

CHAPTER 29

THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA RED CROSS SOCIETY ACT

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Establishment of Society.
4. Society to be body corporate.
5. Objects of Society.
6. Recognition as a Voluntary Aid Society.
7. Independence of Society.
8. Emblem, use of, offence.
9. Power of Minister to make provisions for use of emblem.
10. General Assembly.
11. Power of General Assembly to make rules.

SCHEDULE.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA RED CROSS SOCIETY

An Act for the Incorporation of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

(1st November, 1983.)

5/1983.

- 1.** This Act may be cited as the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society Act. **Short title.**
- 2.** In this Act, unless a contrary intention appears— **Interpretation.**
- "Branch" means the Antigua and Barbuda Branch of the British Red Cross Society that was in operation before the commencement of this Act;
- "Constitution" means the rules made by the General Assembly in accordance with the powers given under section 10;
- "Schedule Conventions" means the conventions specified in the Schedule;
- "Society" means the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society;
- "Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for voluntary Organizations.
- 3.** On the commencement of this Act— **Establishment of Society.**
- (1) There shall be established and constituted the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society which shall be the sole national Red Cross Society in Antigua and Barbuda.
- (2) All assets and liabilities of the Branch shall be deemed to have been transferred to and vested in the Society by virtue of this Section and without further assurance, and the Society shall have all the powers necessary to take possession, recover and deal with such assets and discharge such liabilities.

(3) All deeds, bonds, instruments and contracts subsisting immediately before the day on which this Act comes into operation and to which the Branch is a party shall be of as full force and effect against or in favour of the Society and enforceable as fully and effectually as if instead of the Branch the Society had been a party thereto.

(4) Officers of the Branch shall hold corresponding appointments in the Society until other provisions are made in accordance with rules made under this Act, but subject to any provision contained in the aforesaid rules.

Society to be
body corporate.

4. The Society shall be a body corporate under the name of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to sue and be sued, purchase, acquire, hold, manage and dispose of movable and immovable property and to enter into any such contracts and to do all such things as it may consider necessary or expedient for the purpose of performing its functions or achieving its objects under this Act.

Objects of
Society.

5. (1) The objects of the Society shall be—

(a) to act in case of armed conflict, and in peace prepare to act in all the fields covered by the Scheduled Conventions and on behalf of all war victims, both civilian and military;

(b) to contribute to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering by programmes of training and services for the benefit of the community, adapted to national and local needs and circumstances;

(c) to organise, within the scope of the national plan, emergency relief services for the victims of disasters, howsoever caused;

(d) to recruit, train and assign such personnel as are necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities;

(e) to promote the participation of children and young people in the work of the Red Cross;

(f) to propagate the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and of International Humanitarian Law in order to develop among the population, and in particular

among children and youth, the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding among all men and all peoples.

(2) In pursuing the objects referred to in subsection (1) of this Section the Society shall not make any adverse distinction founded on sex, race, nationality, religion or political opinions or any other similar criteria and shall act in accordance with the spirit and principles of the Scheduled Conventions.

6. The Society is hereby recognised by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda as a Voluntary Aid Society auxiliary to the public authorities and acting for the benefit of the Civilian Population both for the purpose of the Scheduled Conventions and otherwise and shall have the right in conformity with the Scheduled Conventions to use the *heraldic* emblem of a Red Cross on a white ground, as hereinafter contained in Section 8.

Recognition as a
Voluntary aid
Society.

7. The independent and voluntary nature of the Society shall at all times be respected in accordance with the resolution relative to National Red Cross Societies adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 19th November, 1946.

Independence of
Society.

8. (1) The Society shall have the right in conformity with the Scheduled Conventions to use the name and the emblem of a Red Cross on a white ground, formed by reversing the Swiss Federal colours.

Emblem, use of,
offence.

(2) (a) It shall not be lawful for any person other than those authorised under the provisions of the Scheduled Conventions to use for any purpose whatever the emblem of the red cross on white ground, or any colourable imitation thereof, or the words "Red Cross" or the arms of the Swiss Confederation.

(b) Any person who contravenes the foregoing provisions shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for six months and a fine of five hundred dollars.

Power of Minister to make provisions for use of emblem.

9. The Minister may by Statutory Instrument make provisions generally for the use of the emblem and the prevention and repression of its misuse.

General Assembly.

10. (1) The supreme authority of the Society shall be a General Assembly in accordance with the Constitution of the said Society. There shall also be a Central Committee and Local Committees with such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the said Constitution.

(2) The first members of the General Assembly shall be those persons who, immediately before the coming into operation of the Act, are members elected to the respective positions of the Branch.

Power of General Assembly to make rules.

11. (1) The General Assembly shall frame and establish a Constitution being rules for the management of the affairs of the Society and the accomplishment of its objects. Such Constitution shall provide, *inter alia*:

(a) that membership of the Society shall not be withheld from any citizen of Antigua and Barbuda on the ground of race, class, sex, religion, faith or political opinion;

(b) that all members of the Society shall have representation on the General Assembly.

(2) Rules made under this Section may from time to time be altered, added to or repealed by the General Assembly and new Rules may from time to time be made in like manner.

(3) Rules made under this Section need not be published in the *Gazette*.

SCHEDULE

1. Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field, of August 12, 1949.
 2. Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea, of August 12, 1949.
 3. Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, of August 12, 1949.
 4. Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of August 12, 1949.
 5. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12th August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I).
 6. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12th August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II).
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