

A Charter for Volunteers ...

Volunteers have the objective, in the society in which they live, of trying to detect needs and provide solutions to problems that arise. Their action covers everything related to the well-being of individuals and the collective interest. They make a free and disinterested commitment.

Voluntary work therefore has a specific role in society, complementary to and not competitive with remunerated work. It can be organised either autonomously or in co-operation with existing associations, serving as a factor of renewal, supplement, support or creation.

Every citizen has the right, without being obliged, to engage in voluntary service and to contribute according to his or her means and in respect of the rights of others to the development of community life.

The association

It is recommended that the association within which volunteers engage in activity:

- be insured against injury caused to or by volunteers as a result of their activity;
- envisage reimbursing travel costs and inform candidate volunteers in this regard;
- offer volunteers the possibility of receiving training adapted to the activity;
- inform volunteers of its objectives and way of operating;
- sign a co-operation agreement with the candidate volunteer; this agreement will specify:
 - the association's objectives;
 - the tasks the volunteer agrees to perform and the time to be spent on them;
 - the limits of the commitment;
 - the means by which the agreement can be terminated by the association and/or the volunteer.

Volunteers

Volunteers agree:

- to the general objectives of the association in which they are active and the terms of the cooperation agreement;
- to undergo preparation for the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to them. If training is organised, it may be compulsory;
- to be bound by professional secrecy;
- to adopt an attitude of discretion concerning their activity and that of the association;
- to maintain with the association's paid personnel a spirit of close cooperation and mutual esteem.