**Three of the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**HUMANITY**

The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours – in its international and national capacity – to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**IMPARTIALITY**

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve suffering, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**NEUTRALITY**

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

1. Note: In this teaching resource learners explore three fundamental principles. However, as a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement the British Red Cross is committed to, and bound by, its seven fundamental principles. For details of all seven fundamental principles please see: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/The-international-Movement/Fundamental-principles> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)