

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

IN ACTION

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The difference we make together

THE CIRCLE OF YOUNG HUMANITARIANS

YOUNG PEOPLE COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE ICRC



Kay had always dreamed of working for the ICRC. And that dream came true – she completed our graduate trainee programme in August 2021. That experience helped her to deepen her knowledge of the ICRC and get a closer look at how we operate in the field. She created the CYH to raise young people’s awareness of the ICRC and humanitarian work more generally.

The association’s aim is to give students and other young people the chance to learn more about the humanitarian sector in an informal yet enriching way and to help make a difference to the lives of those most in need.

“Young people would like to get more involved, but we often don’t have the financial resources to make donations to humanitarian organizations like the ICRC,” says Kay. “But we can invest our skills and our time. With the CYH, young people get to put their skills to work and learn more about humanitarian work while they’re doing it.”

Two successful events already

Back in June, the CYH held its first event online to launch the association, with around 180 people taking part. The co-founders presented the CYH, and two ICRC delegates joined from the field to talk about the work they do.

A second event was held in August, this time in person, with around 70 people attending. The co-founders explained what the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is and talked about the role of the ICRC. An ICRC delegate then spoke in detail about their vast experience. The entrance fee covered the costs of the event, and the proceeds from a tombola were donated to the ICRC.

We got a lot of positive feedback from the two events. Here are just two examples:

Nadia (a 24-year-old trainee primary school teacher): “After last year’s lockdown, it was great to get together again, to meet new people and learn about a different sector. Everyone seemed happy to be there, and we were all very enthusiastic to talk about new ideas and new ways of thinking – and to make new friends.”

Tim (a 28-year-old consultant at Accenture): “I was really impressed by what Mark had to say and his experience as an ICRC delegate. We’re so lucky to live in a country that’s at peace, but that can make it hard for us to truly grasp what daily life is like for people living in such dangerous situations. The CYH has given me a better understanding of what people affected by armed conflict go through, and it has made me more aware of the important role that organizations like the ICRC play in alleviating their suffering.”

At the ICRC, we are delighted about this initiative. The three co-founders, as well as all the participants, have shown such great enthusiasm. If you or someone close to you would like more information about the CYH, please send an email to the following address: info@young-humanitarians.ch

