

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held in Geneva in Nov. 1999 and adopted a Plan of Action for 2000–03.

Headquarters: 19 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

Website: <http://www.icrc.org>

President: Jakob Kellenberger (Switzerland).

Further Reading

Moorehead, Caroline, *Dunant's Dream: War, Switzerland and the History of the Red Cross*. HarperCollins, London, 1998

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)

Origin. The founding congress of the ICFTU was held in London in Dec. 1949 following the withdrawal of some Western trade unions from the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), which had come under Communist control. The constitution, as amended, provides for co-operation with the UN and the ILO, and for regional organizations to promote free trade unionism, especially in developing countries. By Jan. 2005 the ICFTU represented 145m. workers across 233 national trade union centres in 154 countries and territories.

Aims. The ICFTU aims to promote the interests of working people and to secure recognition of workers' organizations as free bargaining agents; to reduce the gap between rich and poor; and to defend fundamental human and trade union rights. In 1996 it campaigned for the adoption by the WTO of a social clause, with legally binding minimum labour standards.

Organization. The Congress meets every four years. The 18th Annual World Congress was held in Miyazaki, Japan in Dec. 2004. It elects the General Secretary and an Executive Board of 53 members nominated on an area basis for a four-year period. Five seats are reserved for women, nominated by the Women's Committee, and one reserved for a representative of young workers. The Board meets at least once a year. Various committees cover economic and social policy, violation of trade union and other human rights, trade union co-operation projects and also the administration of the International Solidarity Fund. There are joint ICFTU–Global Union Federations for co-ordinating activities.

The ICFTU has branch offices in Geneva, New York and Washington, and regional organizations in Latin America (Caracas), Asia (Singapore) and Africa (Nairobi).

Headquarters: Bd. du Roi Albert II, N° 5, bte 1, Brussels 1210, Belgium.

Website: <http://www.icftu.org>

General Secretary: Guy Ryder (UK).

President: Sharan Burrow (Australia).

Publications. *Trade Union World* (monthly); *Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights* (annual); *ICFTU On-Line* (daily electronic news bulletin). Other publications available; contact the press department.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

Origin. As far back as 1946 an international congress called for the adoption of an international criminal code prohibiting crimes against humanity and the prompt establishment of an international criminal court, but for more than 40 years little progress was made. In 1989 the end of the Cold War brought a dramatic increase in the number of UN peacekeeping operations and a world where the idea of establishing an International Criminal Court became more viable. The United