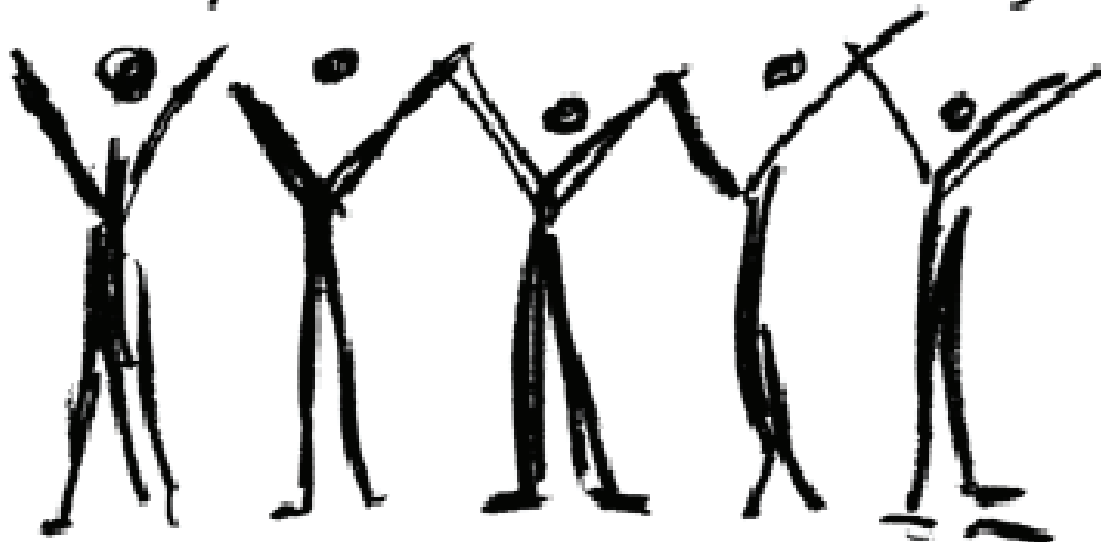


RED CROSS

Origin, History & Foundation



the *power* of humanity



The red cross and the red crescent have been an emblem of service of humanity for more than a century protecting people who are adversely affected by conflict and people who are assisting them. In December of 2005, an emblem was added - the red crystal put close at hand with the red cross and the red crescent.

it relates to the seven fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which are - **humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.**



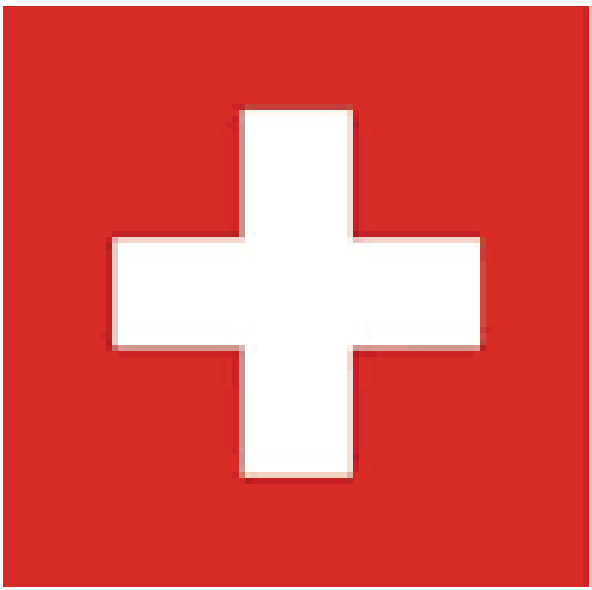
The origin can be traced back to the 19th century, where before emblems and symbols used for the armed force's medical services were distinct depending on the country. They were almost scattered, rarely respected and did not entitle any



legal protection. While the War of Italian Unification was raving, on June 24, 1859, a swiss citizen Henry Dunant witnessed 45,000 soldiers who were abandoned, dead or wounded, on the battlefield in Solferino. He started writing a book in Geneva which proposed dynamic improvements in the aid given to victims of war.

By the year 1862, “A Memory of Solferino” was published which put forth two proposals - (a) to set up in peacetime and every country must contain voluntary groups to look after the casualties during wartime, and (b) to get countries to agree on protecting the first-aid volunteers and the wounded in the war zone. This led to the creation of the National Societies which are currently in 183 countries and also led to the origin of the Geneva Convention, currently signed by 192 States.

On February 17, 1863, a committee of five members met to study the proposal of Henry. This committee came to be the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with one of the main objectives to adopt a special and exclusive symbol which is to be backed by law to represent not only army medical services but also volunteers with first aid Societies set up and victims as a result of war.



The Swiss Flag



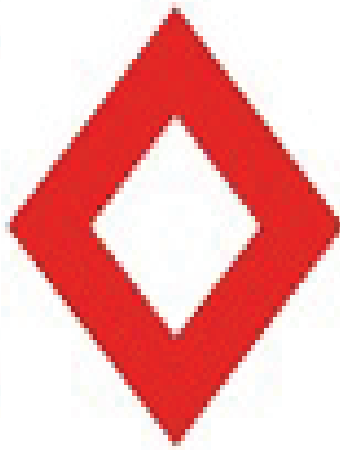
The Red Cross Symbol

On October 26, 1863, the first International Conference was held and had delegates from 14 governments. Along with embracing ten resolutions for the establishment of relief to the victims of war, the Red Cross and later on, the Red Crescent societies, it also took on the white background with the red cross as the unwavering emblem.

In 1864, during the Diplomatic conference to change the resolutions from 1863 into proper treaties, the first Geneva Convention was adopted and gave birth to modern International humanitarian law.



While the war was raging between Russia and Turkey, the Ottoman Empire used the red crescent on a white background instead of the red cross. They believed the symbol of the red cross was offensive to Muslim soldiers and hence, the crescent was accepted as a temporary symbol during the war. After the horrors of the First World War, the Diplomatic Conference of 1929 was called upon to revise the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. After discussions, the Turkish, Persian and Egyptian delegations were allowed to use the red crescent, the red lion and the sun as their own countries' emblems. By today, 151 Nations use the red cross and 32 use the red crescent.



In December of 2005, during the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva, the States embraced Protocol III which created an additional symbol with the red cross and the red crescent. The new emblem came to be known as the Red Crystal which aims at resolving issues faced by the movement over the years like the unwillingness of countries to adopt the red cross or the red crescent and also the possibility of using the cross and crescent together.

During the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in June 2006, the aim was to amend the various statutes of the movement to recognise the creation of the new symbol.



On January 14, 2007, the Third Additional Protocol was added to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which completed the process of the inauguration of the additional emblem to be used by Governments and the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement.

Over the years, there have been some issues with the legal emancipation of the logo especially when Johnson & Johnson sued the Red Cross over their logo. In the year 2007, the company dealing with pharmaceuticals Johnson & Johnson sued the Red Cross over their logo. "The company began to use the Red Cross design as a trademark in 1887, a few years after the creation of the American Red Cross but before it received its congressional charter in 1900.

It was contended in the lawsuit that the charter did not empower the Red Cross to engage in commercial activities competing with a private business.” Red Cross president Mark Everson said, “For a multi-billion dollar drug company to claim that the Red Cross violated a criminal statute... simply so that J&J can make more money, is obscene.”

References

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