

Department of Political Science
BA (Major) 6th semester
Topic: International Committee of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an independent and impartial organization dedicated to the protection and care of victims of armed conflict and other violent situations. The organisation was established in 1863. It is a humanitarian institution based in Geneva, Switzerland, and a three-time Nobel Prize Laureate. It is the oldest and most honoured organization within the movement and one of the most widely recognized organizations in the world, having won three Nobel Peace Prizes in 1917, 1944, and 1963.

The official mission statement says that: "The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral, and independent organization whose independently humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance." It also conducts and coordinates international relief and works to promote and strengthen international humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. The core tasks of the Committee, which are derived from the Geneva Conventions and its own statutes are:

- To monitor compliance of warring parties with the Geneva Conventions
- To organize nursing and care for those who are wounded on the battlefield
- To supervise the treatment of prisoners of war and make confidential interventions with detaining authorities
- To help with the search for missing persons in an armed conflict (tracing service)
- To organize protection and care for civil populations
- To act as a neutral intermediary between warring parties

The ICRC drew up seven fundamental principles in 1965 that were adopted by the entire Red Cross Movement. They are humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, volunteerism, unity, and universality.
