



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA MEMBERSHIP DAY

16 March 2023

INTRODUCTION

Membership day was an opportunity for our members to connect with ICVA Board and staff as well as with each other. Discussions around Principled Humanitarian Action, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Collective Action provided for vibrant discussions in groups and in plenary.

The ICVA membership day was attended by 120 participants representing 76 member organisations and from 40 countries.

OPENING SESSION

David Lanz from Crisis Group set the context of the meeting by sharing the current geo-political outlook. Between a crisis in multilateralism and an increase in conflicts, he outlined some pockets of hope and resilience including the UN Security Councils strong response to the invasion of Ukraine and the increase in regional cooperation.



<https://www.crisisgroup.org/>

SESSION 2: PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN ACTION

This session was designed around ICVA Transformation 1 and brought the discussion of “Championing Principles Humanitarian Action” within the global context and explored collectively, the challenges and barriers we face in achieving principled humanitarian action.

“Principles are there to protect life and show respect to humans. However, it is not always easy to abide by principles as humanitarian response is often caught up in the different political dynamics”.

Michel Anglade of Save the Children



Feedback from break out groups:

We need to:

- Free humanitarian action from political agendas
- Address the challenge of coordination amongst NGOs
- Address the fact that INGOs have different standards in different countries
- Teach humanitarian principles to new leaders
- Avoid creating a coordination system that acts in parallel to the current framework, that may exclude others.
- Strengthen local actors

Questions arising:

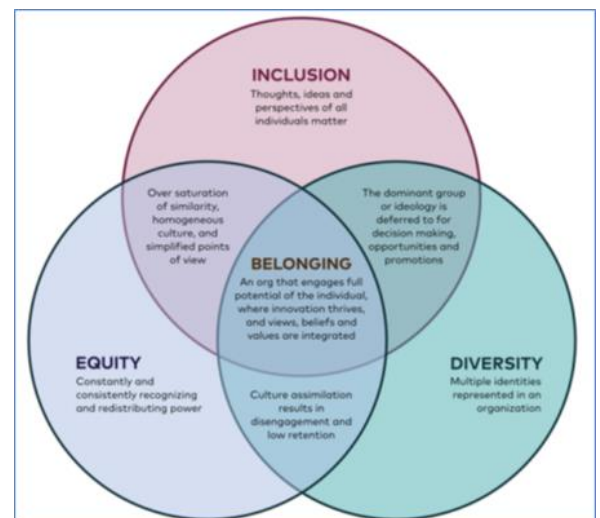
- Are the humanitarian principles really applicable – should they be reconsidered?
- Little neutrality taking place?
- Has the humanitarian sector become over complicated?

SESSION 3: SESSION ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is imbedded into transformation 4 of the ICVA 2030 Strategy.

This session led to vibrant discussion around what DEI means to organisations, a sharing of different approaches and different DEI journeys. ICVA members requested the following support from ICVA.

How do you see your organisations journey to addressing DEI, as members of ICVA, and how do you think ICVA can help facilitate that journey?



ICVA can support our members in their DEI work by:

- *Strengthening information sharing on DEI initiatives*
- *Invest in capacity building - enhancing knowledge on DEI (list of correct language etc)*
- *Tools for baselining and monitoring DEI advancements*
- *Leadership role in good practice DEI*

SESSION 4: SESSION ON COLLECTIVE CAPABILITES



There are a number of areas within our work where collective action would be beneficial.

ICVA's Board is addressing this by defining and driving where collective action lies.

ICVA Board and secretariat are committed to exploring collective capabilities of the network. ICVA secretariat would like to take this opportunity to share more about global actions, connect with members and identify where collective actions could emerge.

- We need to be clear about what the added value of the humanitarian sector is
- Collectively identify what the challenges are, have joint messaging and reinforce each other's messages
- It is not business as usual if we want to address the insecurities in crises.



ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies)

www.icvanetwork.org

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