

# Bill No. 23 of 1967

PUBLISHED 9TH DECEMBER, 1967

BILL NO. 23 OF 1967.

## GUYANA RED CROSS SOCIETY (INCORPORATION) BILL, 1967.

### Arrangement of Sections.

#### Section

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Incorporation of the Guyana Red Cross Society.
4. Purposes of the Society.
5. Recognition as a Voluntary Aid Society.
6. Government of the Society.
7. Power to make rules.
8. Vesting of assets of the former Branch in the Society.
9. Offences.

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### SCHEDULE.

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#### A BILL

#### Intituled

AN ACT to incorporate the Guyana Red Cross Society and to provide for matters related thereto.

Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana :—

A.D. 1967.

1. This Act may be cited as the Guyana Red Cross Society Short title.  
(Incorporation) Act, 1967.

2. Is this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — Interpreta-  
tion.  
“the former Branch” means the Branch of the British Red Cross Society that was in existence in Guyana immediately before the commencement of this Act;  
“the Rules” means the Rules of the Society for the time being in force under this Act;  
“the Society” means the Guyana Red Cross Society constituted by section 3 of this Act.

3. The officers and members of the former Branch and all Incorporation  
of the Guyana  
Red Cross  
Society.  
persons who may hereafter become officers or members of the Society are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Guyana Red Cross Society, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and power to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property.

4. The purposes of the Society shall be — Purpose of  
the Society.  
(a) in time of war, to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded both of armies and among non-belligerents, and to prisoners of war and civilian sufferers from the effects of war, in accordance with the

Schedule

Geneva Conventions as specified in the schedule to this Act;

- (b) to perform all duties devolving upon a national society of a state which has acceded to, or has otherwise accepted the obligations of, the said Conventions;
- (c) in time of peace or war, to carry on and assist in work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the relief of suffering throughout the world;
- (d) to organise classes and lectures and publish and sell or distribute papers, books, pamphlets and information for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the objects of the Society and of qualifying persons to assist therein and to take all other measures which may seem necessary for providing and maintaining an efficient organisation for the purposes of the Society;
- (e) to do all such other acts and things as are or may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the purposes of the Society or the exercise of any of its powers.

Recognition as a Voluntary Aid Society.

5. The Society is hereby recognised by the Government of Guyana as a Voluntary Aid Society, auxiliary to the public authorities in particular for the purposes of the said Conventions and shall have the right to have and use or permit to be used in carrying out its purposes as an emblem and badge the heraldic emblem of the red cross on a white ground, formed by reversing the Federal colours of Switzerland.

Government of the Society.

6. (1) The Governing body of the Society shall be a Council constituted in accordance with the Rules and with such powers and duties as may, subject to this Act, be prescribed by the Rules.

(2) Until the said Council is constituted as aforesaid, the Branch Committee of the former Branch shall be deemed for all purposes to be the Council.

(3) There shall be an Executive Committee constituted in accordance with the Rules and with such powers and duties as may, subject to this Act, be prescribed by the Rules.

Power to make rules.

7. (1) The Council may make rules as appear to it necessary for the management of the affairs of the Society and the accomplishment of its objects and in particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, providing for —

- (a) the organisation and functions of branches and divisions of the Society;
- (b) the appointment and duties of the officers of the Society;
- (c) the custody of the property of the Society and the keeping and auditing of Accounts;
- (d) the use of the Red Cross emblem and badge by officers and members of the Society;
- (e) the making of appeals to the public for financial or other support for the Society;
- (f) the terms on which the Society may associate with other voluntary organisations for any purpose which is included among the purposes of the Society;
- (g) the qualifications and functions of the members of the Society and their organisation in various classes according to their qualifications.

Cap. 5. (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 21 of the Interpretation Ordinance, it shall not be necessary for any such rules

to be published in the Gazette, but a copy thereof shall be furnished to the Minister to whom responsibility for defence has for the time being been assigned.

8. (1) All the assets and liabilities of the former Branch are hereby transferred to and vested in the Society. Vesting of assets of the former Branch in the Society.

(2) All deeds, bonds, instruments and contracts subsisting immediately before the commencement of this Act to which the Branch Committee of the former Branch or any person on its behalf is a party shall be of as full force and effect against or in favour of the Society and enforceable as fully and effectually as if, instead of the said Branch Committee or any person on its behalf, the Society had been a party thereto.

9. Any person not being a member of the Society who — Offences.

- (a) holds himself out to be or allows himself to be supposed to be a member of or an agent for, the Society for the purpose of soliciting, collecting or receiving money or material; or
- (b) wears or displays the emblem of the Red Cross on an article of clothing, badge, paper, or in any other way whatsoever, or any insignia coloured in imitation thereof in such a way as to be likely to deceive those to whom it is visible, for the purpose of inducing the belief that he is a member of, or agent for the Society, or that he has been recognised by the Society as possessing any qualification for administering first aid or other treatment for the relief of sickness,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

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#### SCHEDULE

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Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field, of 12th August, 1949.

Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea, of 12th August, 1949.

Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, of 12th August, 1949.

Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12th August, 1949.

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#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to incorporate the Guyana Red Cross Society. Hitherto, the Red Cross carried out its activities in Guyana as a Branch of the British Red Cross Society. With the attainment of statehood by this territory it is now desirable that there should be a National Red Cross Society recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross and qualifying for membership of the League of Red Cross Societies. The incorporation of the Society will facilitate the promotion of the humanitarian purposes of the International Red Cross in Guyana and of the Geneva Conventions 1949.

S. S RAMPHAL,  
Attorney General and Minister of State.

(Bill No. 23/1967).