

History of the Red Cross Youth

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Historical overview

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Birth of the idea
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (1863)
- The First Geneva Convention (1864)
- Years of Wars and Armed Conflicts
- The League of the Red Cross (1919)



Historical overview

The Role of the Youth in Movement

- Introducing the idea - on IV and V International Conference of the Red Cross Societies (1887, 1892)
- Involvement of children and Youth on Local Level - Netherlands (1870) Bulgaria (1885-6), USA (1889), Canada (1890), Sweden (1909 - 1922)
- The “Official” Birth of the Junior Red Cross (1922)
- First attendance of the Junior Red Cross at the XIV International Conference of the Red Cross in 1930

IFRC Youth Policy Nowadays

- Youth: people in the age range of 5 to 30 years
- The role of young people: “innovators, early adopters of communication, social media, and other technologies, inter-cultural ambassadors, peer-to-peer facilitators, community mobilisers, agents of behaviour change, and advocates for vulnerable people.” (IFRC)
- Areas of activity
 - Youth voices for stronger societies,
 - Healthy youth make a healthy world,
 - Adapting to climate change and addressing catastrophes, and
 - Live our principles, celebrate our diversity, change our community.

IFRC Youth Policy Structures

- The Youth Commission of the IFRC - The body of the governance of the IFRC that is responsible for advising on matters that relate to young people and development of National Society youth sections.
- The European Youth Network (established in 1975) - brings together the young volunteers from the 53 National Societies within the Europe Zone. Main Fields of activity:
 - Knowledge Management,
 - Amplification and Advocacy and
 - Community Building
- The National Red Cross Youth Societies