

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

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Contact:

Marie-Dominique De Preter
Educational Programmes
Tel: +41 22 748 95 02
e-mail: md.depreter@micr.org

INTRODUCTION

Situated in the heart of a neighbourhood housing the well-known international organisations for which Geneva is known, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum is a unique location displaying international acts of solidarity.

Being part of a modern and symbolic architectural structure, visitors are invited to plunge into the history of the world's first humanitarian organisation, from its first efforts through to the challenges it faces today.

Currently active in 186 countries, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies always acts with the aim of providing assistance to victims of armed conflicts, natural disasters, epidemics, and social and economic crises without distinction as to race, religion, social class or political opinion.

Since 7 June 2002, **the original copy of the first Geneva Convention of 1864** has been on display at the Museum. This document, on loan from the Federal Swiss Archives, has a much deeper value than its symbolic character alone. It lays the basis of international humanitarian law and is at the foundation of the current Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1949 and completed in 1977 with the addition of Protocols I and II. Switzerland is the trustee of these treaties.

In 2007, **UNESCO added the Archives of the International Prisoners of War Agency, 1914-1923** to the Memory of the World Register. This was the first time that the patrimonial value of Swiss archives was declared of international significance.

Nowadays it is difficult for young people to find their place in the modern world; in order to help them, the Museum strives to explain to them the humanitarian ideals of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross and pioneer of international humanitarian law.

If the future of mankind depends upon young people, so does the future of humanitarian action. The Museum aims at raising the younger generation's awareness of the problems facing the world today and of the need for human solidarity in the hope that they, too, will feel concerned.

2. THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION

To relieve, assist and protect : these are the aims of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Photographs, films, written documents and original objects provide a different approach, both historic and contemporary, of the evolution of conflicts and disasters. A multimedia area invites to playful and interactive discovery.

2.1. THE THEMES

Through 10 historical rooms and the *Today Area* a visit of the Museum deals with the following themes:

- **War and Conflict**

- Evolution of wars and conflicts, and their new issues.
- Battles of the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Consequences for the population.

- **Natural Disasters**

- Evolution of and progress in victim assistance.
- Coordination of assistance among NGOs.
- Reconstruction after a disaster.

- **Solidarity**

- Why do humanitarians get involved?
- Limits of humanitarian assistance.
- Actions of local Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

- **Re-establishing Family Ties**

- Search of missing persons.
- The evolution of techniques for dealing with new situations.
- Initiatives launched by individuals seeking loved ones who have vanished.

- **150 Years of Prisoners of War**

- The Geneva Conventions: the source of prisoner rights and protection.
- How the ICRC intervenes on prisoners' behalf.
- Prisoners' protection : a significant mission of the ICRC.

- **Women and War**

- Women as victims of and active players in conflicts.
- Women and humanitarian engagement : from Solferino to today's delegates.
- Famous women serving the humanitarian cause.
- Women and reconstruction initiatives.

- **The Child as Victim and Agent**

- The rights of the child.
- Situations requiring assistance and protection of children.
- Sensitisation means to improve vulnerable children's life.

- **International Law**

- International humanitarian law (in times of war).
- The Geneva Conventions.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (in times of peace).
- Respect for humanitarian law in the field.

- **The Emblem of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies**

- The creation of an emblem: protection and identification.
- Why multiple emblems?
- Use of an emblem.

- **Collaboration with NGOs and Governments**

- Organising cooperation with the ICRC.
- Collaborative situations with UNICEF, the UNHCR, etc.
- Coordinating aid with governments.

2.2. THE VARIOUS MEDIA

IMAGES

- **Films**

The exhibition shows clips from various films :

- educational films on health and first aid,
- documentary films on relief operation for victims of conflicts or disasters,
- promotional and commercial films for fundraising appeals.

In the *Today Area*, a dozen short documentaries, directed by young student filmmakers and independent directors, provide a multicultural view of the humanitarian sector.

- **Photographs**

The development of film and photography coincided with the birth of the Red Cross; as such, they are significant in the exhibition, which relies on photography as an illustrative device.

- **Posters**

Posters are the principal medium used to transmit the Red Cross message. A special area is reserved for them and shows three times a year a new selection. ***For the ongoing and upcoming selection, see Appendix.***

- **Postcards**

Since its invention, the postcard has been an important means of communication for those kept apart. It is also used as a way to transmit the ideal principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

WRITTEN AND SPOKEN CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Written texts** explaining the various areas of the Museum.
- **Wall texts** providing information about the objects and images.
- **Documents** from the archives.
- **Audio texts:** testimonies (Room 11) and audio-guides.

N.B.: All documents are available in French, English, and German. Audio-guides are available in these three languages, as well as in Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Russian.

OBJECTS

- **Works of art:** humanitarianism has inspired various artists. Several sculptures exist in the Museum.
- **Functional objects:** medical supplies, flags, armbands, medals and insignias, stamps...
- **Witnessing objects :** made by prisoners and offered to ICRC delegates. They are a silent testimony of victims who were deprived of freedom and who tried with few available resources to become creative. See the related educational activities at www.micr.org/edu

2.3. THE 11 AREA OF THE EXHIBITION

RECEPTION HALL

The Café Dunant, a multimedia area, offers the opportunity for interactive and playful discovery of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

AREA 1

- **Preserving life by the written word**

The Red Cross came into being through Henry Dunant. However, the need to preserve human life has been a constant theme of all civilisations as attested by texts dealing with respect of human life.

AREA 2

- **Preserving life by acts of mercy**

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is essentially based on humanitarian gestures as they were known in all periods of human history. In the 19th century an understanding of humanitarian work developed which exceeded the simple notion of charity. In this area are presented the work of Henry Dunant's predecessors.

AREA 3

- **The Battle of Solferino (24 June 1859)**

A slideshow retraces this battle in which the French and the Piedmontese chased the Austrians from Northern Italy at the cost of 40,000 dead or wounded. Henry Dunant, on the front lines, mobilized the local population and improvised relief measures.

AREA 4

- **The foundation of the Red Cross (1862-1863)**

In 1862, Henry Dunant published *A Memory of Solferino*, in which he suggested the adoption of humanitarian agreement and the creation of permanent relief organisations. The first International Committee of the Red Cross and the first Geneva Convention were born.

AREA 5

- **Towards universality (1864-1914)**

Soon after its foundation, the Red Cross expanded its activities on all continents. In this area begins the *Wall of Time*, recording the wars, disasters, and major events that have marked the Movement over the years.

AREA 6

- **First World War and prisoners of war**

In 1914 the *International Prisoners of War Agency* was set up. The files cover approximately 2 million prisoners of war while they were in custody of the 38 warring countries. In 2007, these were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

AREA 7

- **First World War**

Innumerable measures, calling upon medical, human, and material resources, were implemented to assist civilians and soldiers alike. Excerpts from the film archives show the efforts of the Red Cross on all fronts.

AREA 8

- **Inter-war period (1919-1939)**

The National Red Cross Societies join to form the League (today the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) which provided social assistance and relief in times of disaster. A film presents these new activities.

AREA 9

- **Second World War**

60 countries were at war that killed about 40 million people and injured about 20 million. Excerpts from archive films show the Red Cross and Red Crescent provided relief, under tragic circumstances, and the role they played in this war.

AREA 10

- **From 1945 to the 1980s**

The Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1949 included protection for civilians. The major conflicts and events of this period are summarised in images while the Red Cross message is evoked with posters.

AREA 11

• Today

This area comprises five modules, each of which covers one of the main types of activity carried out by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- Overcome: disaster relief
- Improve: social programmes
- Rehabilitate: aid for the victims of mines
- Protect: action on behalf of prisoners
- Link: restoring family ties

This area is centred around an information area showing various reports and testimonials on recent events.

2.4 THE TODAY AREA : A CONCRETE EXAMPLE

IMPROVE

SOCIAL-WELFARE PROGRAMMES

• Concept

The issues dealt with in this module concern the whole world and not only disasterprone or politically unstable countries and regions. Problems such as AIDS, homelessness and poverty also affect Switzerland and other Western countries.

• Setting

The noise and the lights create the atmosphere of a city. This shows the programmes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent all over the world.

• Content

Economic fluctuations have devastating effects on the social organisations and health systems in many nations around the world. Projects based on active participation of local residents are presented to the visitor; they illustrate the vital role often played by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Children of the Streets “Junior Volunteers” Programme in the Philippines

Destitute children are one of the most vulnerable populations in urban areas. Street children in particular are exposed to extremely difficult living conditions and numerous diseases. Manila has several tens of thousands of street children.



The Philippine National Red Cross has created a comic-strip hero, Captain Red Cross, who leads a crusade against major public-health threats such as cholera, diarrhea and AIDS. Street children help draw up the scenario. A programme has been set up to encourage these children to become junior health workers and to pass on to their friends basic notions of hygiene and first aid which they learn from nurses. As part of this programme, street children can obtain medicine from community pharmacies in exchange for recyclable objects which are later sold to waste-processing plants.

3. WELCOMING YOUNG VISITORS

More than **half of visitors** to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum are under 25 years old.

A one-hour visit, based on dialogue with a Museum mediator, introduces young visitors to the world of the Red Cross and humanitarian activities in general. This visit is meant to help them discover the **values and keystones of international humanitarian law** and to encourage them to **think and act**.

Thanks to the Museum's interactive displays, young people can explore topics of interest to them in greater depth. Both in the Today area and in the multimedia area, the young visitors will find frank answers to difficult questions such as : What can be done to assist the victims of landmines ? How can families separated by war be brought together again ? What has to be done in case of natural disasters ?

3.1. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Would you like to visit the MICR's permanent exhibition with your students?

Educational activities provided by the Museum are cross-cutting and deal with all subjects and levels of education. Moreover, most of the texts have been translated into English and German, so they may be used for language learning classes.

With the support of the Cantonal Department of Public Education, the Museum frequently collaborates with groups of teachers to prepare the following activities:

- drafting of communications aimed at teachers
- creation of educational materials for the permanent exhibition
- creation of educational materials for the temporary exhibitions
- reflections on the associations between course outlines and the Museum
- organisation of training courses for teachers

A special website has been set up for teachers: www.micr.org/edu

The ideas for the activities that follow can be downloaded at www.micr.edu

GENERAL APPROACH

- Impressions of the visit 8 years and older

CONCERNING DIFFERENT MEANS OF INFORMATION...

- Activities around posters, basic documents 12 years and older

The poster is, by its very nature, an immediate method of communication. It is designed to transmit a message as quickly and clearly as possible, thus images and texts are streamlined to be as simple as possible.

Like any advertisement, the poster has a short lifespan; it is not created to be saved, but rather quickly absorbed. The Red Cross's posters, of course, are equally prey to this fundamental problem of the medium. So why do we keep these thoroughly fragile objects?

- Activities around posters, see the appendix for current selection 12 years and older
- Activities around prisoners 12 years and older

Some people who are imprisoned choose to create objects. Many of these objects disappear, but some have been preserved because they were given to the delegates. These items are now part of a unique collection of more than 500 artefacts that have been conserved by the Museum. They embody the silent testimony of victims stripped of their freedoms, who try to survive by creating objects. For some prisoners, creating objects is a survival mechanism.

AROUND A THEME...

- Expressing one's feelings on protection 10 years and older
- Expressing one's feelings on rounding up families 10 years and older
- Expressing one's feelings on rehabilitation 10 years and older

3.2. EXPRESSING FEELINGS AFTER THE VISIT

- The circle of masks For all ages
- The barometer For all ages
- *Imagine* by John Lennon 15 years and older

4. ACTIVITIES

The Museum offers all kinds of activities throughout the year: debate days to discuss nuclear technology, introduction to International Humanitarian Law with the Raid-Cross game, awareness of earthquake risks, meetings and discussions with experts in humanitarian relief etc...

4.1. TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Whether by approaching a particular issue, taking a look back at history, or presenting headline issues in the world today, the temporary exhibitions provide the opportunity to either discuss a subject that does not appear in the permanent exhibition or further develop a topic already presented.

Among the most significant exhibition of these past few years : “Help”, “War: United States – Afghanistan – Iraq”, “Field(s) – From Solferino to Guantanamo”, “Grand Prix of the Catastrophic”, “Insecurity – The Nuclear Dilemma”, etc.

See the appendix for a brochure on the ongoing exhibition.

4.2. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

For the general public and for young visitors, the Museum opens on certain Sundays in the Spring and Autumn for free guided tour in French and English.

Writing workshops, storytelling afternoon and other activities are organised for young visitors. Have a look at the calendar, on www.micr.org

4.3. SCHOOL TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

“HUMANITARIANISM ... FROM THE MUSEUM TO THE CITY”

The Museum suggests a **day visit in 4 stages**, from Henry Dunant through to the efforts of men and women who help victims of conflicts or natural disasters around the world. In addition educational and creative activities, discussions and recreation are planned for this day.

Audience: aged 8 to 18.

Organisation of the day : see the appendices.

The full programme can be obtained upon request from the Educational Programmes department.

The appendices include suggestions for excursions in Geneva and neighbouring France.

5. “WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE MUSEUM...”

Young museum-goers, group coordinators, and teachers

- “I’m 12 years old. This is the second time I’ve come, and it always makes me think. I would really like to join an organisation like this one.”
- “A museum that truly gets the scales to fall from your eyes!”
- A teacher, talking about the school programme *From Humanitarianism to the City*: “The children were very appreciative, very taken with this day of diverse activities; everybody says it was the best field trip they’ve been on...”
- “I’d love to come back with my two older brothers and, why not, my class. If every child could see this exhibition there might be less violence.”
- “*Raid Cross* is a role-playing game that teaches young people between 12 and 18 years of age about International Humanitarian Law. Participants must be at different posts in a war zone. During the game, players are confronted with various aspects of the conflict. In this way, they better understand the problems involved in humanitarian efforts, the difficulties of living in conflict zones, and the rules that govern these extreme situations. It’s also a marvellous tool for reflecting upon human nature and human behaviour.”
- Schoolchildren, talking about *Raid Cross*: “It’s just like real life; the enemy is a human being first”

6. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

To prepare for your visit to the MICR, please refer to the group visitor page and the practical information available on the website www.geneve.ch/ecoles-musees/
A short document on the history and work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is available at the Museum for interested teachers.

OPENING HOURS

- Open daily from 10 :00 to 17 :00, except Tuesday
- Closed on 24, 25, 31 December and 1 January

CONTACT DETAILS

- Address 17 avenue de la Paix – 1202 Geneva – Switzerland
- Internet www.micr.org
- Telephon information + 41 22 748 95 25
- Telephon administration +41 22 748 95 11
- Telefax +41 22 748 95 28

- Telephon visitors service + 41 22 748 95 06
(10h30-11h30/14h30-16h30 except Tuesday, weekends and holidays)
- Telefax visitors service + 41 22 748 95 38
- E-mail visitors service visit@micr.org

PRICES

- The visit of a class must be notified in advance.

Free entry to the temporary exhibitions.

Entry to the permanent exhibition ;

- Adults : CHF 10.--, Euros 6.67.
- Group of adults : CHF 7.--, Euros 4.67,
1 free entry to in a group of 15 persons.
- Children up to 12 years, free,
From 12 years to 16 : CHF 5.--, Euros 3.33,
1 free entry in a group of 10 persons.
- Audio guide : CHF 3.--, Euros 2.--,
In French, English, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Russian.
- Guided tours of the exhibitions : CHF 60.-- / Euros 40.--,
Maximum 20 persons.

N.B. Prices in Euros are indicative.

SERVICES

- Access for disabled, wheelchair available.
- Unattended cloakroom.
- Shop selling books and souvenirs.

ACCESS

- From Cornavin railway station (12 min.) : Bus N° 8 (direction OMS or Appia)
Appia bus stop.
- From Airport and Palexpo (12 min.) : Bus N° 28 (direction Jardin Botanique)
Appia bus stop.
- From A1 motorway (5min.) : exit Grand-Saconnex, direction UNO.
- Parking space for coaches in front of the Museum.

RESTAURANT AND POSSIBILITIES

- The self-service restaurant is open every day
(Tuesdays from 11:30 am until 2:30 pm).
- Available upon request: school lunch, morning tea, menus, and afternoon snacks.
- Atrium, auditorium and restaurant for meetings, cocktails or meals.