



LEAVE A LEGACY FOR LIFE BEYOND ARMED CONFLICT

NAME THE ICRC IN YOUR WILL



ICRC

NAME THE ICRC IN YOUR WILL AND MAKE YOUR HUMANITARIAN VALUES LIVE ON



Few of us can be fully immune to the impact of today's armed conflicts and disasters, no matter where we live in the world. Wars often drag on for many years, with regional or even wider repercussions. The humanitarian consequences are immense. Add to that the effects of environmental problems and climate change, mass migration, rapid urbanisation and major pandemics and it is clear that contemporary crises have increasingly global dimensions.

Yet, while we are all concerned, we are not all equally affected. For the millions of women, men and children living in the midst of war or violence it can be impossibly hard to deal with additional deadly threats such as natural disasters or pandemics. In the face of this, the values of solidarity, compassion and humanity are more important than ever.

This is where you can make an invaluable and lasting contribution by naming the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in your will. For more than 150 years, our exclusively humanitarian mission has been to protect the lives and dignity of people affected by armed conflict, and to provide them with assistance. As promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law, we work in more than 90 countries around the world, not only saving lives but also helping to rebuild them.

Your generosity will enable us to help some of the neediest people on the planet, and ultimately provide hope for a brighter future. A heartfelt thank you for considering the ICRC in your legacy to future generations.

Robert Mardini
Director-General

“I am happy to know that, when I’m no longer around, some of the good fortune that I have enjoyed will be shared with people in need.”

When I look back, I realize how fortunate I’ve been. I was born in a country where life is good, into a loving family who were always there for me. My husband and I were successful and my daughter has also done very well for herself.

Now my husband is no longer with us, I want to think about the future. Not just my future and that of my daughter, but also the future of all those who have not been so fortunate: families driven from their homes by conflict or disaster; families who cannot afford health care; and families who do not even have enough to eat.



It is for all those families in distress that I have decided to bequeath to the ICRC the small apartment that I rented out to top up my pension. My daughter is completely behind me. I am happy to know that, when I’m no longer around, some of the good fortune that I have enjoyed will be shared with people in need through the ICRC’s work.

*Christine D.**

*Names and identifying details have been changed to protect this donor’s anonymity. These paragraphs are based on what was written in her will.

THANKS TO DONORS LIKE YOU, THE ICRC HAS BEEN PROVIDING EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS

PROMOTER AND GUARDIAN OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The ICRC was founded in 1863 on the basis of Henry Dunant's ideas. From the beginning, we asserted our role as promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law. Until then, wounded soldiers had been left untended on the battlefield; the ICRC set out to improve the fate of victims of war. Over the following decades, we were the driving force behind the adoption of the four Geneva Conventions and other international agreements, which

stepped up protection for the wounded and sick, prisoners of war and civilians, and banned certain weapons.

THE LARGEST HUMANITARIAN MOVEMENT IN THE WORLD

As part of our mandate under the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC works alongside the 190 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to alleviate suffering and safeguard human life and dignity, particularly during armed conflicts and other violence.



1863

OUR FIVE FOUNDING MEMBERS



1914–1918

FIRST WORLD WAR



1964–1975

VIETNAM WAR



1991–2001

WARS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Thanks to the support of millions of volunteers and the generosity of our donors, our movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world.

The ICRC strives to:

- **meet people's basic needs** by providing water, food and shelter
- provide **emergency medical care** and restore health-care services
- ensure that **civilians are spared and protected**
- **assist families who are separated** by circumstances
- visit and protect **people deprived of their liberty**
- promote and develop **international humanitarian law**.

“In an age when we hear so much of progress and civilization, is it not a matter of urgency, since unhappily we cannot always avoid wars, to press forward in a human and truly civilized spirit the attempt to prevent, or at least to alleviate, the horrors of war?”

Henry Dunant

Founder of the ICRC and Nobel Peace

Prize winner in 1901

A Memory of Solferino, 1862



1939–1945

SECOND WORLD WAR



1948

PALESTINE



2003

IRAQ WAR



2011

SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

FAMILY MATTERS

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Since the founding of the ICRC more than 150 years ago, we have helped countless people find a missing child, parent, sibling or spouse. We offer vital support to families, wherever they may be – in a displacement camp, in prison or at home. This often includes conveying messages between separated family members, and we have successfully reunited thousands of families over the years.

THE KIDNAPPING OF FOUR-YEAR-OLD EMMANUEL: “PAPA! PAPA!”

“It was 7pm and we were just settling down around the fire,” says Rosa, recalling the night of 28 August 2016. “Suddenly, we hear our neighbour Federiko scream, ‘My kids, my kids!’ This man – probably a livestock rustler – appears out of nowhere and punches my husband. My son Emmanuel starts crying and shouts, ‘Papa! Papa!’ This guy then picks up my son and runs off with him.” Rosa tells us she was convinced she would never see him again.

Thankfully, the story doesn’t end there. Eighteen months later, ICRC colleagues received reports of a young boy crying

for his family, in another part of the country. After making some checks, we were able to confirm that this was Rosa’s long-lost son and help bring him home.

“Reuniting Emmanuel with his family was both moving and unsettling,” says ICRC delegate Céline Croon. “Rosa and her husband were over the moon, but Emmanuel had forgotten his mother tongue and was very wary.” Their neighbour Federiko was also reunited with his daughter Monika (7) and son Victor (13) on the same day.

“Bringing separated family members back together takes time and hard work,” says Céline. “You have to check everyone’s identity, gain official authorizations, sort out all the logistics... But hearing families say that their hearts are finally at peace makes it all worth it!”

ACROSS THE WORLD IN 2020:

136 353 RED CROSS MESSAGES
WERE COLLECTED

122 140 RED CROSS MESSAGES
WERE DELIVERED

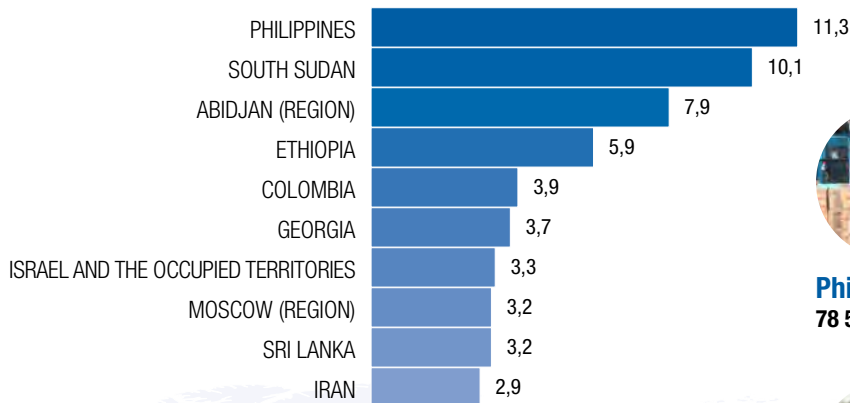
1 504 199 PHONE AND VIDEO CALLS
WERE MADE BETWEEN SEPARATED
FAMILY MEMBERS

1 049 FAMILIES WERE REUNITED



HOPE, THANKS TO BEQUESTS BETWEEN 2013 AND 2020

These are the ten operations that received the most support from bequests (in millions of Swiss francs), and a few examples of the work they helped make possible in 2020.



Philippines

78 579 detainees were visited.



Ethiopia

58,400 people who'd fled their homes and members of the communities who'd accepted them benefited from better access to clean water.



Israel and the occupied territories

1,323 households (**7,888** people) increased their olive and vegetable production thanks to our agricultural livelihood support programmes.



Iran

13,394 medical consultations were carried out at an ICRC-supported health centre.



South Sudan

3,600 people with disabilities received physical rehabilitation services.



Abidjan (region)*

69 missing person cases were solved: we either located the person or found out what had happened to them.



Georgia

The remains of **14** people were returned to their families with our help.



Colombia

3,800 people received mental health and psychosocial support.



Moscow (region)**

Our delegation in Moscow supported National Societies during the pandemic and kept up our dialogue with Russia on various issues related to international humanitarian law.



Sri Lanka

7,500 people received food under a joint ICRC–Sri Lanka Red Cross Society operation to help people cope with the pandemic.

* This region covers Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinée, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo.

** This region covers Belarus, Moldova and Russia.

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL AND THE HUMANITARIAN VALUES YOU BELIEVE IN WILL LIVE ON

HOW IMPORTANT ARE BEQUESTS FOR THE ICRC'S ACTIVITIES?

Very. Most people do not specify how they wish their bequest to be spent. This mark of trust means we have funds available to provide emergency aid immediately.

CAN I LEAVE A GIFT IN MY WILL FOR A SPECIFIC COUNTRY OR CAUSE?

If you would like your legacy to be used in a particular country, like Syria, or for a particular group of people, such as children, please get in touch so we can discuss your wishes. It is possible that our operations in a specific country will come to an end in the future. It is also easier for us to manage a more general request, such as helping to reconnect families, than one marked specifically for children. Greater flexibility means we can decide how best to use funding at the time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS MANAGER:

Marie-Jo Girod
T + 41 22 730 33 76
Email: mgirodblanc@icrc.org

There is no obligation, and all information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

IS THERE A MINIMUM GIFT AMOUNT WHEN INCLUDING THE ICRC IN MY WILL?

The act of giving is a meaningful gesture, whatever the amount involved. When you show your support for the ICRC, you are helping to improve the lives of victims of armed conflict and you are giving them a future beyond war.

*Every gift is important
to the people we help,
however large or small.
Every gift helps to save lives.*





WHAT CAN YOU BEQUEATH TO THE ICRC?

In your will, you can bequeath any kind of asset, such as:

- **Money:** This is what most people choose to bequeath.
- **Gifts in kind:** Real estate, jewels, works of art, furniture, collections, etc.
- **Securities:** Shares, bonds, etc.
- **Other assets:** Patents, royalties, etc.

TAX EXEMPTION

The ICRC is exempt from paying inheritance tax on bequests in most Swiss cantons. This is also the case in Germany, France and the United States. To find out about other countries, or for any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

WHAT KIND OF BEQUEST SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

- ✓ **Specific bequest:** You bequeath one or more items. It is important to mention the specific item(s) bequeathed to the ICRC.
- ✓ **Residuary bequest:** You leave to the ICRC what remains of your entire estate after other specific bequests and costs have been paid.
- ✓ **Reversionary bequest:** You provide for a share of your estate to go to the ICRC if the heir named in your will passes away before inheriting, after other specific bequests and costs have been paid.



PLEASE CONTACT US. WE'LL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION

WHY MAKE A WILL?

In order to make a bequest, you must make a will stipulating your final wishes. You can revoke or change it at any time.

WHAT KIND OF WILL SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

- **Holographic will:** Written entirely in your own hand, this is the simplest kind of will. If you opt for a holographic will, you should consult a professional, such as a notary, lawyer, bank official or financial consultant, to ensure that your will clearly reflects your wishes and complies with the law, especially regarding the entitlements of family members.
- **Notarial will:** Drawn up in the presence of two witnesses and before a notary or any other person empowered to do so, this document guarantees that your will complies with the law.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN WILL

- ✓ Write your will by hand.
- ✓ Write your full name, date of birth and address, as well as the names and addresses of people and organizations to whom you are leaving bequests.
For the ICRC, please put:
International Committee of the Red Cross
IDE: CHE-105.924.024
19 Avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva - Switzerland
- ✓ Specify the kind of bequest and the item(s) bequeathed.
- ✓ Indicate the location and date, then sign the will.

SAMPLE WILLS

SAMPLE 1

I, the undersigned, [full name], born on [day, month, year] and currently residing at [address], express my final wishes as follows:

1. I revoke all previous will provisions.
2. I leave the sum of [amount in figures followed by amount written out in words] [Swiss francs/euros/pounds/dollars] to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 19 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.
3. I leave the remainder of my estate, in equal parts, to my children [full names], born on [day, month, year] and residing at [address].

[Place, date]

[Signature]

SAMPLE WILLS

SAMPLE 2

I, the undersigned, [full name], born on [day, month, year] and currently residing at [address], express my final wishes as follows:

1. I revoke all previous will provisions.
2. I leave one-third ($1/3$) of my assets to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 19 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.
3. I leave the remainder of my assets, up to two-thirds ($2/3$), to my partner, [full name], born on [day, month, year] and residing at [address].

I name [title, full name, full address] as executor of my will.

[Place, date]

[Signature]

SAMPLE WILLS

SAMPLE 3

I, the undersigned, [full name], born on [day, month, year] and currently residing at [address], express my final wishes as follows:

1. I revoke all previous will provisions.
2. I leave my jewellery to my sister, [full name], born on [day, month, year] and residing at [address].
3. I leave my empty apartment, located at [address], to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 19 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland. The ICRC is responsible for taking over the mortgage debt on the property.
4. The remainder of my estate shall be divided in accordance with inheritance law between my heirs-at-law, namely, my husband [full name], born on [day, month, year] and residing at [address], and my children [full names], born on [day, month, year] and residing at [address].
5. I name [title, full name, full address] as executor of my will.

[Place, date]

[Signature]

A SPECIAL PROMISE FOR A SPECIAL GIFT



We understand that including a gift in your will is a personal matter that requires time and careful consideration. That is why we want you to know how much we appreciate this very special gesture and promise you that:

- We will always understand that your own family, friends and loved ones come first in your will.
- We will not put pressure on you to include a gift to us in your will – it is your decision.
- We will never ask you how big or what type of gift you have chosen to give.
- We will always respect your privacy – you do not have to tell us your intentions. However, we would like to be able to thank you and to offer a way of having your generosity remembered by future generations.
- We fully understand that personal circumstances change and there might come a time when you have to remove the ICRC from your will.
- We promise to use your gift wisely.
- We will use your gift to help those most in need, but please let us know if you want your gift to be used for a specific purpose.



THE ICRC WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU



“I am always very touched by the solidarity and generosity of people who wish to make a bequest to the ICRC. I am keen to hear from each and every one of you, to answer your questions and, if you wish, to guide you through the process.”

Please do not hesitate to get in touch; I look forward to hearing from you.”

*Marie-Jo Girod
Bequests and Donations Manager*

HOW DO I WRITE MY WILL?

Depending on your last country of residence, the law might provide for other formal requirements for a will to be valid; we recommend you check with a local adviser.

- Include your full name, date of birth and address, as well as the names and addresses of people and organizations to whom you are leaving legacies. For the ICRC, please put:
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),
IDE: CHE-105.924.024
19 avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
- Specify the kind of legacy and the item(s) bequeathed.
- State the location and date, then sign the will.

WHAT CAN I BEQUEATH TO THE ICRC?

You can bequeath any kind of asset, such as:

- money
- a percentage of your estate
- securities: shares, bonds, etc.

WILL THE ICRC HAVE TO PAY INHERITANCE TAX?

In most countries, the ICRC is exempt from paying inheritance tax on legacies. To find out about your country, please do not hesitate to contact us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Marie-Jo Girod

Tel: + 41 22 730 33 76

Email: mgirodblanc@icrc.org

www.icrc.org/legacy



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IBAN CH97 0024 0240 FP10 0883 2
If you would like to make a donation in a currency other than Swiss francs, please visit <https://www.icrc.org/en/faq/donate-by-bank-transfer-or-cheque> to find the matching account number.