

**Power of humanity**

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



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**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**

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

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**Movement Family Links Medal**

**Draft zero resolution**

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

Geneva, September 2021

## DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION

### Movement Family Links Medal

The Council of Delegates,

*recognizing* 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 (Movement) to address the needs of these people by restoring family links (RFL),

*further recognizing* the importance of RFL activities, such as the exchange of family news, restoring contact between separated families, facilitating their reunion and clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, and the recognition of these activities in international humanitarian law as well as in the Statutes of the Movement and resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and of the Council of Delegates, including the role of the Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

*noting* 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,

*welcoming* 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,

1. *establishes* a Movement RFL medal for outstanding services in the field of RFL and *proposes* the name “Movement Family Links Medal”;
2. *decides* that the medal shall be attributed first and foremost to staff and volunteers within the Movement;
3. *specifies* 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;
4. *adopts* the regulations for awarding the medal outlined in the annex;
5. *welcomes* the selection by the RFL Leadership Platform of the first recipients of the medal in 2021 and *requests* that the RFL Leadership Platform continue selecting the recipients of the medal;
6. *invites* a member of the RFL Leadership Platform to confer the medal on the recipients or deliver it to a representative of their organization at a ceremony during the statutory meetings.

## **Annex: Regulations for the Movement Family Links Medal**

### **Preamble**

Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers in the Family Links Network across the world are doing truly outstanding work that addresses some of the most basic and important human needs: to be in contact with loved ones and to know where they are and what has become of them. They often carry out their work under harsh conditions in remote, difficult-to-access areas, toiling tirelessly for years without recognition. Thanks to their close contact with people in need, they sometimes find innovative and creative ways to overcome obstacles and offer services to those who need them.

### **1. Purpose**

The Movement Family Links 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, other situations of violence, disasters or other situations requiring a humanitarian response, including in the context of migration. The medal is also intended to help promote, increase the visibility of and garner recognition for RFL services within the Movement and beyond.

### **2. Recipients and criteria**

Recipients shall be primarily 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 significant contribution to the development of efficient and sustainable RFL services.

In exceptional circumstances, an individual or a team from an organization or entity outside the Movement (e.g. community-based organization, family association, private-sector 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 to reunite families, to restore people's contact with loved ones, to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing people, or to provide support to families of missing people or separated families.

Candidates can be nominated in line with the following two non-cumulative criteria:

#### **2.1 Significant RFL casework and operations in regular or emergency situations**

The recipient may 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 to reunite, helping people to maintain or restore contact with their loved ones, or helping to 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.

#### **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 regionally or globally.

### **3. Conditions and further considerations**

The medal shall be attributed based on the merits of individual nominees. However, the components of the Movement, when nominating a candidate, and the Medal Committee,

when selecting the recipients of the Medal, shall give due consideration to ensuring diversity with regard to gender, ethnic origin, social background and contextual considerations. When nominating a team, the members of that team should be individually identified and have performed their service in a set context or framework. 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 contravene 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 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 been placed under investigation for any of the above is ineligible 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.

The committee may consider awarding the medal posthumously as long as the nominee's death occurred within the past few years.

#### **4. Number of medals to be awarded**

In principle, the number of medals will be limited to five every two years and be awarded during the Council of Delegates.

#### **5. 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.

A component of the Movement may nominate a candidate from among its own staff or volunteers. Components of the Movement may also nominate a candidate from another organization 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.

The Medal Committee reviews the nominations and selects the recipients of the Movement Family Links Medal by consensus. The Medal Committee shall comprise:

- five National Society leaders, elected by the RFL Leadership Platform from among its members on a rotating basis every four years, each of them representing one of the five regions (Africa, the Americas, Asia–Pacific, the Middle East and Eurasia)
- the representative of the ICRC and the IFRC in the Leadership Platform, and
- at least two representatives of affected people/people who have experienced family separation.