

AN ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AT THE 98<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RED CROSS TASMANIA  
BY MRS FRANCES UNDERWOOD  
WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GLENORCHY CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2012

As Patron of Red Cross in Tasmania it is always a pleasure to attend the Annual General Meeting and to be able to publically acknowledge the wonderful work done by Red Cross in its many guises and to offer support and encouragement to members, volunteers and staff. It is a credit to you all that despite trying economic times Red Cross events and programs remain robust and continue to expand into new areas to assist vulnerable groups and individuals such as The Doing It Tough Appeal or the Make Nuclear Weapons the Target. And of course the 21<sup>st</sup> century throws up challenges that the founder of Red Cross in 1859, Henry Duant could not have imagined in his wildest dreams.

For example in the area of International Humanitarian Law not only are laws of war needed to regulate land, sea, sky and subterranean warfare but now outer space and cyber space are potential areas of conflict as well. As Peter Singer, the Director of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Defense Initiative at Brookings Institute says “cyberspace isn’t merely a domain that used to be inaccessible, it literally didn’t exist a generation ago and yet its current centrality to our entire global pattern of life is almost impossible to fathom. Immense value is being created in locales ...that didn’t exist before. Yet again in the history of human beings we are gearing up to fight in new places off the map. We can either ignore these domains or work to stave off future conflict and crisis by establishing norms and institutions to stabilize and

regulate the new spaces”<sup>1</sup> So I say to Red Cross, in this challenging and frantically paced century of ours we need you more than ever; we need your programs for refugees, the disenfranchised, the homeless, the dispossessed; we need you to make every effort to minimize the impact on innocent bystanders of any kind of war by regularizing the rules of engagement through the development of International Humanitarian Law. We also need you to strive for universal acceptance and adoption of this law; and we need you to continue to apply the Red Cross principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality to mobilize the power of humanity to improve the lives of all vulnerable people. I thank you all for your efforts and say well done particularly to those who are being recognized in today’s awards for their work in successfully putting Red Cross principles into practice.

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<sup>1</sup> Singer, Peter *The Changing Locales of Conflict* in International Humanitarian Law Magazine Issue 1 2012