Sexual and gender-based violence and violence against health-care personnel and facilities, and against humanitarian volunteers, have become alarmingly common features of armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies. The consequences for victims, and for their families and communities, are extremely serious.

There is an urgent need to formulate measures to address these humanitarian issues, and to develop international legal frameworks to strengthen preparedness for disasters and protection for people deprived of their liberty. These matters were tackled by the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which was held in December 2015 in Geneva.

What happens next?

After the International Conference, members interpret the resolutions according to their context and seek to fulfil the voluntary and concrete commitments they made in the form of pledges.

The impact of this international conference will be assessed and reported to the next international conference in 2019.