

HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Since its establishment in 2009 The University of Queensland Pro Bono Centre has provided hundreds of UQ Law students with an opportunity to use their skills pro bono publico: for the public good.

The High School Community Education program is one of the Centre's most successful initiatives, earning highly positive feedback from the thirteen Queensland high schools that have taken part in the scheme over the past three years.

The program involves law students researching, writing and delivering lessons and seminars to year nine to twelve students, challenging them to present legal material in a way that makes the law accessible to non-lawyers, and promotes greater understanding of laws designed to protect vulnerable families and individuals.

In addition to inspiring young people to take an interest in the law, the seminars aim to build high school students' knowledge of nationally and internationally significant issues, enabling them to better disseminate the information made available to the public through the government, media and other organisations.

The Centre now offers three programs: one focusing on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), another concerned with Asylum & Refugee Law (ARLP) and our new program focussing on Domestic Violence (DV) and the law. These programs are delivered at UQ or at your high school or organisation, and comprise of:

- Lesson plans and activities devised for high school students in years 9 -12;
- The ability to tailor and integrate the programs within subject curriculums;
- Presentations written and taught by UQ Law students with academic and professional oversight from subject-matter experts at UQ's TC Beirne School of Law;
- Delivery through a combination of audio-visual materials, worksheets, group activities and class discussion.

All programs are offered during University semesters:

- March to June
- August to October

The UQ Pro Bono Centre is continuing to expand the High School Outreach Education Program; please visit www.law.uq.edu.au/probono for information about our programs, news and events.



CURRENT PROGRAMS

ASYLUM & REFUGEE LAW PROGRAM



The Asylum & Refugee Law Program offers an engaging overview of the socio-legal issues associated with forced migration and refugee protection in Australia. With the use of case studies, the program introduces students to Australia's responsibility under the 1951 Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

These lessons provide students with factual and accurate information on this highly politicised topic, enabling them to formulate their own opinions on asylum seeker and refugee issues in Australia using international legal principles from a humanitarian perspective.

A standard lesson plan will aim to answer questions such as: Who is a refugee? Who is an asylum seeker? What legal rights do refugees and asylum seekers have?

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW PROGRAM



Run in conjunction with Australian Red Cross, this program introduces students to the often unfamiliar subject of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) - the set of rules which seek to limit the human cost of armed conflict. Using historical and current case studies combined with map-based conflict simulations, the lesson program explains basic IHL principles and its relevancy to contemporary conflicts. Practical group activities, such as a mock international criminal court trial, will demonstrate how IHL is enforced.

These lessons are designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the laws that regulate warfare; the role of the Red Cross in promoting IHL; and the Geneva Conventions and obligations imposed on military forces to uphold the rules of IHL in armed conflict. Issues such as the use of child soldiers and IHL enforcement mechanisms are also covered.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE LAW PROGRAM



This Program will introduce students to the legal understandings and responses to family and domestic violence in the context of intimate partner relationships including dating relationships. It will provide information about different forms of domestic and family violence and who may be particularly vulnerable in our communities.

Students will be introduced to a key legal instrument, the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (Qld), and how it works. Students will also hear about how the law responds to impacts of violence such as being made homeless, financial hardship, difficulties in parenting and

losing employment or having to stop education.

Through the use of case studies, students will be asked to think about challenges in ensuring that the law continues to respond appropriately to complex issues. For instance, students will be asked to consider how the law might respond to uses of technology that breach a victim's privacy or are harassing, socially isolating or make the victim feel inadequate.

Students will also be provided with links and resources for further information and for where to go if they need assistance.

PROGRAM FEEDBACK

“ I wish to congratulate and thank Stephanie and Zoe for their brilliant presentation to my Year 12 students yesterday. My students were most receptive, and they have indicated to me that they now have a much clearer understanding of the complex issue of refugees and asylum seekers.

Stephanie and Zoe were well prepared, knew their material and presented it as seasoned teachers. They were truly inspirational and presented such a splendid example of young people with a commitment to justice and compassion. ”

**Kevin McAlinden, Head of History
Loreto College**

“ I am delighted that our students could have this opportunity to engage with some very knowledgeable and passionate, young graduates. It was very well organised and delivered and a credit to your IHL School's Education Program. ”

**Catherine Carpenter,
Service-Learning Coordinator
All Saints Anglican School**

CONTACT DETAILS

To organise a school visit or to find out more about these programs please use the contact details below:

Asylum and Refugee Law Program:
arlp@law.uq.edu.au

International Humanitarian Law Program:
ihl@law.uq.edu.au

Domestic Violence and the Law Program:
dv@law.uq.edu.au