

## Charter of voluntary values

### Basic principles

A volunteer is the person who, fulfilled his duties as a citizen, makes his time and his abilities available for others, for the community where he lives or for the whole humanity. He works in a voluntary way and out of charge, promoting creative and effective responses to the needs of the addressee of his action or contributing to the realization of the common goods.

Volunteers perform their action in an individual form, in informal aggregations, in structured organizations; while drawing the motivations from different cultural and/ or religious roots, they share the same passion for the cause of human beings and for the construction of a better world.

Volunteering is a free action. The fact that it is free is the distinctive element of voluntary action and makes it original compared to other components of the third sector and other forms of civil commitment. This implies the absence of economic gain, freedom from all forms of power and the renunciation of direct and indirect advantages. In this way, it becomes a credible witness of freedom compared to the logic of individualism, economic utilitarianism and it rejects the models of societies centered exclusively on "having" and consumerism. Volunteers from their own experiences of giving, gain enrichment on the inner level and on the level of relational abilities.

The volunteer is in all forms and manifestations, an expression of the value of the relationship and of sharing with the other. At the core of his actions are the people considered in their human dignity, in their integrity and in the context of family, social and cultural relationships in which they live. Therefore, the volunteer considers each person with rights of citizenship, he promotes their knowledge and safeguards, their concrete and conscious exercise, encouraging everyone's participation in the civil development of society.

Volunteering is a school of solidarity as it contributes to the formation of solidarity and responsible citizens. It proposes to everyone to take responsibility for both local and global problems through participation, contributing to a social change. In this way, volunteering produces links, relational goods, trust relationships and cooperation between subjects and organizations, contributing to increase and enhance the social capital of the context in which it operates.

Volunteering is an experience of solidarity and a practice of subsidiarity: it works for the growth of the local, national and international community, for the support of its weakest or discomfoting memebers and for the overcoming of situations of decay. Solidarity is every action that allows the use of rights, the quality of life for everyone, the overcoming of discriminatory behaviors and economic and social disadvantages , the enhancement of the cultures, of the environment and of the territory. Solidarity is based on justice in volunteer work.

Volunteering is responsible for the participation and prattice of solidary citizenship as it is committed to remove the causes of economic, cultural, social, religious and political inequalities and contributes to the enlargement, protection and use of common goods. It does not stop at the work of denunciation but it advances proposals and projects involving as much as possible the population in the construction of a more livable society.

Volunteering has a cultural function, placing itself as a critical conscience and a point of diffusion of the values of peace, non-violence, freedom, legality, tolerance and becoming a promoter, a witness of lifestyles characterized by a sense of responsibility, acceptance, solidarity and social justice. It is committed in order for those values to become a common heritage for everyone and for the institutions.

The volunteer plays a political role: he actively participates in the processes of social life, encouraging the growth of the democratic system; especially with its organizations, it solicits the knowledge and respect of rights, detects the needs and factors of marginalization and degradation, proposes ideas and projects, identifies and experiments solutions and services, contributes to plan and evaluate social policies in equal dignity with the public institutions which primary responsibility is responding to people's rights.