gained through IHL YAC to her personal growth and future endeavors that drive global change. While she is still deciding on her path, she knows that she wants human connections and interactions to be at the center of her career — most importantly, IHL YAC has

taught her a more nuanced definition of humanity. In her free time, she plays tennis and loves to read and write; her favorite genre is horror.

Hansita Manyam is a rising high school sophomore from Houston, Texas. She was inspired to volunteer because she wanted to make a meaningful impact in her community and help people during times of need. She has been volunteering for a total of two years, helping with the school club, administration and communications, and the IHL YAC. She led 12 events throughout her campaign; her favorite was outreach at Roberts Elementary because it gave her team the opportunity to make a lasting impact on younger students, who can carry forward the lessons taught to them about IHL and its importance. She hopes to become a physician so she can make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Her experience with IHL YAC has taught her the importance of empathy, service, and advocating for human dignity, which are all values she looks to carry forward in her future career.

Aaliya Mazhar is a rising high school junior from North Carolina. Committed to spreading the impact of the Red Cross, she has been a member of her high school's club for two years. She served as secretary last year and will be president this upcoming school year. She is also a project co-chair on the North Carolina Youth Council. Last season, she led seven events for her YAC, with her favorite being an IHL Kahoot due to its engagement and lighthearted fun. As someone who hopes to be a primary care physician, she aims to continue spreading the importance of humanity and encouraging empathy in her community. Aligned with these ambitions, she serves as president of her school's HOSA and HSAFP chapters and is currently conducting research at a pharmaceutical company. In her daily life, she is a self-proclaimed night owl who loves to read.

Caleb Medley is a rising high school senior from Okinawa, Japan, though he was born in England and has family in Alabama and Florida, in the United States. He was motivated to volunteer to earn leadership experience and help others. In his single year as a Red Cross volunteer, he led his team's first-ever IHL campaign for his homeschool club. His favorite event was an art competition where participants created pieces that represented IHL. Through this process, he learned to collaborate effectively even when team members lag. As an aspiring mechanical engineer, he values these skills, knowing professional projects often require managing unequal workloads to ensure success. Committed to serving his community, he has also served nearly three years in the Civil Air Patrol and earned the Veterans of Foreign Wars award for being the outstanding cadet officer of the year.

Mason Menter is a rising high school senior from Maryland. He was inspired to volunteer because one of his best friends started their high school's Red Cross club, but his participation has since evolved into a genuine passion. As the social media manager of his team, he coordinated their online presence by creating schedules and facilitating assignments. His favorite event was tabling at a farmers market in Clarksville. Through participating in the IHL YAC program, he has learned many essential skills such as event planning, time management, and collaboration, which he hopes to utilize in his daily life as well as his career — he is currently considering the broad field of business. Additionally, he is a year-round competitive

swimmer who works as a swim coach and lifeguard during the summer, and he has earned the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish.

Dawson Miller is an incoming freshman at Northwestern University who currently resides in Minnesota. Their Red Cross journey started approximately two years ago as a Summer Youth Corps Blood Donor Ambassador. Afterward, they became the Special Events Lead on the MNDAKS Youth & Young Adult Council, helping organize events to engage volunteers in the region. They have run informational tables at gatherings including Twin Cities Pride and Crypticon to spread awareness about the organization, and they currently write newsletters for young regional volunteers. They co-founded and served as president of their school's Red Cross club during their senior year. One of the club's first initiatives was participating in the IHL YAC, for which Dawson led six events, their favorite being an art and literary gallery. As they tentatively plan to study journalism, the program has inspired them to learn more about how words can leave a lasting impact on the world.

Anushri Mishra is an incoming freshman at Brandeis University. Born in Bengaluru, India, and now based in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, their experiences across communities energized a commitment to advancing global health through the Red Cross. They were a member of their high school's club for all four years, serving as treasurer for two years and eventually becoming president. In this role, they led Shrewsbury High's first-ever IHL campaign. Passionate about making science accessible, they teach neuroscience to underprivileged girls around the world and conduct obsessive-compulsive disorder research in a laboratory. Previously, they have also led a public health campaign in Nigeria and managed their school's health department budget. They hope to become a neuropsychologist who combines their scientific and legal knowledge to help patients navigate complex medical challenges. They love playing tennis, both competitively and recreationally, and challenging their friends to matches.

Bryan Oh is a rising high school senior and a former South Carolinian who currently resides in Virginia. Growing up, he learned about the heroic acts of Clara Barton and her establishment of the American Red Cross. This foundational knowledge made him gravitate towards the unity that the organization fosters worldwide, and he eventually became a volunteer. After participating in the Red Cross at his school and the YAC program as a secretary and leader for three years, he believes that the Red Cross is more than an organization; it is a lifestyle. He believes that IHL's principles directly align with today's critical need for compassionate patient care, inspiring him to pursue a career in medicine. Beyond his humanitarian efforts, he plays varsity tennis, serves as treasurer of the school's Korean Club, and conducts laboratory research.

Alex Ricardo is a rising high school senior from Illinois. He was inspired to volunteer with the Red Cross by his passion for making a meaningful impact and helping others. He has been involved with the Red Cross for a total of three years, spending the last two as a member of his school's club. He also led his school's first ever IHL campaign in collaboration with the IHL YAC Board Members. Through these experiences, he has successfully combined his passions for humanitarian service and community engagement, and he hopes to inspire empathy and encourage others to make a difference. Following this goal, he founded his school's DECA

chapter, spearheaded environmentally focused projects — including the creation of a vertical garden in his school's library — and volunteered at multiple local farms. His slogan: Life is ours to choose, so why not make the most of it?

Shruthi Sankuratri is a rising senior at Florida State University. Encouraged by a friend who was a longtime volunteer, she joined the Red Cross at the start of her freshman year. She looks forward to starting her fourth campaign this year. While she primarily functions as her team's social media manager, she has also spoken in four webinars. As she plans to enter medical school to study psychiatry, staying informed about global actions will help her remain updated on events that could impact the lives of future patients and allow her to better serve her community. Outside of the Red Cross, she is a research assistant at FSU's Neuroscience and Social Psychology laboratories and served on the organizing committee for the 2026 Florida Consortium on the Neurobiology of Cognition (FCNC). Interestingly, she is a self-taught animator who has been producing art for the last six years.

Kempton Sikes is a rising high school sophomore from Kentucky. Inspired to make a difference in his community while living at Camp Zama in Japan, he has been volunteering with the American Red Cross for three years. He is a founding member of both the Camp Zama Junior Red Cross Club and the Fort Knox Junior Red Cross Club, where he also serves as an officer. As the IHL YAC team's publicist, he scouted event locations and designed promotional flyers. Although he co-led six team events, his proudest achievement was presenting to 150 students across six class periods. Aspiring to become an engineer, he hopes to volunteer in developing nations to build homes and dig wells. Kempton is also the captain of a competitive robotics team that won the Kentucky State Championship, and he plays intramural ultimate Frisbee.

Vibha Sivakumar is a rising high school senior from Texas. Driven by the belief that everyone deserves compassion, dignity, and support during times of crisis, she was inspired to volunteer with the American Red Cross. Over the last two years, she has served as an IHL Coordinator, Youth Presentation Specialist, and Blood Donor Ambassador, leading 50+ volunteer orientations and 60+ campaign events. These contributions earned her the Emerging Leader Award for the Engagement Division and the Youth Action Campaign Team with the Most Participants Award. Through the IHL YAC program, she realized that some of the most meaningful ways to change the world happen long before a crisis reaches the operating room. As an aspiring neurosurgeon, she hopes to restore not only neurological function but also independence, dignity, and hope for her patients. Beyond the classroom, she plays varsity basketball, performs Bharatanatyam, and enjoys competing in science fairs.

Leanne Smith is a recent graduate from the University of Florida who hails from Orlando. After graduating from high school, she continued her volunteer work with the Red Cross, an organization she originally joined as a member of her high school's biomedical academy. Her favorite initiative was hosting a College of Journalism panel, which was a unique event that her university had never conducted before. Looking ahead, she hopes to leverage the advocacy skills she has gained through the IHL YAC to champion meaningful causes throughout her future career. In her free time, she swims, conducts research on the built environment, and

works as a medical assistant at a spine clinic. A fun fact about her is that she was once in a Chipotle commercial!

Seren Sparling is a rising high school senior from Vicenza, Italy, though she was born in Japan. Motivated to be more active in her military base community, she has been working with the Red Cross for an impressive six years. Commanders have coined her three times to recognize her hard work in the community. Her favorite activity this season was an Easter egg scavenger hunt, which used clues related to IHL principles to lead peers around the base. As someone who loves to paint and sing, she hopes to use creative outlets to leave lasting impressions on others. One of her inspirations is Banksy, an artist who portrays the neglect of IHL principles. Although she has never lived in the United States, she loves traveling the world and has visited 25 countries.

Chloe Tam is an incoming Biochemistry and Political Science double-major at Fordham University. Sparked by a desire to create a positive community impact and a passion for helping others, she volunteered throughout all four years of high school. She held leadership roles in her club during her sophomore and junior years before serving as co-president as a senior. Chloe participated in her school's IHL campaign during her sophomore year and led the initiative throughout her junior and senior years. Through the IHL YAC, she developed essential skills in public speaking, teamwork, and leadership. Chloe aspires to make a global impact by advocating for and representing marginalized communities. Her goal is to pursue a career in law, health policy, or healthcare, and she hopes to earn a joint JD/MD degree after completing her undergraduate studies. Illustrating her ambitions, she works at her local law office and is a certified EMT.

Mayte Arriola Yangali is a rising high school senior from Lima, Peru, who currently resides in Stockton, California. In 2023, she began volunteering with the American Red Cross through her school's club, supporting events like blood drives. She later joined the Heart of the Valley Chapter Youth Executive Board, serving two years as Communications Coordinator, and is this year's Vice Chair. During this time, Mayte was also a two-time Lead Advocate for the IHL YAC. After attending LDC as a delegate last summer, she returned as a staff member this year. She also works as a Communications Content & Brand Management Intern for the Red Cross. Her extensive work earned her the Youth & Young Adults Recognition award. Mayte aims to enter the public health and medical fields, combining science, service, and advocacy to improve lives and support communities in need.

Mariam Zaidi is a rising high school senior from California. She was inspired to volunteer after her grandmother needed a blood transfusion, during which Mariam learned that the Red Cross supplied the blood to the hospital. Since then, she has volunteered for the past two years in numerous roles, including Blood Donor Ambassador, Silicon Valley Youth Executive Board Communication Coordinator, and Newsletter Intern. As club president, she also led her school's first IHL campaign. The IHL YAC has taught her that lasting impact is created through everyday conversations. Looking ahead, Mariam aims to conduct cancer research and use her skills to address health equity, public education, and care access. Whether treating patients or

advocating for vulnerable populations, she brings a deep commitment to service. Her dedication is backed by national and international public speaking awards, alongside leadership accolades from the Red Cross and other medical organizations.
Warm Regards,
International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign Summit Representatives

SYNOPSIS: The American Red Cross IHL YAC presents 26 representatives that are attending the summit this year: three from the Central Atlantic division, two from the North Central division, three from the Northeast division, five from the Pacific division, four from the Southeast and Caribbean Division, three from the Southwest and Rocky Mountain division, two from the overseas Europe and Asia division, and four from JROTC.