LAW ON THE CROATIAN RED CROSS

Article 1

The Croatian Red Cross is a national, humanitarian, voluntary public organization for the general advantages, acting on the basis of the mission and the principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and it shall enjoy the special protection and care of the Republic of Croatia.

The Croatian Red Cross shall perform the public activities it is authorized to perform, which shall be established hereby and by other regulations.

Article 2

In its activities, the Croatian Red Cross shall fulfil humanitarian aims and tasks in the domain of health protection and promotion, social welfare, and health and humanitarian education.

The Croatian Red Cross shall perform special tasks in situations arising as a result of natural disasters and in time of war.

The Croatian Red Cross shall perform its wartime duties in accordance with the Geneva Conventions on the protection of war victims of 12th August, 1949 and the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions (I and II) of 1977 and the Conclusions of International Conference of the Red Cross.

Article 3

The basic aims of the Croatian Red Cross are the following:

- to alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, and especially suffering caused by major natural disasters, other large-scale disasters and armed conflict,

- to promote and protect the health of citizens and to promote health education,

- to encourage and promote solidarity, mutual aid and the social security of citizens,

- to strengthen and consolidate peace in the world.

Article 4

The Croatian Red Cross is a unique organization active on the territory of the Republic of Croatia and is organized at Republic level and at the level of local self-management units.

The organization, membership, scope and method of work of the bodies and services of the Croatian Red Cross and other matters concerning the operation and activity of the organization shall be determined by the Assembly of the Croatian Red Cross in the Statute of the Croatian Red Cross.

The Statute of the Croatian Red Cross shall be approved by the Ministry of Health.

Article 5

The Croatian Red Cross shall maintain and develop relations with the international institutions of the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent organizations of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and other international and national humanitarian, charity, health and social organizations, directly.

Article 6

The sign of the Croatian Red Cross is a cross with bars of equal length, red on a white ground.
Article 7

The right to use the sign and the name and to fly the flag of the red cross belongs to the organization of the Red Cross or its bodies.

The manner of use, the other subjects who may use the sign, and the protection of the sign and the name of the Croatian Red Cross shall be prescribed by a special regulation.

Article 8

In performing the public activities it is authorized to perform and other tasks determined hereby, the Croatian Red Cross shall cooperate with the state administration and the bodies of local self-management, diplomatic and consular representative offices, armed forces, the Civil Defense, organizations of health and social welfare, and other corporations and physical persons.

The bodies, organizations and other corporations mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall, within their scope of work, extend assistance to the Croatian Red Cross in the performance of its duties.

Article 9

The Croatian Red Cross is authorized to perform the following public activities:

1. to perform the tasks and help the Republic of Croatia in carrying out the obligations arising from the Geneva Conventions on the protection of war victims and to advocate and promote the ideas of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
2. to train and organize citizens to give first aid in everyday life, in traffic accidents and large-scale disasters, and in wartime;
3. to organize voluntary blood donation drives, including carrying out blood donations and preparing blood products for medical use; to popularize voluntary blood donation, gather together voluntary blood donors, keep a register of such persons and determine the criteria for awarding certificates of acknowledgement to voluntary blood donors;
4. to organize a Tracing Agency and an Information Office in case of war;
5. to familiarize the population with the contents of the Geneva Conventions and to supervise their application in time of war;
6. to ask for, receive and distribute relief from other national institutions of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and from other organizations and donors;
7. to organize in the Republic of Croatia the collection and dispatching of relief abroad, as well as the relief which state organs, businesses, and other donors may donate for the alleviation of the consequences of natural disasters and war in other countries;
8. to coordinate and carry out emergency solidarity drives in the Republic of Croatia in case of large-scale disasters which may be joined by other humanitarian organizations, businesses, citizens, and others, and to organize supply centres to supply the Croatian Red Cross with equipment and necessary goods;
9. to participate in organizing and extending medical assistance and protection in case of natural and other large-scale disasters; to be part of integral health care in time of war;
10. to organize services for the care of and assistance to the ill and helpless at home and to train personnel to work in such services.

Apart from the above mentioned public activities, the Croatian Red Cross shall perform the following tasks and activities:

11. take part in receiving, sheltering and taking other measures contributing to the care of people stricken or threatened by disaster;
12. work on the health education and information of its members and other citizens, especially children and young people. Encourage and train for various forms of self-protection and mutual protection, as well as extending assistance to others, as regards health;
13. organize various forms of mutual help among citizens in the spirit of humanism and solidarity;

14. develop, by means of the humanitarian education of its young members, the virtues of solidarity, impartiality, respect for human beings and human life in mutual space, respect and love with other people and nations;

15. perform other tasks prescribed by laws.

Article 10

In order to perform the tasks of informing and tracing provided for by the Geneva Conventions on the protection of war victims of 12th August, 1949, the Protocols additional to the Conventions I and II of 1977, laws and other regulations, and in order to perform the activities of informing and tracing within the scope of the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross, a Tracing Agency shall be organized and shall be active at the Croatian Red Cross.

Article 11

The Croatian Red Cross shall prescribe the organization, scope of activity and methods of work of the Tracing Agency by a special general document.

The document mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be approved by the Ministry of Health.

Article 12

The funds needed to perform the activities and tasks of the Tracing Agency shall be provided for in the budget of the Republic and of the bodies of local self-government.

The Republic and bodies of local self-government and other corporations and physical persons shall provide the funds for the financing of tasks the performance of which they entrust to the Croatian Red Cross.

Article 13

Apart from the activities, tasks and public duties mentioned in Article 9 hereof, organizations of the Red Cross may provide services of shelter and food to persons needing this form of assistance due to health, social or other reasons.

The services of shelter and food mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be considered part of the hotel and catering industry.

Article 14

To achieve its aims and perform its tasks, the Croatian Red Cross shall obtain funds from:

- membership fees;
- the budget of the Republic and the budgets of local self-management units, donations and subsides;
- the execution of programmes under contracts;
- campaigns and activities undertaken in order to raise funds and collect material;
- the revenue from games of chance;
- gifts and legacies;
- the revenue from property and rights;
- contributions from citizens, businesses, and others;
- revenue obtained on the basis of the law and other regulations;
- revenue arising from activities the organization and performance of which has been entrusted to the Red Cross.

Article 15

In order to popularize the work and the achievements of the Croatian Red Cross and to obtain the funds needed to achieve its goals and perform its public duties and other tasks and activities, the permanent traditional events “the Red Cross Week” and the “Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week” shall be established.
The "Red Cross Week" shall be held each year from 8th to 15th May, and the "Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week" shall be held from 14th to 21st September.

As an exception to paragraph 2 of this Article, the Government of the Republic of Croatia may decree that the "Red Cross Week" and the "Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week" be held during some other period in a particular year.

**Article 16**

During the duration of the "Red Cross Week" and the "Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week", contributions in favour of the Croatian Red Cross shall be charged:

1. on each passenger ticket sold in inter-city and international air, rail, boat and coach traffic;
2. on all mail posted in domestic traffic, except for newspaper and magazines.

During "Red Cross Week" and the "Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week", the Croatian Red Cross may organize drives to collect voluntary contributions and gifts.

**Article 17**

The contribution mentioned in Article 16 hereof shall be paid by businesses, institutions, other corporations and citizens selling tickets for performances, passenger tickets and postage stamps and postal order.

The funds collected on the basis of Article 16, paragraph 1, item 1 hereof shall be paid to the account of the communal organization of the Red Cross in the area in which they have been collected, and the funds collected on the basis of Article 16, paragraph 1, item 2 hereof shall be paid to the account of the Croatian Red Cross.

**Article 18**

The Minister of Finance shall enact detailed regulations concerning the method of accounting and paying the revenue of the Croatian Red Cross mentioned in Article 16 hereof.

**Article 19**

To facilitate the performance of its tasks and activities, the Croatian Red Cross shall be granted the following privileges:

1. it shall be exempt from taxation on revenues from its movable property and real estate, donations and legacies;
2. it shall be exempt from taxation on its revenues from events and lotteries;
3. one lottery draw annually shall be intended for the voluntary blood donation programme;
4. it shall be exempt from taxation on petitions submitted to state bodies and on events, lectures, concerts, etc., organized by itself and revenues intended for humanitarian purposes;
5. it shall enjoy a discount on the transport of goods and people by means of public transport and a discount on group journeys, and shall be exempt from paying road toll for vehicles of the Croatian Red Cross;
6. it shall be exempt from payment of HPT (Croatian Post and Telecommunications Office) services for the Tracing Agency, and in time of natural and large-scale disasters and in time of war it shall be exempt from paying postage for letters, parcels and money orders sent by the Croatian Red Cross;
7. when paying public utility bills it shall be charged for costs as a household;
8. it shall be exempt from taxation on the traffic of goods and services and from taxation on publishing and propaganda activities;
9. it shall be exempt from paying customs duties, in accordance with the law;
10. it shall dispose independently of foreign currency funds obtained by contributions from corporations and physical persons.

Article 20

In case of natural disasters, epidemics, and other large-scale disasters, the Croatian Red Cross, in performing its tasks and activities, shall have the right of precedence in the transportation of persons and material on all means of public transport, and the right of precedence in communicating news through the public media.

Article 21

Supervision over the legality of the documents and activities of the Croatian Red Cross shall be performed by the Ministry of Health.

Should the organ mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, while supervising the work of the Croatian Red Cross, determine that its tasks and activities are not being carried out in accordance with the international obligations, laws, and other regulations, it shall inform the Government of the Republic of Croatia of this and shall undertake appropriate measures.

Article 22

The Croatian Red Cross shall take over all the rights, obligations, staff, and property of the Red Cross of Croatia.

Article 23

The Law on the Status and Authority of the Red Cross of Croatia (Official Gazette, No. 57/56 and 29/85) shall cease to be valid on the date when this Law comes into effect.

Article 24

This Law shall come into effect on the eight day after its publication in the Official Gazette.