International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people each year through our 186 member National Societies. Together, we act before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. We do so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions.

Guided by Strategy 2020 – our collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade – we are committed to “saving lives and changing minds.” Our strength lies in our volunteer network, our community-based expertise and our independence and neutrality. We work to improve humanitarian standards, as partners in development and in response to disasters. We persuade decision makers to act at all times in the interests of vulnerable people. The result: we enable healthy and safe communities, reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen resilience and foster a culture of peace around the world.

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Katrien Beeckman (PhD) is the Head of the Principles and Values Department of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The promotion of a culture of nonviolence and peace is one of the IFRC three priority areas of work since 2010. Katrien is the founder of the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) initiative, and prior to joining IFRC worked on education, human values and human rights within academia, UN and NGOs in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.