

Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

8 December 2019, Geneva



**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland
8 December 2019

**Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross
and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025**

Draft zero resolution

Document prepared by

**The International Committee of the Red Cross in cooperation with the other members
of the RFL Leadership Platform and the RFL Strategy Implementation Group (28
National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies)**

Geneva, July 2019

DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION

Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025

The Council of Delegates,

deeply concerned about the suffering endured by those who have lost contact with, have no news of or are separated from their loved ones as a consequence of armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies as well as in the context of migration,

stressing the importance of clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, *highlighting* in this regard the right of families to know the fate and whereabouts of their relatives, as provided by international humanitarian law (IHL), and *recalling* other relevant international obligations, as applicable,

further stressing the importance of restoring contact between separated family members and *recalling* other relevant obligations, including international humanitarian law obligations, as applicable, to facilitate, in every possible way, the reunion of families dispersed as a result of armed conflict and to allow for the exchange of family news,

recalling the respective mandates of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement), based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, the Statutes of the Movement and resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, including the role of the Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the auxiliary role of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) in providing support to their respective public authorities in the humanitarian field,

recalling the Restoring Family Links (RFL) Strategy 2008–2018 adopted in Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates in 2007¹ and *noting with satisfaction* the achievements made during the course of its implementation, while *recognizing* that further efforts are required to strengthen the capacity of the Family Links Network to assist people who are without news of or separated from members of their families,

recalling the RFL resolution adopted at the 2017 Council of Delegates² and the Background report which outlined the preliminary main orientations of the new draft RFL Strategy, *expressing appreciation* for the efforts and commitment of the ICRC and the RFL Strategy Implementation Group in developing the RFL Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025 and *recalling* the Global Strategy on Migration³ adopted by the 2017 General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation),

1. *adopts* the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025;

¹ <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/0967-restoring-family-links-strategy>.

² <http://rcrcconference.org/resolutions-and-reports-cod-2017/>.

³ https://media.ifrc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/12/IFRC_StrategyOnMigration_EN_20171222.pdf.

2. *calls upon* all National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation to:
 - a. promote knowledge and understanding of this Strategy at all levels of their respective organizations,
 - b. implement the measures outlined in this Strategy as part of their organizational strategies and plans at national, regional and international level, and
 - c. allocate the necessary resources to carry them out;
3. *encourages* the ICRC and the International Federation to enhance their cooperation with a view to supporting National Societies in their efforts to implement the Strategy and *encourages* National Societies to establish partnerships to support each other in building their RFL capacity;
4. *requests* the components of the Movement to bring the RFL Strategy to the attention of the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent with a view, in particular, to encouraging member States to support the RFL activities carried out by the Movement, including in aspects related to data protection;
5. *invites* the ICRC to continue to chair the RFL Strategy Implementation Group for the purpose of supporting and monitoring the implementation of the RFL Strategy;
6. *commends* the work undertaken by the RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection⁴ Application Group, *encourages* it to continue to support the application of the Code and *calls upon* the components of the Movement to provide expertise and resources for this process, including a dedicated resource to assist National Societies with implementing the RFL Code of Conduct;
7. *commends* the establishment of the RFL Leadership Platform and *invites* it to continue to address critical issues for the future of RFL services, to steer the implementation of the RFL Strategy and to encourage other leaders in the Movement to champion the RFL Strategy 2020–2025;
8. *invites* the components of the Movement to report to the 2023 Council of Delegates on the results achieved through the implementation of the RFL Strategy 2020–2025 and the RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection.

Restoring Family Links Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025

The draft text of the Strategy is to be included in the draft resolution.

⁴ RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection, 2015, <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/rfl-code-conduct>.