



## THE CANADIAN RED CROSS TIFFANY CIRCLE OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

*“International Humanitarian Law and 1949 Geneva Conventions,”* adopted unanimously by the National Steering Committee on May 1st, 2025

### PREAMBLE:

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**WHEREAS** the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is governed and guided by the seven fundamental principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Unity, Independence, Voluntary Service, Universality. The original mission was to provide relief of suffering on the battlefield. This eventually led to the vision for, the development of, and the worldwide adoption of the four Geneva Conventions. When States around the world became signatories to the 1949 Geneva Conventions they conferred the humanitarian mandate to the ICRC, which also has humanitarian function under the statutes of the RCRC Movement. These conventions form the universal component of International Humanitarian Law, provide the ICRC with a unique mandate and recognizes Movement components as neutral and impartial humanitarian organizations who work to reduce suffering in armed conflict and to promote adherence to the rules of war.

**AND** during the Tiffany Circle International Council (TCIC) 2024 Geneva Forum, the 75th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions was celebrated. In addition Senior ICRC representatives described the importance of the seven fundamental principles in preserving their ability to perform their mandate in the face of conflict and the general diminished respect for and compliance with IHL they are facing in the field.

**AND** as stated by Mirjana Spoljaric, President of the ICRC “National Societies are key promoters of IHL. With deep roots in communities and as auxiliaries to governments in the humanitarian space, your work is crucial in helping governments uphold obligations, and safeguarding humanitarian principles that enable impartial and effective humanitarian action.”

**AND** Conrad Sauve, President and CEO of the CRC, recently stated “In collaboration with our partners in the Movement, the CRC continues to express our grave concern for fundamental protections that must be provided to civilians and humanitarian workers. We join our Movement partners in doing all we can to urge all parties to respect International Humanitarian Law.”

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** As CRC Tiffany Circle members we recognize the importance of the seven fundamental principles and of IHL including the 1949 Geneva Conventions. We support and endorse the role of our NS along with the RCRC Movement which includes the ICRC. We commit individually and collectively to the principles of IHL and the critical role of the ICRC and all National Societies including the CRC.

***We call for worldwide respect for and compliance  
with International Humanitarian Law.***