The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent: Health Care in Danger

The disruption of health-care services by violence – directly and indirectly – has become alarming common throughout the world. Health-care providers have been attacked, patients discriminated against, ambulances held up at checkpoints, hospitals burned, medical supplies looted, and entire communities cut off from essential services.

WHAT STATES CAN DO

Adopt domestic legislation that protects patients, health-care personnel and facilities, and medical vehicles; such legislation should cover the proper use of the distinctive emblems as well as protection for them.

Collect and analyse data on incidents of violence against the provision of health care.

Immediately investigate incidents of violence against the provision of health care and punish those responsible.

Armed forces and security forces should incorporate, in the planning and conduct of their operations, practical measures to ensure protection for the provision of health care and for the wounded and sick.

Implement measures to increase acceptance for their staff and volunteers, and to secure their safety, including ensuring respect for the Movement’s Fundamental Principles.

Raise awareness of the proper use of the emblems and the duty to respect them.

WHAT THE HEALTH-CARE COMMUNITY CAN DO

Train health-care personnel in their rights and responsibilities.

Promote the use of the Ethical Principles of Health Care in Times of Armed Conflict and Other Emergencies within the community and among other actors concerned at regional and national levels.

Improve preparedness, safety and security of health-care personnel, facilities and medical transport.

Collaborate more actively at national level with other stakeholders involved in the HCiD initiative.

WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN DO

Volunteer for their National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.

Take a first aid course.

WHAT NATIONAL SOCIETIES CAN DO

Implement measures to increase acceptance for their staff and volunteers, and to secure their safety, including ensuring respect for the Movement’s Fundamental Principles.

Raise awareness of the proper use of the emblems and the duty to respect them.

Involve authorities, the health-care community, academia and other stakeholders to raise awareness, in the conduct of training and in developing and implementing measures to protect the provision of health care.

Share experiences and good practices across the Movement and with the health-care community.

Collect and analyse data on incidents of violence against the provision of health care, and lobby authorities to expand protection for the delivery of health care.

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