

Sexual and gender-based violence and violence against health-care personnel and facilities, and against humanitarian volunteers, have become alarmingly common features of armed conflict, disasters and other emergencies. The consequences for victims, and for their families and communities, are extremely serious.

There is an urgent need to formulate measures to address these humanitarian issues, and to develop international legal frameworks to strengthen preparedness for disasters and protection for people deprived of their liberty. These matters were tackled by the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which was held in December 2015 in Geneva.

The results of the 32nd International Conference

MORE THAN
2,300
PEOPLE

169 STATES,
183 NATIONAL SOCIETIES
102 OTHER HUMANITARIAN ACTORS
AND CORPORATE PARTNERS.



10
RESOLUTIONS



215
PLEDGES

THEY COVERED VARIOUS HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

- Compliance with international humanitarian law
- Detention
- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Health Care in Danger
- Safety of humanitarian volunteers
- Disaster law

What is the International Conference?

It is a unique forum that brings together **STATES' REPRESENTATIVES, THE COMPONENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT** and other humanitarian actors, as well as the Movement's corporate partners.



Its decisions influence debates on humanitarian issues of universal concern and lead to the development of new policies and international law in various areas:

- THE CONDUCT OF WAR
- THE BANNING OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
- REGULATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

How does it work?

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CONVENES EVERY



TO DISCUSS THE MOST PRESSING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND TO DETERMINE **HOW** TO RESPOND TO THEM.

IT IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE MOVEMENT

- ✓ HUMANITY
- ✓ IMPARTIALITY
- ✓ NEUTRALITY
- ✓ INDEPENDENCE
- ✓ VOLUNTARY SERVICE
- ✓ UNITY
- ✓ UNIVERSALITY

Debates at the International Conference are free from political, racial, religious or ideological controversies.

What happens next?

AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, MEMBERS INTERPRET THE RESOLUTIONS ACCORDING TO THEIR CONTEXT AND SEEK TO FULFIL THE VOLUNTARY AND CONCRETE COMMITMENTS THEY MADE IN THE FORM OF PLEDGES.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RESOLUTIONS



Invest in training for volunteers to ensure their safety, and make certain that psychosocial support and insurance are provided for them.



Broaden public awareness of disaster risk reduction and disseminate information on the subject.

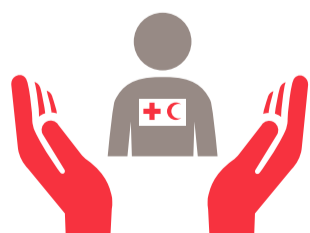


Put an end to impunity by investigating and prosecuting alleged perpetrators of sexual violence and by ensuring access to justice for victims.

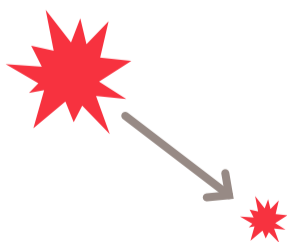


Ensure that armed forces and security forces take measures to secure protection for the provision of health care and for the wounded and sick.

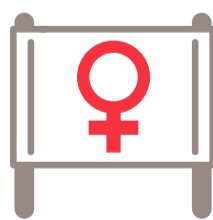
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLEDGES



Give priority to their safety when assigning National Society volunteers to disaster-affected areas.



Incorporate gender and disability-based considerations in the national plan of action for disaster risk reduction.



Promote women's empowerment and gender equality – by including women in processes for planning, implementing and evaluating humanitarian programmes, and through other means.



Organize round-tables with the pertinent State agencies in connection with protecting the delivery of health care.

THE IMPACT OF THIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE ASSESSED AND REPORTED TO THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN 2019.

Sexual and gender-based violence



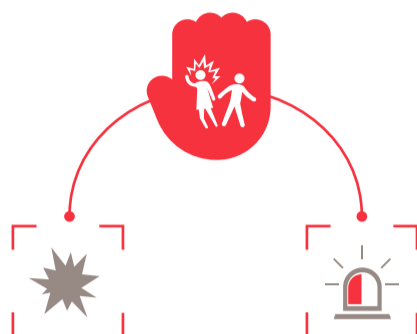
Sexual and gender-based violence has devastating consequences for victims/survivors, and for their families and communities. Preventing such violence and protecting

victims/survivors – and providing suitable responses to their needs – are major issues of humanitarian concern

What conclusions did the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent reach on the subject of sexual and gender-based violence?



It adopted Resolution 3, “Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response”. By this means, States and the components of the Movement committed themselves to implementing a broad range of measures on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence.



The resolution, which condemns sexual and gender-based violence in all circumstances, **focuses on sexual violence in armed conflict and on sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies.**

Some of the actions to be taken in the next four years, following the 32nd International Conference, are listed below.

BY STATES

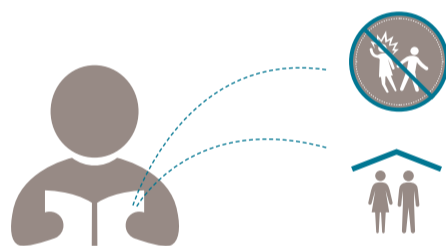


Put an end to impunity by:
> **investigating and prosecuting**
> **ensuring access to justice for victims/survivors.**



Review and strengthen, if necessary, domestic legal frameworks.

BY STATES, NATIONAL SOCIETIES, PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES

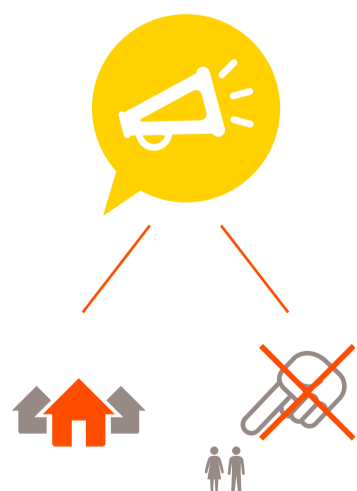


Raise awareness of:
> **the prohibition against sexual and gender-based violence**
> **the need to prevent such violence and to assist and protect victims/survivors**



Ensure that victims/survivors have **access to care** ensuring their dignity, safety and **preventing stigmatization.**

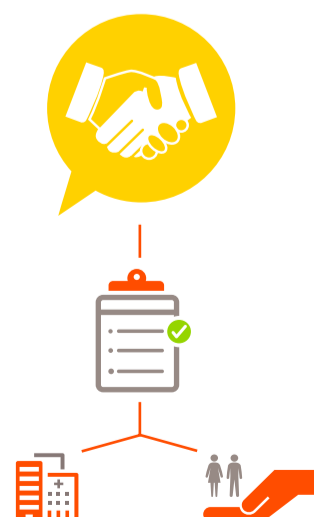
What can I do as a community member?



Help to **raise awareness among communities** of the prohibition against sexual and gender-based violence and of the need to **prevent stigmatization of victims.**



Promote existing services and facilities to victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.



Lobby for the provision of adequate services and facilities for victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent:

Strengthening disaster laws



Power of humanity

32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
8-10 December 2015, Geneva



International assistance is crucial for the recovery of communities affected by major disasters. Unfortunately, aid does not always reach those in need as promptly as it should. Relief efforts are often held up by a number of issues, usually related to entry visas, registration of personnel, customs clearance and transport permits.

These problems are getting worse. Strong and pertinent legislation is critical for reducing disaster risks. The law can either be of great help in various areas – early warning, financing, community empowerment and accountability – or it can be obstructive. Supportive legislation concerning first-aid training is also essential, to ensure that large parts of the population are properly trained and willing to provide assistance in an emergency.

What conclusions did the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reach on the subject of strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid?



It adopted Resolution 6, “Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid”

Some of the actions to be taken in the next four years, following the 32nd International Conference, are listed below.

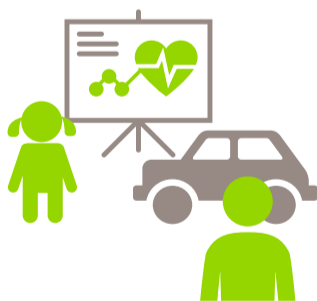
BY STATES



Redouble efforts to **strengthen domestic laws, rules and procedures for managing international relief.**



Promote first aid education.



Organize **mandatory first-aid training for schoolchildren and teachers, and for people applying for driving licences.**

Update official guidelines for first-aid instruction, specifying what must be covered as a minimum and taking into account standards already in use.



Exchange **good practices in first aid**, including regarding the use of digital communication.



Grant at least partial **legal protection from liability for lay persons** (particularly volunteers) who have had first-aid training and have provided first aid in emergencies.

BY THE MOVEMENT



Work with States to **inform the public** about the kinds of goods that should be donated.



Encourages **National Societies and States to consider ways to enhance their cooperation** to achieve sustainable development goals, targets and priorities.



Increase awareness among the **general public of such matters as disaster risk reduction** and the rights and responsibilities of pertinent actors under domestic and international law.

BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS



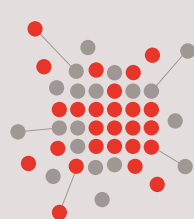
Take courses in first aid.



Become volunteers.

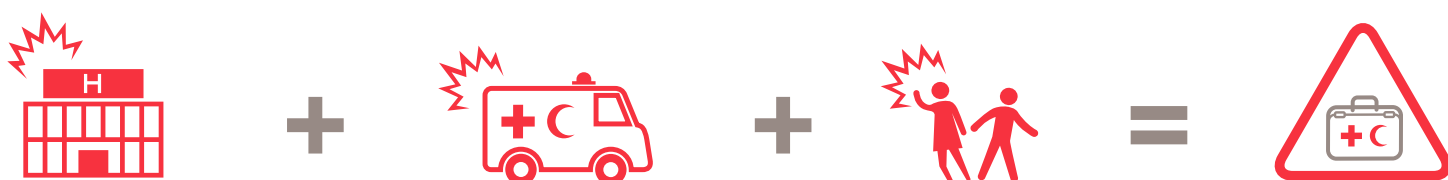


Raise awareness in their communities of disaster risk.



The disruption of health-care services by violence – directly and indirectly – has become alarmingly common throughout the world: health-care providers have been attacked, patients discriminated against, ambulances held up at checkpoints, hospitals bombed, medical supplies looted and entire communities cut off from essential services.

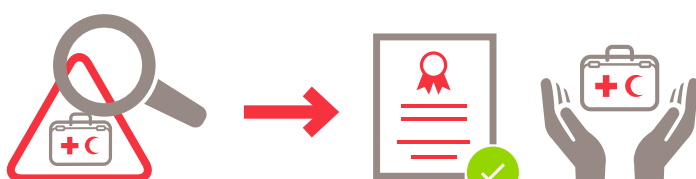
HHealth Care in Danger is a Movement-wide initiative undertaken to protect patients, health-care facilities and personnel, and medical vehicles from violence during armed conflict and other emergencies



Health Care in Danger from 2008 to 2015: A timeline

2008-2011: IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM

December 2011: Adoption of Resolution 5 – “Health Care in Danger: Respecting and protecting health care” – at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent



2012–2015: CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS OF EXPERTS, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, to formulate recommendations and measures for strengthening protection for the delivery of health care

December 2015: Adoption of Resolution 4 – “Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together” – at the 32nd International Conference, which urges States, the Movement and others to implement the necessary measures at the national level



2015–2019: IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES

Focusing on the implementation of measures to address violence against the provision of health care, identifying and sharing good practices, and replicating them



The 32nd International Conference identified a number of actions to take in the next four years, some of them are listed below.

WHAT STATES CAN DO



Adopt domestic legislation that protects patients, health-care personnel and facilities, and medical vehicles; such legislation should cover the proper use of the distinctive emblems as well as protection for them.

Collect and analyse data on incidents of violence against the provision of health care.



Investigate incidents of violence against the provision of health care, and against patients – and **punish** those responsible – to ensure accountability.



Armed forces and security forces should incorporate, in the planning and conduct of their operations, **practical measures to ensure protection for the provision of health care and for the wounded and sick.**

WHAT NATIONAL SOCIETIES CAN DO

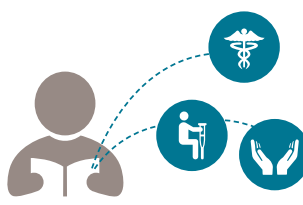


Implement measures to **increase acceptance** for their staff and volunteers, and to secure their safety, including by ensuring respect for the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

Raise awareness of the proper use of the emblems and lobby for the implementation of domestic legislation protecting them.



Collect and analyse data on incidents of violence against the provision of health care, and **lobby authorities to expand protection for the delivery of health care.**

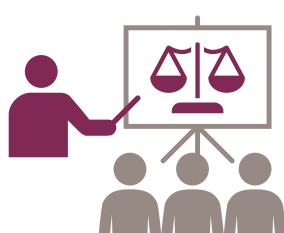


Involve authorities, the health-care community, academia and civil society in efforts to **raise awareness, in the conduct of training and in developing and implementing measures to protect the provision of health care.**



Share experiences and good practices across the Movement and with the health-care community.

WHAT THE HEALTH-CARE COMMUNITY CAN DO



Train health-care personnel in their rights and responsibilities.

Promote the use of the Ethical Principles of Health Care in Times of Armed Conflict and Other Emergencies within the community, and among other actors concerned at regional and national levels.



Improve preparedness, safety and security of health care personnel, facilities and medical transport



Collaborate more actively at national level with other stakeholders involved in the HCiD initiative

WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN DO



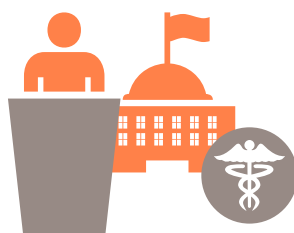
Volunteer for their National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.



Take a first aid course.



Promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles, and ethical principles governing the provision of health care, in their communities and **advocate respect for the emblems.**



Initiate or participate in efforts to persuade their governments to enact – and protect the provision of health care

Visit healthcareindanger.org to find out more about the Health Care in Danger initiative.

The 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent:

The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers



Power of humanity

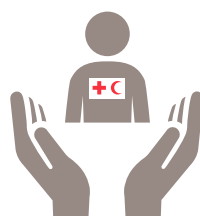
32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
8-10 December 2015, Geneva



Volunteers, **17 million of them**, are the core of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. **More than 1 million operate in extremely unsettled situations, in complex emergencies or in circumstances of protracted conflict.** Natural disasters and health emergencies are becoming more frequent and severe, and volunteers are more necessary – to help ensure access for vulnerable people to essential services – than ever. They deserve more recognition and support, and the need for that has never been more urgent. Their safety and security, including their psychosocial and mental well-being, are matters of pressing concern.



What conclusions did the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent reach on the subject of the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers?



It adopted Resolution 5, “The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers”.

Some of the actions to be taken in the next four years, following the 32nd International Conference, are listed below.

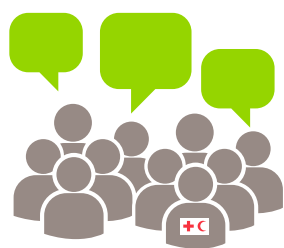
BY STATES



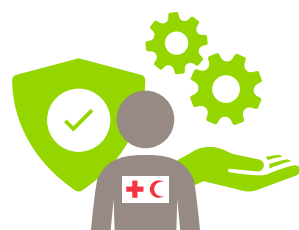
Create as safe an environment as possible for volunteers, for instance by taking measures at the national level to ensure their protection.



Develop and/or maintain national systems for **collecting and disseminating detailed data** pertaining to the safety and security of volunteers.



Include National Societies on **National Disaster Coordinating Committee.**



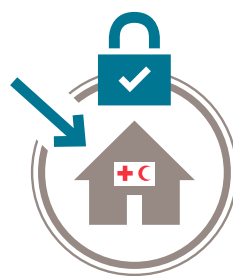
Invest in volunteers by ensuring that they have sufficient **protection**, as well as **psychosocial support** and **insurance.**

Recognize the contribution of volunteers.

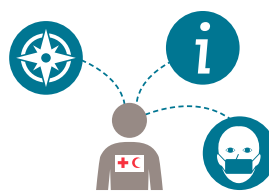
BY THE MOVEMENT



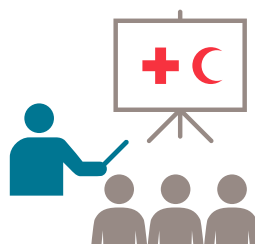
Work with States and others concerned to create and maintain an enabling environment for volunteering, for instance by **promoting supportive legislation and policies.**



Review potential threats to volunteers and work continually to **strengthen access, acceptance and security** for National Societies.

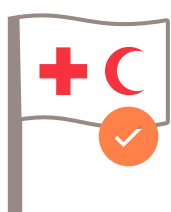


Provide volunteers – in a timely manner – with **the best safety-related information and guidance, and with protective equipment**, psychosocial support and insurance.



Train volunteers in safety procedures and protocols and in the application of the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Respect the Red cross and Red Crescent **emblems**



Respect humanitarian volunteers and make them feel **welcome.**



Support the local Red Cross and Red Crescent in protecting their volunteers.