

### RULES OF THE COMPETITION

- Each participant shall be permitted to submit only one individual entry written. Joint entries shall not be permitted.
- The competition is open to all current undergraduate and master students studying in the Republic of Moldova and enrolled in a study that focuses on: Law, International Relations, Psychology, Political Sciences or Media Studies or any other discipline.
- 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.
- All submissions will go through a plagiarism check.
- All submissions must be the original and bona fide work of the participants. If there is reasonable cause to suspect that there is an irregularity in connection to the essay (such as but not limited to plagiarism or fraudulent use of AI), the essay will be automatically disqualified.
- Prize winners and runners-ups will be notified by email no later than 30 November 2024 and invited for an award giving ceremony, which will take place in Chisinau, on 5 December 2024.
- To foster inclusivity and accessibility to the broadest possible audience, essays can be submitted in Romanian, Russian or English.
- Essays must be typed in Times New Roman 11 (footnotes 10). They must be properly referenced and structured and a bibliography must be provided.
- Essays must be between 2000 and 3000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography). Essays that do not comply with this condition will, unfortunately, be automatically disqualified.
- The deadline for essay submissions is 31 October 2024, 23:59. To participate, students must submit their essays along with a copy of their ID and proof of enrollment. Submissions can be sent by email to CHS\_Chisinau\_Mailbox@icrc.org or by mail to Bulgara Str. 23, MD-2001, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.
- All electronic documents sent by email should be in PDF or Word format. Other files types will not be considered.
- Please also specify whether you would be able to attend the roundtable event on 5 December.
- By submitting their entry, participants consent to the processing of their personal data in accordance with applicable data protection legislation. Participants' data will only be used for the purpose of administering the competition and will not be shared with third parties without their explicit consent.

### GRADING CRITERIA:

- Understanding and ability to apply IHL concepts: 25 points
  - What we look for:
    - the submission showcases knowledge of and capacity to explain IHL concepts by relying on the theory (e.g. the law – such as the GCs and their Additional Protocols-, jurisprudence and scholastic opinion as set out in books and academic articles);
    - the information is accurate and complete;
    - in addition, the writing shows that the author is able to apply theoretical concepts to concrete or highly likely real-life scenarios.

- Critical thinking and analysis: 25 points
  - What we look for:
    - The author presents a clear analysis and formulates logical inferences. The reader gains comprehensive insight into the matter;
    - The author is able to engage with current literature on the subject-matter that they are dealing with. They highlight where and why they agree with this literature but also, if applicable, why they have a different point of view. The sources used are reliable and of high-quality;
    - Conclusion formulates a clear and concise point of view, corresponding with the author's previous argumentation.
- Structure and Clarity: 20 points
  - What we look for:
    - The submission is well structured and presents a logical flow. The reader is informed from the start as to the goals of the paper, the main issues it will target and in what sequence.
- Ingenuity/Originality: 20 points
  - What we look for can combine any of the following:
    - The author presents a novel viewpoint or interpretation that adds a fresh dimension to the topic;
    - The submission proposes new solutions or approaches to existing problems, demonstrating creativity in thought;
    - The author effectively integrates concepts or methodologies from different disciplines to enrich the analysis, the use of unique examples or original case studies that illustrate the author's arguments in an engaging way.
- Formatting and Referencing: 10 points
  - What we look for:
    - The submission adopts a consistent and uniform approach to formatting and is virtually free of any spelling, capitalization or punctuation errors or inconsistencies;
    - References are included properly where so required (i.e. wherever the information included is not general knowledge or the original thought or contribution of the author of the submission);
    - A consistent referencing system is used (e.g. OSCOLA).