

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

Movement restoring family links medal

Draft elements of resolution

**Document prepared by
the RFL Leadership Platform
in cooperation with the RFL Strategy Implementation Group**

Geneva, March 2021

Background

The draft elements of the proposed resolution on the Movement restoring family links (RFL) medal seek to provide an outline of the possible substance of individual paragraphs, without providing a definitive draft text.

Each paragraph is followed by a rationale explaining why it would be useful to include such a paragraph in the resolution.

This document is being shared for consultation with the members of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in order to gather a first round of comments and feedback, and to gain an initial understanding of whether the proposed approach would be acceptable and garner consensus.

When providing comments and feedback on this document, please consider the following questions:

- Do you agree with the proposed elements for the preambular and operative paragraphs of the proposed resolution?
- Are there any elements that are missing or should be included in the resolution?

Detailed comments on the wording of the draft elements of this resolution are not expected at this stage. There will be an opportunity to comment on specific wording at a later stage, once the draft zero of the resolution is available.

Introduction

The Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers in the Family Links Network across the world are doing truly outstanding work. Their work addresses one of the most basic and important human needs: the need to be in contact with loved ones and to receive information on their whereabouts and what has become of them. They often carry out their work under very harsh conditions in remote, difficult-to-access areas, toiling tirelessly for years without recognition. Thanks to their close contact with the humanitarian realities on the ground, they sometimes come up with very innovative and creative ways to overcome obstacles and offer services to those who need them.

To recognize the outstanding work of staff and volunteers in the Red Cross and Red Crescent family, the 2019 Council of Delegates, in operative paragraph 8 of Resolution 6, “Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025” invited the RFL Leadership Platform to develop and propose regulations for a Movement RFL medal, as follows:

The Council of Delegates,
[...]

8. *welcomes* the proposal to create a Movement RFL Medal for outstanding services in the field of RFL and *invites* the RFL Leadership Platform to develop regulations and conditions for the Medal, in consultation with all the components of the Movement, and submit them to the 2021 Council of Delegates for adoption, together with the nominations of the first recipients of the Medal;

Preambular paragraphs

PP1: The preambular paragraph could *recognize* the suffering endured by people who have been separated from their loved ones or who have not had news about their fate and whereabouts, and the outstanding work carried out by staff and volunteers of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to address the needs of these people by restoring family links (RFL).

Rationale: The profound human dimension of the service of protecting family links needs to be recalled, as does the often unnoticed work of Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers in this area.

PP2: The preambular paragraph could *note* the adoption by the 2019 Council of Delegates of Resolution 6, “Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025”, which, *inter alia*, welcomed the proposal to create a Movement RFL medal and entrusted the RFL Leadership Platform with developing regulations for the medal, in consultation with all components of the Movement, and submitting those regulations to the 2021 Council of Delegates for adoption so that the first recipients could be awarded the medal.

Rationale: The resolution implements the decision taken by the 2019 Council of Delegates and therefore needs to mention it.

PP3: The preambular paragraph could *welcome* the work carried out by the RFL Leadership Platform in close cooperation with the RFL Strategy Implementation Group and the consultations undertaken with all components of the Movement on the regulations for awarding the medal.

Rationale: These draft elements of the resolution contain the results of the follow-up work carried out under the RFL Leadership Platform. Sharing the results launches the consultation process with all components of the Movement.

Operative paragraphs (OP)

OP 1: The operative paragraph could *establish* the Movement RFL Medal for outstanding services in the field of RFL and *propose* the name “Marguerite Frick-Cramer Restoring Family Links Medal”.

Rationale: The operative paragraph follows up on the decision in operative paragraph 8 of Resolution 6 of the 2019 Council of Delegates to formally establish the new Movement RFL Medal. The name “Marguerite Frick-Cramer” was suggested by the RFL Leadership Platform in honour of Renée-Marguerite Frick-Cramer (1887–1963), a pioneer in the development of RFL services who, in 1914, created the International Prisoners-of-War Agency and co-directed the service. The background document will further outline her achievements.

OP 2: The operative paragraph could *decide* that the medal shall be attributed to staff and volunteers within the Movement and, in exceptional circumstances, to staff or volunteers of other humanitarian organizations.

Rationale: All components of the Movement are entitled to propose candidates; however, the annexed regulations specify that priority is given to front-line staff and volunteers of National Societies. Although the medal is aimed primarily at paying tribute to and recognizing Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers, the Movement often needs to cooperate with others to address RFL needs. The possibility of recognizing outstanding services by individuals or teams outside the Movement shall not therefore be excluded.

OP 3: The operative paragraph could *specify* that the medal shall in principle be attributed to no more than five recipients every two years at the plenary meeting of the Council of Delegates.

Rationale: The regulations of all Movement medals include limits on the number of medals to be awarded at each of the ceremonial events held every two years. However, more medals can be awarded in exceptional circumstances. The background document will further elaborate on those exceptional circumstances. The medals should be conferred on the recipients in the plenary session of the statutory meetings to allow them to receive well-deserved recognition and the RFL service to receive the intended visibility within the Movement.

OP 4: The operative paragraph could *adopt* the regulations for awarding the medal outlined in the annex.

Rationale: It is common practice for the regulations outlining the key criteria and conditions for awarding a Movement medal to be adopted by the Council of Delegates. The background document will elaborate on these regulations to guide the RFL Leadership Platform in selecting the recipients of the medal.

OP 5: The operative paragraph could *welcome* the selection by the RFL Leadership Platform of the first recipients of the medal in 2021 and *request* that the RFL Leadership Platform continue selecting the recipients of the medal.

Rationale: Resolution 6 adopted by the 2019 Council of Delegates invited the RFL Leadership Platform to select the first recipients of the medal. This operative paragraph would ask the RFL Leadership Platform to continue to do so.

OP 6: The operative paragraph could *invite* a member of the RFL Leadership Platform to confer the medal on the recipients or deliver it to a representative of their organization at the ceremony of the statutory meetings.

Rationale: As the RFL Leadership Platform selects the recipients, one of its members should bestow the medal on them. As this operative paragraph mentions, the individual being honoured should ideally receive it in person. As this will not, however, always be possible, a designated representative may receive it in their place at the Council of Delegates and give it to them afterwards.

Annex – Draft Regulations for the Movement RFL Medal

A preamble will be added providing context and an explanation of the name of the medal once it has been decided (e.g. who Marguerite Frick-Cramer was).¹

1. Purpose

The Movement RFL Medal pays tribute to and recognizes individuals or groups of individuals who have provided outstanding services in the field of restoring family links (RFL), whether in situations of armed conflict or other violence, in disasters, in the context of migration or in other situations requiring a humanitarian response. The medal is also intended to help promote, increase the visibility of and garner recognition for RFL services delivered within the Movement and beyond.

2. Recipients and criteria

Recipients shall primarily be front-line workers of National Societies who provide RFL services in contexts where there is great need, including in acute emergency situations, and who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service and devotion. Recipients may also be staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The medal may also be awarded in recognition of a contribution or commitment to the development of a significant and sustainable RFL service, thus serving as an incentive for National Societies to strengthen their RFL capacities.

In exceptional circumstances, an individual, organization or other entity outside the Movement (e.g. community-based organization, family association, private-sector company, technological company, academic institution, international NGO) may be considered if, as part of their support for or collaboration with components of the Movement, they have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the Movement's RFL services or helped reunite families, restore people's contact with loved ones, clarify what has happened to missing people, or provide support to families of missing people or separated families.

2.1 Significant RFL casework and operations in regular or emergency situations

The recipient could be a staff member, volunteer or team who has:

- provided RFL services in a particularly persistent, dedicated and possibly courageous way, leading to concrete results, thus helping families reunite, helping people maintain or restore contact with their loved ones, or helping bring answers to families who had been without news of a loved one for a prolonged period of time
- carried out significant RFL response operations in one or several emergency operations.

¹ Marguerite Frick-Cramer (1887–1963) was born Renée-Marguerite Cramer in Geneva and studied international law at the Universities of Geneva and Paris, earning a master's degree in law and a PhD in history. She founded the International Prisoners-of-War Agency in August 1914 while volunteering for the ICRC and co-directed the section for the Entente prisoners of war (POWs). In December 1917, she took part in the negotiations held in Bern between Germany and France on repatriating prisoners of war, and after the war helped repatriate Austro-German and Russian POWs. She was a woman of firsts: the first female ICRC delegate, possibly the first woman to act as a diplomat thanks to her diplomatic assignments abroad for the ICRC, and the first female ICRC Committee member. As the personal adviser to the ICRC's president, Gustave Ador, she played an important role in drafting the 1929 Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the 1934 Tokyo Project protecting civilians under military occupation. During the Second World War, she again worked on behalf of POWs, as a member of the board of the Central Prisoners of War Agency, which became the Central Tracing Agency.

2.2 RFL service development and innovative initiatives

The recipient could be a staff member, volunteer or team who has:

- developed a particularly well-functioning and sustainable RFL service over a period of several years
- led the development of innovative tools, ways of working or training to drive forward RFL services for the Family Links Network globally or in a region.

3. Conditions and further considerations

The medal shall be attributed based on the merits of the individual nominees. However, National Societies are encouraged to give due consideration, when selecting candidates to nominate, to ensuring diversity with regard to gender, ethnic origin, social background and similar criteria.

National Societies are also required to attest to the integrity of the proposed candidates, particularly that the candidate:

- is not and has not been engaged in activities that go against the Fundamental Principles or that could otherwise undermine the image and reputation of the Movement
- has not been sanctioned by any component of the Movement for:
 - i. violations of any of the Movement components' codes of conduct
 - ii. expressions of character or morals incompatible with the seven Fundamental Principles
 - iii. fraudulent or corrupt behaviour
 - iv. violations of laws or policies relating to sexual exploitation, abuse, discrimination or harassment.
- has not been convicted of a criminal offence or been subject to a civil penalty whose nature could threaten the reputation or standing of the Movement.

In reviewing nominations and before taking its decision, the RFL Medal Committee shall also endeavour, within the confines of its role, to verify nominees' reputation and their integrity with regard to the above criteria. Any person alleged to have committed and/or under investigation for any of the above conduct would not be eligible to be nominated for the medal until the investigations have been completed and the nominee has been cleared of such allegations. For example, pending the final outcome of any criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings in progress against a nominee, the Committee would be required to put their nomination on hold and not decide on it.

The Committee may consider awarding the medal posthumously. However, the nominee's death must have been relatively recent and have occurred while carrying out their humanitarian work.

It is understood that recipients of the Movement RFL Medal remain eligible for further awards within the Movement. *(This statement might not be necessary as it is not mentioned in the regulations for other medals.)*

4. Number of medals to be awarded

The number of medals to be awarded is in principle limited to five every two years, on the occasion of the Council of Delegates.

5. Medal and certificate

This section will be filled in later. It will provide a description of the medal design and mention that the medal will be accompanied by a certificate.

6. Procedure

The RFL Leadership Platform sends a circular letter containing the nomination form to the components of the Movement. The components return the duly completed form, together with supporting documents, to the RFL Leadership Platform.

Any component of the Movement may nominate candidates from among its own staff or volunteers. Components of the Movement may also nominate a candidate from another organization within or outside the Movement, provided the candidate has given their explicit consent and the duly completed nomination form and supporting documents are submitted.

Nominations must be submitted to the chair of the RFL Leadership Platform no later than 30 June of the year in which the Council of Delegates will meet.

A seven-person RFL Medal Committee shall be formed to review the nominations and select the recipients by consensus. The Committee shall comprise the ICRC director-general, the highest representative of the IFRC within the RFL Leadership Platform and five volunteer National Society leaders elected by the RFL Leadership Platform from among its members on a rotating basis every four years. Each of these five Committee members shall represent one of the five regions (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Eurasia).