

RED CROSS PRINCIPLES

(Amended Text Submitted by the Soviet Delegation)

HUMANITY

The Red Cross born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours in its international and national capacity 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

PEACELOVING CHARACTER

The Red Cross is an ardent champion of peace. It has profound and lasting abhorrence of wars which always produce a very large number of victims and provoke great suffering,

The aim of the International Red Cross is to promote understanding, friendship and mutual cooperation amongst peoples, it opposes recourse to arms as a solution for problems giving rise to disagreements and is in favour of the adoption of a resolution on disarmament providing more especially for the prohibition of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction.

IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to prevent and relieve suffering giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

NEUTRALITY

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

INDEPENDENCE

The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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

UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

UNIVERSALITY

The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.