

WORLD RED CROSS DAY

“ GIVE BLOOD . . . SAVE LIFE ”

Such is the slogan proposed by the League of Red Cross Societies for the forthcoming World Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Day, which will be commemorated on 8 May 1974 by most National Societies throughout the world. In some countries, World Red Cross Day is held on an alternate date, due to national holidays falling on 8 May.

The theme for next year's World Day is based on the voluntary and free gift of blood, a long-standing priority among Red Cross objectives. The Red Cross assumes in 16 countries—at the request of the Government—full responsibility for national blood programmes. In 42 countries, it operates blood transfusion centres and mobile blood collection units. All National Societies assist in various ways in promoting blood donor recruitment.

In fact, for many years the Red Cross movement has played a leading role in blood transfusion work and in the motivation of blood donors. Resolutions adopted at International Conferences of the Red Cross and during meetings of the League's Board of Governors have repeatedly underlined the importance of Red Cross work in these fields. Accordingly, the League co-operates closely with the international organizations involved, including the World Health Organization, Council of Europe, International Blood Transfusion Society, International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations, and the World Federation of Haemophilia.