



ENDING
SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES
OSLO, NORWAY, 23-24 MAY 2019
#EndSGBVoslo

KEY MESSAGES, MOVEMENT DELEGATION SGBV CONFERENCE OSLO 23-24 MAY, 2019

In line with the 2015 [resolution on “Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response”](#) at the 32nd International Conference, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC Movement) is committed to work on the prevention of and response to SGBV in all context and wants to convey the following key messages:

The RCRC Movement components with their different mandates and reach are well-placed to address SGBV in different settings and at multiple levels. The ICRC’s focus on sexual violence in conflict, other situation of violence and detention and its specific mandate linked to international humanitarian law, the IFRC’s role in disasters and emergencies and the National Societies’ presence before, during and after crisis and their approximately 12 million volunteers globally make it possible to address a wide spectrum of SGBV.

- SGBV is a serious protection concern and it is the responsibility of all humanitarian actors, including the RCRC Movement, to protect those affected by crisis; this includes protecting them from SGBV.
- The Movement wants to reiterate the responsibility of States to ensure the safety and dignity of their citizens. There are, in fact, many steps that state authorities can take to ensure protections. These are outlined in the 2015 resolution and include:
 - Adequate protections in their legal frameworks and policies – ensuring protection for all;
 - Making sure that institutions, such as prisons, and state authorities are organized and trained according to the highest standards, and can address the protection needs of victims of SGBV; and
 - Ensuring that medical needs – both physical as well as psychological are met and obstacles to access services removed.

The ICRC, and the Movement at large, is ready to support this work and to help authorities find solutions.

- The comparative advantage of the RCRC Movement is the combination of the vast network of health facilities that can integrate SGBV health response, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), the outreach and community-based component through the Movement’s presence at community level and the presence of National Society staff and volunteers in the last mile; as well as the Movement’s particular role vis-à-vis governments through ICRC’s mandate linked to International

Humanitarian Law as well as National Societies' role as auxiliary to their governments in humanitarian concerns.

- While women and girls are disproportionately affected, we recognize that men and boys are also victims/survivors of SGBV. In fact, gaps in services provided to male survivors have become more and more evident. The Movement stresses the importance to improve such services, in parallel to improving services for women and girls. Furthermore, factors such as age, disability, deprivation of liberty, displacement, religion, ethnicity, race and nationality, among others, may increase the risk.
- ICRC, IFRC and the National Red Cross Red Crescent Society strive to work in collaborative and multi-sectoral ways with states and partners to ensure that the survivor-centred approach is upheld through safety, confidentiality and nondiscrimination.

All states have an obligation to criminalize rape and other forms of sexual violence in their domestic legal frameworks and to prosecute those under their control alleged to have committed such crimes. Sexual violence and many forms of gender-based violence are prohibited at all times. The RCRC Movement pledges to advocate for SGBV to be taken as a serious protection concern and recognized as medical emergency.

- The Movement pledges to increase the Movement's focus on SGBV as a protection concern, putting the safety and physical integrity of the survivor at the centre of its works, thus making risk-reduction, protection and prevention part of the Movement's response.
- The RCRC Movement will leverage the potential through the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and the ICRC to work hand in hand with States to respond to the needs of victims/survivors and to work more actively on prevention. These prevention efforts include a.o talking with arms bearers and authorities, supporting legal reform, raising awareness and working through community outreach while continuing to strengthen services for women and girls, services in place to respond to the needs of male survivors also need strengthening.

The International RCRC Movement appreciates the participation of states to have adopted the aforementioned Resolution and would like to use this opportunity to remind them of their commitments, including working on legislation, providing services to survivors and holding perpetrators accountable. For this year's [International Conference](#), taking place 9-12 December, a reporting mechanism is in place, and we would like to encourage [States to report their progress](#). These reports will be used for a progress report to be submitted at the 33rd International Conference, which will take stock of Movement and State actions during the past four years to implement the resolution. We hope States will use the opportunity to showcase its successes and continued support to the Resolution.