

**Humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and operational independence** are core fundamental principles that the humanitarian community adheres to when undertaking humanitarian activities. These longstanding principles are the cornerstone of any humanitarian operation, and are derived in varying degrees from International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law, a UN General Assembly Resolution<sup>1</sup>, and are part of codes of conduct and organisational mission statements guiding humanitarian organisations.

Humanitarian operations and organisations **are guided by:**

- **Humanity:** Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found, with particular attention to the most vulnerable population, such as children, women and the elderly. The dignity and rights of survivors must be respected and protected.
- **Neutrality:** Humanitarian assistance will be provided without participating in hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature.
- **Impartiality:** When humanitarian assistance is provided, it will be without discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, political opinion, gender, nationality, race or religion. Provision of assistance is guided solely by needs, and priority is given to the most vulnerable cases.
- **Operational Independence:** Humanitarian activities must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian activities is being implemented.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 46/182 (19 December 1991)