

>> Henry Dunant Medal 2021

The Henry Dunant Medal is the Movement's highest distinction, awarded to individual members for outstanding achievements and acts of great devotion. The Standing Commission thanks all the nominating Societies and their co-sponsors for submitting many nominations of high quality and diverse profiles. Based on a unanimous decision made during its October meeting, the Commission is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Henry Dunant Medal, who will be honoured at the next Council of Delegates in June 2022.



Mohammed Al Maadheed

Former president of the Qatar Red Crescent Society

In leadership positions within the Qatar Red Crescent from 2000 to 2020, Mohammed Al Maadheed strove enthusiastically to strengthen the operational and institutional capacities of many National Societies with fewer resources. This was accomplished through cooperation programmes and regional partnerships. He worked with various Movement components, other organizations and governments across the world to build disaster-response ability, devise rehabilitation plans, and promote international humanitarian law. Earning international recognition, Dr Al Maadheed was elected vice-president of the International Federation in 2009 and chaired the Board Priorities Oversight Group.



©photoval.ch

Philippe Gaillard

Former ICRC Delegate

Halfway through his long and exemplary career with the ICRC, Philippe Gaillard was appointed head of the organization's Rwanda delegation shortly before the ethnic genocide that ripped the country apart. Mr Gaillard took the extremely courageous decision to keep the ICRC – by contrast with most international organizations – operational in Rwanda. Working with the Rwandan Red Cross, the ICRC continued taking injured people to hospital, setting up makeshift field hospitals and helping the population as best it could. The ICRC under Mr Gaillard's leadership saved an estimated 80,000 lives. Many times, he crossed the frontlines on his own to negotiate passage for the injured to be taken for medical care. His unfailing personal courage and devotion to humanity fully justifies this award.

Tadateru Konoe

Former president of the Japanese Red Cross, former president of the International Federation

Tadateru Konoe has dedicated over five decades, his entire professional life, to advancing the Red Cross / Red Crescent's humanitarian work from a range of positions in both the Japanese Red Cross and the Federation. Twice elected Federation president (2009 and 2013), Mr Konoe has done much to enhance cooperation within the Movement and to strengthen Federation governance by ensuring integrity and accountability. Among his other activities, he has involved himself deeply in the Movement's advocacy for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Mr Konoe embodies quiet, sincere enthusiasm for the Movement's values and ideals.



Christine Lightbourne

Volunteer in the Bahamas Red Cross

A life-long volunteer in the Bahamas Red Cross's Abaco branch, Christine Lightbourne has worked as a welfare officer and shelter manager and has been deeply involved in her National Society's disaster-mitigation programmes over three decades. She has unfailingly demonstrated commitment to serving the vulnerable in hurricane-rescue operations, which she has headed in her branch, often being among the first on the spot and the last to leave. Consistently placing other people's safety above her own in life-threatening situations, Ms Lightbourne has set an example of selfless dedication, galvanizing many younger people to follow in her footsteps.



Manuel Salazar Alvarez

Veteran member of the Costa Rican Red Cross

Manuel Salazar Alvarez was an early pioneer in training first-aiders and promoting that work in his National Society and subsequently throughout Central America. He has taken part in numerous high-risk rescue operations in connection with both natural disaster and armed conflict. His service has so far spanned no less than six decades. Mr Salazar has many outstanding achievements to his credit in a number of areas to improve the service and development of his National Society, including his pivotal role in promoting international humanitarian law in Costa Rica and beyond. Still an active volunteer, Mr Salazar is an inspiring figure who has rallied many people to the Movement's cause.

The Standing Commission also agreed to award two more medals posthumously this year to two recently deceased members for their outstanding contributions.

Ligia Leroux de Ramirez (1937 – 2020)

Former president of the Dominican Red Cross

As president of the Dominican Red Cross from 2000 onward, Ligia Leroux de Ramirez pushed through a number of programmes to develop her National Society by expanding and deepening its local activities, as well as by strengthening cooperation with other National Societies in the region. Dr Leroux made a significant contribution to the Movement's work internationally and was elected president of CORI (Inter-American Regional Committee of the Red Cross) in 2007 for a four-year term. A devoted and visionary leader of great personal warmth, Dr Leroux died still president and working hard at the head of the Dominican Red Cross's covid-19 operations.



Ivan Usichenko (1938 – 2021)

Former president of the Ukrainian Red Cross

Ivan Usichenko headed the medical effort in the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. His exceptional performance and leadership in that crisis as well as in running the rehabilitation programme in the disaster's aftermath won him broad international recognition. During the country's civil unrest in 2013 and the Crimea crisis in 2014, Dr Usichenko ensured that the Ukrainian Red Cross played a major, well-recognized and neutral role in the midst of the conflict. Dr Usichenko was widely hailed for relentlessly taking the initiative and showing unfailing commitment to defending the Movement's Fundamental Principles.