

Hi IHL Volunteers,

My name is Griffin Ferry and I'm the new Legal Advisor to the IHL Team at the American Red Cross. Volunteers are central to the American Red Cross and the IHL Team is no exception. Our target audience is the American public and we need the hard work, dedication, and knowledge of our IHL volunteers to comply with our congressional mandate of disseminating IHL. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, detail our current programming, and solicit some feedback.

First and foremost, IHL now functions under the auspices of the Services to the Armed Forces Department and the leadership of Koby Langley, Senior Vice President of Services to the Armed Forces. We're in the process of building our team and will be hiring a program officer and executive director. I'm excited to be part of a team that has a new look and new energy. Once these positions have been filled, the Youth Action Campaign will be launched. The Youth Action Campaign is a program that empowers Red Cross Youth Clubs around the country to disseminate IHL on a specific subject matter. This year the focus is on child soldering.

In addition to youth, we're identifying and working with one specific demographic per year with a unique relationship to IHL. This year's focus is on health professionals. The IHL Team is working with the University of Southern California's Human Rights Clinic to design a training that will be given to health practitioners and interested members of the public. A screening of Carlo D'Ursi's documentary film Tabib and instructor-led discussion will follow the training. Training locations in LA, Chicago, DC, and NY are being planned. Interested instructors are encouraged to attend. Once the dates for the training have been set they'll be posted on our EventBrite page copied herein. Registration for all of our public can be completed via EventBrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/american-red-cross-international-humanitarian-law-team-7865599461>

More generally, every month at our national headquarters we will continue to offer an IHL Professional Training Course to government officials, policy professionals, and interested members of the public. The course has been updated and a new curriculum is in use. Our very active IHL Team in NY has offered this course in the past and will do so six times in the coming year. We're also planning six training of trainers that are going to prepare individuals with extensive IHL experience to deliver the Professional Training Course on behalf of the American Red Cross. We have training of trainers scheduled for the Northeast, Europe, and the Southeast Divisions. We're in the process of planning three more sessions to train trainers. Calls for trainers and an accompanying position description will be posted on the Red Cross Volunteer Connections website. Interested volunteers with IHL knowledge and experience in IHL instruction are encouraged to apply.

We've continued our work with various partner law schools through the delivery of law school workshops. This year we're partnering with the law schools of UCLA (February 3<sup>rd</sup>), Richmond (March 30<sup>th</sup>), and Liberty (April 19<sup>th</sup>). Next year we have

the law schools of Indiana, Minnesota, Washington University (Saint Louis), and USC on the calendar. IHL volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend our law school workshops. Please reach out to Roberta, Griffin or [ihlaw@redcross.org](mailto:ihlaw@redcross.org) with inquiries regarding law school workshops.

The content of the Professional Training Course and law school workshops are legal in nature and are a necessary but not sufficient component of complying with our congressional mandate. With this in mind we have two community education avatar trainings in the pipeline that will be available by the end of the summer. The topics of these presentations are child soldering and the overlap of IHL with international human rights law. IHL volunteers will be provided materials to take community members through the virtual trainings.

My understanding is that both Raid Cross and Born on the Battlefield were extensively used but need updating. Could you please provide me some feedback on which program you would like to see refurbished and how it can be improved. I'll aggregate the feedback, bring it to the IHL Team, and get back to you with our plan.

Please feel free to reach out to me or Roberta Brown with any feedback, questions, and/or concerns. I'm looking forward to working with you all and very excited about the future of our IHL Team.

Kindly,

Griffin