

Het Nederlandse  **Rode Kruis**

**Searching for family?
The Red Cross helps!**



Hundreds of thousands of people lose contact with their loved ones as a result of war or natural disaster. Recent examples are the armed conflicts in Iraq and Sudan, the tsunami in Asia and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. The tracing of missing persons is an important activity of the Red Cross. This organization is very well placed to carry out this task. Almost every country has an active Red Cross or Red Crescent society which can act as an effective network for reestablishing contact between people. In addition, as a result of its neutrality, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has access to many areas suffering from conflict.

Messages

During a war or disaster, postal and telephone services often break down. Red Cross Messages are then often the only way to make contact with relatives. A Red Cross Message is an open letter which is forwarded to the addressee via the international Red Cross network. Any reply will be sent back to the sender. In this way, contact between family members can be restored and maintained.





Tracing

Have you lost contact with members of your family due to an armed conflict or a natural disaster? Then you can ask the Netherlands Red Cross to trace them.

This can also relate to contacts broken in the past, for example, due to the Second World War. Furthermore, the Red Cross also can act to restore contact that was lost due to personal circumstances, such as: emigration, divorce, adoption or extramarital relationships.

The Netherlands Red Cross does not reveal personal information to third parties.

Personal documents

The Red Cross responds to requests for proof of detention of prisoners of war. This certificate of detention is only issued to persons who were visited by staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) during their imprisonment. In certain circumstances, the Red Cross can also assist in requesting and/or forwarding proof of identity, such as birth or marriage certificates.

Accompanied travel

In exceptional circumstances, the Red Cross can provide travel assistance for the most vulnerable people such as children or the sick, so that they can be brought from a crisis or war zone to a safe territory.





Your local Red Cross office

The Netherlands Red Cross has located numerous people and passed on hundreds of messages. We work with volunteers all over the country. That makes it easy for you. If you want to know what the Red Cross can do for you, contact the tracing team of the Red Cross in your area.

What information do we need?

To carry out a successful tracing the Red Cross needs information. Our volunteers will ask you to provide information about:

- The name of the person or persons to be traced
- Date and place of birth of the person to be traced
- Nationality
- Last known address
- Date and circumstances leading to the loss of contact

**Where can you reach us?
Your local tracing team**

+C A part of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



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For more information see
www.missingpersons.nl

