**Harry Potter & IHL: Discussion Points**

**Purpose**: This is intended as a guide to facilitate a group discussion to be used after watching the 2021 Harry Potter and the Deathly Violations of IHL presentation. The questions provided below are meant as starting points to foster a rich discussion of the material, as well as a broader exploration of the subject. Although you are free to only discuss the questions contained below, you are **strongly encouraged** to explore points or questions beyond the basic ones outlined here in order to facilitate a rich and engaging discussion of the event.

**Topic 1: Using Harry Potter or other pop culture to explore IHL**

1. What did you think of using a book and movie series like Harry Potter as a way to teach and explore IHL topics?
   1. Was it an effective tool?
   2. What did you find useful about this method of exploring IHL?
   3. Were there any drawbacks to this method?
2. Why might movies, television shows, or video games be useful in teaching IHL to someone who has no knowledge of IHL or experience with IHL topics?

**Topic 2: The Unforgiveable Curses & IHL Principles**

1. The presentation focused on the three Unforgiveable Curses and their prohibition due to the fact that they cause unnecessary suffering – what other concerns might come into play when considering the these curses, which are used by the Death Eaters, as well as Harry Potter and his allies?
   1. It is mentioned that Harry actually uses the Imperius Curse against a goblin at Gringotts bank. Could the Harry have done anything else to acquire the Horcrux in Gringotts without using the Imperius Curse?
      1. Could Harry have found a different, less extreme spell?
2. This portion of the presentation did not touch on the IHL principle of distinction, or the prohibition on weapons that cannot distinguish between those who are taking part in hostilities and those who are not. Would the use of the unforgiveable curses unlawfully target magical persons and/or muggles not taking part in hostilities?

**Topic 3: Prisoners of War of Azkaban**

1. How do you think the average person in the galaxy would have reacted if they found out the conditions of the Prison of Azkaban?
2. If you were a detainee of Azkaban, how would you argue that the prison does not follow the most basic legal provision on how POWs should be treated?
3. How do you think the treatment of the prisoners by the Dementors could be used as an argument that Azkaban is an unlawful place to house POWs (as well as criminal defendants)?

**Topic 4: Child Soldiers of the Death Eaters AND Dumbledore’s Army**

1. Are some of the students, mostly Slytherins, members of the Death Eaters and directly participating in hostilities? If so, who are they? Is there participation compulsory or voluntary?
2. As some of the members of Dumbledore’s Army, specifically Luna and Ginny, are under the age of 15 while engaging in hostilities with the Death Eaters, what should the Order of the Phoenix and/or the Ministry of Magic do?

**Topic 5: The Occupation of Hogwarts and the Ministry of Magic**

1. Is the Death Eaters position of authority at Hogwarts an Occupation?
   1. If so, do any of their actions violate IHL’s provisions governing lawful occupation?
2. Does the Death Eaters’ take-over of the Ministry of Magic constitute an occupation?
   1. If so, is the new Ministry officials’ treatment of non-magic/semi-magic employees/citizens lawful under IHL?

**Topic 6: Cultural Property and Horcruxes**

1. What makes these artifacts that belonged to the most prominent witches and wizards cultural property protected by IHL?
2. At what point was there a violation of IHL in the treatment of the cultural property? Was it when Voldemort turned it into a Horcrux? When Harry and his allies destroyed it?