



28th International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference

Non-discrimination and respect for diversity: a pledge by the International Federation

Discrimination, violence and the lack of respect for diversity are key challenges facing our global community. Together they marginalise individuals and communities, deny their access to services and fuel mistrust, exclusion and abuse.

The adoption of the International Federation's Strategy 2010, with its focus on the promotion of Principles and Values and the adoption of the Plan of Action of the 27th International Conference with its call for "new initiatives to meet the needs of vulnerable people and to reduce discrimination and violence in the community", have led to strengthened action by National Societies and the International Federation collectively, particularly in work to challenge discrimination.

Convinced that more can and must be done in this field the International Federation, working with other components of the Movement, make the following pledge and commits to allocate and mobilize resources to pursue its implementation.

The Federation pledges to:

- Take the initiative to learn about and understand better the trends that fuel intolerance, violence, discrimination and lack of respect for diversity and actions that can combat these trends.
- Integrate respect for diversity and the promotion of non-discrimination into health, including particularly HIV/AIDS, and disaster response programmes and to focus programme activity on groups that are marginalised.
- Work towards the provision of safe environments for vulnerable populations, particularly children, for whom it is providing services and/or care.

Non-discrimination
and respect for diversity:
a pledge by the
International Federation

- Develop public dialogue and advocacy, promoting tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity at national and international level.
- Develop partnerships and to promote dialogue and to support programmes in this area with governments, as well as international and national organisations working for the same goals specifically considering the importance that youth play in peer and non-formal education to promote international friendship and understanding.
- Ensure openness and diversity within the Federation Secretariat and National Societies by promoting action to increase diversity among staff and volunteers and specifically to monitor progress and take further steps to implement the Federation's Gender Policy adopted in 1999.
- Contribute to the development of knowledge on best practice within National Societies and the further development of Movement positions and guidelines on tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.
- Use the National Society Self-Assessment process to monitor development of work in this area, and to explore the development of further tools to measure impact of work based on this pledge, keeping the Federation governing board informed of progress.