

WALTER AND JUDITH PINTO GOLD MEDAL & SCHOLARSHIP

For the best essay in PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

(For the Year III Students of 2023/2024 Academic Year)

This competition is open to **third year students of the academic year 2024 (2023/2024 batch)**

The essay may be written in any one of the three languages (Sinhala, Tamil or English) and should not exceed 6,000 words¹. It must be word-processed (1.5 spacing) and bound with the attached cover page and handed over to the Department of Public and International Law; also send an e-copy to pil@law.cmb.ac.lk. The submission should include cover page with the title of the essay, the theme for the essay and student registration number and contact phone number (please see the example cover page).

THE CLOSING DATE IS 30th of July 2025.

Please consult the Head, Department of Public and International Law or the three teachers of Public International Law for any further information.

THEME FOR THE ESSAY:

‘Armed conflicts have been an inevitable part of human history, manifesting in various forms such as invasionary wars, freedom struggles, the exercise of the right to self-determination, and humanitarian interventions. While narrow exceptions exist within the framework of international law, these conflicts continue to raise complex legal and ethical questions. The United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly share the responsibility of maintaining global peace and security.

However, criticisms are frequently directed at the veto power exercised by permanent members of the Security Council, often overshadowing the collective responsibility of the broader international community, particularly through the General Assembly. Despite its potential role in addressing violations of the UN Charter, the General Assembly’s effectiveness remains a topic of limited discussion.’

In this context, examine instances where UN Charter provisions have been violated and analyze the role played by key UN organs, with a specific focus on the Security Council and the General Assembly. Your discussion should be supported by relevant legal authorities, practical examples, and an international law perspective.

¹ The word count is not applicable to the footnotes or annexures. Students are advised to use footnotes and follow the OSCOLA citation style. A list of references should be attached

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