



Bake for Humanity

What it is

A bake sale is an easy (and delicious) way to share information about international humanitarian law (IHL) and the work of the Red Cross with your school. In the Bake for Humanity activity, you can organize a bake sale and attach facts about IHL and the Red Cross to each item sold. The money generated from the sale should be donated to your Red Cross Chapter.

How it helps

Current armed conflicts affect the lives of 1.5 billion people around the world. It is crucial, now more than ever, that the next generation of leaders know and understand the importance of IHL. The American Red Cross educates the public about IHL regarding the protections for civilians and the rules setting limits on war. Knowledge and awareness about IHL helps create young people who are engaged global citizens who understand humanitarian issues that arise from armed conflict. Through Bake for Humanity, you are raising awareness of IHL by providing important information along with delicious baked goods to your peers.

Get started

Before beginning your activity, contact your Red Cross Chapter for assistance. You can search for it by using your zip code on redcross.org. When you call, ask to speak with someone that works with youth volunteers. They will be able to guide you to available resources that can make this an impactful and successful event. Once you have established contact with your chapter, there are four steps you should complete to begin:

1. Talk to your school officials to acquire permission to organize a bake sale; then reserve a date, time, and location for the event. Try to reserve a space during a busy time of day and in a central location that receives a lot of foot traffic.
2. Gather a group of volunteers to provide the baked goods and staff the sale. Have the volunteers sign up for certain time slots throughout the sale so that there is always someone present at the table.
3. Advertise the bake sale at your school and ask your Red Cross Chapter to help spread the word. You can make a Facebook event, tweet about the sale, create posters, and submit requests to have school announcements include the event.

Want more information?
Email us!

IHLYouth@redcross.org for more ideas and materials for this and other IHL activities.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the [IHL Action Campaign Team](#) from the American Red Cross serving the Greater New York Region for developing this idea.

DID YOU KNOW?

When there is a doubt as to whether a person is a combatant or a civilian, the individual is considered a civilian until proven otherwise.

What's next?

- Obtain the necessary materials: tables, cash box, tablecloth, napkins, small plates, Red Cross brochures, and labels. Ask your school and Red Cross for help finding these materials.
- Decide on a pricing plan for the different types of baked goods. For example, cookies could be sold for \$0.50, cupcakes for \$1.00, and cakes for \$1.50.
- Ask your volunteer bakers to decorate with red and white icing. Let them know when and where to drop off their baked goods.
- Research key facts about IHL, the Geneva Conventions, ICRC, and the American Red Cross. The “Did You Know” and “Resources” sections on this guide are the best places to start your research. Write the facts on labels and place on every plate or napkin that will be passed out with each item sold.
- Make pamphlets, flyers, or posters about IHL that can be handed out to people. Make sure they include your Red Cross Chapter’s contact information and www.redcross.org/rulesofwar so that people learn more.

Now that you have completed these steps and organized a successful Bake for Humanity, continue to spread knowledge about IHL and the Red Cross to young people and adults at your school! Follow [@HumanityinWar](https://twitter.com/HumanityinWar) on Twitter and tweet using #warhaslimits to follow up with participants and get more people involved in future Red Cross activities.

Resources

- » [Red Cross IHL Resources](#)
- » [ICRC IHL Resources](#)
- » IHL 101:
 - IHL is a set of rules, which limits the effects of armed conflicts by protecting those who are not participating and restricting the means and methods of warfare.
 - The main instruments of IHL are the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their three Additional Protocols. Every country has signed on to the Geneva Conventions.
 - The four core principles of IHL are distinction, military necessity, proportionality, and unnecessary suffering.
 - Prisoners of war have the right to send and receive family letters. The ICRC visits prisoners and will deliver messages to and from their families.
 - Under IHL and other international treaties, landmines are illegal since they are explosive devices that do not discriminate between whether a person is a civilian or a combatant.
 - Under IHL, using methods of torture is always forbidden.
 - Every country in the world is mandated to respect IHL.
 - Medical personnel, whether civilian or military, must be respected and protected so long as they are not participating in the fighting.

Shake it up!

- » Add a trivia game! Write trivia questions about IHL on the plates or napkins and if people get the correct answer, they get a free treat of their choosing.
- » Contact other schools, sports teams, churches, or community centers about hosting Bake for Humanity. You could also partner with a Red Cross blood drive and pass out baked goods to those who donated in order to spread more awareness.

Show and Tell

- » Share the photos from the event on social media and with your local Chapter to promote your next Red Cross activity
- » Write a short blog post to share with IHLYouth@redcross.org, along with some of your photos, and we'll post it on humanityinwarblog.com.