

The Canadian Red Cross and the Social Activist Law Students Association (SALSA) hosted, for the fourth consecutive year, the International Humanitarian Law Conference at the Weldon Law Building in Halifax this past September.

This year's conference featured distinguished and thought-provoking speakers and panels. The conference opened with a presentation by Ilario Maiolo, Legal Advisor to the Canadian Red Cross, and Jamie Williamson, Legal Advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which provided a basic overview of IHL. It continued with two panel discussions entitled "IHL and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflict" and "Torture – the Ultimate Abuse of Human Rights?" These panels featured discussion by Mr. Williamson, Lt. Col. Louis MacKay, Assistance Judge Advocate General to the Atlantic Region, Professor Amir Attaran from the University of Ottawa, and William Fenrick from Dalhousie Law School. In particular, the crowd was engaged in Professor Attaran's presentation on whether the Canadian Government was complying with its own prohibition on torture.

The conference closed with Pulitzer Prize winning author and journalist Roy Gutman who spoke about his personal experiences in regions of conflict as a foreign correspondent.

For more information or to volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross contact Erin Grinnell at erin.grinnell@redcross.ca.