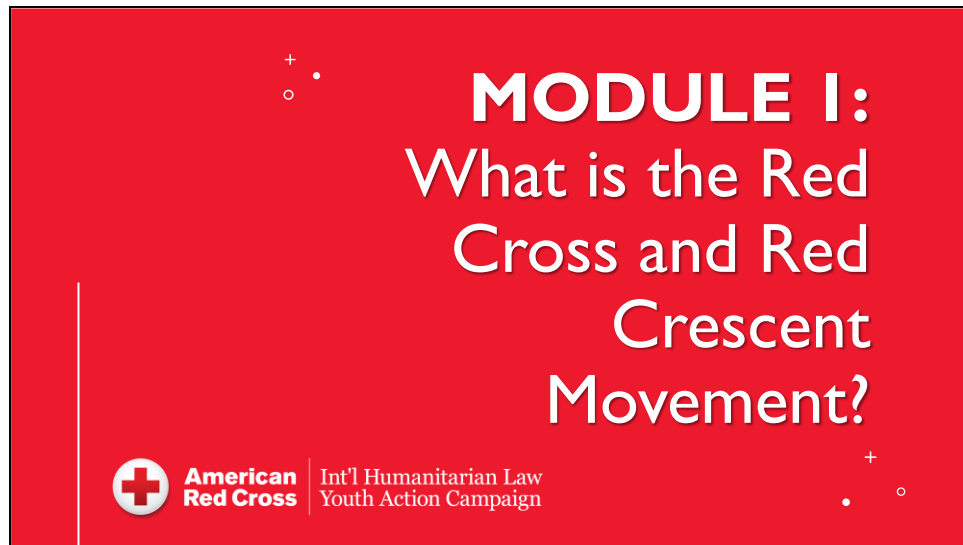


Slide 1



Slide 1:

Welcome!

Before we get into the module, we're going to start off with some introductions.

(What I would say: My name is Janhavi Ramekar and I am from southeast Michigan. I have been with the IHL program since 2020 and was fortunate enough to have been given the chance to attend the annual summit in DC, summer of 2023. I love IHL and I can see how I have grown as a person during my time campaigning, working, and meeting all kinds of different advocates and volunteers. I can't wait to see how this program grows and how you all grow with the program)

Now think about your own role in the Red Cross and your role with the IHL Youth Action Campaign. What interests you in International Humanitarian Law, why did you join this campaign, and what are you most looking forward to about the program? *(pause for like 5 seconds)* Let's get started!

Slide 2

OVERVIEW: Youth Action Campaign



Welcome, thank you for joining the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Youth Action Campaign (YAC)!

The YAC Curriculum has 4 Modules:

1. What is the Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement?
2. IHL: The Basics
3. Annual IHL Theme
4. YAC: Building Your Campaign



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Slide 2:

Thank you for joining the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Youth Action Campaign! The IHL Youth Action Campaign is an American Red Cross program that encourages youth and young adults all around the world to learn about the rules of armed conflict and empowers them to explore IHL through peer-to-peer outreach campaigns.

Many people don't know about IHL so the American Red Cross thanks you for working with us to promote these laws in your communities. We look forward to seeing your creative campaigns come to life and learning about your experiences in spreading the IHL message.

We will discuss more about the Youth Action Campaign in a later Module but for now let's talk about what the American Red Cross is and how it fits into the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement!

Slide 3



Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9bsmnuJU-o&t=3s>

Slide 3:

On June 24, 1859, the Austrian and the French armies clashed in Solferino, a small town located in northern Italy. The battle was monumental for its time, becoming the largest land battle in European history. After only 16 hours, there were already 36,000 casualties. Henry Dunant, a young Swiss citizen, arrived in Solferino on the evening of the battle. As Dunant wandered among the wounded soldiers, he realized how little people seemed to care to help them. He gathered a group of volunteers from a local village and organized them into groups to take food and water to those who were hurt.

Horried by the condition of the soldiers and inspired by the actions of the volunteers, Dunant realized the importance of nations mobilizing groups of volunteers to tend to the wounded and sick during war.

A few years later, Dunant helped to start the International Committee of the Red Cross leading to the formation of The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Let's watch a quick video about Henry Dunant to further understand his impact. **Watch until minute 3:30**

Slide 4

One idea – an ocean apart...
To bring humanity to war.

HENRY DUNANT
Battle of
Solferino 1859

CLARA BARTON
U.S. Civil War
1861-1865

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Slide 4:

In 1859, while Dunant witnessed the scene of the Battle of Solferino, another humanitarian across the Atlantic, in the United States was also confronting, the suffering caused by war. During the outbreak of the U.S. During The Civil War in 1861, Clara Barton realized that she could not remain on the sidelines while wounded soldiers and military medical personnel were in desperate need of assistance.

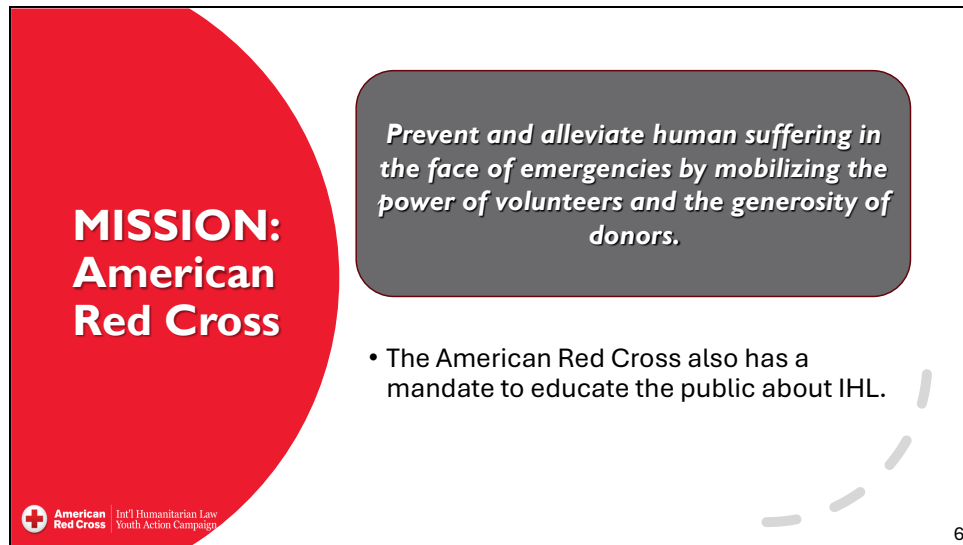


Slide 5:

Clara Barton was working as a recording clerk in the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. when the first units of federal troops appeared in the city in 1861. She started by taking supplies to the soldiers that were attacked in Baltimore, Maryland and as she risked her life to treat the sick and wounded leading to her name - "Angel of the Battlefield." In 1869, Clara Barton traveled to Europe where she was introduced to the Red Cross Movements. Inspired by her time working with the Red Cross in Europe; Barton traveled back to the US and formed the American Red Cross.

It often comes as a surprise that the American Red Cross was founded to address the humanitarian challenges faced in war. Clara Barton, our founder, was inspired to establish the American Red Cross in response to the clear needs she witnessed during the American Civil War. As a national society of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the American Red Cross has a mandate to educate the public about International Humanitarian Law or IHL.

Slide 6



**MISSION:
American
Red Cross**

Prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

- The American Red Cross also has a mandate to educate the public about IHL.

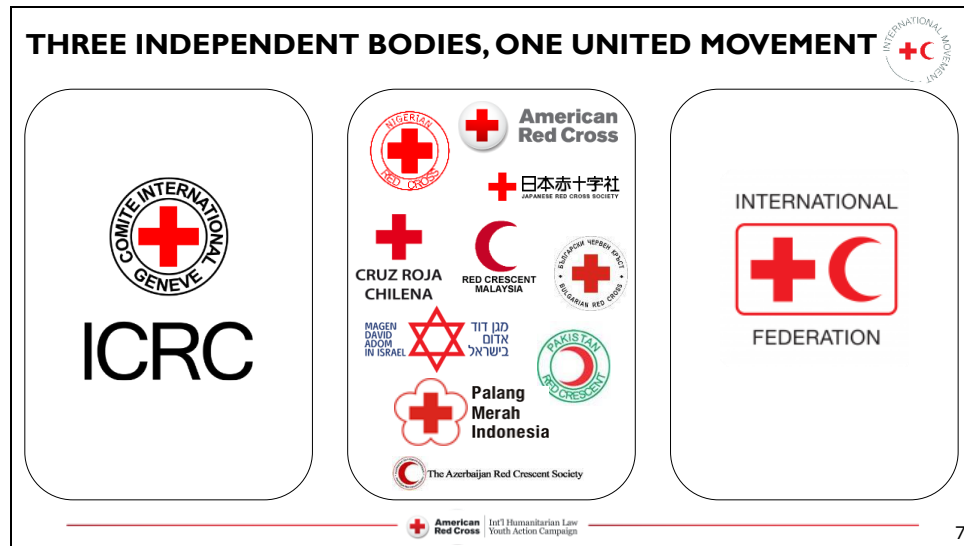
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Slide 6:

The American Red Cross aims to ease human suffering during emergencies by bringing together volunteers and generous donors. In the US, many people associate the American Red Cross with disaster relief, emergency preparedness, and blood donations. As part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the American Red Cross is also responsible for teaching the public about International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Slide 7

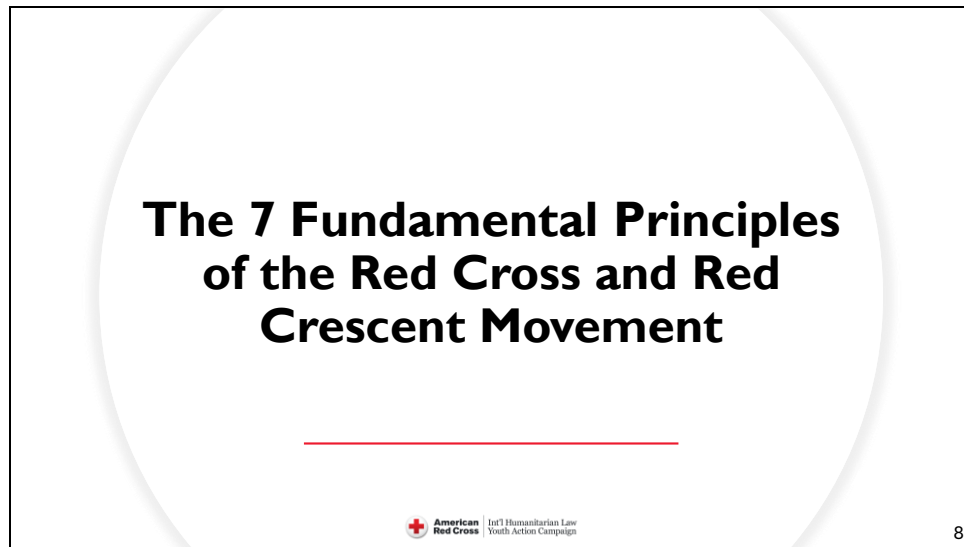


Slide 7:

Now that we've discussed how the International and American Red Cross came to be, let's look at the structure of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and how they maintain their humanitarian mission. Henry Dunant's idea to care for sick and wounded soldiers in battle grew into the largest humanitarian organization in the world - the Red Cross.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (also known as the ICRC) remains true to its origins of providing assistance in armed conflicts.
- The National Societies, of which the American Red Cross is one of, execute the Red Cross and Red Crescent mission in their respective countries. More than 191 countries have their own national Red Cross or Red Crescent society.
- The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) acts as a secretariat to support and coordinate the efforts of the National Societies. The IFRC acts before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people through coordinated movement responses.

Together, the ICRC, the National Societies, and the IFRC form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. All of the organizations are independent bodies, none working for the other, but are bound together by a common set of unifying humanitarian principles.



Slide 8:

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is united by a set of seven fundamental principles. While the movement is composed of independent organizations, these principles unite them.

The Fundamental Principles express the values and practices of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. They have served as both a guide for action and a common identity for our Movement.

Slide 9

7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Humanity
Prevent human suffering wherever it is found



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Slide 9:

The first fundamental principle is Humanity. The principle of humanity represents the national and international endeavor to prevent and alleviate human suffering. It's purpose is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human dignity — regardless of who and where they are. Humanity forms the basis of everything we do.

7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Humanity
Prevent human suffering wherever it is found



Impartiality
Relieve suffering based on needs without discrimination



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Slide 10:

Impartiality ensures that Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement activities make no discrimination in its pursuit of alleviating suffering. It states that services are provided guided by need alone, prioritizing the most urgent cases of distress.

7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Humanity Prevent human suffering wherever it is found 	Impartiality Relieve suffering based on needs without discrimination 	Neutrality Takes no sides in hostilities and controversies 
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Slide 11:

Neutrality states that the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature. Neutrality ensures the Movement can remain in the confidence of all and provide aid to those in need.

7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Humanity Prevent human suffering wherever it is found 	Impartiality Relieve suffering based on needs without discrimination 	Neutrality Takes no sides in hostilities and controversies 
Independence Maintain autonomy from governments 		

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Slide 12:

The Fourth fundamental principle is Independence. Independence states that national societies and international bodies must remain autonomous from governments or external influences so that they may be able to act in accordance with the other fundamental principles. This principle allows us to resist interference in executing our goal of preventing human suffering.

7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

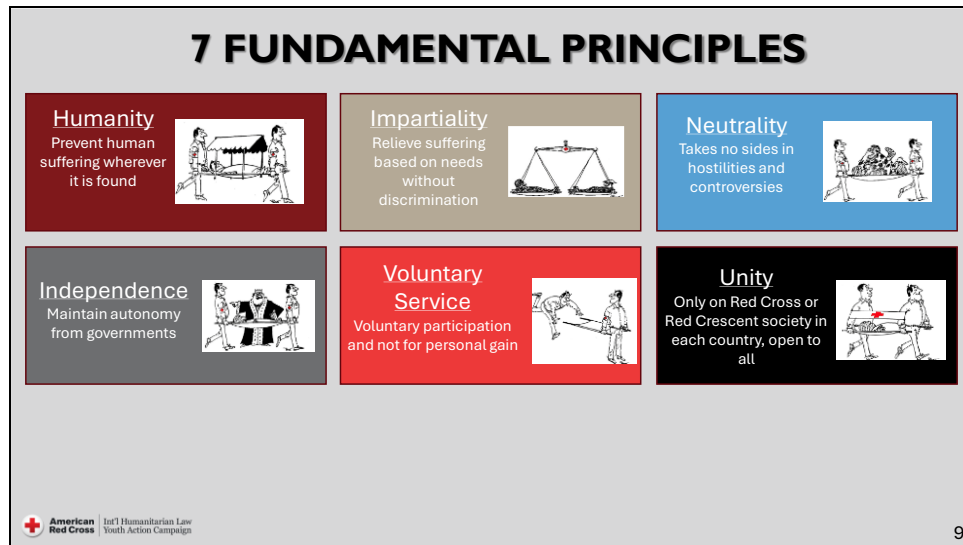
Humanity Prevent human suffering wherever it is found 	Impartiality Relieve suffering based on needs without discrimination 	Neutrality Takes no sides in hostilities and controversies 
Independence Maintain autonomy from governments 	Voluntary Service Voluntary participation and not for personal gain 	

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Slide 13:

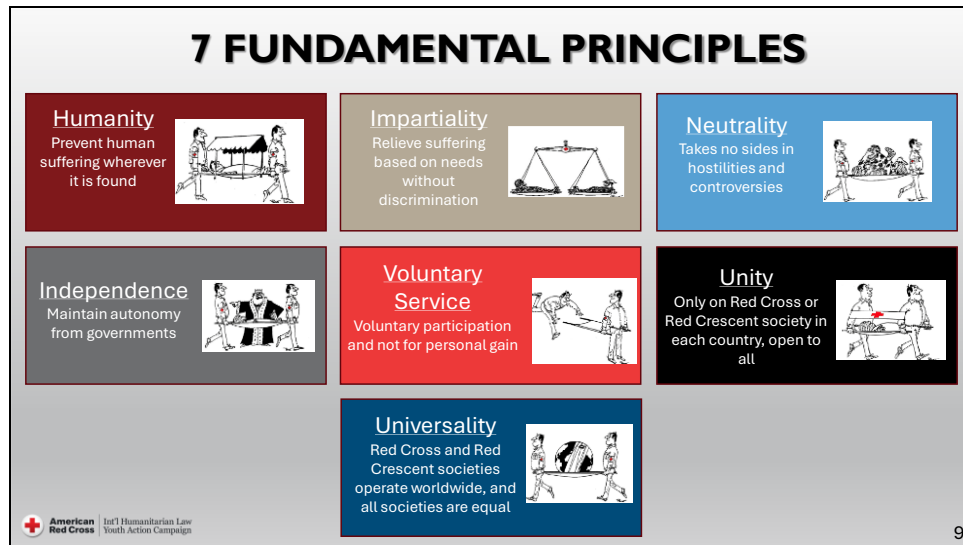
Our Fifth principle, Voluntary Service, states that the Red Cross is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain. This common motivation unites all those working within the movement as freely chosen in solidarity maintaining a primary commitment to humanitarian purposes.



Slide 14:

Unity, states that "There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory."

Having only one society in any given country avoids the risk of confusion in the communities served by the local Red Cross Society. This National society must be active in all parts of the country that need support prioritizing communities with the greatest need first in accordance with the principle of impartiality. Unity also protects communities and volunteers from discrimination and exclusion.



Slide 15:

Lastly, Universality states that all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties helping each other, ensuring a worldwide movement. In the words of the IFRC: “The universality of suffering requires a universal response.” This principle affirms a collective responsibility for national societies to support each other towards collective purpose.



Discussion

In your opinion, what fundamental principle is the most important to IHL?

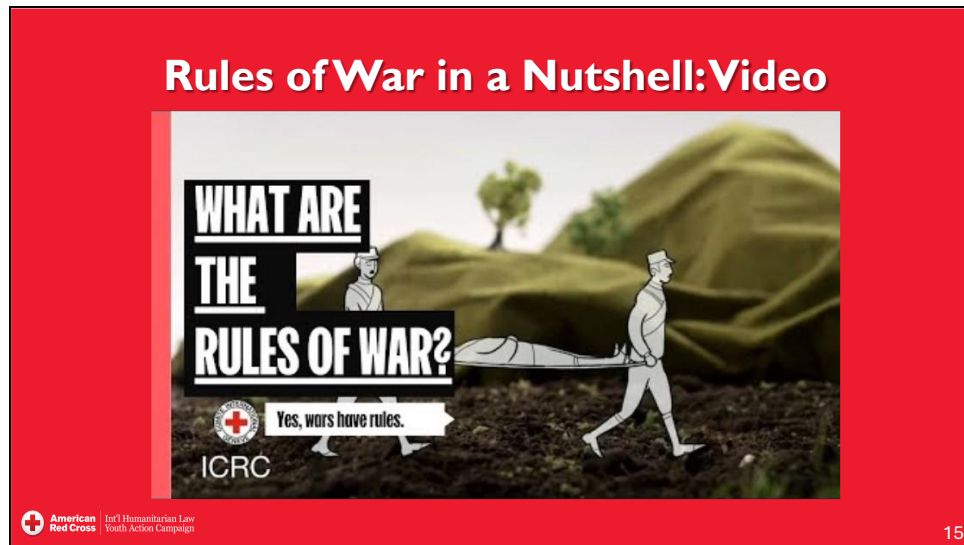
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Slide 16:

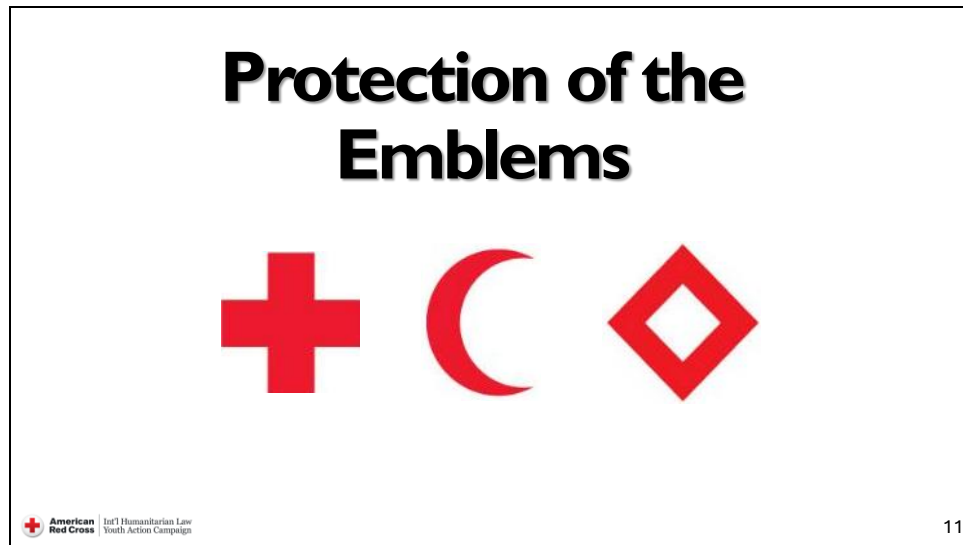
So we want to hear from you, In your opinion, what fundamental principle is the most important to IHL? (*pause for 5 seconds*)

Slide 17



Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwpzzAefx9M&t=8s>

Slide 17: Let's watch a video to recap what we have learned so far... (watch full video)



Slide 18:

To standardize a symbol for medical personnel and facilities, the Red Cross was the first distinctive emblem authorized in the original Geneva Conventions. It has no religious meaning but is the inverse of the Swiss flag - a white cross on a red background. The standardization of this symbol did not last long, as some nations started to use other emblems. Today, the Movement has three globally recognized emblems—the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the Red Crystal. They are symbols of assistance in times of conflict and disaster and are some of the most widely recognized brand symbols globally.

Over time more countries started to use their own emblems. To stop this practice, it was determined that only three symbols would exist: the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and the Red Crystal - a neutral emblem that is not linked to any country or religion.

The Red Crystal was approved in Additional Protocol III in 2005 but has seen very little use in practice. An interesting point about the Red Crystal is that within the crystal one can place an additional symbol. For example, the Red Star of David that is used to identify the Israeli National Society could be placed within the white portion of the Red Crystal.



DISTINCTIVE EMBLEMS

Protective use is using the emblem as a visible sign to claim the legal protection of IHL in times of armed conflict. It should be displayed on personnel, equipment or facilities entitled to the protected status

PROTECTIVE USE





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Slide 19:

When you see the Red Cross or other affiliated symbols on a battlefield, they carry a special significance. These symbols represent immunity—they cannot be attacked, and those using them, like medics aiding an injured soldier, must be granted safe passage.

There are two uses for the emblems: The first is what we call 'Protective use.' It signals legal protection under International Humanitarian Law, ensuring that people, equipment, or locations marked with the emblem are safeguarded during armed conflict.

When emblems are used for protective purposes, medical and religious personnel as well as medical facilities, medical vehicles and medical supplies are protected against direct deliberate attacks. Civilian medical personnel and facilities can also use the protective emblem if authorized by their country to do so. People and places protected by the emblems can temporarily lose protection, if the protected persons decide to engage in the fighting or if the protected places are used by combatants to commit acts harmful to the enemy.

DISTINCTIVE EMBLEMS The emblems also have an 'indicative use' to identify persons, vehicles, or structures linked to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	INDICATIVE USE
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Slide 20:

The second use of the emblem is to show who or what is connected to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, like people, vehicles, or buildings, ensuring special protections. This is called Indicative use and represents the marking of Red Cross buildings and people. In your work as a IHL YAC advocate, you are engaging in this indicative use when you wear a shirt, hat, or pins with the Red Cross. As such, you are now part of our network of Red Cross volunteers responsible for protecting the emblem and ensuring it is used to protect our principles.

Slide 21



Discussion

How do you think the misuse of the Red Cross & Red Crescent emblems impacts the mission?

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Slide 21:

To wrap up this module, we have a question for you to consider: How do you think the misuse of the Red Cross & Red Crescent emblems impacts the mission? ***(pause for 5 seconds)***

Continue thinking about these topics and we'll see you in the next module!