

NB: Unofficial translation

© Ministry of the Interior, Finland

**Act on the Finnish Red Cross
(238/2000)**

Section 1

Name and status

- (1) The Finnish Red Cross (in Finnish ‘Suomen Punainen Risti’, in Swedish ‘Finlands Röda Kors’), hereinafter ‘Society’, is an association acknowledged by the State of Finland and governed by public law whose activities are based on the four Geneva Conventions signed at Geneva on 12 August 1949, (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, (III) Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, and (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Finnish Treaty Series 8/1955), and the two Protocols additional to these Conventions signed at Geneva on 8 June 1977, the first Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts and the second Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Finnish Treaty Series 82/1980).
- (2) The Society is the only national society in Finland that belongs to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In its activities, the Society is guided by the fundamental principles approved at the international conferences of the Red Cross.

Section 2

Distinctive emblem

What is ordered in the Conventions and the Protocols additional thereto referred to in section 1(1) and what is provided in the Act on the Use of Certain Internationally Protected Symbols (947/1979) apply to the Society’s right to use the name and distinctive emblem of the Red Cross.

Section 3

Patron of the Society and badges of merit

- (1) The President of the Republic can act as the patron of the Society, with his or her consent.
- (2) The President of the Republic grants the Society’s badges of merit. The President of the Republic decides on grant of the Society’s badges of merit in the Government without a proposal for a decision from the Government.

- (3) Provisions on the Society's badges of merit can be issued by Presidential Decree.

Section 4

Applicability of the provisions of the Associations Act

The provisions of section 6(1) of the Associations Act (503/1989) concerning registered associations apply to the competence of the Society and its local or regional units to acquire rights, undertake obligations and act as plaintiff and defendant, with due consideration for the Society's rules. Likewise, the provisions of section 6(2) on the liability of members of registered associations apply to the liability of the Society's members for the Society's and its local or regional units' obligations. Furthermore, what is provided in sections 8 and 9, Chapter 3, section 26(2), sections 27-29, section 35(1) and (2), and sections 36-39 of the Associations Act applies, as appropriate, to the Society and its members.

Section 5

The Society's rules

Rules approved by the Society's general assembly are issued by Presidential Decree.

Section 6

Entry into force

This Act comes into force on 1 March 2000.