

The Youth Assembly submits the following comments on the policy draft to the organisation for processing

Strategic objectives

In the work groups of the Youth Assembly, ideas were raised to develop the training path to take major humanitarian crises into account. This will help develop leadership, accountability and support channels in crisis situations. Close cooperation with the authorities is mostly effective, but in some situations, responsibilities are passed on to volunteers in a way that goes beyond their role. In these situations, clear guidelines are needed on the division of responsibilities between authorities and volunteers. The role of volunteers is to provide support, not to replace the authorities in their official duties. Concerns were raised about the Red Cross's ability to organise the planned preparedness training for 100,000 volunteers, 10,000 of whom would be ready to act if necessary.

Commitments

In the first work group of the Youth Assembly, the importance of the principles of safer spaces was emphasised, particularly with regard to taking immigrants and new volunteers into account from the very start. Consideration of and interaction with different special needs groups was also highlighted as a necessary addition. Face-to-face encounters during orientation and networking at national and global level.

The first work group of the Youth Assembly also discussed the importance of supporting and encouraging volunteers, as well as paying more attention to them. Another issue that emerged was the need to make society more resilient in the face of crises, for example by raising awareness of anti-racism work. The challenges related to communication and accessibility were noted. Communication between the branches, districts and the headquarters was considered confusing and ineffective. Access to information should be improved by expanding communication platforms and providing information in more languages. For example, guidelines on working with interpreters and using support channels could be helpful if communicating in a foreign language poses a barrier to certain activities. Offering training and courses in English could help attract new volunteers.

Finally, the first work group of the Youth Assembly highlighted the importance of maintaining the principle of neutrality. It is important to remain neutral, even though the current state of the world makes this challenging due to its polarising nature. There was also a call for training on how to discuss current global issues without getting into politics.

In addition to the topics discussed earlier, the second work group of the Youth Assembly discussed roles within the organisation and their diversity. The same person can be both a volunteer and someone in need of help. Similarly, anyone can be a person who needs or receives help. From the perspective of voluntary service, it is important that we provide flexible and low-commitment opportunities for volunteering. If we lower the threshold even further, will people's commitment to the organisation suffer? And how could the FRC also support more sustainable, long-term activities? From the perspective of those in need of help, the practical implementation of the seamless path to aid raised many questions. How can we ensure that help is always available? Does this lead to exhaustion and burnout among volunteers?

It is important to incorporate humanitarian principles at all levels. After all, the entire organisation is centred around people. It is also important that activities are empowering in all areas. Diversity should be seen as a strength.

Models of organisation

All models emphasise the importance of supporting and preserving local activities, which the Youth Assembly sees as a good thing.