

## **Circle of Young Humanitarians**

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## Preface

#### Dear members and supporters of the Circle of Young Humanitarians,

We are pleased to present to you the annual report for the past year. This has been a challenging and unprecedented year for all of us: Just shortly after officially founding our association in January 2022, armed conflict rematerialized in Europe. The tragic war in Ukraine serves as a stark reminder that the very idea of peace, once taken for granted, is not a given. The challenges we face are complex and require efforts from all parts of society.

In 2022, through the tireless efforts of our dedicated members and volunteers, we were able to organize a series of events and awareness campaigns, including a *Humanitarian Enrichment Forum* on the rules of war and a *Humanitarian Challenge Campaign* on the topic of energy awareness. Foremost, our largest efforts were devoted to organizing the first *Young Humanitarian Summit* that will be held in March 2023.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of our members, volunteers, and supporters for their continued dedication and commitment to the Circle of Young Humanitarians. It is because of you that the Circle is continuing to taking on its form.

We look forward to another year and hope you will continue to support the Circle of Young Humanitarians in our efforts.

Sincerely,

#### Board of the Circle of Young Humanitarians

Jessica Eberhart, Kay von Mérey and Leonie Basler (from left to right)



## **Circle of Young Humanitarians**

#### Who are we?

The Circle of Young Humanitarians is a politically neutral non-profit association based in Zurich that was established by students and young professionals in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2021.

We believe that what young people think about the challenges we face today will impact the direction of the world in the future. Therefore, we aim to address young people's views on current and emerging global humanitarian emergencies in an open and effective dialogue.

To do so, the Circle of Young Humanitarians offers a platform for young people to come together, experience the humanitarian worlds, receive new insights, and make a meaningful difference. With a constructive and solution-oriented approach, the CYH strives to address young people's views on armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies through open dialogue and awareness raising. Thereby, we hope to inspire and empower people to create a positive impact in our communities and beyond and to contribute to the global effort of preventing and responding to humanitarian crises.



#### **Founding Story**

When Kay von Mérey was completing her traineeship at the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2020, she noticed that most young people in Switzerland were disconnected from the importance of the work and mission of humanitarian organizations. This realization inspired her to create a space where young people could get closer to the humanitarian world. After sharing her idea with her supervisor, Esther Schaufelberger, and her friends and eventual co-founders, Jessica Eberhart and Leonie Basler, the trio further developed the concept and worked together towards bringing their visionary initiative to life - the Circle of Young Humanitarians.

In June 2021, the founding team organized a virtual kick-off event that attracted over 200 participants, demonstrating the young generation's interest in their vision. This success ultimately convinced the ICRC of the value of their initiative. Leveraging their interdisciplinary backgrounds and collaborating closely with the ICRC, the co-founders continued to refine and develop the idea. They were passionate about creating a platform where young people could gain a deeper understanding of humanitarian work and its significance, as well as its impact on society.

Shortly after the founding, seven original team members - Julie Basler, Alina Eichrodt, David Gut, Patric Lohri, Annik Müller, Kevin Reust, and Ambar Rüdisühli - joined the Circle's efforts and played a significant role in creating and further developing the Circle. The co-founders' initial enthusiasm and vision, and the immense dedication and hard work of the whole interdisciplinary team, have been essential to the initiative's success.

Since then, the Circle of Young Humanitarians has remained dedicated to its mission and has grown to encompass 27 team members who all devote their time on a voluntary basis. Through everyone's efforts, the Circle of Young Humanitarians aims to continue inspiring the next generation of humanitarian leaders, cultivating empathy, and promoting a better understanding of the work that goes into building a better world.



## Organisation

The Circle of Young Humanitarians aims to bridge the humanitarian worlds to the next generation in innovative ways that resonate with young people's values. We do this by organizing a series of events and projects that follow a two-pillar approach of giving and receiving.



#### *giving* Humanitarian Challenge Campaign

On one hand, we believe in the power of giving, and that young people can make a meaningful impact on the world by taking action. To this end, we organize Humanitarian Challenge Campaigns that offer young people the possibility to volunteer, donate, or raise awareness. Through these campaigns, we hope to inspire young people to become active, engaged members of their communities and to make a difference in the world.

#### receiving Humanitarian Enrichment Forum

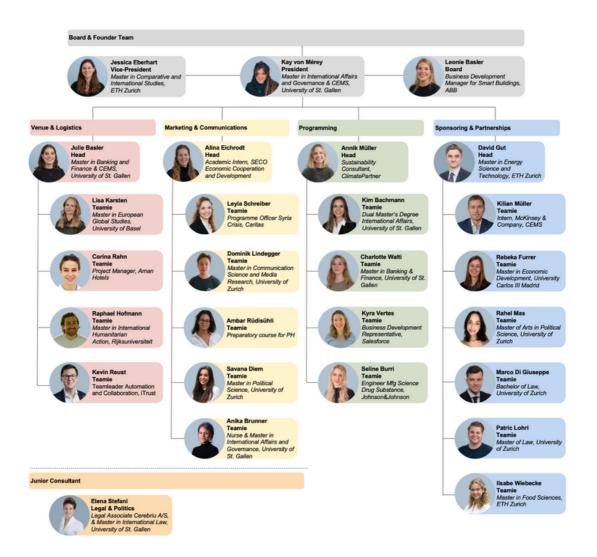
On the other hand, we believe that young people can benefit greatly from connecting with organizations and diverse experts from the humanitarian worlds. Our Humanitarian Enrichment Forums offer young people the opportunity to expand their knowledge, network, and experiences through a range of discussions and inputs. Our aim is to create an environment for mutual learning and collaboration.

#### givin & receiving Young Humanitarian Summit

The two pillars come together hand-in-hand during our annual Young Humanitarian Summit. During two days, participants come together and engage in critical conversations and explore how we can work together to create positive change. Through this Summit, we aim to inspire young people to take action and to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and connections they need to become effective change-makers in their communities and beyond.

### Team

In 2022, the Circle of Young Humanitarians is composed of a diverse team of 27 members. The organization is structured into four different teams, namely marketing & communication, sponsoring & partnerships, venue & logistics, and programming. Each team is led by a head and has between three and six further team members. In addition, there are three members in the board who oversee the organization's overall direction and strategy. Finally, the team is supported by a junior consultant who assists with legal and political issues.



To reach our goals and ensure effective communication and collaboration within the team, we have regular meetings: our board meets twice a week to discuss overall strategy and decision-making. The four teams meet weekly to update each other on progress, discuss challenges and plan for upcoming projects. The heads of the four teams meet bi-weekly to align on the overall goals and objectives.



#### **CYH x ICRC**

The Circle of Young Humanitarians is proud to work in close collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 2021. In particular, we are honored to have the ICRC as the main partner of the first Young Humanitarian Summit.

We would like to extend a special thank you to David Dandres, Alja Sieber, and Julia Reus, our points of contact from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Their support, guidance, and advice have been invaluable to us throughout the year. We have had regular monthly meetings with them, and in times of heightened activity, even weekly meetings to ensure the success of the Young Humanitarian Summit. We are grateful for their unwavering commitment to our partnership and their continued efforts to inspire young people to become positive change-makers in their communities and the world.



#### About the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law.

#### **Advisory Board & more**

We are fortunate to have an Advisory Board consisting of four members: Mahmoud Haidar, Heta T. Liljander and Esther Schaufelberger. These individuals offer guidance and expertise on various aspects, including overall strategy, branding, networking, fundraising and personal development. The Board members of the Circle of Young Humanitarians meet the members of the Advisory Board a few times a year on a regular basis to receive valuable insights and inspiration. Additionally, the Advisory Board has delivered inspiring talks to our members that help motivate and empower us to achieve our goals.



Furthermore, we are grateful for the support and contributions of many other individuals who have helped us in various ways: Paul Baule, Flavia Cereghetti, Rodney Chonia, Ennio Comi, Silke Cornelis, Carleigh Dean, Jo Dietrich, Werner Haas, Chris Hanger, Laura Heckel, Xenia Huber, Pepe Hühnerwadel, Elena Kessler, Clemens Kürten, Yael Meier, Kassra Palenzona, Wolfgang Schürer, Nick Soland, Anna Stetter, Flavia Vasallo, Katrin & Paul von Mérey, Narada Zürrer, and many more. While it is not possible to name everyone, we want to express our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you. Your support has been instrumental in enabling us to carry out our mission and try to make a positive impact in the world. Thank you!

#### A Few Milestones of 2022



**Official Association:** On January 11th, the Circle of Young Humanitarians became an official association with registered office in Zurich by signing the statutes of the organization and the founding protocol.

**New Team Structure:** To accommodate the new projects planned, the events team was split into two seperate teams - venue & logistics and programming.

**Bank Account:** The association opened its own bank account with MBAER. Thank you to MBAER for the support and partnership!

**New Head Roles:** Four of the original members, Julie Basler, Alina Eichrodt, David Gut and Annik Müller took on the new roles of team heads of the four teams. Thank you for your commitment, countless contributions and great leadership!

**Memorandum of Understanding:** The Circle of Young Humanitarians signed an agreement with the ICRC, effective from January 2022 to May 31, 2025. The agreement defines the framework of the collaboration between the ICRC and the CYH.

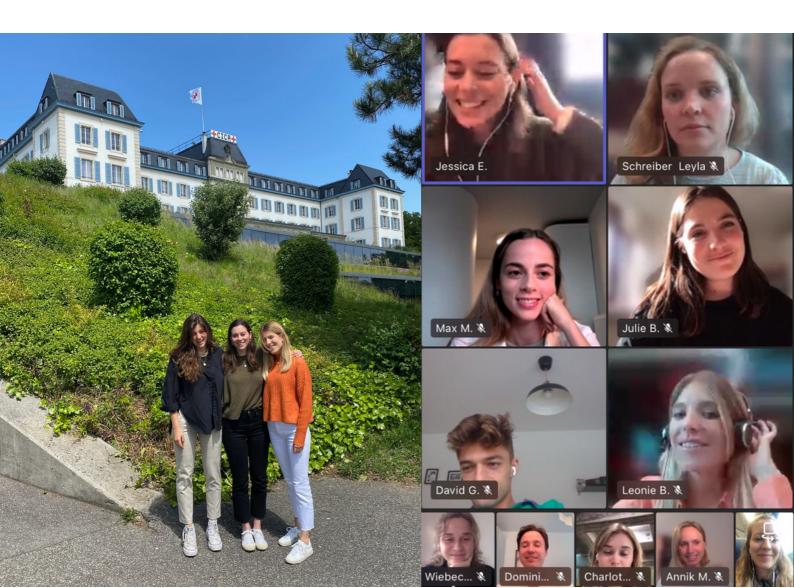
**Logo:** The association updated its logo twice in 2022 to better portray the values and mission of the Circle of Young Humanitarians.



## **Review of 2022**

In 2022, the Circle of Young Humanitarians was busy with a wide range of activities.

In January, the association was officially founded. In February, the armed conflict in Ukraine prompted us to change our plans and conduct our Humanitarian Enrichment Forum earlier than planned: in March, we organized an awareness campaign and hosted our Humanitarian Enrichment forum on the rules of war at the Becozy Hotel. In May, on the World Red Cross Day, we were invited to the ICRC to visit their Museum. In addition, the Circle of Young Humanitarians welcomed new team members, expanding from 10 to 27 members. In the following months, the focus was on onboarding and organizing the next projects. In October, the Circle Weekend brought the entire team together in Ägeri. In November, we organized a Humanitarian Challenge Campaign to raise awareness on the value of energy. Finally, in December, the Circle of Young Humanitarians started its focus-phase to turn the Young Humanitarian Summit into reality in the following year a cooprated with Vinarius to organize a fundraising mulled-wine stand in the heart of Winterthur.



## Humanitarian Enrichment Forum Even Wars Have Rules



Even wars have rules. What does that mean? In March 2022, we hosted our Humanitarian Enrichment Forum on the rules of war in collaboration with ZEAM at the Becozy Hotel in Zurich. The interdisciplinary event featured three guest speakers: Sara Pangrazzi, a PhD student in international law from the University of Zurich; Chris Hanger, an ICRC delegate; and Mariya Green, a Ukrainian citizen residing in Zurich.

During the event, the speakers shared different perspectives on the rules of war: Sara Pangrazzi provided a theoretical introduction to the background and content of international humanitarian law (IHL). Chris Hanger talked about the ICRC's efforts to promote IHL and their operations in armed conflicts. Mariya Green's presentation was more personal, highlighting the importance of the rules of war for individuals affected by armed conflicts as her grandparents are still located in Ukraine and waiting for safe passage.

*Side note:* We are happy that Mariya Green's grandparents safely found refuge first in Switzerland, and later in the UK, after Mariya traveled to Poland to help her grandparents cross the border in February 2023.



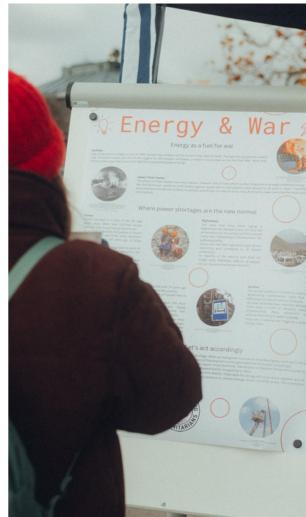
# Civilians must be protected. It's the law

## Humanitarian Challenge Campaign The Value of Energy

In November, the Circle of Young Humanitarians hosted its annual Humanitarian Challenge Campaign at Zurich Bellevue, aiming to raise awareness of the value of energy and its role in survival in armed conflicts, while also promoting energy conservation in our society.

Energy access is a luxury that a substantial portion of the world's population does not have, particularly those affected by armed conflicts. The destruction of electric power grids during conflicts can lead to the collapse of public health, water, and sanitation systems. For example, during the 1991 Gulf War, the majority of deaths were caused by this destruction rather than the direct impact of bombs.

The event featured a tent and an electric bike, on which passersby could ride to power a smoothie maker. Through the use of the electric bike, participants were able to experience the value of energy firsthand. This fun and engaging activity showcased the importance of energy conservation and raised awareness of energy issues in society.





## Many of us take electricity for granted. But not people affected by war.

#### **Fundraising Collabs**

We would like to express our gratitude to partners who have collaborated with us on various projects. In 2022, we especially want to thank Vinarius and THE LOFT for their support: In partnership with Vinarius, we were able to offer delicious "Glühwein" stand in December at Steinberggasse in Winterthur. For every glass sold, the profit was donated to the CYH to support our mission of bridging the humanitarian worlds to the next generation. Thanks to the generosity of Vinarius, we raised 1000 CHF, which went towards making a meaningful difference in the organization of the Young Humanitarian Summit.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to THE LOFT and Laura Heckel for generously providing a private lesson in her studio, the proceeds of which were donated to the CYH. Thank you for your support!

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#GenevaConventions

#### Outreach

In 2022, the Circle of Young Humanitarians had the opportunity to present our organization at several events, spreading awareness about our mission and engaging with young people who share our values.

Julie Basler, Kay von Mérey and Charlotte Walti held our first presentations at the University of St. Gallen and Jessica Eberhart and David Gut at ETH Zurich, where we presented at lunch talks and during various lectures. The board of the Circle of Young Humanitarians was also invited to a workshop hosted by Médecins Sans Frontières to bring in the voice of young people.

Kay von Mérey was invited to share her engagement with the Circle of Young Humanitarians at a seminar about GEN Z strategy organized by ZEAM in collaboration with HWZ University of Applied Sciences in Business Administration Zurich. Leonie Basler presented the Circle at the General Assembly of an associated based in Winterthur and at the family charity event by family Müller. In addition, Jessica Eberhart spoke with the HSG Career Service Center about how students engage outside of university. These events allowed us to showcase our work to different audiences and broaden our reach within the community. We are grateful for these opportunities to showcase our work and connect with other young people who are passionate about humanitarian action.Thank you!



#### **Circle Socials & Circle Days**

In addition to our regular meetings, we also organize a monthly social get-together to strengthen team bonding and to celebrate our achievements. During two Circle weekends a year in spring and fall, we come together to reflect on our progress, plan for the future and have some fun team-building activities. While the 2022 Circle Day Spring Edition was held in "das Provisorium" in Zurich, we spent the weekend of the Fall Edition in Ägeri.





#### **Finances**

In the financial section of our annual report, we present an overview of the Circle of Young Humanitarians' fiscal performance throughout the year. It's important to note that by the end of 2022, we found ourselves in the midst of an ambitious fundraising campaign for our most significant event to date: the Young Humanitarian Summit. We thank all donors and supporters for your continued support.

Total Ausgaben	CHF	-206	
Merch	CHF	-5	
Spesen	CHF		
Administration	CHF		
Spenden Ausgaben	CHF	-	
HumEnr 22 Ausgaben	CHF		
HumCha 22 Ausgaben	CHF	-201	
Total Einnahmen	CHF	32'080	
Sponsoring Einnahmen	CHF	32'080	
Spenden Einnahmen	CHF		
HumEnr 22 Einnahmen	CHF		
HumCha 22 Einnahmen	CHF	-	

4	В	ilanz per	31.12.2022		
Umlaufvermögen			Fremdkapital		
Liquide Mittel Anlagevermögen	CHF	31'874			
			Eigenkapital		
			Vereinsvermögen		-
			Jahresgewinn	CHF	31'874
Total Aktiven	CHF	31'874	Total Passiven	CHF	31'874

## Outlook 2023

The Circle of Young Humanitarians is looking forward to an exciting year ahead in 2023. Our biggest focus will be the first Young Humanitarian Summit that will take place in March. We are also planning to onboard new members in May to start a new Circle year, during which we aim to plan another Humanitarian Enrichment, Humanitarian Challenge, and possibly a second edition of the Young Humanitarian Summit if the first one proves successful.

In addition, we have many other ideas and projects that we hope to develop and bring to fruition in the coming year. As our organization continues to grow and evolve, we aim to expand our reach and influence beyond the region of Zurich. Finally, we are excited to explore new areas of focus beyond events. Stay tuned for more exciting developments from the Circle of Young Humanitarians in 2023!

Thank you!

#### The Circle of Young Humanitarians

