



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross

2026

Voices for Humanity in Conflict Report

Irish Attitudes to the Rules of War



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1. Executive summary

This report presents the first nationally representative research on public knowledge of and attitudes towards International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Ireland. Its central finding is clear: while familiarity with IHL itself is relatively limited, people in Ireland strongly support the values and protections that underpin it. The research examined public awareness of the rules of war, attitudes towards the values that underpin them, and expectations regarding the role of Ireland and the EU in promoting, upholding and enforcing them.

The research identifies a clear gap between knowledge and values. While awareness of specific IHL rules remains limited, support for the protection of civilians, humanitarian access, accountability for violations and limits on the ways in which warfare is conducted is consistently high. Respondents demonstrated strong support for the humanitarian principles at the heart of IHL, even where they are less familiar with the legal framework itself.

At the same time, respondents expressed limited confidence that the rules of war are being respected in today's conflicts. The findings suggest that public concern lies not with the existence of the rules themselves, but

with failures of compliance and enforcement. Respondents strongly supported action by Ireland and the EU to ensure respect for IHL and accountability for serious violations. They expected both Ireland and the EU to take meaningful action in response to violations, even where doing so may carry diplomatic or economic costs.

The survey also found strong support for increased dissemination and education on IHL in Ireland, including through formal education. The findings suggest that the Irish public is not only receptive to learning more about IHL, but actively supports efforts to improve understanding of the rules that govern armed conflict.

Taken together, the findings suggest that respect for IHL is viewed not only as a legal obligation, but as a fundamental humanitarian value that resonates strongly across Irish society. As Ireland exercises leadership during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the research indicates strong public support for protecting civilians, strengthening accountability for violations, expanding education and awareness of IHL, and ensuring that Ireland and the EU continue to champion respect for the rules of war.

Key takeaways



**Strong values,
limited
familiarity**



**Support
for limits in
war**



**Concern
centres on
compliance**



**Support for
action by
Ireland and
EU**



**Meaningful
accountability
matters**



**Support for
greater IHL
dissemination**

Key findings & Recommendations

Key findings

1. People in Ireland support the values underlying IHL, even if they are not familiar with its rules.

While knowledge of specific IHL rules varies, support for core humanitarian protections, including the protection of civilians, humanitarian access and accountability for violations, is consistently high. This suggests that public support for the values underlying IHL extends beyond familiarity with the legal framework itself.

2. People in Ireland believe there should be limits in war.

Respondents strongly supported humanitarian limits on how wars are fought and rejected the idea that military goals should outweigh humanitarian concerns. Protecting civilians and ensuring accountability when rules are broken emerged as clear priorities.

3. People in Ireland believe the rules of war matter, but doubt they are being respected.

While support for IHL is strong, confidence in compliance is low. Respondents viewed violations of IHL primarily as a problem of compliance and enforcement rather than a failure of the rules themselves.

4. Respect for IHL is a value that should shape Ireland's and the EU's role.

People in Ireland support both Ireland and the EU taking an active role in promoting, upholding and ensuring respect for IHL. They expect protection of civilians and humanitarian principles to be reflected in foreign policy and international engagement.

5. People in Ireland want meaningful accountability for violations of IHL.

There is strong support for Ireland and the EU taking action in response to serious violations of IHL, including where action may carry diplomatic or economic costs. Respondents favour accountability measures that go beyond symbolic commitments.

6. There is strong public support for greater dissemination of IHL.

Respondents support increased public awareness and education on IHL, including its integration within formal education. The findings suggest a receptive environment for greater dissemination of IHL in Ireland.



Recommendations

1. Close the knowledge gap – Develop a national awareness campaign on IHL.

Ireland should continue to promote respect for IHL, support civilian protection initiatives and advocate for humanitarian action through bilateral and multilateral engagement.

2. Bring IHL into education – Expand opportunities for IHL learning through second-level & third level education.

The Irish government, educational institutions, civil society organisations, and Irish Red Cross should work together to increase awareness and understanding of IHL through public engagement and formal education initiatives.

3. Strengthen Ireland's leadership – Use Ireland's EU Presidency to advance protection of civilians and respect for IHL.

Ireland should use its Presidency to promote respect for IHL and encourage stronger EU leadership in supporting compliance with IHL both within Member States and internationally.

4. Promote accountability – Continue supporting international mechanisms that ensure accountability for serious violations.

Ireland and the EU should continue to support measures that promote accountability for serious violations of IHL and reinforce compliance with the rules of war.

2. Introduction

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is under increasing pressure in today's global context. There are over 130 active armed conflicts globally today, a figure which has more than doubled in the last 15 years, while humanitarian needs continue to rise¹. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of hostilities, with many conflicts characterised by violence and violations of IHL. At the same time, institutions that are essential to preventing and responding to violations of IHL and ensuring the protection of civilians face mounting challenges, including geopolitical instability, increased polarisation, a retreat from multilateralism, and declining humanitarian funding².

Ireland, as a State Party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the bedrock of modern IHL, has an obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL, and to disseminate knowledge of its rules.

Ireland has long supported the multilateral system, ratifying almost all major IHL treaties, leading on initiatives for disarmament and the protection of civilians, engaging in peacekeeping, and placing respect for IHL as a priority in its foreign policy. Recent conflicts, particularly in Ukraine and the Middle East, have generated much public engagement and debate in Ireland. Previous Dóchas research found that concerns relating to war, conflict and terrorism have become increasingly prominent among the Irish public in 2026³. Yet until now, there has been little evidence on what people in Ireland know about the rules that regulate armed conflict, how familiar they are with IHL, whether they support its principles, or what role they expect Ireland and the European Union (EU) to play in promoting and upholding respect for it.

The timing of this research is particularly significant. Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of

2026 places a renewed focus on the role Ireland can play in shaping discussions in its priority areas of Competitiveness, Values and Security. As issues of preparedness, security and defence increasingly shape the European agenda, understanding the values that people in Ireland wish to see reflected in Ireland's leadership role is important.

This report, presents the first nationally representative research assessing public knowledge of and attitudes towards IHL. It invited the Irish public to reflect on their values regarding IHL, as well as their expectations for Irish and EU responses to armed conflict, security and defence. It examines not only awareness and attitudes towards the rules of war, but also reveals the values that underpin them, including human dignity, protection of civilians, justice, accountability, solidarity and respect for the rule of law.

The main findings are structured into four key areas: (a) knowledge of IHL, (b) attitudes towards warfare, (c) support for promotion and awareness of IHL and (d) expectations regarding the role of Ireland and the EU.

This report is based on public survey research commissioned by Irish Red Cross, with the support of the Dóchas EU Citizenship Engagement sub-grant.

As a National Red Cross Society in Ireland, Irish Red Cross, is mandated to support the state in fulfilling its obligation to disseminate IHL through its auxiliary role to public authorities in the humanitarian field. Further information on IHL is available at redcross.ie/international-humanitarian-law/



¹ ICRC Humanitarian Outlook 2026, A World Succumbing to War. Available at: [LR_4909_002_ICRC_Humanitarian_Outlook_2026_A_World_Succumbing_to_War.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/en/publications/humanitarian-outlook-2026)

² For a more comprehensive view of pressures facing IHL, see ICRC Challenges Report 2024. Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/report/2024-icrc-report-ihl-challenges>

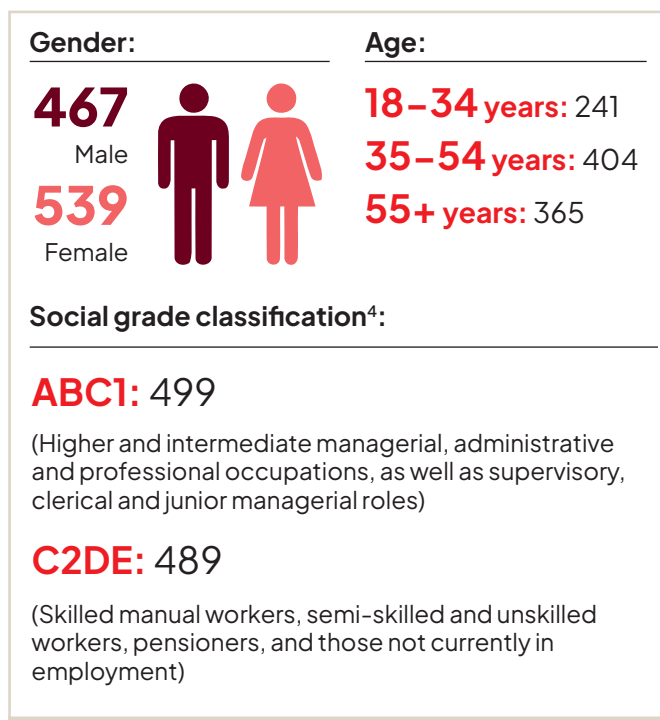
³ Worldview Dóchas Public Engagement Survey 2026, Wave 7. Available at: <https://dochas.ie/resources/worldview/waves/>



3. About the research

Red C Research uses a Panel of over 42,000 adults (18+) living in the Republic of Ireland. Quota controls were applied to ensure the sample was nationally representative of the adult population in the Republic of Ireland. The survey was delivered online as part of Red C Research's Red Line omnibus programme. Fieldwork took place between 24 and 29 July 2026, with a total of 1,010 respondents participating. As with all surveys, the findings represent a snapshot of public opinion at the time the research was conducted.

Survey responses were analysed across a range of demographic variables, including age, gender, region and social grade, to identify any meaningful differences between respondent groups. The respondent profile was as follows:



The full breakdown of survey questions and responses is available in Annex 1.

4. Main findings

4.1 Knowledge of IHL

People in Ireland recognise that rules of war exist, but have limited understanding of what they contain.

Overall, knowledge of IHL remains relatively limited among the Irish public. While 73% of the Irish public are aware that there are international rules and laws that determine what is legal and illegal in war, this awareness is lower than that recorded in Nordic countries that have conducted similar public surveys in 2024 and 2025.

How Irish knowledge of IHL compares with other countries

Are there international rules and laws that determine what is legal and illegal in war?*

Sweden:



Norway:



Finland:



Denmark:



Ireland:

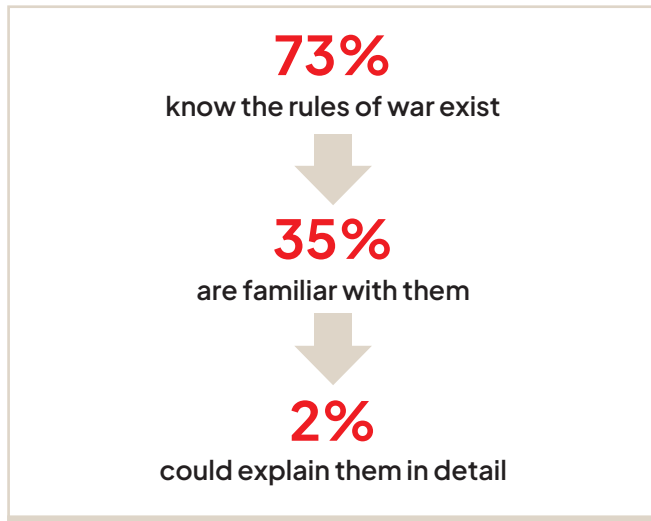


*Question was posed in national language, and as such there may be variance in exact phrasing. In Finland, the question was instead "Have you ever heard of the Geneva Conventions?"

**Figures rounded to nearest whole %

⁴ These are commonly used in market research in Ireland and the UK. These are based on the occupation of the Chief Income Earner in the household and are used as an indicator of socio-economic background.

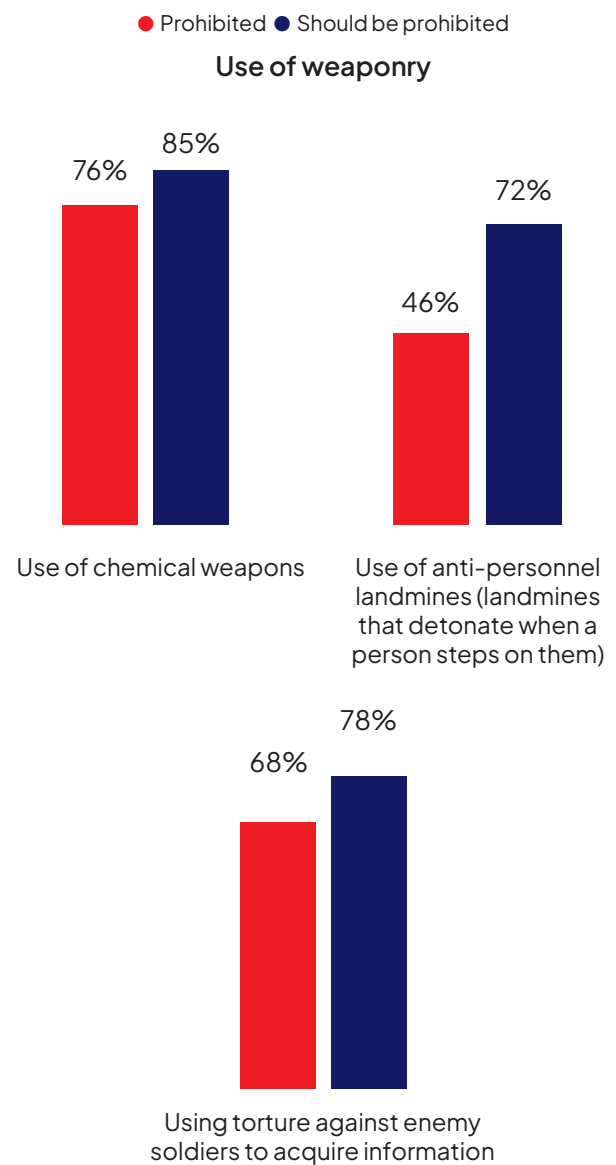
When asked about familiarity with the rules themselves, only 35% reported being familiar and just 2% can explain it in detail. This reveals a significant knowledge gap between a conceptual understanding that IHL exists and actual familiarity with its rules.



Nevertheless, when asked to identify what specific actions are currently prohibited under IHL, most could correctly identify conduct that could widely be recognised as unacceptable. Between 68% and 77% respondents correctly identified acts of sexual violence and rape, the use of chemical weapons, attacks on humanitarian workers, attacks on civilians, denial of humanitarian aid and torture as prohibited.

However, this still leaves one quarter to one third of the public unaware or unsure whether these acts are prohibited. For example, 32% did not identify torture against enemy soldiers for information as prohibited, even though 78% believe it should be. Similarly, 33% did not identify acts of sexual violence or rape as currently prohibited, though 87% believe it should be.

What respondents believe is prohibited today vs what they believe should be prohibited



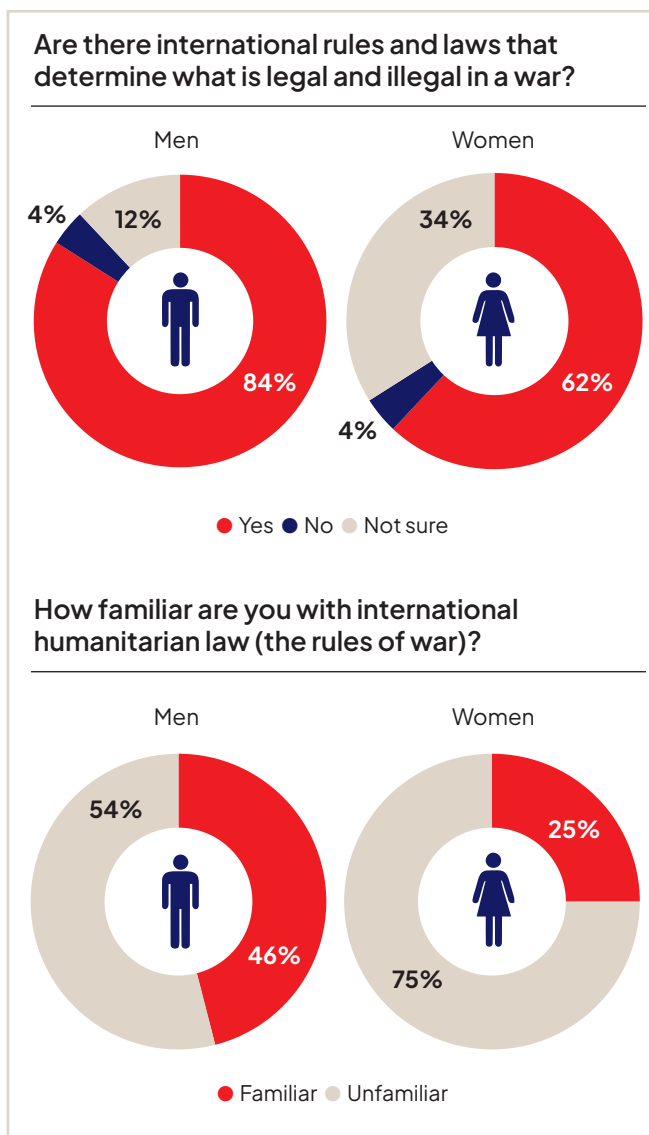
Knowledge about more nuanced aspects of IHL was significantly lower. Less than half identified anti-personnel landmines⁵ (46%) or attacking a military target regardless of civilian casualties (40%) as prohibited under IHL. This suggests that while some people may understand or have correct instincts on some broad prohibitions, there is less awareness of how principles of IHL are applied, such as proportionality, distinction and precaution.

⁵ Anti-personnel mines are explicitly prohibited under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, as ratified by Ireland.



There is a gendered difference in familiarity with IHL.

Results showed a significant gender gap between male and female respondents. Male respondents reported higher awareness of IHL's existence, and rated their familiarity with it significantly higher than female respondents. Male respondents also correctly identified prohibited conduct at consistently higher rates than female respondents. Nevertheless, when asked which conduct should be prohibited, this gender gap disappeared, as was the case for other questions measuring attitudes. In other words, technical knowledge may vary by gender, but foundational support for humanitarian standards remain universally high across Irish society.



There was no significant variance in reports of knowledge or familiarity with IHL across age profiles. However, older cohorts were generally more likely than younger respondents to correctly identify prohibited conduct compared to younger cohorts. For example, 55% of 18–34 year olds identified torture against enemy soldiers to acquire information as prohibited, compared to 79% of respondents aged 55 and over. A somewhat similar pattern emerged when respondents were asked which conduct should be prohibited. While support for IHL prohibitions and protections was high across all age groups, older respondents tended to express stronger support for specific prohibitions. In the example of torture, 73% of 18–34 year olds thought such torture should be prohibited, compared with 87% of those aged 55 and over.

4.2 Emblem

Recognition is strong, but understanding of protected status is limited.

Results from the survey suggest strong recognition of the Red Cross emblem, but more limited understanding of its legal function under International Humanitarian Law. While 88% identified Red Cross organisations as entitled to use the emblem in armed conflict, fewer than half recognised its use by military medical services, and substantial numbers incorrectly believed it could be used by pharmacies (30%) or private humanitarian organisations (38%). This suggests that many people understand the emblem as a symbol associated with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement itself, rather than a protected emblem under IHL. Consistent with the wider findings of this report, awareness of humanitarian concepts and values is strong, but understanding of the legal rules and protections that underpin them remains more limited.

4.3 Attitudes towards warfare

People in Ireland believe that there should be limits in war.

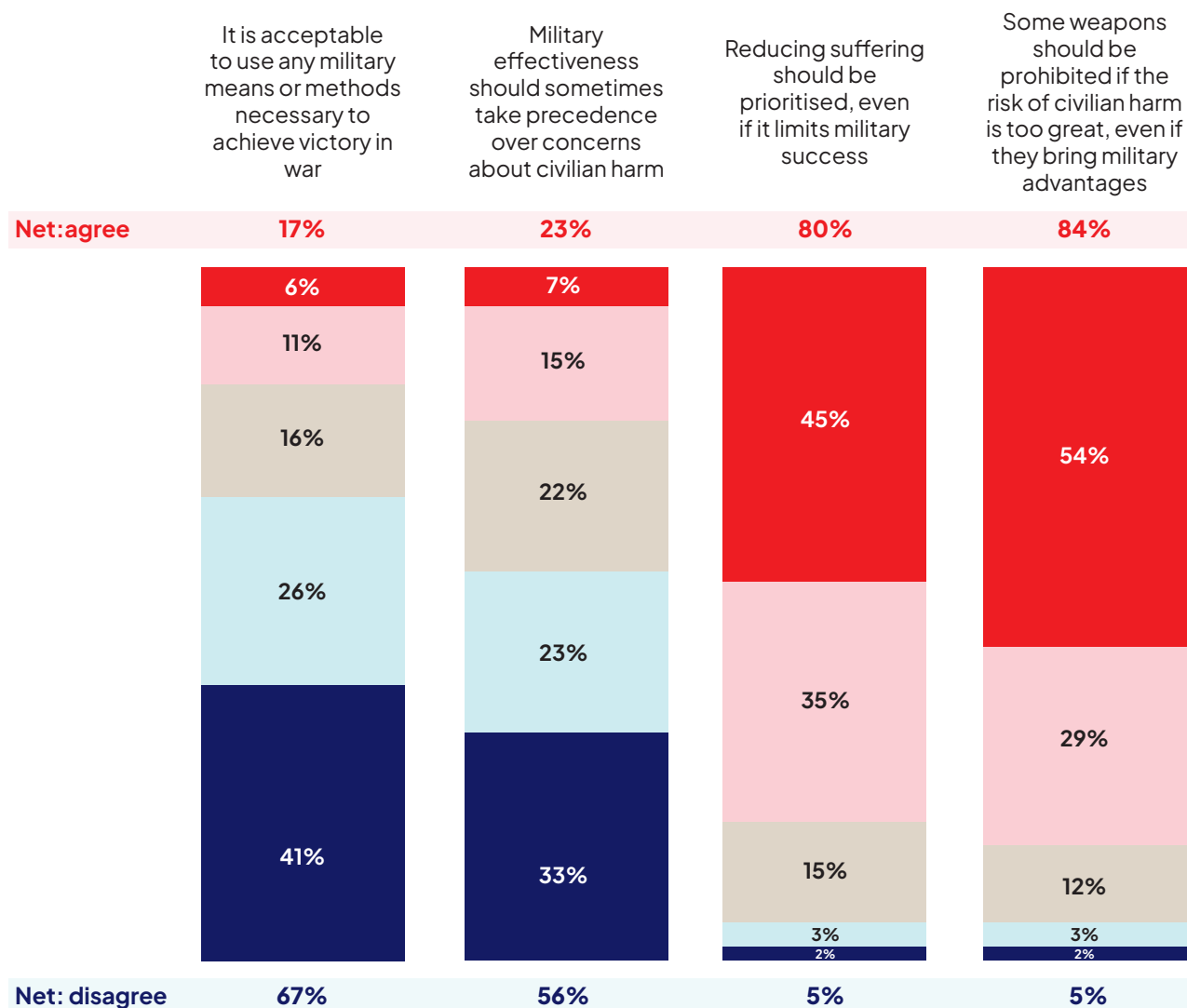
The survey found clear public support for limiting both the means and methods of warfare, and for protecting civilians from war's worst effects. Military objectives are not seen as sufficient justification for unrestricted methods or civilian harm. Two thirds (67%) reject an "any means necessary" approach to warfare, with concern for civilian safety and the provision of humanitarian aid far outweighing concern for military effectiveness and achieving victory in war. 80% agreed that reducing suffering should be prioritised, even

if it limits military success, and most rejected the idea that military effectiveness should sometimes take precedence over concerns about civilian harm.

This belief that there should be limits in war extends to the types of weapons used – the means of warfare. 84% agree that weapons should be restricted where the risk of civilian harm is too great, even if they bring military advantage. When asked about specific weapon categories, respondents believed that chemical weapons (85%), anti-personnel landmines (72%), and autonomous weapon systems (60%) should be prohibited.

Irish public attitudes

● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Don't know ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree





People in Ireland believe the rules of war matter, but doubt they are being followed.

The survey reveals a striking contrast between public confidence in and support for IHL and its principles, and confidence in its implementation. While the majority of respondents support key prohibitions and protections under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), as well as action by Ireland and the EU to promote it, confidence in its compliance is much lower. Less than half of respondents (46%) feel that rules reduce suffering in conflicts around the world, while only 14% feel that the rules are being respected in today's conflicts. Younger people are slightly more optimistic about the impact of IHL, with a steady decline in both belief that IHL reduces suffering and belief that it is being respected as age increases.

Only 14% feel that the rules are being respected in today's conflicts

Taken together, the survey findings suggest that the majority are supportive of IHL itself, but don't believe that it is currently being respected. It suggests recognition of a lack of effectiveness not due to the rules themselves, but their compliance in today's conflicts.

This finding reflects the concern that the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including Irish Red Cross, have been highlighting in recent years: the fundamental challenge today is not a lack of rules, but a lack of respect for them, resulting in suffering in conflicts around the world. It further points to a commonly expressed concern: that non-compliance with IHL negatively affects public confidence in the effectiveness of IHL to reduce suffering.

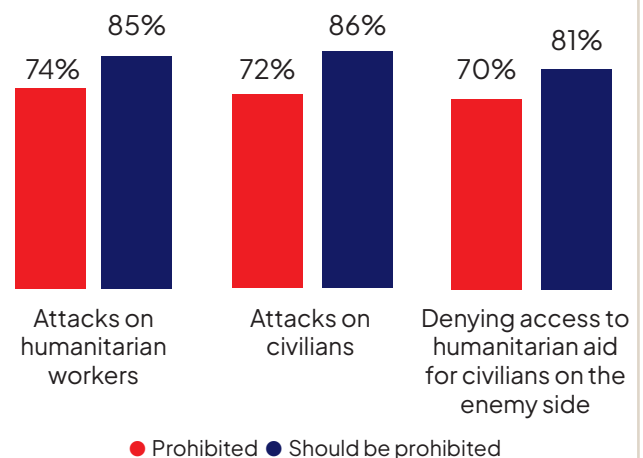
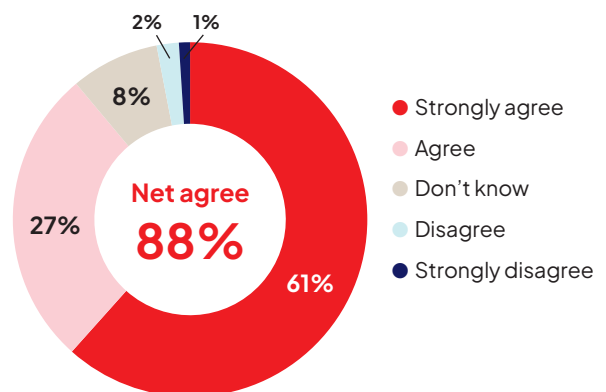
Protection of civilians and safe humanitarian access is a priority amongst the public.

Public attitudes towards warfare are rooted in humanitarian concerns, with protection of civilians arising as the dominant public instinct. Support for civilian protection and humanitarian access is one of the strongest themes arising from the results of the survey.

For example, the importance of the safe passage of humanitarian aid to reach civilians was strongly recognised at 88%. Notably, this includes endorsement for delivering aid to enemy-controlled areas, suggesting strong support for the protection of neutral and impartial humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian & Civilian Protections

Humanitarian aid (such as food, shelter and medical care) should reach all civilians, including enemy-controlled areas, during conflict



There is strong support for the protections which exist in IHL, such as prohibition of attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers. Even if some are not aware that these protections already exist under IHL, they feel strongly that they should. Indeed, the percent who supported prohibiting certain means or methods of warfare was consistently higher than the percent believing that prohibition currently exists. For example, only 23% believe fully autonomous weapon systems to be currently prohibited under IHL, but 60% feel they should be.

4.4 The role of Ireland and the EU

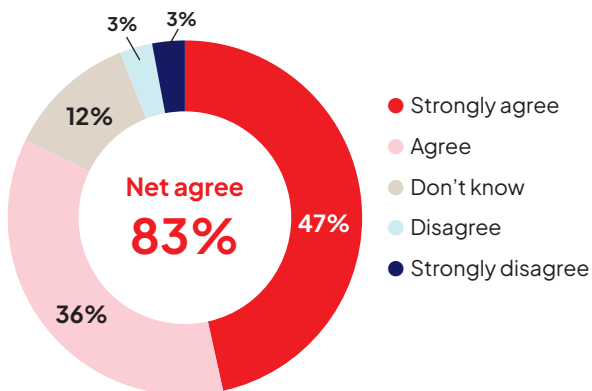
There is a strong public mandate for Ireland and the EU to champion respect for IHL.

The survey reveals a clear public expectation that both Ireland and the European Union should act as champions of IHL. Support for an active Irish role is consistently high across

a range of measures. Between 82% and 83% agree that Ireland should promote respect for IHL, support international agreements and initiatives that strengthen protection for civilians in armed conflict, and consider respect for IHL when developing its diplomatic relations with other countries.

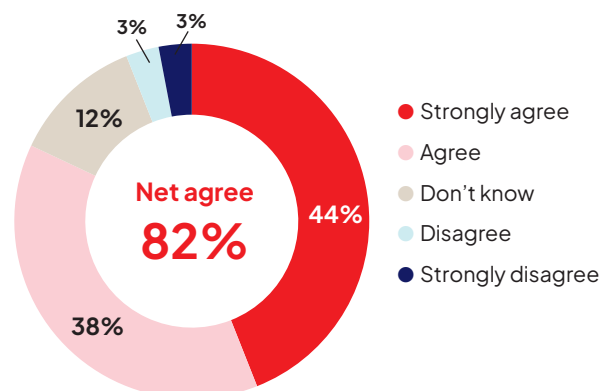
Compliance and Support of IHL

Ireland should support international agreements and initiatives that strengthen the protections for civilians in war



Respect for IHL in International Relations

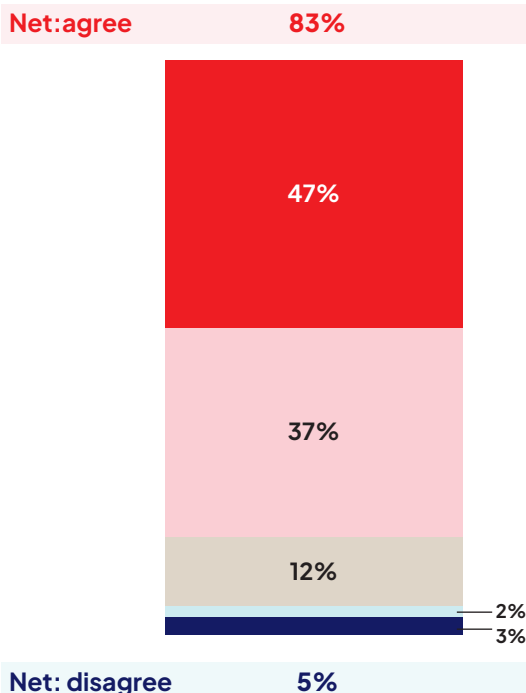
Ireland should take respect for international humanitarian law into account when developing trade and diplomatic relations with other countries



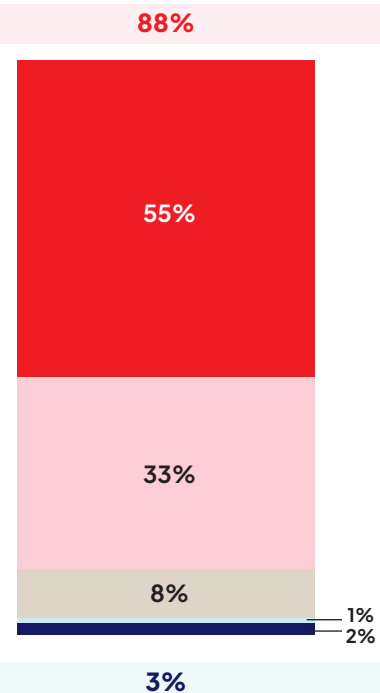
Role of Ireland & EU in Promoting IHL

● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Don't know ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree

Ireland should play a role in promoting respect for international humanitarian law

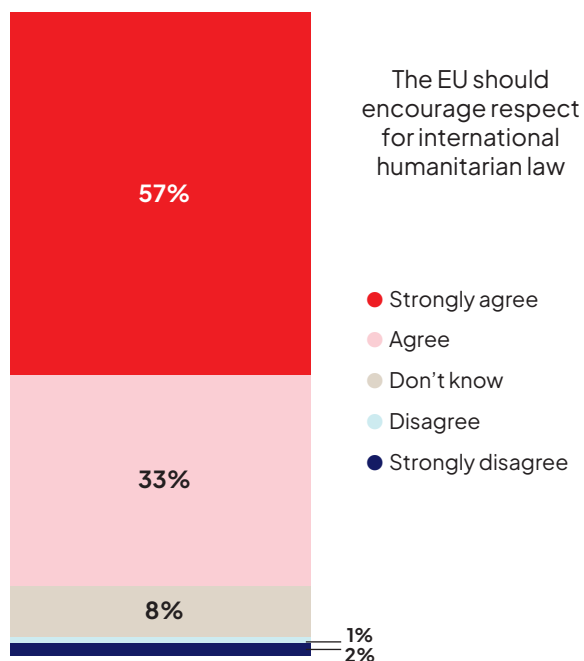


The EU should play a role in promoting respect for international humanitarian law internationally





Role of the EU

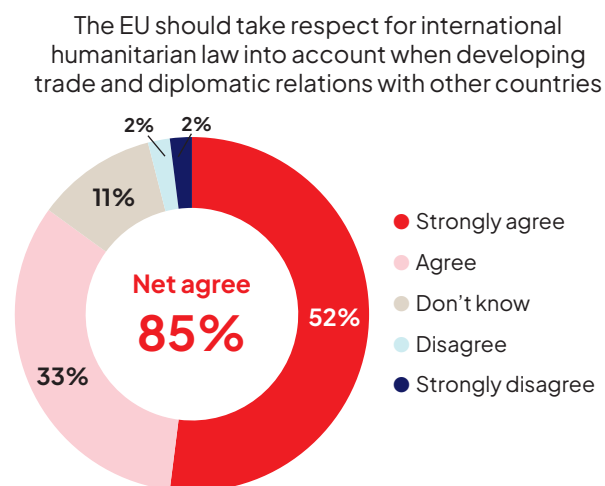
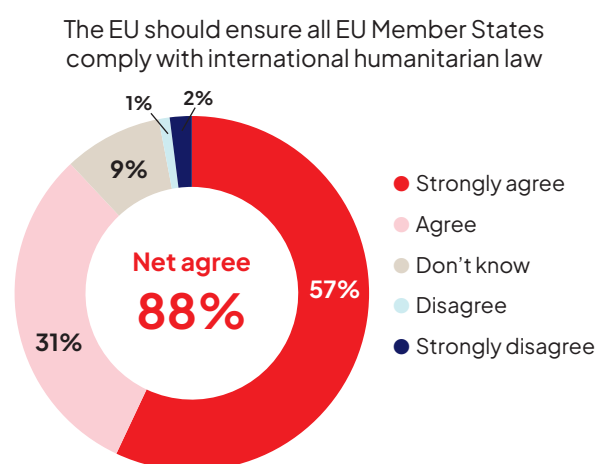


Support for an active EU role in promoting respect for IHL is even stronger: 90% agree that the EU should encourage respect for IHL and 88% believe the EU should play a role in promoting IHL internationally and ensure that all Member States comply with it. 85% believe the EU should consider respect for IHL when developing its diplomatic relations with other countries.

In both cases, it is important to note that less than 5% disagreed with any of the statements put forward. The remainder selected “I don’t know”, which could be a result of the relatively low levels of familiarity with IHL.

This support remains consistently high across all demographics. While older respondents tend to express somewhat stronger support than younger respondents, support for Ireland and the EU in promoting, upholding and enforcing IHL remains above two thirds across every demographic group examined⁶.

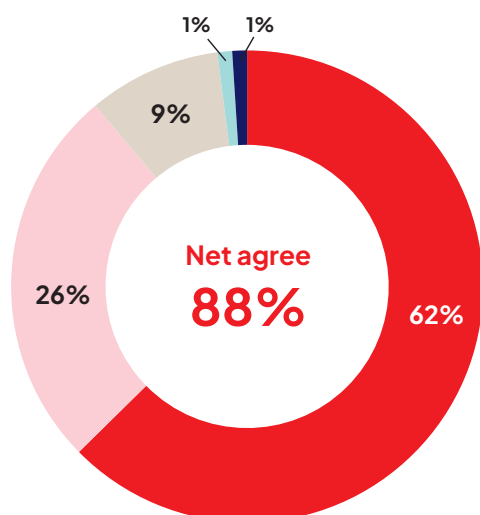
These findings suggest that people in Ireland view respect for IHL not as a niche legal issue, but as a core value that should underpin both Irish foreign policy and the EU’s role in the world. Crucially, the results also indicate that respondents do not view the responsibility for upholding IHL as something that can be delegated solely to the EU; rather, they expect both Ireland and the EU to play active, mutually reinforcing and complementary roles.



⁶ Average range across ages was within 10 percentage points in response to all statements proposed regarding the role of Ireland and the role of the EU (see questions 5 and 6 in Annex.1)

Accountability and Sanctions

People responsible for serious violations of the rules of war should be held accountable, regardless of who they are or which side they are on



● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Don't know
● Disagree ● Strongly disagree

Ireland should take action to hold states or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law to account, **even if it damages their relations**

Net agree 74%

Strongly agree 40%

The EU should support international sanctions against countries or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law

85%

55%

Ireland should take action to hold states or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law to account, **even if it has an economic cost to Ireland**

Net agree 72%

Strongly agree 38%

The EU should be willing to impose sanctions against countries or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law, **even where there are economic costs to the EU**

84%

53%

People in Ireland expect meaningful accountability for violations of IHL by Ireland and the EU.

Public support for IHL extends beyond general promotion and inclusion in foreign policy, to ensuring accountability and enforcement. Most (88%) believe that those responsible for serious violations of the rules of war should be held accountable, regardless of who they are or which side they are on. 71% agree that rules of war should be respected even when the opposing side does not comply with them.

Respondents expressed strong support for Ireland and the EU to take action against states and armed groups that seriously violated IHL, with this remaining the case even where doing so may have diplomatic or economic consequences. 74% agree that Ireland should take action against states or groups that seriously violate IHL even if it damages diplomatic relations, and 72% agree that Ireland should do so even where there is an economic cost to Ireland.

This support is even stronger in relation to EU action, with 84% agreeing that the EU should be willing to impose sanctions against countries or groups that seriously violate IHL, even where there are economic costs to the EU. It is worth noting here that only 4–5% said they disagreed, with the rest (11%) noting that they do not know, which could be a result of a lack of familiarity with IHL, or indeed with its accountability mechanisms and how these would impact Ireland and the EU.

Taken together, these findings demonstrate that the public view respect for IHL is not as a matter of convenience for which there should be symbolic commitment, but rather as a principle that should require meaningful action and accountability, even if doing so may involve diplomatic or economic trade-offs. People in Ireland expect their government and the EU to act and to play an active role in both highlighting IHL and taking measures for accountability.



4.5 Support for promotion and education of IHL

The public actively supports expanded IHL promotion and education by Ireland and the EU.

The survey reveals support for Ireland to provide more information to the public about IHL (84%), and to include IHL in its education curriculum in schools (77%). Most believe Ireland (83%) and the EU (88%) should play a central role in promoting respect for IHL.

This support is consistent across all subgroups, including those who reported little to no familiarity with IHL. This provides an opportunity to close the gap this report identifies between support for IHL and

knowledge of what it contains. Since those familiar and those unfamiliar with IHL are equally supportive of the provision of IHL education, Ireland would find a receptive audience for IHL education.

While support for humanitarian protections is already high even among those unfamiliar with IHL, familiarity is associated with stronger support for specific prohibitions. For example, in relation to attacks on civilians (91% amongst familiar compared to 84% amongst unfamiliar), sexual violence (91% vs. 85%), and torture (84% vs. 75%). These findings suggest that providing better information and education about IHL can not only increase knowledge levels, but increase support for the rules of IHL.



84%

want more
information
about IHL



77%

support
teaching IHL
in schools



65%

unfamiliar
with IHL

Annex 1. Survey results

Q1. To the best of your knowledge, are there international rules and laws that determine what is legal and illegal in a war?

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18–34	NET: 35–54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
Yes	73%	84%	62%	72%	70%	77%	80%	66%
No	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	1%	3%	4%
Not sure	23%	12%	34%	24%	24%	22%	16%	30%

Q2. Which of the following actions, methods and weapons do you think are currently prohibited in war?

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18–34	NET: 35–54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
Acts of sexual violence or rape against anyone	77%	84%	70%	70%	74%	87%	84%	72%
Use of chemical weapons	76%	85%	67%	64%	77%	83%	78%	74%
Attacks on humanitarian workers	74%	85%	63%	65%	72%	84%	81%	69%
Attacks on civilians	72%	86%	59%	67%	71%	77%	77%	70%
Denying access to humanitarian aid for civilians on the enemy side	70%	80%	60%	59%	71%	78%	76%	66%
Using torture against enemy soldiers to acquire information	68%	77%	59%	55%	68%	79%	74%	63%
Use of anti-personnel landmines (landmines that detonate when a person steps on them)	46%	49%	42%	36%	45%	53%	49%	43%
Attacking a military target regardless of civilian casualties	40%	48%	34%	37%	40%	43%	42%	39%
Use of fully autonomous weapon systems e.g. drones, robots which operate without human intervention	23%	23%	24%	27%	21%	22%	25%	22%
Attacks on soldiers who are actively fighting	16%	13%	18%	16%	14%	17%	15%	17%
Don't know	21%	14%	28%	24%	21%	19%	19%	23%

**Q3. Which of the following actions, methods and weapons do you think should be prohibited in war?**

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18–34	NET: 35–54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
Acts of sexual violence or rape against anyone	87%	88%	87%	84%	86%	90%	90%	85%
Attacks on civilians	86%	87%	85%	86%	84%	89%	90%	83%
Attacks on humanitarian workers	85%	86%	85%	84%	82%	89%	88%	82%
Use of chemical weapons	85%	85%	85%	79%	83%	91%	88%	83%
Denying access to humanitarian aid for civilians on the enemy side	81%	82%	81%	79%	79%	86%	87%	77%
Using torture against enemy soldiers to acquire information	78%	76%	80%	73%	74%	87%	81%	76%
Use of anti-personnel landmines (landmines that detonate when a person steps on them)	72%	68%	76%	64%	70%	79%	75%	68%
Attacking a military target regardless of civilian casualties	69%	65%	73%	67%	67%	73%	73%	66%
Use of fully autonomous weapon systems e.g. drones, robots which operate without human intervention	60%	51%	68%	62%	58%	60%	62%	57%
Attacks on soldiers who are actively fighting	44%	32%	56%	45%	41%	46%	41%	46%
Don't know	39%	29%	49%	38%	38%	41%	36%	42%

Q4. How familiar are you with international humanitarian law (the rules of war)?

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18–34	NET: 35–54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
NET: Familiar	35%	46%	25%	34%	33%	39%	38%	33%
NET: Unfamiliar	65%	54%	75%	66%	67%	61%	62%	67%

Q5. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following about how far Ireland should go to ensure respect for international humanitarian law around the world

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18–34	NET: 35–54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
Ireland should play a role in promoting respect for international humanitarian law	83%	85%	82%	81%	80%	89%	86%	82%
Ireland should provide more information to the Irish public about international humanitarian law	84%	84%	84%	82%	80%	89%	83%	84%
Ireland should include international humanitarian law in its education curriculum in schools	77%	77%	76%	81%	72%	79%	78%	76%
Ireland should support international agreements and initiatives that strengthen the protections for civilians in war	83%	86%	79%	82%	79%	88%	84%	81%
Ireland should take respect for international humanitarian law into account when developing trade and diplomatic relations with other countries	82%	85%	79%	81%	77%	88%	86%	79%
Ireland should take action to hold states or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law to account, even if it damages their relations	74%	78%	71%	71%	71%	81%	76%	74%
Ireland should take action to hold states or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law to account, even if it has an economic cost to Ireland	72%	77%	66%	72%	68%	76%	74%	72%


Q6. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following about the role of the EU to ensure respect for international humanitarian law around the world

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18-34	NET: 35-54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
The EU should play a role in promoting respect for international humanitarian law internationally	88%	91%	86%	87%	85%	93%	90%	85%
The EU should encourage respect for international humanitarian law	90%	92%	87%	89%	87%	94%	92%	87%
The EU should ensure all EU Member States comply with international humanitarian law	88%	90%	86%	87%	84%	93%	91%	84%
The EU should take respect for international humanitarian law into account when developing trade and diplomatic relations with other countries	85%	87%	82%	84%	80%	91%	88%	81%
The EU should support international sanctions against countries or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law	85%	88%	82%	84%	81%	90%	88%	83%
The EU should be willing to impose sanctions against countries or groups that seriously violate international humanitarian law, even where there are economic costs to the EU	84%	87%	82%	84%	79%	91%	87%	82%

Q7. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18–34	NET: 35–54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
The rules of war are respected in today's conflicts	14%	15%	12%	18%	15%	8%	11%	16%
The rules of war reduce suffering in conflicts around the world	46%	51%	43%	54%	46%	41%	51%	45%
It is acceptable to use any military means or methods necessary to achieve victory in war	17%	23%	12%	21%	21%	11%	16%	20%
Humanitarian aid (such as food, shelter and medical care) should reach all civilians, including enemy-controlled areas, during conflict	88%	88%	89%	87%	87%	92%	91%	86%
Reducing suffering should be prioritised, even if it limits military success	80%	80%	81%	79%	77%	85%	83%	79%
The rules of war should be respected, even if the other side does not follow them	71%	73%	69%	62%	70%	79%	74%	70%
Military effectiveness should sometimes take precedence over concerns about civilian harm	23%	26%	19%	28%	26%	15%	21%	25%
People responsible for serious violations of the rules of war should be held accountable, regardless of who they are or which side they are on	88%	89%	88%	83%	87%	94%	90%	87%
Some weapons should be prohibited if the risk of civilian harm is too great, even if they bring military advantages	84%	84%	83%	82%	82%	86%	85%	84%


Q8. Which of the following actors do you think have the right to use the symbol of a red cross on a white background in a war situation?

	Total	Male	Female	NET: 18–34	NET: 35–54	NET: 55+	NET: ABC1	NET: C2DE
Base	1010	467	539	241	404	365	499	489
Red Cross organisations	88%	89%	86%	80%	88%	94%	90%	87%
Ambulances operated by armed forces	45%	46%	44%	38%	35%	61%	47%	43%
Hospitals operated by armed forces	44%	45%	44%	37%	35%	61%	46%	43%
Doctors employed by armed forces	42%	43%	41%	36%	34%	57%	44%	43%
Civilian Health clinics	39%	36%	41%	29%	34%	52%	39%	39%
Private organisations providing humanitarian aid	38%	37%	38%	28%	31%	53%	38%	39%
Pharmacies	30%	27%	33%	24%	25%	40%	30%	30%
Companies selling medical equipment	14%	11%	17%	10%	11%	21%	13%	16%
None of these	1%	0	1%	1%	1%	1%	0	1%
Don't know	7%	6%	8%	8%	8%	4%	5%	7%



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross