

## **Humanitarian Organizations: (Hi)Stories, Impact and Challenges**

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Type:

Call for Papers

Date:

February 20, 2021 to February 21, 2021

Location:

Netherlands

Subject Fields:

Social Work, Ethnic History / Studies, Peace History / Studies, Middle East History / Studies, Immigration & Migration History / Studies

### **Humanitarian Organizations: (Hi)Stories, Impact and Challenges International Conference**

( Zoom sessions:2 days-Virtual platform:5 days)

(Due to high volume of submissions we added an extra Zoom day)

#### **Thematic Approach**

GIRES, the Global Institute for Research, Education & Scholarship creates a welcoming space for discussion and exploration of the rich history of the humanitarian organizations and their work during times of distress.

Our new international conference seeks to bring together scholars and practitioners in order to remember stories from the long history of humanitarian assistance offered by organizations such as UNICEF, International Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Crystal, Oxfam and Doctors without Frontiers in all over the world. We wish to explore their impact in shaping global citizenship and highlight the importance of their work for the support of people both in conflicts and natural catastrophes. In desperate times not only they have overcome the (geo)political and national obstacles and helped people survive but also protected legacies by recording stories and memories creating unique sources of information.

We hope that during our conference we will shed light upon cases and stories that will help us understand not only the ways the organizations supported homeless, starving, and wounded people but also safeguarded unique evidence that in many cases was later used in trials against the authorities and saved the memory of the incidents for future generations. We also hope that we will present the work of the unnamed heroes who, despite difficulties and hostility, helped their fellow citizens survive and set a reminder of the universal importance of humanitarian aid.

We invite scholars from different fields including history, philosophy, religion, sociology, international relations, literature, art, space studies, peace studies, cultural studies, minority studies, war and/or genocide studies, journalism, immigration studies, psychology and psychiatry, political and social

studies, and those working in archives, museums and NGOs.

### **Proposed Topics**

- Volunteerism and professionalism in humanitarian aid; boundaries and limitations
- Historiography and humanitarian aid
- First-hand experiences/ material (including photos, videos and documents)
- Re-examining and re-writing history through the lens of Red Cross/Crescent stories
- Ethical dilemmas in practicing humanitarian aid
- Exploring the Red Cross/Crescent archives: (un)hidden treasures
- Aid workers: dealing with trauma
- The psychology of a aid workers/help seekers
- Teaching humanitarian history
- The role of the movement in modern migration crisis
- Case studies of humanitarian assistance (conflicts and natural disasters)
- Humanitarian aid workers: their role in saving oral testimonies and shaping history
- Arts and humanitarianism
- Humanitarian aid during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Technology in the service of humanitarianism
- States/Regimes against humanitarian organizations

### **Publication Opportunity**

The Organizing Committee and GIRES Press will publish the most powerful and dynamic presentations of the conference and include them in a collective volume in the form of short articles and/or long essays. For more information please contact us.

### **Proposed Formats (Lingua franca: English)**

- \*Individually submitted papers (organized into panels by the GIRES committee)
- \* Panels (3-4 individual papers)
- \* Roundtable discussions (led by one of the presenters)
- \*Posters
- \*All participants who will take part in live (zoon) sessions are offered up to 30 minutes to present their work

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION (Please use our online application form found in the conference's webpage)

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: February, 5 2021

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION: February,7 2021

PUBLICATION: GIRES PRESS

ACCREDITATION: Official Certificate Issued by GIRES

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*Generating dialogue is of primary importance for our scholarly community and thus GIRES wishes*

*to create a friendly and welcoming environment for all of our colleagues and offer all the tools to present their work in the best possible way.*

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*Our proposed topics & formats are not restrictive and we invite additional germane ideas  
Due to the restrictions of Corona Crisis our event (for the time being) will take place **VIRTUALLY***

Contact Info:

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URL:

<https://www.gires.org/activities/conferences/humanitarian-organizations-histories-impact-and-challenges/>