



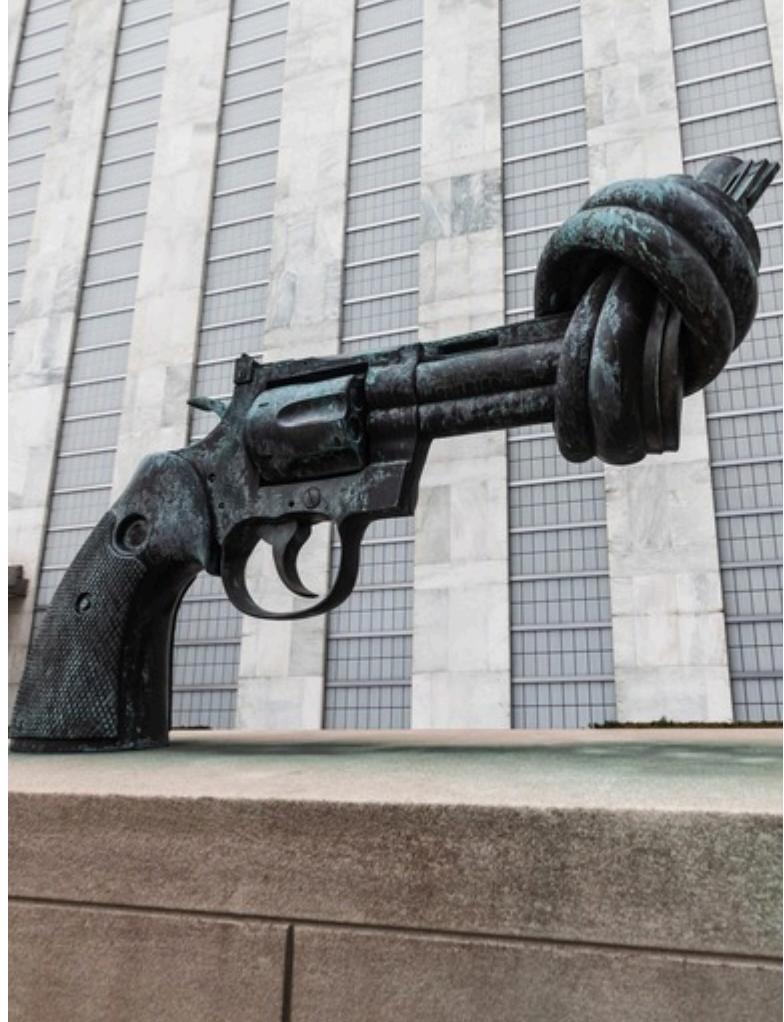
HACK FOR HUMANITY

2025 SUMMARY REPORT

ABOUT

2 DAYS
5+ SUBTOPICS
52 PARTICIPANTS
12 TEAMS
5 MENTORS
\$3,000 SEED GRANT

THEME: GLOBAL GUN VIOLENCE



This year's competition will focus on the theme of global gun violence, which encompasses the wide-ranging effects of firearm-related harm around the world—and alarmingly, it is on the rise. According to Amnesty International, more than 600 people die every day from firearms globally. Many scholars now regard global gun violence as a public health crisis, as it disproportionately affects minority groups, worsens the mental health crisis, and sustains high rates of morbidity.

Students considered various subtopics such as:

- Illicit Gun Trade and Arms Trafficking
- Armed Conflict and Gang Violence
- Youth, Schools, and Education
- Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence
- Mass Violence and Extremism

Student teams worked together over the course of two days to develop creative ideas for innovative programs, systems, or technologies that address the urgent challenge of global gun violence .

KEYNOTE LECTURE



León Castellanos-Jankiewicz is an international law scholar who specializes in arms trade and human rights. He is a Senior Researcher at the Asser Institute for International and European Law in The Hague, where he regularly advises governments on arms export policies, and has extensive experience with projects involving interdisciplinary research, multistakeholder engagement and advocacy.



His work focuses on identifying legal safeguards and risk mitigation strategies that can prevent wrongful weapons transfers from threatening human lives and the environment. He teaches international law at the University of Amsterdam, where he also supervises the International Law Clinic on Access to Justice for Gun Violence.

MENTORS

SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONER ADVISORS



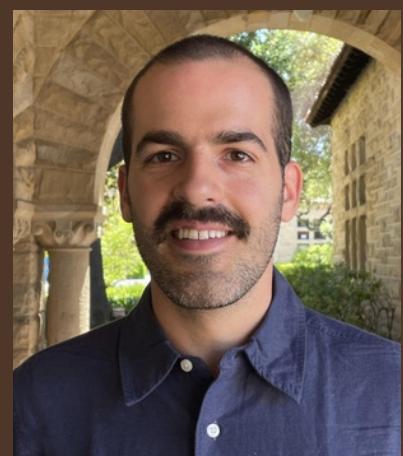
IEVA JUSONYTE

Director, Center for Human Rights
and Humanitarian Studies



ADAM C. LEVINE

Associate Dean of Global Health
Equity, Warren Alpert Medical School



ESTEBAN SALMÓN

Postdoctoral Research Associate,
Watson School of International and
Public Affairs



KATE BIRKBECK

Postdoctoral Research Associate,
Watson School of International and
Public Affairs



MELISSA CARDEN

Former Executive Director, Rhode
Island Coalition Against Gun Violence

We had five mentors who were invaluable resources helping the teams workshop and transform their ideas into their final projects, with actionable and ambitious yet accomplishable goals. Each team met with at least one mentor, and many met with two or more. Each mentor had expertise in some area of global gun violence or related topics. Mentors helped the teams understand more deeply the issues and challenges students were dealing with. We are deeply grateful to our wonderful mentors for making Hack for Humanity 2025 a success!

DAY ONE

After León Castellanos-Jankiewicz' keynote presentation, students broke out into their twelve teams to brainstorm. Teams spent the morning engaging their creativity to imagine novel solutions to one of global human security's perpetual challenges.

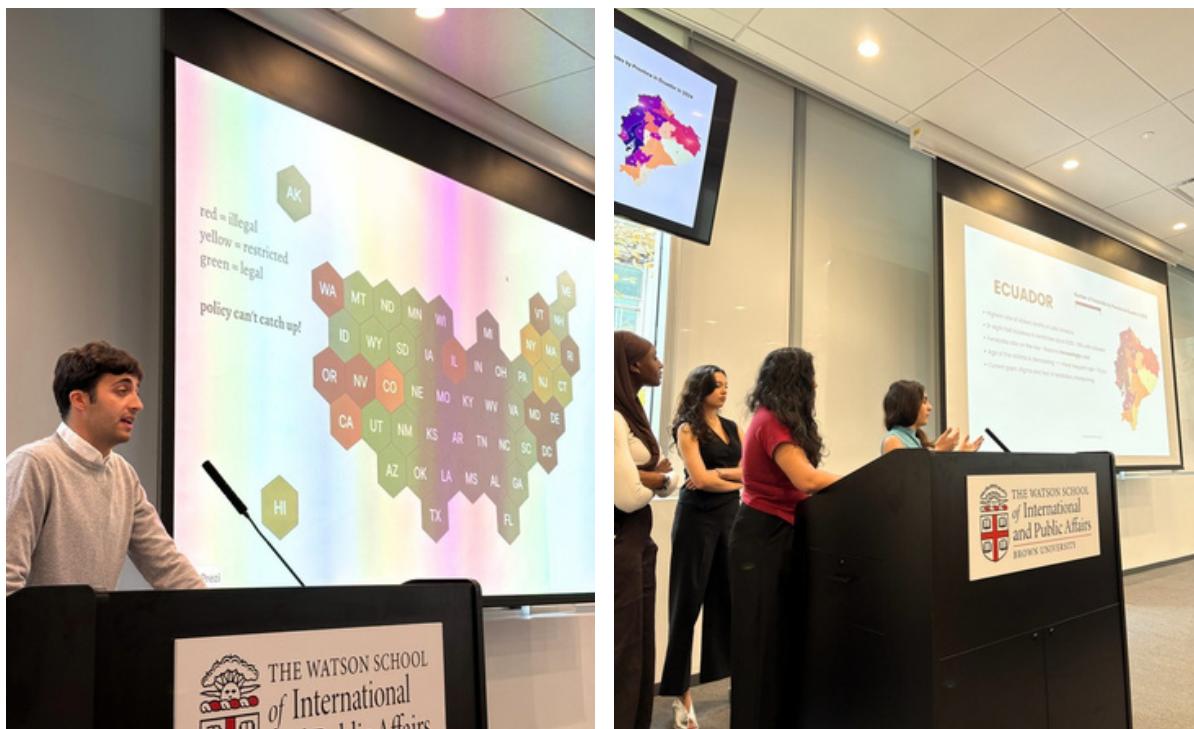


In the afternoon, the teams narrowed down their ideas and met with their mentors for insight and advice. The teams spent the remainder of the day doing further research and problem-solving to determine the details of their proposal. They ultimately finalized their research through the development of pitch presentations.



DAY TWO

PITCH PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS



PITCH PRESENTATIONS

FEATURING 10 STUDENT TEAMS

Twelve student teams composed of over 52 students in total spent a weekend designing solutions to global gun violence.

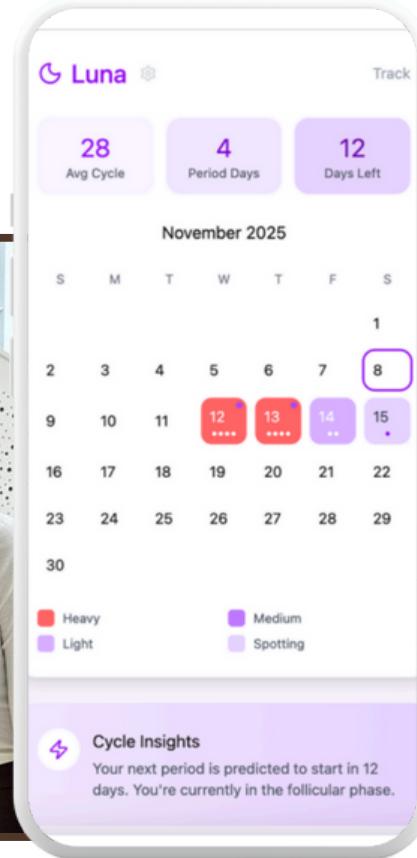
Each student team capped their weekend by giving a pitch presentation of their proposal. Our panel of judges evaluated each project for its design, potential, and ability to be implemented with the \$3,000 seed grant.

1ST PLACE: Luna

A safety-tracking app to prevent gun-related femicides in Ecuador

MISSION

Connect women at risk of gun violence in Portoviejo, Ecuador, to resources in a secure way that minimizes stigma and retaliation.



PITCH PRESENTATIONS

RUNNERS UP

Ghostbusters

An innovative software tool that uses pattern recognition to flag high-risk 3D-printing designs associated with ghost guns.

Stop the Spiral

A domestic violence education program for children in Rhode Island

ALL OTHER TEAMS:

Camino Claro

Addressing gun violence in Honduras through tracking and reporting programs

Protecting Two

Reducing firearm violence against pregnant women through implementing screening protocols in standard prenatal appointments and connecting women at risk with local support services.

Focus for Firearms

Partnering with local organizations to provide cities with community-driven solutions

Allwave

Guns and Gender-based violence following the Libyan Civil War

Addressing Environmental Gun Violence in the Niger Delta

An aqua-revival approach to disincentivise oil militants from attacking oil pipelines.

SafeArms Kosovo

Using digital vouchers to connect community wellbeing with safe firearm registration

Harbor

Mobile app and social program addressing suicide by firearm in rural communities

Pathways to Peace

Preventing militia recruitment of vulnerable boys in Goma, DRC

Alba

Connecting domestic violence victims with a network of support for legal and emotional violence



THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for our generous support from the Hearst Foundation and the Watson School for International and Public Affairs. We would also like to thank all of our wonderful keynote speaker, mentors, and judges for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience. Finally, a hearty congratulations to all of our participants, good work! See you next year!

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