



Power of humanity

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

10-11 November 2017, Turkey



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

Antalya, Turkey
10–11 November 2017

Addressing Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs

RESOLUTION

Document prepared by

**Swedish Red Cross,
International Committee of the Red Cross
Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support and
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
in close consultation/cooperation with
Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross**

Antalya, November 2017

RESOLUTION

Addressing Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs

The Council of Delegates,

expressing its deep concern about mental health and psychosocial needs that arise as a consequence of armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies, including those arising as a result of migration, and *recognizing* the urgent need to increase efforts to address them,

recognizing the respective roles and mandates of the different components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in working to protect the health and dignity of the persons affected,

acknowledging the important work that is currently being carried out by the different components of the Movement to respond to mental health and psychosocial needs, and *recognizing* that such services and programmes of National Societies may cover mental health and psychosocial needs arising as a result of other situations such as marginalization, isolation and extreme poverty,

recognizing that the mental health of the Movement's volunteers and staff is often affected in the course of their work,

recognizing the need for the Movement to address these consequences in a coherent manner,

acknowledging the existing normative frameworks protecting mental health, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

recognizing that it is important to do no harm and that factors such as age, gender, disability, health, legal status, deprivation of liberty and displacement can further increase risk and impact needs and vulnerability,

taking into consideration the stigma that can surround mental health issues and the adverse consequences this can have on preventing and addressing mental health and psychosocial needs,

recalling and reaffirming Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement commitments to take action to respond to mental health and psychosocial needs in resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (including Resolution 27, New Delhi 1957; Resolution 11, Geneva 1986; Resolution 2, Geneva 1995; Resolution 1, Geneva 1999; Resolution 1, Geneva 2007, Annex, Declaration: Together for humanity; Resolution 2, Geneva 2011; Resolution 5, Geneva 2015; Resolution 3, Geneva 2015) and resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates (including Resolution 5, Geneva 1995, Plan of Action Regarding Children in Armed Conflict; Resolution 4, Geneva 2007, Restoring Family Links Strategy 2008–2018; Resolution 6, Nairobi 2009, Movement Strategy on Landmines, Cluster

Munitions and other Explosive Remnants of War: Reducing the Effects of Weapons on Civilians; Resolution 7, Geneva 2011),

1. *encourages* National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC, in carrying out the roles entrusted to them, to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of affected populations, through their prevention, assistance and protection work, and to integrate responses to mental health into health portfolios;
2. *requests* National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to specifically address the mental health and psychosocial needs of volunteers and staff;
3. *calls upon* the Movement to contribute to focusing greater global attention on the mental health and psychosocial needs of populations affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies, including those arising as a result of migration, and to emphasize the importance of tackling the stigma surrounding this pressing issue;
4. *calls upon* the Movement to increase the resources allocated to this humanitarian issue, with a view to strengthening its collective capacity and capability to address mental health and psychosocial needs;
5. *urges* the components of the Movement to increase their efforts to better understand the needs and challenges and to collect evidence on mental health and psychosocial support interventions in humanitarian responses, including through integrating longer-term research within monitoring and evaluation frameworks;
6. *requests* the formulation of a Movement Policy on Addressing Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs that builds on common approaches and contributes to the harmonization of different Movement responses, developed through a collaborative process, actively engaging National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC, and submitted for adoption at the next Council of Delegates in 2019;
7. *requests* the ICRC, the IFRC and National Societies to consider including the issue in the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.