



**CODE OF CONDUCT  
FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**

ADOPTED ON 18 DECEMBER 2014 AND CAME INTO FORCE ON 1 APRIL 2015

# **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**

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## **Article 1. Purpose and scope**

1. This Code of Conduct applies to members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (hereafter "members").
2. The rules set forth in the Code of Conduct serve to complement the ICRC's Statutes and Internal Regulations. They are intended to govern members' actions and behaviour to ensure that they carry out their office in a satisfactory manner, with due respect for the people with whom the ICRC is in contact, and project a positive image of the ICRC so as to guarantee its effectiveness and integrity.

## **Article 2. General rules**

1. Every member shall acknowledge and respect the contributions and opinions of other members. Members shall at all times abide by the rules set forth in the Internal Regulations.
2. Members shall act solely in the interest of the ICRC while carrying out their office. They shall behave with integrity, respect for their mandate and loyalty to the ICRC's interests, refraining from acts that could be detrimental to the ICRC or in any way harm its image or reputation.
3. In particular, members shall not engage in any form of fraud. Fraud is defined as any action intended to obtain an unauthorized benefit, such as money, goods, services or other personal or commercial advantages, regardless of whether this advantage benefits the member, the ICRC or a third party.
4. Members shall comply with the rules governing the use of the red cross, red crescent and red crystal emblems. They shall refrain from wearing official ICRC insignia when not officially authorized to do so.
5. Members shall demonstrate, particularly through their behaviour, dress and language, the appropriate level of respect for the religious beliefs, mores, customs, rules, practices and habits of the people in the country or context in which they find themselves.
6. Members shall not use or transport any weapons or munitions while carrying out their duties.

**Article 3. Duty of discretion**

1. Members shall not divulge any confidential information to which they may become privy while acting as member without the express permission of the president of the ICRC.
2. Members who plan to produce or publish something (e.g. an article, book or blog) containing information about their work for the ICRC shall first obtain written permission from the Assembly.
3. Should a member be called upon to testify in court (as a witness, expert or party to a case or suit) concerning information learned while acting as member, he or she shall first obtain permission from the Assembly.
4. These obligations continue to apply once a member's mandate has ended.

**Article 4. Duty of reserve**

Should members be called upon in their private capacity to publicly comment on information or situations related to the ICRC's work, they shall maintain an attitude of reserve. In particular, they shall ensure that their comments do not draw the ICRC into any controversy that would violate its principle of neutrality.

**Article 5. Favours, gifts and distinctions**

1. Members shall not use their position to obtain advantages or favours of any kind. They shall not accept any advantages, favours or gifts in cash or in kind offered in connection with their office, nor promises of such, apart from token presents in keeping with accepted custom.
2. Members may accept decorations or other honorary distinctions awarded by bodies or components of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Movement).
3. Members shall not accept decorations or other honorary distinctions awarded by a government without express permission from the Assembly.
4. Members shall not participate in selection committees for prizes or medals without express permission from the president of the ICRC, unless the prize falls within the framework of the ICRC or the Movement.

**Article 6. Incompatible activities**

1. Members shall refrain from engaging in any activity, paid or unpaid, or any personal, professional or financial involvement that might prove detrimental to the ICRC or incompatible with its interests.
2. For example, the following activities are incompatible with the office of member of the ICRC:
  - a) member of government or senior official of the Swiss Confederation, a canton or the city of Geneva
  - b) member of the Swiss Federal Assembly, a cantonal parliament or the Geneva city council

- c) official or representative of an intergovernmental organization
  - d) leading member of an organization with an official stance in favour of a party or parties to a conflict
  - e) involvement in the arms industry
  - f) member of the clergy working for a religious institution.
3. Members shall inform the Assembly of any information about themselves that may be incompatible with the office of member.

**Article 7. Harassment, abuse of power and sexual exploitation**

As set forth in the Code of Conduct for Employees of the ICRC:

- 1. Members shall not engage in any form of harassment, including sexual harassment.
- 2. Members shall not pay for sexual services. They shall not enter into a sexual relationship with a child (girl or boy under 18 years old), nor with a direct beneficiary of the ICRC's assistance and protection programmes, nor with a member of a beneficiary's immediate family.

I, the undersigned, hereby confirm that, as a member of the ICRC, I will comply with this Code of Conduct.

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_