

# ESSAY COMPETITION 2024

## Disinformation and hate speech during armed conflict: what is their impact on people protected by international humanitarian law?

### TOPICS OF THE STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

**Disinformation and hate speech during armed conflict: what is their impact on people protected by international humanitarian law?**

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Disinformation and hate speech are increasingly used as a method of war. They can have serious implications on civilians, the wounded, the sick and the detained, as well as those working to help them. Does international humanitarian law (IHL) address such situations? What gaps may exist?

On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Embassy of Switzerland in Poland, Network on Humanitarian Action, Polish Red Cross Society and Universities of Gdansk and Warsaw are inviting students to participate in an essay competition to explore this theme. For more details you can write to: [ihlstudentessaycompetition2024@gmail.com](mailto:ihlstudentessaycompetition2024@gmail.com)

### RULES OF THE COMPETITION

The competition is open to university students studying in Poland who have completed their bachelor degree/diploma, including military academies.

Each participant shall be permitted to submit only one individual entry written in the English language; joint entries shall not be permitted.

All submissions must be the original and bona fide work of the participants; plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification.

The submission should not have been previously submitted in any other competition and/or for publication.

Submissions that pursue a political agenda, or vilify, demean or discriminate against a person or a group of people on any basis whatsoever will be disqualified.

Prize winners will be notified by email no later than 5 October 2024 and invited for an award giving ceremony, which will take place in Warsaw, in October 2024.

All the entries shall be the property of the organizers. Any quotes will be credited to the author of the essay.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

There is no registration fee for the competition.

Submissions shall fulfil the following criteria:

- Submissions are due by 24:00 (CET) on 01 September 2024
- The word limit for each submission is 1,500 words (including footnotes and bibliography, double spaced, Arial, font 12).
- Submissions in PDF format shall be emailed as an attachment to [ihlstudentessaycompetition2024@gmail.com](mailto:ihlstudentessaycompetition2024@gmail.com)
- The subject of the email shall be: 'Student Essay Competition 2024 + author's name'
- Each submission shall include the author's name, email-address, contact phone number, institution/university, field and year of study, and a copy of the student identity card.

### MARKING CRITERIA

Each submission will be marked out of a total of 100 marks. The marking criteria for the entries shall be as follows:

Ingenuity/Originality	25 marks
Understanding and applicability of IHL	25 marks
Structure and Clarity	20 marks
Critical thinking and analysis	20 marks
Presentation (Formatting)	10 marks

### JURY

The Jury will consist of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Embassy of Switzerland in Poland, Polish Red Cross and Polish Universities. The jury will select 10 best essays. The jury's decision will be final.

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	Two-day visit to International Red Cross Red Crescent Museum and the UN in Geneva
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Sponsorship to IHL school (May 2025)
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Book voucher (500 PLN)
4 <sup>th</sup> prize	Book voucher (400 PLN)
5 <sup>th</sup> prize	Book voucher (250 PLN)
6 <sup>st</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> prizes	A selection of IHL books
10 best essays	Certificate of participation