

*Introduction
to
Dominica Red Cross*



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*National Headquarters
Federation Drive
Goodwill
Commonwealth of Dominica*

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Use of the Emblem

The use of the Emblem and the designation “Red Cross or Red Crescent” is governed by the Geneva Conventions and by national legislation (The Act of Incorporation). There are two distinct uses of the emblem:

1. as a **protective** sign used only in times of conflict to protect persons, buildings, vehicles and materials authorised for use by the Medical Services;

and

2. as an indicative sign framed or under inscribed with the national society’s name or initials. No person, building or vehicle shall use the national society’s Emblem without permission in the form of a document of authority or a membership card.

The Red Cross emblem must not be used for commercial publicity purposes. Any member aware of the misuse of the Emblem should report to the Group Leader, who will pass the information to the Director General, who will approach the user and inform him of the legislation on the use of the Emblem.

Girls: White short-sleeve blouse to be worn inside the skirt; Navy Blue A-line Skirt; Navy blue long socks; Black shoes; Red Scarf, the size of a standard triangular bandage.

Youth Leaders: Wear the same uniforms as Youth Members with the addition of the beret.

Adult Member Badges

Red Cross cloth Circles on each sleeve of shirt, worn four inches below the shoulder seam. Metal beret badge on center front of beret.

Adult Member out of Uniform

May wear a Member's Badge.

Youth Members Badges

Youth Red Cross Circles on each sleeve, worn four inches below the shoulder seam.

Youth Members out of Uniform

May wear a Member's Badge.

DOMINICA RED CROSS

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Training Courses offered is:

The History of Dominica Red Cross

The Dominica Red Cross was founded as a branch of the British Red Cross on 28th January, 1958 as a branch of the British Red Cross and recognised by the Government of Dominica on 7th March, 1983 as a National Society. Membership of the ICRC and IFRC followed 1989. The International Red Cross Movement comprises **National Societies**, the **International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** (the **Federation**), and the **International Committee of the Red Cross** (the **ICRC**). A diagram illustrating the components of the movement is shown.

National Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 173 countries. The Dominica Red Cross is officially recognised as a voluntary relief organisation, auxiliary to the public authorities and provides a range of services from disaster relief, health and social assistance to first-aid courses. During wartime, National Societies support the army medical services. All activities are carried out in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the movement during both war and peacetime. In order to become members of the Federation and the ICRC a Red Cross group must be recognised as a National Society by its government and must act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which guide its workings are: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. They are described further in another section of this orientation. All Red Cross and Red Crescent activities have one central purpose under the fundamental principles: to help prevent and alleviate suffering without impartiality and thus contribute to the maintenance and promotion of peace in the world.

Youth Members

Youth Members must follow the aims of the Red Cross, give service to the satisfaction of their Group Leader, attend meetings regularly and complete at least one course of instruction each year. Youth members must also pay a small quarterly subscription to headquarters.

Uniform and Badge Requirements

It is the responsibility of the Director General, Senior Officers and Groups Leaders to see that members of the Dominica Red Cross wear the correct uniform and badges in keeping with their membership status. Uniforms shall only be worn by members of the Society who are authorized by a signed membership card to wear a uniform. Makeup should be worn with discretion and jewelry should not be worn in uniform.

When representing and doing service in the name of Society, members shall wear a uniform except in the case of an emergency when members should try to identify themselves with a member's identification card.

Adult Member Uniform

Men: White short-sleeve shirt; Navy blue or black trousers; Black shoes and socks; Black or Navy blue Beret.

Women: White short-sleeve shirt buttoned to be worn over the skirt; Navy blue A-line skirt; Black shoes; Black or Navy blue Baret.

Senior Officers and Service Group Leaders: Wear the Adult Members' Uniform.

Youth Members Uniform

Boys: White short-sleeve shirt; navy blue or black trousers; Black shoes and socks; Red scarf, the size of a standard triangular bandage.

Responsibilities of Red Cross Leaders and Members

Leaders

Membership of the Society should not be taken lightly, Leaders must ensure that they know the Constitution, the Rules and Regulations and the services provided by the Dominica Red Cross. They should attend leadership training / refresher courses and take the opportunity of keeping themselves up to date with the work of the Red Cross Internationally. Leaders must keep accurate records of the Members services, training, attendance at meetings and general contributions to the work of the Society, Leaders have the responsibility of the upkeep and safekeeping of equipment owned or used by their Groups and for the organization of duties for their members. New members should receive from their Leaders information about the Society they are about to join – its beginnings, its Principles, its programmes and services, both nationally and internationally. New members should be made to understand that they are joining a service and not a social organization and that they will be expected to give regular community service of not less than four hours per month in the name of the Red Cross. New Members should be accepted on a provisional basis for at least three months before being enrolled as full members of the Society and being issued with a Membership card, during which time they should strive to train. Each Society, under the leadership of the Fundraising Officer and Group Leader, must participate in fundraising events throughout the year in order to sustain themselves financially. A quarterly subscription fee for each member is due to headquarters as a contribution to meeting operational costs.

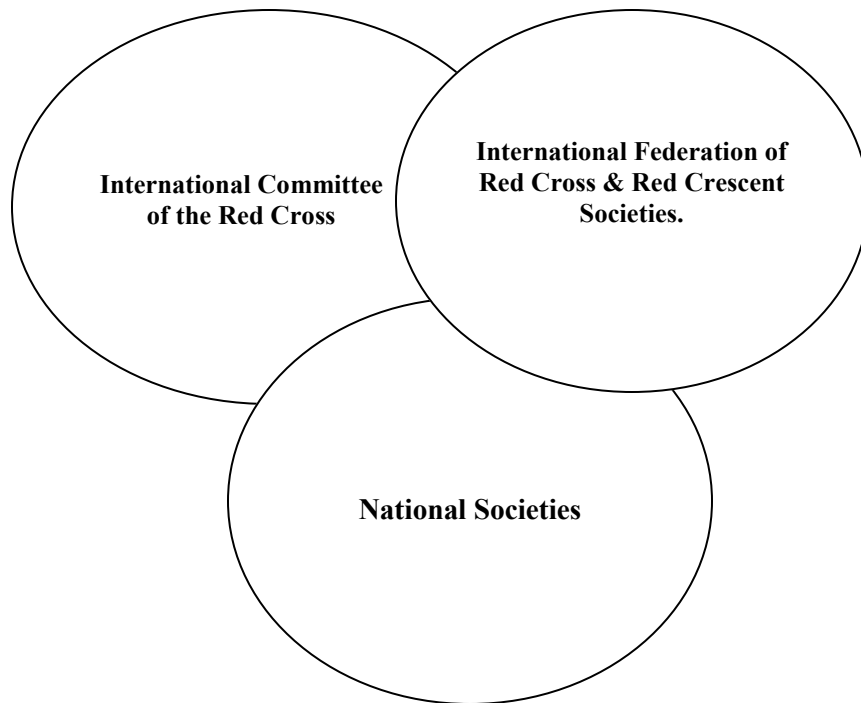
Adult Service Members

Adult Service Members should train as extensively as possible and give regular service to the community. These services include visiting and helping the sick, lonely and handicapped, giving service to the needy, helping to train personnel, raise funds and assisting in an emergency.

Another component of the Movement, the Federation, works throughout the world to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies to prevent and alleviate human suffering. The Federation was founded 1919. The Federation coordinates international assistance to victims of natural disasters and to the victims of man-made disasters outside conflict areas. It also helps National Societies plan and implement disaster -preparedness programmes and long-term projects designed to reduce vulnerability and contribute to sustainable development.

The third component of the Red Cross Movement, the ICRC, was created 1863 and is the founding body of the International Red Cross Movement. As a neutral and independent humanitarian institution, it acts throughout the world, either on its own initiative or on the basis of the **Geneva Conventions**, to protect and assist victims of **armed conflict** and its direct results. This may involve caring for the war-wounded, visiting prisoners of war and security detainees, restoring contact between separated families, protecting the civilian population or providing food and other assistance to conflict victims. The **ICRC** promotes and monitors the application of **International Humanitarian Law** (IHL). More information on IHL is contained in this orientation package.

The International Red Cross Movement



The actions of the Red Cross are based on the Fundamental Principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

Tracing

Through a comprehensive global communications network, the Red Cross helps to locate, reunite, and exchange messages between people separated from their loved ones because of war, civil disturbance or natural disaster.

Welfare Services

Through the generosity of donors the Dominica Red Cross responds with relief supplies to appeals for assistance to victims of disaster.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Dominica Red Cross relies upon the generous contributions of people's time, skills and money to provide disaster relief. Nearly everyone can help the Red Cross assist those affected by disaster by making a financial contribution to the Dominica Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Supporting your RED CROSS

The Dominica Red Cross is reliant upon local fundraising proceeds and annual Subscribing Member contributions received in order to meet its operating budget. Consequently, the generous support of the public remains a necessity in order to ensure the continued development of the Society.

There are, however, other ways in which to support the Red Cross through gift planning, or you may opt to remember the Red Cross in your own will. Other planned gifts include naming the Red Cross to receive all or part of the proceeds of a policy no longer needed for its original purpose, or you can pay tribute to another through a memorial gift.

- Health and Safety services including CPR, First Aid, HIV/AIDS education, and swimming.**

Today, the Dominica Red Cross offers a variety of first aid programs for different age groups and both general and professional audiences, including Standard First Aid, Emergency First Aid, Adult and Community CPR, First Aid for Children Today (FACT), and Basic Aid Training (BAT). All programs emphasise the importance of prevention. The goal of Red Cross courses is to teach people not only how to respond to injuries, but also how to prevent them. In order to expand HIV/AIDS prevention education to more local communities, a chapter on this subject has been added to emergency first aid training. The goal of this training is to prevent the spread of HIV by encouraging people to respond in informed ways to the risk of HIV infection as well as to people who have HIV/AIDS. Instruction in Water Safety and Response is provided in association with the Dominica Amateur Swimming Club.

- **Emergency communications and assistance to members of the armed forces and their families.**

The Red Cross keeps military personnel in touch with their family following the death or serious illness of a family members or in response to other family emergencies. Red Cross emergency messages provide military personnel and their commanders with fast, reliable information to help them make decisions regarding emergency leave, deferment, compassionate reassignment, and dependency discharge.

- **International Humanitarian Law**

The 1949 Geneva Conventions and 1977 Additional Protocols are the principal legal document that define international humanitarian law. They define fundamental rights for civilians and for combatants removed from fighting due to injury, illness, or capture. In short, the Geneva Conventions mandate that anyone not actively taking part in an armed conflict must be protected and their rights respected.

The Structure of the Dominica Red Cross

The Dominica Red Cross Comprises a central organization consisting of a General Assembly, a Central Committee, and a local organization, which ensures the extension of Red Cross activities throughout the Commonwealth of Dominica and which consist of Local Committees.

The General Assembly represents the Dominica Red Cross as a whole and meets every two years. It is composed of members of the Central Committee, the Leaders of the Local Committees and the elected Local Committee members. The General Assembly elects the Central Committee members, approves the annual report, votes the budget and approves amendments to the Constitution, and discusses all items entered on the final agenda it has adopted.

The Central Committee is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the General Assembly. It controls and administers the Dominica Red Cross. It is composed of eight members elected by the General Assembly, the Leaders of Local Committees, one member appointed by the government, and two prominent citizens. The Central Committee elects the Managing Committee and the Finance Commission, appoints and agrees the terms of office of the Director General, provides for the setting up of Local committees, draws up regulations for the Constitution, sets up committees to carry out these tasks, and votes on measures taken by the managing Committee or the President.

FACTS ABOUT YOUR RED CROSS

General information 1997

Dominica Red Cross

Founded 28 January, 1958 as a Branch of the British Red Cross. Recognised as a National Society on 7 March, 1983 by the Government of Dominica and by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 15 March, 1989. Admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on 21 October, 1989.

Mission Statement

To render voluntary service in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, with the objective of preventing and alleviating human suffering, and the promotion of respect, mutual understanding, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Dominica Red Cross Activities

•Disaster planning, preparedness, education, and relief.

Red Cross disaster relief focuses on meeting the immediate emergency needs of people affected by disaster. The core of Red Cross disaster relief activities is the assistance given to individuals and families affected by disaster. All assistance given on an individual basis is based on verified disaster related needs. All Red Cross disaster relief is given free of charge and is made possible by generous contributions of people's time, money and skills. The Red Cross provides relief services auxiliary to the public authorities and maintains an autonomy which allows it to act at all times in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross.

The **Managing Committee** is composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Director General of the Dominica Red Cross, and four members elected by the Central Committee. The Managing Committee is vested with whatever powers are delegated to it by the Central Committee.

The Local Committees are established by the Central Committee, defining the territory allotted to each and delegating such responsibility as it thinks fit for the organization of the Dominica Red Cross and its activities. Each Local Committee is responsible to the Central Committee. Each Local Committee should meet at least once a year to discuss the business of Red Cross and to re-elect Local Committees for the following year. Each Local Committee shall elect annually a Leader, an Assistant Leader, Treasurer, Secretary, fundraising Officer, Disaster Officer, and may elect such other officers as it thinks necessary. The right to terminate these appointments is vested in the Local Committee, subject to the right of appeal to the Central Committee. All Local Committee members should have a knowledge of the Constitution and the Rules and Regulations of organization activities under Red Cross.

IHL provides for the respect and protection of the wounded, sick, shipwrecked, medical personnel and medical services, civilian medical personnel and services, prisoners of war, civilians, civilian and cultural objects, and the national environment.

Protected persons are to be collected and treated humanely and must receive to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition. Today, practically all States have ratified or acceded to the Geneva Conventions.

1977 ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS 1 & 11

Protocols are Acts that reflect the resolutions of a conference or international assembly. Due to new practices and the evolutions of armed conflicts after 1949 it became evident that the Four Conventions no longer provided sufficient legal protection for all victims, especially civilians. It therefore became necessary to supplement these treaties and this led to the adoption of two Protocols additional to the four Conventions which would be applied in the event of:

1. International Armed Conflict
(Protocol 1)
2. Non-International Armed conflict
(Protocol 11)

Protocols 1 & 11 additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 were ratified by the Commonwealth of Dominica on 25 April, 1996 and entered into force on 25 October, 1996.

Organisational Structure

General Assembly

The highest authority of the Dominica Red Cross which represents the general membership. It is composed of the Leaders of Local Committees and elected representatives of Local Committees.

Central Committee

The decision making body which is composed of eight members elected by the General Assembly, the Leader of Local Committees, one member appointed by the government, and two prominent citizens with special qualifications or interest in the Red Cross.

Managing Committee

The Managing Committee is based on the needs addressed by the Central Committee. It is composed of: the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Director General of the Dominica Red Cross, and four members elected by the Central Committee. The Managing Committee is vested with whatever powers delegated to it by the Central Committee and takes decisions on any important matters which arise.

Local Committees

Local Committees are established by the Central Committee to ensure the Red Cross Activities extend throughout the island. Local Committees should exist in each branch / group to represent the branch / group in General Assembly and Central Committee meetings.

Service Groups

Adult Service Groups (Over 25 years of age)

Adult service members should train as extensively as possible and give regular service to the community.

Youth Groups (Ages 7 to 25 years of age)

Youth members must follow the aims of the Red Cross, give service to the satisfaction of their Group Leader, attend meetings regularly and complete at least one course of instruction each year.

Categories of Members

Active Members

Members who have agreed to give service to the Dominica Red Cross and registered as such by a local Committee.

Subscribing Members

Members who pay the annual subscription laid down by the General Assembly.

Honorary Members

Members who have been so designated by the Central Committee to mark exceptional services to the Society.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) commonly known as the law of war, is a set of rules designed to protect persons against the consequences of war, the purpose of which is to alleviate the suffering of all victims of armed conflicts who are in the power of their enemy, whether wounded, sick, or shipwrecked, prisoners of war or civilians. The initiator of this law was the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in an attempt to limit the effect of man's inhumanity to man.

IHL is geared not only to protect victims of war but more significantly to regulate the conduct of hostilities, and to improve protection of the civilian population.

In time of war certain humanitarian rules must be observed, even with regard to the enemy. These rules are set out mainly in the four Geneva conventions of August 12, 1949 and their Additional Protocols of June 8, 1977.

The four **Geneva Conventions** are:

1. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field.
2. Geneva Conventions for the Amelioration of the conditions of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea.
3. The Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.
4. Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians in enemy or occupied territory.

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement

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 anyone country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

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.

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.

Impartiality The Movement makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious, beliefs, class, or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering and 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.

Independence The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their government 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 Principles of the Movement.