

Analysis of the 7 Fundamental Principles





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I. Binding Character of the 7FP

The Statutes of the Movement underscore the obligation of all the components of the RC RC Movement to act at all times in compliance with the Fundamental Principles...

Furthermore.....

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I. Binding Character of the 7FP

..the Statutes of the Movement recall the role of the ICRC to maintain and disseminate the Fundamental Principles, and the role of the Federation to assist the ICRC in this respect....

Furthermore.....

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I. Binding Character of the 7FP

...the Seville agreement recalls that National Societies have a key role to play in **upholding** and disseminating the Fundamental Principles within their own country.

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I. Binding Character of the 7FP

States are not required to respect the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, except in the context of the International Conference.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

HUMANITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

HUMANITY

- ✓it recalls the **origins** of the Movement: "born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield"
- ✓it recalls the **double dimension** of the Movement: the national and the international one
- ✓it defines **the mission** of the Movement: "to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found"
- ✓it defines the **purposes** of the Movement

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

IMPARTIALITY

- ✓ The Movement makes **no discrimination** - and this does not apply only to people it assists or protects. Non-discrimination is the refusal to apply distinctions of an adverse nature to human beings simply because they belong to a specific category.
- ✓ Impartiality means that, for the Movement, the **only priority** that can be set in dealing with those who require help must be **based on need**

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

NEUTRALITY

- ✓ the purpose of complying is to enjoy the **confidence of all**. It requires confidence of all in many contexts, i.e. not only in armed conflicts contexts.
- ✓ the Principle of Neutrality prohibits a component of the Movement from **taking part** in hostilities.
- ✓ the Principle of Neutrality prohibits the Movement **to engage** at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

INDEPENDENCE

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

INDEPENDENCE

- ✓ The Red Cross and Red Crescent must **resist any interference**, whether political, ideological or economic, capable of diverting them from the course of action laid down by the requirements of humanity, impartiality and neutrality.
- ✓ The issue here is the **balance** between the NS status of auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field and their submission to national law, on the one hand, and the need to maintain their autonomy, on the other hand.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

- ✓ The Movement is a **volunteer-based** organization
- ✓ Volunteers provide a **vital source** of motivation, inspiration and initiative. Volunteers help to maintain the human quality of the RCRC services provided.
- ✓ Voluntary service, is also a source of **economy**. It allows NS to provide services with minimum financial resources.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

UNITY

- ✓ As States have agreed to the FP, they have an obligation to ensure that no other NS can be **created** on their territory if they have already recognized a National Society.
- ✓ a National Society has to **open its membership** with a broad base in the population as a whole. It has to recruit its members from all the ethnic, social and other groups in the country.
- ✓ a National Society has to be active **in all parts** of the country.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

UNIVERSALITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

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II) Analysis of the Fundamental Principles

UNIVERSALITY

- ✓ The RCRC Movement is **worldwide**.
- ✓ All National Societies have **equal status** in the Movement.
- ✓ All Societies share equal responsibilities and duties in **helping each other**.

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END OF PRESENTATION

**This presentation can be complemented with
the one entitled:**

**“Transforming Principles into Policies,
on the way to action”**

End of Presentation.