



Power of humanity

32nd International Conference of
the Red Cross and Red Crescent

8-10 December 2015, Geneva



MIGRATION

AT THE 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION | MIGRATION

Migration is a complex global phenomenon. More than 230 million people around the world are migrants. The routes they take transcend borders and regions. Reasons for migration are many and varied, and often involve a mix of push and pull factors. Whatever the reasons, migrants can become vulnerable at many stages of their journey as they travel from their home countries, often through other countries, to their intended destination.

While many migrants arrive safely in their destination countries and integrate into new communities, others endure great hardships that can affect their physical integrity, mental health and well-being and that of their families. Migrants often transit through areas of armed conflict or other situations of violence, where they can become stranded. All along their routes, they are easy targets for abuse and exploitation, and face countless risks.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has long acknowledged the increase in humanitarian needs of migrants. For years, it has undertaken a more consistent contribution to the humanitarian response to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable migrants along migration routes – providing among other water, first aid and health services, shelter, restoring family links services, and ensuring that migrants receive the protection they are entitled to under international and domestic law and have access to relevant services.

HOW WILL MIGRATION BE ADDRESSED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE?

Migration is one of the central themes of the 32nd International Conference.

Various events during the Conference will exemplify challenges and concerns related to migration as well as the relevant actions undertaken by the States and the work carried out by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, pursuant to Resolution 3 *Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion*. The 2015 Conference will continue to emphasize the importance of examining ways and means to reinforce international cooperation at all levels to address the humanitarian concerns generated by migration (*Together for Humanity* at 30th International Conference).

WHERE DOES MIGRATION FEATURE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE?

▶ **FOCUS ON MIGRATION (PLENARY)**

Wednesday 9 December, 9:00 am - 9:45 am, Room 1, The International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland
Five actors (governments, civil society, National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC) will reassert the need of implementing Resolution 3 priorities.

▶ **THEMATIC DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION (HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE)**

Wednesday 9 December, 15:30 pm - 18:00 pm, Room 21/22, The International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland
An informal, innovative and open reflection with various participants on present and future migration challenges.

▶ **UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION: AN EMERGENCY OR COMMON PHENOMENON?**

Wednesday 9 December, 12:15 pm - 13:15 pm, Room 2, The International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland
Side event co-hosted by the Italian Red Cross and Australian Red Cross. Perspectives from National Societies responding to needs of migrants from countries of origin to transit and destination countries.

▶ **RECONNECTING FAMILIES: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH RECONNECTING AND SUPPORTING SEPARATED FAMILIES FOLLOWING CONFLICT, DISASTER OR MIGRATION**

Tuesday 8 December, 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm, Room 5/6, The International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland
Side event chaired by the American Red Cross. With powerful testimonies from Mrs Monowara Sarker, 2015 Henri Dunant Medal recipient, Thu-Thuy Truong, a RFL beneficiary, and Claire Schocher-Döring, of the Austrian Red Cross, talking about the RFL response along the migration routes to and in Europe.

▶ **'LOSS, RESILIENCE AND HOPE' PAINTINGS**

From 7-10 December, the ground floor, The International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland
Paintings by Donya Hafezi Haghani in which she portrays in a powerful and personal way the hardships migrant women and children face.

▶ **MIGRATION STAND**

From 7-10 December, on the second floor, The International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland
Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the Movement's response along the migration routes through video's and other materials.

▶ **RESTORING FAMILY LINKS STAND**

From 7-10 December, on the second floor, The International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland
Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the Movement's RFL response along the migration routes in Central and North America, Europe and the online tool '[Trace the Face](#)'.

HOW CAN CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION ON MIGRATION DURING THE CONFERENCE?

✔ **JOIN THE DIFFERENT EVENTS.**

The plenary on migration and side events are open to all participants, taking the room's capacity into account. For the Thematic dialogue, Conference participants are required to register ([here](#)).

✔ **STATEMENT.**

Conference participants may deliver statements on migration during the different general debates. Verbatim of those statements will be included in the formal record of the Conference. Conference participants are required to register ([here](#)).

✔ **PLEDGES.**

Conference participants may also deliver pledges all along the Conference and until the end of March 2016. A Model text for pledges is available on the Conference website. This document sets out a menu of potential clauses that can be used in pledges. For any queries related to pledges, click [here](#).

✔ **'PROTECT HUMANITY - STOP INDIFFERENCE' INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION CAMPAIGN:**

In September 2015, the International Federation launched a migration campaign to foster solidarity and empathy for vulnerable migrants and call for their protection. Supporters may visit <http://www.ifrc.org/protecthumanity> and add their signature to an online petition calling for the humane treatment of vulnerable migrants, and share their thoughts about the issue using the hashtag #ProtectHumanity. The petition will be presented to participants at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.