

## **CJC Students Participate in Human Rights symposium in Poland**

Abigail and Sadie, studying abroad at the John Felice Rome Center (JFRC) in Fall 2025, travelled to Poland at the time of the conference along with four other Loyola students. The topic of the conference, “Democracy in Crisis: Authoritarian Rule and Its Impact on Human Rights and the Rule of Law,” really spoke to the CJC senior majors.

About the experience, Abigail writes, “Listening to candid discussions and presentations about international disinformation, judicial pressure, and democratic erosion further grounded me in my aspirations to pursue a career in law committed to protecting democratic institutions and advancing justice.” She added that the experience “reminded me that democracy is not self-sustaining; it depends on people willing to question, participate, and act. I returned with a deeper awareness of both the vulnerability of democratic institutions and my own responsibility to approach questions of justice with intention.”

Sadie further elaborated on the experience. “Prior to attending the panel events in Warsaw, we stayed in Krakow, where we learned about Polish culture and history. This included a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, where later conversations about the dangers of fascism raised during the panels took on a physical form.” She went on to add, “... the panels offered moments of clarity and hope. Listening to election observers and mutual aid organizers made it clear that meaningful change is possible when communities act in solidarity with one another. I came back to Chicago not only more informed about global events, but also more aware of the role I feel compelled to play in addressing them.”

Opportunities such as this symposium are an excellent example of Loyola’s effort to enhance its international footprint and provide students a chance to immerse themselves in a real-world application of Loyola’s mission. Congratulations to both Abigail and Sadie for being selected for the trip and for representing CJC with pride!

For more information, see <https://wnpism.uw.edu.pl/en/report-from-the-conference-democracy-in-crisis-authoritarian-rule-and-its-impact-on-human-rights-and-the-rule-of-law/>



\*In the picture, Sadie is the left and Abigail is on the right.



\*In the picture, Sadie is second from left and Abigail is second from the right.