

Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Humanity

We strive to prevent and alleviate suffering, protect life and health, and to ensure respect for the human being.

Impartiality

We do not discriminate as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

Neutrality

We do not take sides in hostilities or political, racial, religious or ideological controversies.

Independence

We must always maintain our autonomy.

Voluntary Service

We are not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There is only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent society in any one country and it is open to everyone.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is worldwide.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Armed conflict separates thousands of children from their families every year. The International Committee of the Red Cross helped these Liberian children return home.



Families wishing to search for relatives overseas can contact their local American Red Cross chapter.

International Family Tracing Services

For more information, visit www.redcross.org/familylinks



A displaced person in Sierra Leone receives a Red Cross message from her family.



A girl in Bosnia-Herzegovina holds a photo of a missing family member.



HOPE

In June 2001, Washington State resident Zeynaba Haji lost contact with her young daughter, Khandra, who along with her brother Issaq, was living in a conflict zone in Ethiopia. Concerned, the family talked with people who might know of their whereabouts, but without success.

Finally, through a friend and interpreter, Zeynaba contacted the American Red Cross Serving King and Kitsap Counties Chapter in Seattle, Washington. Workers at the chapter generated a tracing request that was sent to Ethiopia through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



Issaq and his parents attend a ceremony in their honor at the Seattle Red Cross. Khandra couldn't miss school.

It took until October 2002 for an answer to come, but at last joyous news arrived. The ICRC delegation in Kenya confirmed that they had located Khandra living in Nairobi

with Issaq, who was also a minor. Zeynaba was relieved and happy to have found them, but she was frantic with worry. She desperately wanted to bring them to the U.S.

The Seattle chapter, Family Tracing Services at national headquarters and the ICRC worked with government agencies to arrange the necessary paperwork to reunite the family. In May 2004, Khandra and Issaq arrived in the U.S. and the family was finally together again.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," was all Zeynaba could say when she could hug her children again and know she could wake each day aware of where they were and more confident that they were safe.

When conflict or disaster strikes, families can become separated with no way to contact each other. When they do not know where to turn....

International Family Tracing Services can help. Free of charge, these services give families separated by armed conflict or disaster a way to restore contact.

International Family Tracing Services include—

- Locating missing loved ones.
- Exchanging family messages.
- Making family welfare inquiries during and after disasters overseas.
- Making health and welfare inquiries about family members around the world in non-disaster times.
- Securing travel documents from the International Committee of the Red Cross to reunite separated family members.
- Providing information and referral services when another agency can better meet a particular need.

Each year, the American Red Cross delivers an average of 4,000 messages between family members separated by armed conflict or disaster. Through partnership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the American Red Cross traces over 1,000 people each year for family members.

When armed conflict or disaster forces people to flee their countries, it can leave families seeking answers to questions, such as "where is my sister ... brother ... mother ... father?" and "are they alive?" The American Red Cross provides tracing services so that families overseas can search for the answers.

**For the displaced ...
International Family
Tracing Services give hope.**



Families scan photos in hopes of locating loved ones.