



THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

The Red Cross is based on seven principles shared by all Red Crescent and Red Cross societies around the world:

Humanity

The Red Cross, born out of a desire to bring impartial aid to the wounded on the battlefield, seeks—both nationally and internationally—to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being, as well as to promote mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation, and lasting peace among all peoples.

Impartiality

The Red Cross provides aid without discrimination based on nationality, race, religion, belief, class, or political opinion. It strives to relieve suffering solely according to needs and to prioritize those in the most urgent distress.

Neutrality

In order to maintain the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious, or ideological nature.

Independence

The Red Cross is independent. National Red Cross societies assist their governments in humanitarian work and must adhere to the laws of their respective countries, but they must always maintain autonomy so that they can act in accordance with Red Cross principles at all times.

Voluntary Service

The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organization not prompted in any manner by desire for financial gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross society in each country. It must be open to all and carry out its humanitarian work throughout the entire territory.

Universality

The Red Cross is a worldwide movement in which all national societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping one another.