



How Does Exploring Humanitarian Law Fit? Alignment with the IB Learner Profile and Programs

The International Baccalaureate (IB) aims to develop internationally-minded, inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

The American Red Cross Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) program aims to help young people embrace the principles of global citizenship and humanity in their daily lives and in the way they assess events at home and abroad, and to develop the following 21st century skills:

Critical thinking: EHL encourages learners to think critically and creatively and to recognize and approach complex problems through reasoned and ethical approaches.

Open-mindedness: EHL develops global awareness of international issues and cultures and encourages learners to consider multiple perspectives and a range of points of view.

Problem solving: EHL exposes students to complex conflict issues while placing respect for and protection of human dignity at the center of analysis. Brainstorming, group discussions, reflective writing, class debates and role-playing are examples of tools provided to teachers through EHL to help students improve their problem-solving skills.

Depth of thought: Students exposed to EHL grapple with the same questions that perplex world leaders.

Empathy: The concepts of human dignity and humanitarian action are central to EHL. EHL encourages learners to show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others and to make a positive difference to the lives of others.

EHL fits easily in History, Philosophy, Psychology, and Social & Cultural Anthropology

- **History**
 - Concepts of human dignity, bystander and humanitarian actions central to EHL are themes that run throughout US and World History. Examples include Las Casas, who spoke up for indigenous peoples during the Spanish explorations; those who advocated against removing Indians in the 1830s and during the Indian Wars at the turn of the last century (Helen Hunt Jackson, specifically); the Women's and Civil Rights movements from 1900-1970s; and Holocaust and Genocide Studies
 - Discussions of Prisoners of War can be taken back as far as British prison ships in the Revolutionary War, Andersonville in the Civil War, and modern-era wars.
 - Studying refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and responses to refugee and IDP situations broadens the definition of "citizen" to include a global perspective
- **Philosophy, Psychology, and Social & Cultural Anthropology:**
 - The Geneva Conventions' history and discussion is very relevant, as are lessons on justice, dealing with violations of the law, judiciary systems, the United Nations and internationalism in the 21st century.
 - EHL discussions on human dignity, the role of a bystander, humanitarian actions, child soldiers, the needs of displaced persons all fit well in these curricula.

"EHL has much in common with the IB philosophy. It develops 21st century skills such as global awareness and the ability to understand multiple perspectives, better than any other curriculum I know"

Paul Frankmann, Teacher, Social Studies & French (Grades 7-12)
Aurora, Ohio

"Students come to understand that there are no easy answers, that there are different perspectives and that choices have consequences. They learn to ask themselves, 'What would I do?'"

DeAn Krey, Emeritus Professor of Teacher Education, University of Wisconsin – River Falls