Building Bridges:

Tackling Hate Speech, Xenophobia & Racism Through Inclusion and Peace

"The IFRC Approach"

How are you feeling?

Workshop Objectives

01
Understand IFRC's tools and approaches

02
Explore ethical responses to exclusion and hate

03
Apply Fundamental Principles in real-world contexts

Where do we see hate speech, xenophobia, racism today?

The Challenge

Rise of hate speech, xenophobia and racism globally

Impact on communities

The importance to combact this

Context

- Rising global tensions and youth exclusion from peace processes

- Peace is a daily practice across life spheres, not just the absence of war

- Urgent need for intergenerational solidarity

Battle of Solferino

UN SOUVENIR DE SOLFERINO

J. HENRY DUNANT

GENÈVE

1863

3051

"…the women of Castiglione, seeing that I made no distinction between nationalities followed my example, showing the same kindness to all these men whose origins were so different, and all of whom were foreigners to them. ....
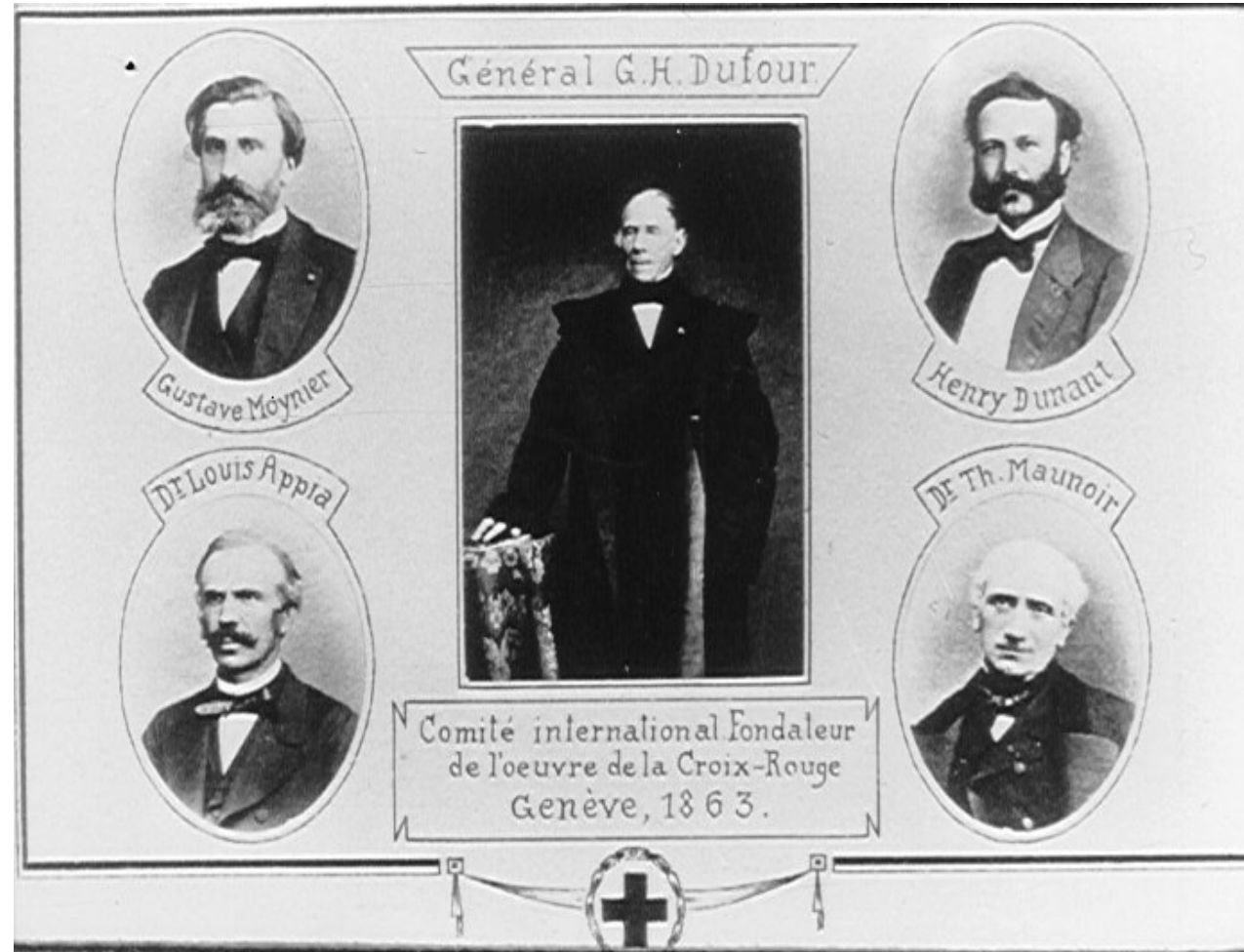
Tutti fratelli (all brothers) they repeated feelingly. All honour to these compassionate women, to these girls of Castiglione......"

" Would it not be possible, in times of peace and quiet, to form relief societies for the purpose of having care given to the wounded in wartime by zealous, devoted and thoroughly qualified volunteers?"
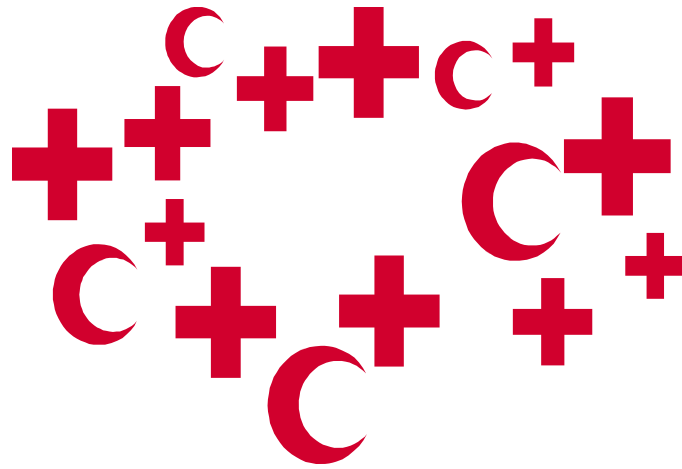
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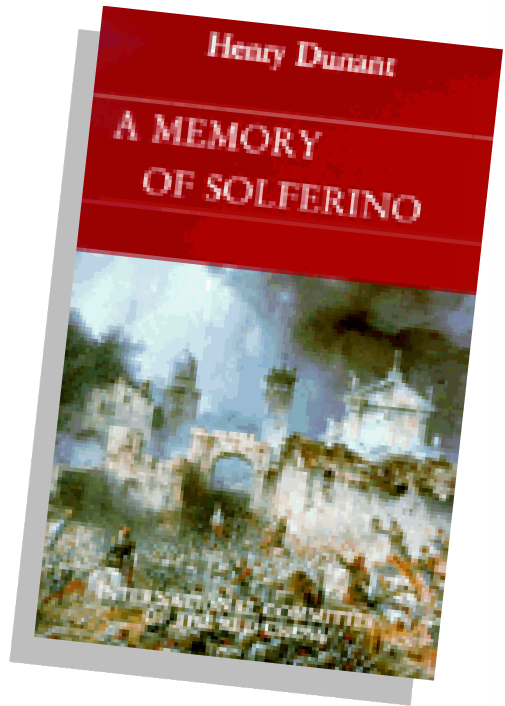
"The **moral sense of the importance of human life; the humane desire to lighten** a little **the torments** of all these poor wretches, or restore their shattered courage; the furious and relentless activity which a man summons up at such moments: all these combine to create a kind of **energy which gives one a positive craving to relieve as many as one can**"
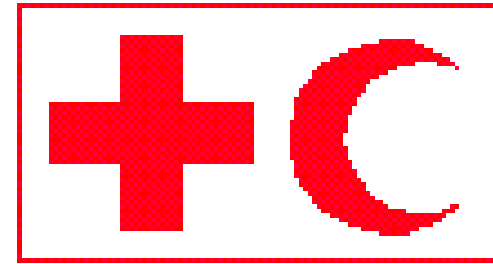
Henry Dunant

A MEMORY OF SOLFERINO

Comité international Fondateur de l'oeuvre de la Croix-Rouge Genève, 1863.

The International Movement of the RC/RC
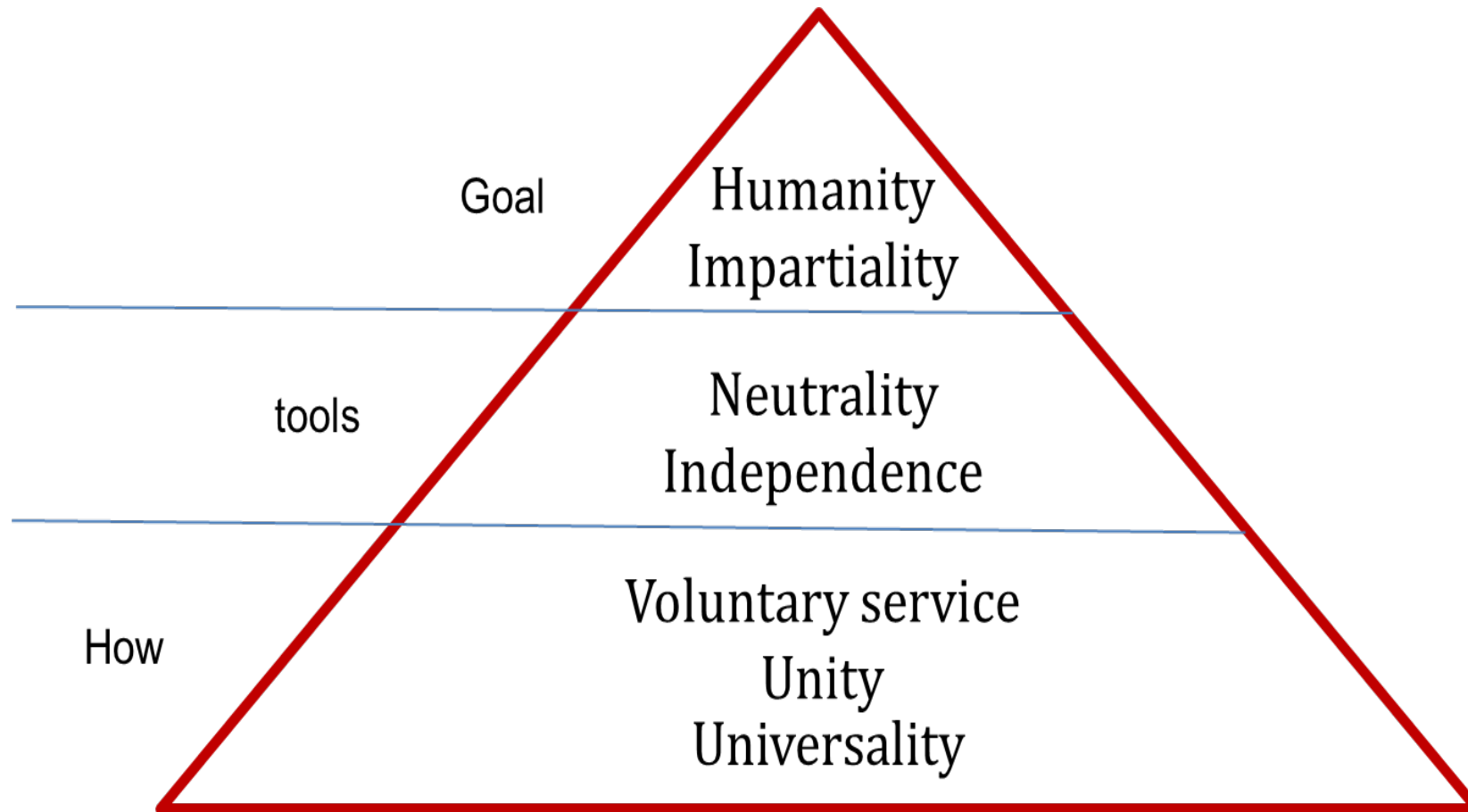
ICRC 1863

192 National Societies (since 1864)

IFRC 1919

Every 4 years: International Conference of the RC/RC with States
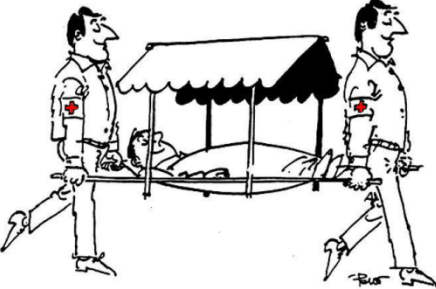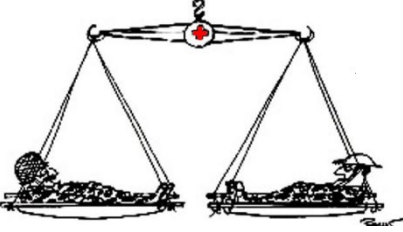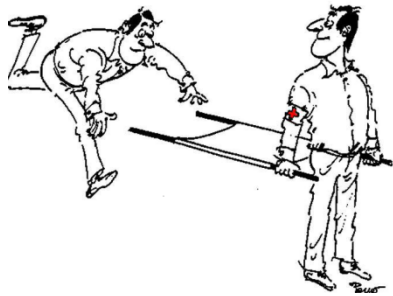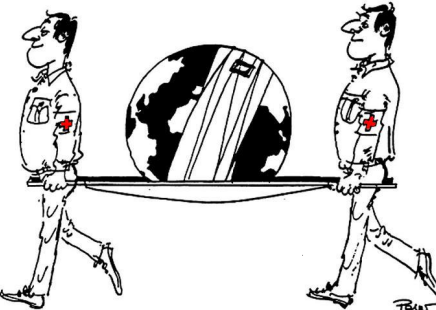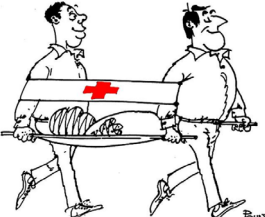
To inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times
all forms of **humanitarian activities**
by **National Societies**,
with a view to preventing and alleviating **human suffering**,
and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of **human dignity** and **peace in the world**

Fundamental Principles

Goal — Humanity, Impartiality

tools — Neutrality, Independence

How — Voluntary service, Unity, Universality

The 7 Fundamental Principles

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
Humanity	• Mutual understanding • Peace • People-centred • Respect for the human being • Respect for diversity
Impartiality	• Non-discrimination • Respect for diversity
Neutrality	• Tolerance
Independence	• Innovation • Integrity
Voluntary Service	• Service • Cooperation
Unity	• Diversity
Universality	• Non-discrimination • Cooperation

The fundamental principles & humanitarian values

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES	HUMANITARIAN VALUES	P&V THEMATIC AREAS
Humanity	• **Mutual understanding** • **Peace** • **People-centred** • **Respect for the human being** • **Respect for diversity**	**• Non-discrimination & respect for diversity** **• Gender** **• Violence prevention & Culture of peace** **• Social inclusion** **• Inter-cultural dialogue**
Impartiality	• **Non-discrimination** • **Respect for diversity**	
Neutrality	• **Tolerance**	
Independence	• **Innovation** • **Integrity**	
Voluntary Service	• **Service** • **Cooperation**	
Unity	• **Diversity**	
Universality	• **Non-discrimination** • **Cooperation**	

Reflection

"Which IFRC Principle resonates most with you—and why?"

What is "PGI"?

Protection — *Addressing violence* → **Keeping people safe from harm.**

Gender & diversity — *Addressing discrimination* → **Understanding different risks and needs for different people.**

Inclusion — *Addressing exclusion* → **Involving and engaging excluded people.**

Crisis is not gender and diversity neutral

- Crisis has different impact on women, men, boys and girls

- Women and men of all ages and backgrounds have very different needs and concerns and have different coping strategies on which to draw

- Emergencies make existing gender inequalities more prominent and the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence often increases

Intersectionality

- Individuals have several **<u>layers</u>** to their identities

- Gender, ethnic origin, nationality or citizenship, age, disability, language, political opinions, religious beliefs, social background, sexual orientation, physical appearance and color that "intersect" – or are "woven" together.

- People suffer discrimination against a **<u>combination</u>** of these factors.

- An intersectional perspective emphasizes the importance of looking at these forms of discrimination **<u>together</u>** and at the same time in order to understand their **compound effects on the individual.**

BPI

Community Engagement

Do No Harm

Context Analyses
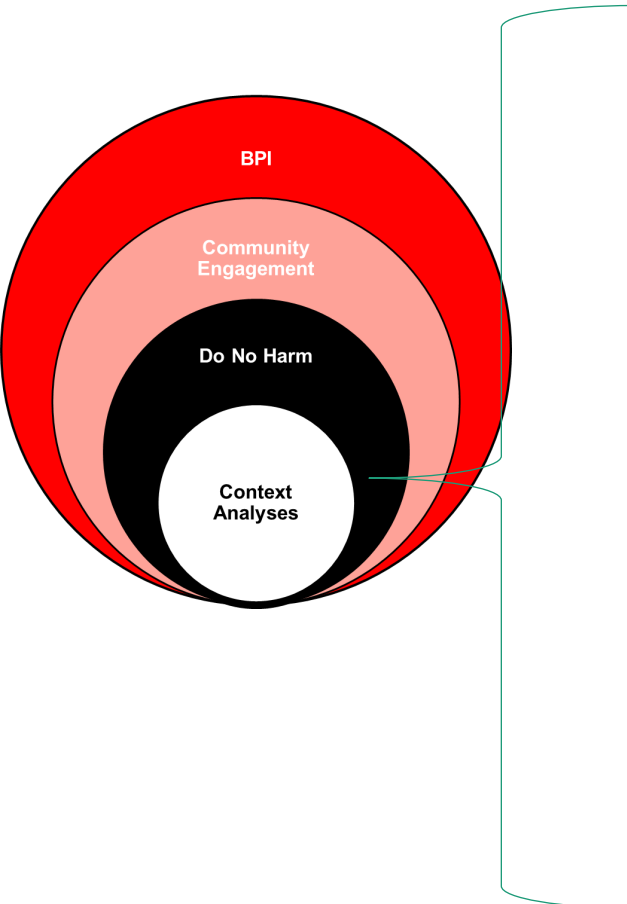
- A contextualised, community-based approach to protection and inclusion concerns.

- **Based on a thorough analysis of how people's gender, disability, age and other diversity factors affect their vulnerability to harm and exclusion.**

- Looks at immediate risks and consequences of exclusion and violations, <u>and</u> the causes of those risks.

- Covers the continuum of humanitarian and development action, based on National Society presence before, during and after a disaster or crisis

Inclusion:

- "reducing inequalities based on social backgrounds, identities, roles and power relations. Providing inclusive services means giving equitable access to resources for all.

- In the long term, inclusion also focuses on facilitating access to opportunities and rights for all by addressing, reducing and ending exclusion, stigma and discrimination."

Drivers of exclusion:

Inter-sectional factors of diversity

structural causes

Cultural causes

access to resources, opportunities and rights

Long-term unemployed, dominant ethnic group, male, middle aged.

Homeless, educated, healthy, limited national language, male, middle-aged.

Uneducated, lives very remotely, no internet access, speaks national language, **female.**

Employed **(low income, short-term),** educated, speaks national language, **female, minority ethnic group.**

Unemployed, lives remotely, has a physical disability, minority ethnic group, limited national language ability, female, over 55.

Inequitable access
does not address inequality

Equitable access
addresses inequality but doesn't remove it

Social inclusion
Removes inequality and its causes

Continuum of inclusive programming

Gender & Diversity analysis

"no-one left behind" Equitable access to basic needs without discrimination

"no-one left unsafe"

"no-one left out" remove inequality of excluded groups

Exclusion

Equitable access

Social inclusion

Dealing with Racism and Discrimination

- Lived Experience of People

- Organisational culture

- Decolonisation of Eurocentric knowledge

- Training and guidance

- Look at power and privilege
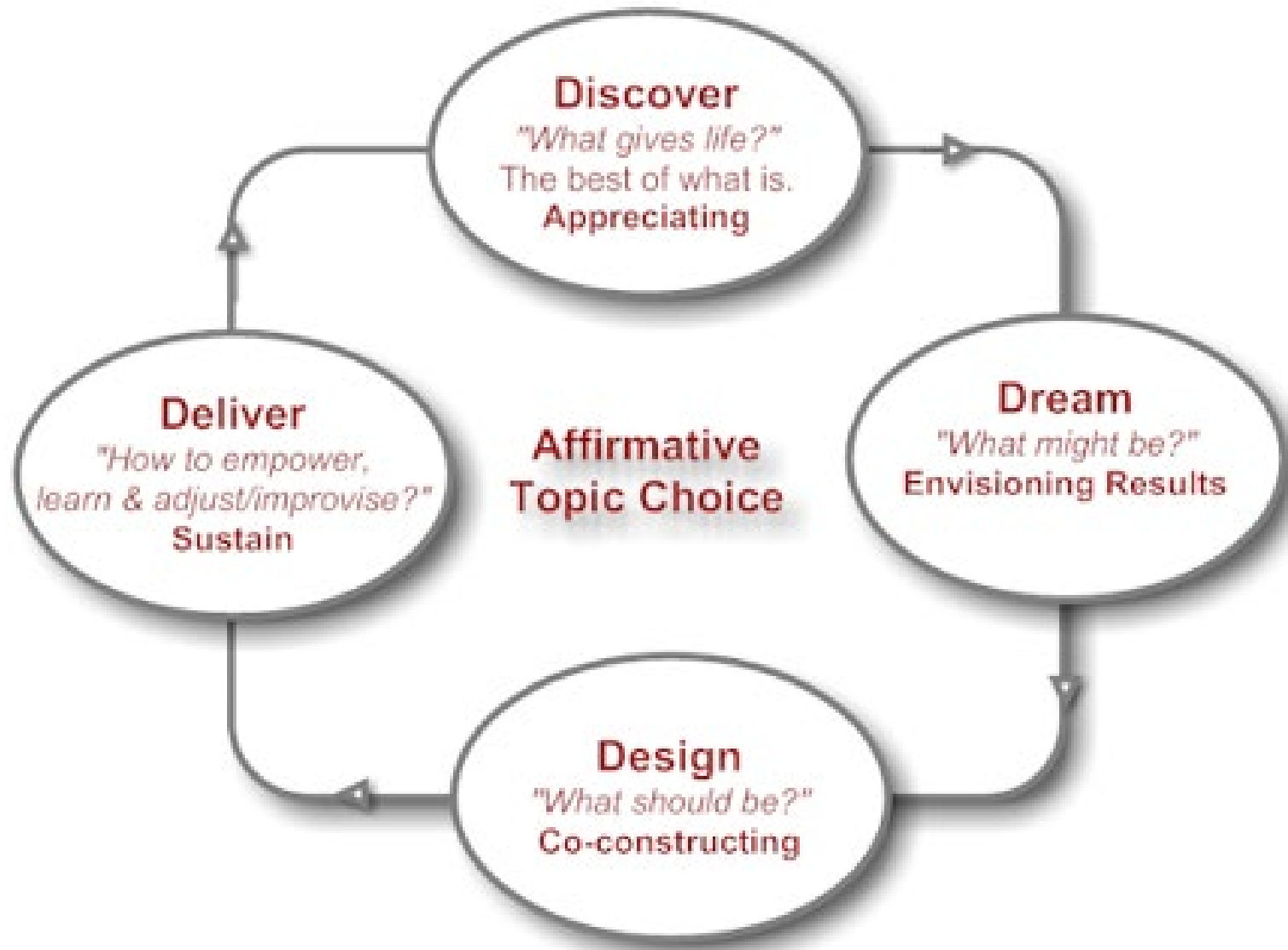
AI is NOT about Positivity vs. Negativity

AI calls us to transcend this polarity. It is not about positive versus negative human experience. It IS about the choice to *inquire into what is life giving.*

The task of AI is the penetrating search for what gives life, what fuels developmental potential, and what has deep meaning - even in the midst of the tragic.

MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING
VIKTOR E. FRANKL
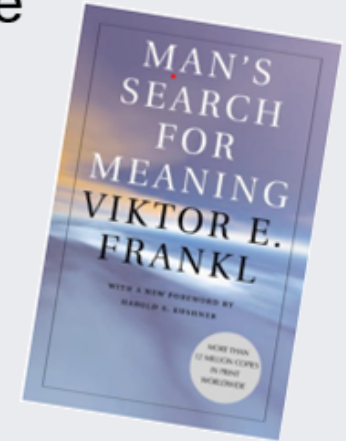
Peace in the RCRC

Inspired by the RedCross Red Crescent
COD Resolution CD24/R7

"Reaffirming the role of the Movement
as a Factor of Peace"

What the Resolution Says and Why It Matters

- Defines peace as **'Per humanitatem ad pacem'** – through humanity to peace

- Grounds the work in the Fundamental Principles

- Reaffirms the statutory roles of Movement components

- Highlights the role of education, youth, volunteers, women, protection and partnerships

- Calls for coordinated and collective peace action

Overall key aims

- Throughout its history, the Movement has carefully examined and debated its distinctive contribution to peace, which derives from its deep and lasting commitment to the overarching principles of humanity and respect for dignity. Indeed, over the past hundred years the Movement has embraced nearly as many resolutions and documents pertaining to peace

- The Movement must renew its efforts to contribute to conflict resolution and prevention in the ways foreseen by the Statutes and mandates of its respective components: nurturing humanitarian values through education, promoting understanding and respect of international humanitarian law (IHL), engaging local youth, and fostering multilateral cooperation. These endeavors are pivotal in fostering respect for the human dignity of all people, mitigating the risks of violence, discrimination, and exclusion, while fostering peaceful coexistence

- The Movement remains steadfast in seeking positive and constructive resolutions to issues, tensions, and sources of violence. This commitment has been echoed through various resolutions and pledges at Statutory Meetings over recent decades. The current resolution touches on some of the key elements that make up the Movement's unique contribution in this area. These go from the promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL), to supporting local community leadership and engagement, to acknowledging the importance of youth and volunteerism, taking note of the complementary and specific mandates of the different Movement components. It further encourages reflection and evidence-gathering to better understand the impacts of these efforts for peace.

- The 2024 Council of Delegates offers an opportune moment for the Movement to return to and reaffirm its commitment to supporting peace and resilience as the world's largest humanitarian network.

Key points in the **resolution**

preambular paragraphs

- **Acknowledges** _the_ changing global landscape

- **Recalls** the motto of the Movement – per humanitatem ad pacem- as a call to action to ensure lasting peace

- **Reiterates:**
  - The importance and relevance of the Fundamental Principles
  - The long history of the work
  - The respect for IHL

- **Highlights:**
  - Existing mandate and role of each component on complementary mandates
  - Relevant existing work
  - Importance of better coordination
  - Importance of Humanitarian Diplomacy

operative paragraphs

- **Recognises the unique contribution, experience and expertise** to bring to efforts

- Encourages components to consider a coordinated and sustained effort according to mandates

- **Proposes common commitments to all components:**
  - Respect for IHL
  - Protecting and Restoring Family Links
  - Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy for disarmament

- **Encourages increased internal and external cooperation, coordination and partnership**

- **Requests:**
  - NS to prioritise volunteer and youth led programming
  - IFRC to fulfil its commitments to youth, volunteering and education
  - ICRC to fulfil its commitments to deliver its mandated specialized activities

- Encourages **Movement leadership to support the implementation**

Reflection

"Which IFRC Approach resonates most with you—and why?"

Case studies

- Case Study 1: "**The Volunteer's Dilemma**" - A Red Crescent volunteer posts a meme on social media that subtly mocks a migrant community. It goes viral. Some staff defend it as "just a joke," while others are deeply offended.

- **Case Study 2: "The Shelter Divide" -** In a disaster response, a temporary shelter is set up. Some community members complain about being housed with people from a different ethnic background. Tensions rise.

- **Case Study 3: "Words That Wound"**

- During a community dialogue, a participant uses xenophobic language. Others are shocked but unsure how to react. The facilitator hesitates to intervene.

Fundamental Principles Matching

- A refugee family is denied access to a community health clinic due to local prejudice.
- A volunteer refuses to work with LGBTQ+ youth, citing personal beliefs.
- A Red Cross team is asked to support a government campaign that excludes certain ethnic groups.
- A social media post by a staff member spreads misinformation about migrants.
- A community leader asks for help but insists aid only go to their own ethnic group.
- A youth group wants to launch a peacebuilding initiative in a conflict zone.

- **Fundamental Principles to Match:**
- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary Service
- Unity
- Universality

Breakout Challenge: "Design for Dignity"

- **Scenario**:
  Your group is part of a youth-led Red Cross Red Crescent initiative aiming to counter hate speech and promote inclusion in a local community affected by rising xenophobia.

- **Your Mission**:
  Design a **mini campaign or initiative** that:

- Tackles hate speech or racism in a specific context (e.g., online, schools, public spaces)

- Embeds **Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles**

- Is **ethical, inclusive, and practical**

- **Guiding Prompts:**

- **What's the core message or goal of your initiative?**

- **Who are you targeting and how will you engage them?**

- **Which Fundamental Principles guide your approach?**

- **How will you measure impact or success?**

Key messages

- Vulnerability is not inherent. Vulnerability will be determined by a number of factors that will change with context. Factors might include: serious discrimination, abusive or exploitive relationships, high levels of distress and unsafe or negative coping mechanisms.

- Categories of people that are always present and should be involved in an assessment include: men, boys, women, girls, older person and persons with disabilities. Categories of people that will be context-dependent include: ethnic/religious minorities, vulnerable or marginalised groups.

- Protection, Gender and Inclusion mainstreaming needs to be informed by an analysis of the real and potential protection risks that may arise in a sector program.

- Assessments are interventions in themselves. They can be meaningful and positive experiences or can cause additional stress for the population. This is especially the case during the immediate aftermath of an emergency. 'Do no harm' and 'the best interests of the child' should therefore be primary considerations in any assessment.

Your Role as Future Leaders

- Challenge exclusion

- Promote ethical, inclusive action

- Use IFRC tools to build peace and dignity

Thank You

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