

The Red Cross

- The Red Cross (and Red Crescent) movement is the world's largest humanitarian organisation.
- It is neither a political nor a religious organisation.
- Helps people in crisis situations, wherever and wherever they are.
- Founded in 1863 to provide essential aid wherever this is needed. There are now Red Cross societies in many countries throughout the world.

- Seven universal principles:
 - Humanity (everyone entitled to basic human rights)
 - Impartiality (un-biased – they will help wherever this is needed, without discriminating)
 - Neutrality (they will not take sides in a conflict situation)
 - Independence (independent of government)
 - Voluntary Service (much work is done by unpaid volunteers, and the charity does not exist in order to make a profit for itself)
 - Unity (working together, aiming for a common goal; there is only one Red Cross society in any country, and it is open to all)
 - Universality (The Red Cross is a worldwide organisation, and will provide aid wherever it is needed)

- In 2005, The Red Cross raised £116 million.

- What The Red Cross does in the UK:
 - Responds to emergencies such as floods, fires, evacuations
 - Trains more than 150,000 first aiders every year
 - Provides assistance to refugees and asylum seekers

- What The Red Cross does overseas:
 - Immediately responds with essential aid at the time of natural disasters (for example earthquakes, tsunamis)
 - Helps innocent victims caught up in conflict, for example in Darfur
 - Provides health care and health education in some of the poorest countries

www.redcross.org.uk