



Statement on Impartiality of American Red Cross Disaster Relief Services

The American Red Cross, as a member of the International Red Cross Movement, adheres to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement. Specifically, the *Principle of Impartiality* states, “It makes no discrimination based upon nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.” Therefore, we neither request nor require proof of citizenship status when providing shelter or financial assistance.

In the conduct of its disaster relief services, the Red Cross extends aid in an equitable and impartial manner, without regard to economic status or racial, religious, political, ethnic, or other affiliation. Red Cross disaster relief workers will treat disaster victims in a respectful, fair, and concerned manner.

Red Cross workers will not question clients about their citizenship status; nor will they request birth certificates, immigration papers, passports, social security cards, or similar documents that could be interpreted as being used to identify the nationality or immigration status of persons seeking Red Cross assistance. If clients reveal their citizenship status or this information becomes available from some other source, this information is not recorded on any Red Cross document. Only such documents necessary to identify the individual or family as living in the disaster-affected area are required for Red Cross assistance.

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