

Comments on the amendments to the Statutes

1. ~~Sections 25 and 51 of the FRC Decree~~ ► Sections 37 and 51 of the FRC Decree

Through the amendments to the Statutes, the Board aims to give young people a stronger voice in decision-making.

For the Finnish Red Cross activities to be vibrant and capable of renewal, it is essential that more young people are involved in decision-making. Having a diverse range of decision-makers and involving people of different ages improves the Society's preparedness, as it provides knowledge and experience of the needs and vulnerabilities of different age groups. Trust in the Society is strengthened when decision-makers are broadly representative of different ages. By providing young people with influencing opportunities and positive role models, their commitment to the development of the Society is strengthened. [Involving young people in board decisions can help make activities more youth-friendly.](#)

To promote the participation of young people, the Board of the Society proposes amending Sections 37 (District Board) and 51 (Board of the Society) of the Statutes to include a provision allocating one seat on the Board to a young person: "At least one of the Board members must be under 29 years of age on the day of the Assembly." This amendment is not proposed for the Branch Boards.

In 2024, 3.4% of the elected officials of District Boards were under 29 years of age. In 2025, the number increased slightly, but is still low: 5.6% (8/146). Two Districts currently have two young people on their Boards, four have one and six have none. It has long been the practice to have a young Vice-President on the Board of the Society, although this is not stipulated in the Statutes. In this respect, the amendment involves incorporating an existing practice into the Statutes.

During the current General Assembly term, the Board of the Society has issued a recommendation encouraging Districts to increase the proportion of young members in their activities, but this has not led to a significant change in the majority of Districts.

[The amendment also encourages an increase in the number of young members and volunteers, as involving young people lowers the threshold for other young people to join.](#)

The Board has sought the views of the Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission for National Society Statutes on the proposed amendment. In their response, the Commission's experts concluded that the Statutes were in line with the Movement's guidelines.

The Federation allocates Board member quotas based on both gender and region. Youth quotas are also in place at the Italian and Croatian Red Crosses, among others. The Finnish Red Cross already has a regional quota in its Council, as all Districts must be represented on the Council (Section 45 of the FRC Decree).

Section 42 of the FRC Decree

In the 2023 amendments, the procedures for convening meetings of the Council, Districts and Branches were updated so that there is no need to send a notice by mail, but for the General Assembly the procedure was left unchanged.

The number of representatives requesting materials electronically has steadily increased, with around 2/3 of representatives doing so for the 2023 General Assembly.

~~Given this development and the policies of other bodies of the Society, as well as climate concerns, it would be justifiable not to send the notice of the General Assembly by mail.~~

► To harmonise the Society's operating methods and comply with the Finnish Red Cross' climate sustainability policy, the aim is to reduce the amount of paper mail, including invitations to the General Assembly.

It is proposed to remove the word 'by mail' and the subsection 3 referring to it.