

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW of the Red Cross

Call for Papers: “Upholding Humanity in War”

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 15 February 2025

Decision whether Abstract has been selected: 15 March 2025

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers: 1 August 2025

Contemporary armed conflicts show, in appalling and devastating ways, that International Humanitarian law (IHL) faces enormous challenges to provide effective and meaningful protection for people in armed conflicts. To reverse this downward spiral of disrespect for IHL and despair, in September 2024, the ICRC launched – together with Brazil, China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan, and South Africa - a global initiative to galvanize political commitment to IHL. This initiative will culminate in a landmark meeting to uphold humanity in war by the end of 2026 (more details [here](#)).

The objectives of this initiative are to make IHL a political priority, at global, regional and domestic levels; to re-centre the debate about armed conflicts on the urgent need to set higher expectations by the international community to parties to conflict for the universal, uniform and faithful application of IHL; and, to start a process to discuss challenges on specific IHL topics, such as prevention of violations or conduct of hostilities rules, in order to make clear recommendations to address them.

The initiative will be composed of seven workstreams running in parallel and will involve consultations with States, military audiences, national societies, academic experts and others, producing concrete and practical recommendations on:

- 1) Preventing violations of IHL;
- 2) The mandate, composition, roles and duties of national IHL committees;
- 3) Leveraging IHL’s contribution to peace;
- 4) The protection of civilian infrastructure during hostilities;
- 5) The protection of hospitals in armed conflict;
- 6) Upholding the protection that IHL affords to civilian populations and other protected persons and objects against the danger arising from the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) during armed conflicts; and,
- 7) Upholding the protection of persons and objects from the danger arising from modern naval warfare, with a view to avoiding its human cost.

Call for proposals

As part of these consultations, the Review calls for papers that contribute to this global initiative with legal and policy perspectives and recommendations related to one of the seven workstreams.

Submitting your proposal

We invite anyone interested to submit a proposal by 15 February 2025. That proposal should consist of an abstract of maximum 500 words, as well as a biography of maximum 300 words (or a CV). Note that, if you are invited to submit a paper based on your proposal, the target length for a completed traditional article should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words, including footnotes – though we are open to proposals for other formats, such as opinion notes. Our selection process will prioritize innovative proposals that have clear potential to contribute to and advance legal and policy debates in this space in the years ahead.

In your 500-word abstract, please include:

- 1) Proposed title;
- 2) The main arguments you intend to develop; and,
- 3) An explanation as to how your topic adds to the existing literature and fits within the Review's editorial line.

Please send your abstract and bio as a single Word document to review@icrc.org and ensure that "Proposal: Upholding Humanity in War" is in the email's subject line. Note that, in line with our ongoing commitment to provide a space for a diverse array of voices in this field, we encourage submissions by established and emerging voices alike. You will be notified as to the status of your proposal by 15 March 2025. If you are invited to submit a full-length article, a draft of your completed article will be due no later than 1 August 2025.