

JOINING ICVA

Membership in ICVA is open to international NGOs, which conduct activities in two or more countries; international federations; and international or national groupings of NGOs.

A full list of members, detailed procedures for membership, application forms, as well as information on the membership fees structure, can be found on the ICVA website (www.icva.ch) or requested from the ICVA Secretariat: secretariat@icva.ch.

Why Join?

“ICVA is a key NGO association bringing together Northern and Southern NGO networks around important humanitarian themes. It plays a vital role interfacing with UN humanitarian agencies based in Geneva, as well as with the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and has been a powerful voice in the UN humanitarian reform process.”

Save the Children Alliance

“It is important that the voices of Southern NGOs are heard and through ICVA we can offer input on practices in Asia to the NGO community at large...MERCY Malaysia’s membership of ICVA expands our networking capabilities and assists us to play a role in enhancing a healthy exchange of ideas and bridging the gap between East and West.”

MERCY Malaysia

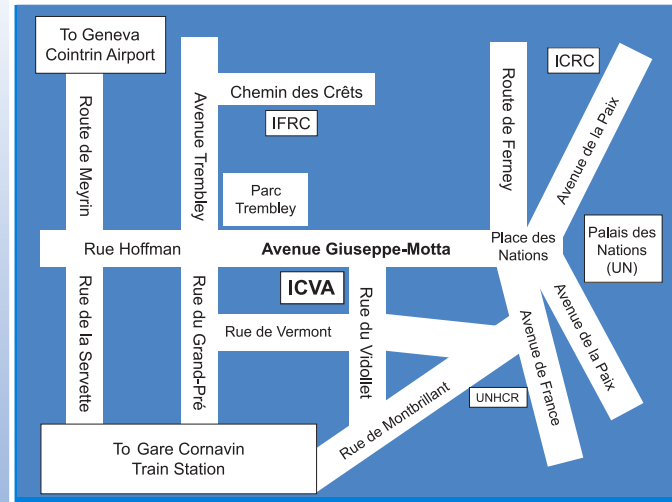
“The added value of ICVA over and above the other networks is that it is an international organisation bringing together NGOs working in emergencies, with refugees, in development, and on advocacy from around the world. It is this single fact that for many gives ICVA its legitimacy, and the reason for being a member of it, and the reason for listening to what it says.”

External Evaluation of ICVA, 2005

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) is a non-profit global association of NGOs that works as a collective body, to promote, and advocate for, human rights and a humanitarian perspective in global debates and responses.



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The global
NGO alliance
for
humanitarian
policy and
advocacy

Making NGO Voices Heard

www.icva.ch

International Council of Voluntary Agencies
Conseil International des Agences Bénévoles
Consejo Internacional de Organizaciones Voluntarias



The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), founded in 1962, is a global network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that advocates for humanitarian action.

- ICVA brings the experience and views of humanitarian and human rights NGOs to international decision-making forums.
- ICVA provides NGOs with an effective voice on issues in humanitarian response, including refugee and IDP protection, humanitarian principles, humanitarian coordination, quality and accountability, and neglected crises.
- Membership in ICVA provides NGOs with unique access to networks and information for improving humanitarian response.
- By working together, members shape a more effective humanitarian environment and enhance their capacities.

The network's strategic direction and priorities are decided by the General Assembly of all ICVA members, taking place once every three years.

A small Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland services the network through regular dialogue with the membership. ICVA is financed by membership fees and donor contributions.

ICVA'S ROLE AND ADDED VALUE

Advocacy and Representation

- ICVA advocates as a powerful alliance, actively bringing field-based experiences to influence international humanitarian policies and debates.
- ICVA members are heard where it matters, including in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC - the main humanitarian coordination body). Members' interests are raised directly with other high-level actors.
- ICVA members have access to the highest levels of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its governing body.
- *Talk Back*, ICVA's newsletter, draws the attention of the international humanitarian community to issues that concern members. *Talk Back* is widely appreciated for its provocative style, which promotes constructive debate.

Information-Sharing

- Through ongoing dialogue on the latest humanitarian issues and developments – within the network and with other humanitarian actors – ICVA enables members to improve their decision-making.
- Members receive targeted analysis via e-mail, the website, *Talk Back*, the annual ICVA Conference, and meeting reports.

ICVA's website, www.icva.ch, has a members-only section that includes debate and analysis of issues not available in the public domain. Staff of ICVA members can request a username and password by sending a message to webmaster@icva.ch. Temporary access can be granted to NGOs interested in joining ICVA.

Strengthening the NGO Community and Voice

- ICVA works to increase understanding of humanitarian principles among NGOs of diverse backgrounds and missions.
- ICVA is active in inter-agency initiatives that create tools for increasing the quality and accountability of members' work in the field.

Enhancing NGO Relationships and Visibility

- Bringing together NGOs from around the world – national and local, as well as international – is one of ICVA's greatest strengths.
- ICVA's access and influence in UN and inter-governmental forums provides opportunities for NGOs to engage in policy debates that improve humanitarian outcomes.
- ICVA is a driving force in changing the way the humanitarian community works through initiatives such as the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP), which brings together three families of the humanitarian community: NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, and the UN and other international organisations. The GHP endorsed *Principles of Partnership* (PoP) that help ensure that organisations within these three families work better together to provide more effective humanitarian responses.

www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org

ICVA's newsletter, *Talk Back*, is available on ICVA's website or via e-mail.

To subscribe, send a message with the subject "subscribe talkback" to talkback@icva.ch.

Please note that ICVA's working language is English.