



# RESTORING FAMILY LINKS PROGRAM

**If you are seeking a family member, and have exhausted all means available to you, the Red Cross can help you.**

Through an international network that includes the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Canadian Red Cross helps families re-establish contact after separation due to conflicts, natural disasters or migration. People living abroad can also submit a request in the hope of locating a family member in Canada.

## **Tracing Requests**

When a loved one goes missing, or when contact with a family member is lost due to conflict, disaster or migration, the family can turn to the Canadian Red Cross to initiate a tracing request.

Search requests are accepted based on:

- the country specificities
- the closeness of the relationship
- the reasons for loss of contact
- the availability of sufficient information to conduct a search
- the search efforts undertaken by the inquirer to locate the sought person and that have been unsuccessful

## **Red Cross Messages**

When traditional means of communication are not available, Red Cross Messages facilitate exchanges between family members who have lost contact. These letters contain personal messages that may be censored by the government in the destination country, but they provide families with valuable information by indicating that their loved ones are still alive. Messages may also be sent to those who are wounded in armed conflicts, to detainees and to prisoners of war.

## **Attestations**

When a person has been detained in their country of origin and was visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross can obtain a copy of the Confirmation of Detention Certificate on behalf of the detainee.

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## ***Important***

*The Canadian Red Cross does not take part in immigration matters and cannot intervene in any way (call, letter, etc.). All requests related to the immigration process must be addressed to Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada.*

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## **CONTACT**

[familylinks@redcross.ca](mailto:familylinks@redcross.ca)

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