



Power of humanity

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

22-23 June 2022, Geneva

Appeal for Respect for Neutral and Impartial Humanitarian Action

We are alarmed by the magnitude of human suffering caused by armed conflicts, violence, disasters and other crises facing the world today. The levels of violence, destruction and displacement, combined with intersecting factors of fragility, including the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, are driving a steep rise in humanitarian needs globally.

We are deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of all people affected, especially for vulnerable people and those in need of protection and assistance.

We are also increasingly worried by all forms of impediment to access and to the provision of relief by neutral and impartial humanitarian actors, including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement). Particularly unacceptable is the persistence of acts of violence and threats against humanitarian workers, including new, emerging forms of abuse and pressure, such as cyber-attacks, disinformation and misinformation. These threats seriously jeopardize the safety and dignity of humanitarian workers and people in their care, the protection of individuals and their personal data, and the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver assistance to those most in need.

On the occasion of 2022 Council of Delegates, which brings together the members of the Movement, we:

- express our resolve to pursue efforts to reduce the risk and humanitarian impact of crises and to strengthen our capacities at local and international levels for an effective and accountable response
- are convinced of the essential relevance and value of neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action for the effective delivery of services and an impactful response to humanitarian needs, particularly those needs arising in contexts characterized by a high degree of polarization or contested on the basis of territory or otherwise
- reaffirm our commitment to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement as the common foundation of our work to protect and assist populations in need, in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for all human beings
- appeal to States, in their capacity as High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions and as members of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to fulfil their responsibilities to support the work of the Movement and to respect at all times the adherence by all components of the Movement to the Fundamental Principles.
- appeal to States and other stakeholders, on the basis of the above, to take proactive steps to safeguard principled humanitarian action and to facilitate the provision of humanitarian relief to populations in need, including to prevent, stop and remedy deliberate and unjustified attacks, abuses and pressures that harm the physical, psychological, reputational and digital integrity of these populations and of the humanitarian organizations, volunteers and workers serving them.