



1. Amnesty International

Amnesty International promotes human rights. It has more than a million members and supporters in over 140 countries and territories. It is independent of any government, political party or religious belief.

It works to create a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. It concentrates on protecting such basic human rights as the right to physical and mental integrity (which means that you have the right to the protection of your body and to think freely), freedom of conscience (meaning freedom to do and express what you believe to be correct), and freedom from discrimination.



2. UNICEF

UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 to help children after World War II in Europe. It became a part of the United Nations system whose task was to help children living in poverty in developing countries.

This charity helps children get the care and stimulation they need in the early years of life and encourages families to educate girls as well as boys. It aims to reduce childhood death and illness and to protect children in the midst of war and natural disaster.



3. Doctors Without Borders

This international humanitarian aid organisation provides medical care to people in danger in more than 80 countries. In countries where healthcare is poor, or even non-existent, it collaborates with authorities such as the Ministry of Health to provide assistance. It works in the rehabilitation of hospitals, on vaccination programmes and water and sanitation projects. In addition to this, it works in slum areas and provides training for local personnel.



4. The Red Cross

This is an independent organisation, not connected with any political parties or organisations, whose mission is to protect the rights, lives and dignity of war refugees and victims of war and to provide them with assistance. Its main aims are to prevent human suffering by promoting humanitarian laws and by organising and coordinating international help during conflicts.

1. Match words from the two columns to form expressions. Then explain their meaning.

human...	... of conscience
developing...	... programmes
freedom...	... countries
natural...	... refugee
vaccination...	... disasters
war...	... rights

2. Read the following descriptions of major international charities and decide which organisation(s):

1. see(s) the government as its/their natural partner

2. help(s) people persecuted for their beliefs

3. is/are part of the United Nations

4. coordinate(s) international help for victims of wars

5. tries/try to make sure everyone has freedom of speech

6. tries/try to make sure that girls and boys get equal education

7. work(s) on vaccination programmes

8. was/were created to help victims of World War II

9. aim(s) to improve medical care available to people throughout the world

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