

What it does

As the promoter of the Geneva Conventions, which proclaim the principle of respect for the human person in time of armed conflict (whether war, civil war or internal strife), the ICRC is the principal artisan of international humanitarian law (the Geneva Law).

It develops this Law to meet the humanitarian needs of a world constantly torn by conflict. The ICRC prepares drafts for the introduction of new provisions or the revision of existing ones; these drafts are then submitted to the States which codify them in the form of international conventions. Each step forward in the Geneva Law has been the result of action by the ICRC.



1864

Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864, for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field.

Revisions: Geneva, 1906, 1929, 1949.

Adapted to maritime warfare: The Hague, 1899; Geneva, 1949.