



## The Ceylon Red Cross Society

---

*Patrons :*

THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN.

---

*President :*

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

---

*Vice-Presidents :*

THE RT. HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER.  
THE HON. THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
SIR JOHN TARBAT. KT.

---

*Chairman of the Council :*

R. N. BOND ESQ., O.B.E.

---

*Chairman of the Finance Committee :*

SIR JOHN TARBAT. KT.

## CHARTER

GEORGE THE SIXTH by the Grace of God of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,  
GREETING :

WHEREAS it has been represented to Us by Our Prime Minister of Our Island of Ceylon as follows :—

- (i) that a voluntary association called the Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society which Society was duly incorporated in England by Royal Charter, was formed in Ceylon in the year 1936 and that the primary objects of the Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society were the furnishing of aid to the sick and wounded irrespective of nationality, in time of war or in the case of any great public disaster calamity or need, and the improvement of health the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering in Ceylon and elsewhere and that it was governed by a Council and had its affairs managed and regulated by an Executive annually appointed by the Council and that Her Excellency the wife of our Governor-General of our Island of Ceylon was President of the said association;
- (ii) that the said Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society was representative of the whole of Ceylon and did use therein the heraldic emblem of the Red Cross on a white ground formed by reversing the Federal colours of Switzerland and use the words, "Red Cross" and did render assistance to the Medical Services constituted under the laws of our Island of Ceylon and to the Medical Units and establishment thereof and also that the



- said British Red Cross Society was recognized by International Committee of the Red Cross as an autonomous national Red Cross Society;
- (iii) that the said Association since its formation had received voluntary donations and subscriptions throughout Our Island of Ceylon and otherwise and had thereby accumulated funds and other assets which were held for the purpose of the said Association;
  - (iv) that for the purpose of forming a National Society to be known as The Ceylon Red Cross Society in place and instead of the said Association known as the Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society the said Ceylon Central Council Branch was at a special general meeting duly held on the 22nd day of March 1949 dissolved as at the 31st day of March 1949;
  - (v) that thereafter at a public meeting held on the said 22nd day of March 1949 a National Society known as the *Ceylon Red Cross Society (hereinafter called 'the Society')* was formed as from the 1st day of April 1949 to take the place of the said Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society and that its primary objects are the furnishing of aid to the sick and wounded irrespective of nationality, in time of war or in the case of any great public disaster calamity or need, and the improvement of health the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering in Ceylon and elsewhere and that it is governed by a Council and has its affairs managed and regulated by an Executive annually appointed by the Council;
  - (vi) that the Society has taken over all donations and subscriptions and other assets in Ceylon which were previously held by the said Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society.
  - (vii) that it will greatly promote and facilitate the work of the Society if the same is incorporated by this Our Charter and that it will be expedient that the Society when so incorporated should have such powers and be subject to such provisions as are hereinafter contained;

- (viii) that a draft of Rules for the management of the affairs of the Society when so incorporated (a true copy of which draft is annexed hereto) has been submitted to and approved by a specially convened meeting of the Society and a copy of such draft has for the purpose of identification been signed by the Secretary to the Society;
- (ix) that it has been resolved at a specially convened meeting of the Society that if and when this Our Charter shall have been granted the assets of every description belonging to or held in trust for the Society or for the use of the Society in the furtherance of any object thereof including all such donations and subscriptions and other assets in Ceylon taken over by the Society from the said Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society shall be transferred to and vested in the Society so incorporated subject nevertheless to the Society so incorporated thereout defraying and providing for all debts and liabilities (if any) then incurred by or on behalf of the Society to which the said assets may at the moment of such transfer and vesting be applicable.

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We having taken the said representations into Our Royal consideration and being always ready to give Our Royal countenance and encouragement to all useful and charitable works by virtue of Our Royal Prerogative in this behalf and of all other powers thereunto Us enabling do of Our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion by these presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors give grant and ordain that all persons who are now members of the Society or shall hereafter in accordance with the Rules of the Society hereby incorporated become members thereof shall while they remain members of the Society hereby incorporated in accordance with the Rules thereof be one body politic and corporate by the name of the CEYLON RED CROSS SOCIETY for the primary objects hereinbefore recited and by its said name shall sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all Courts and in all manner of actions and suits and shall have power to do all other matters and things incidental or appertaining to a body corporate and shall have perpetual succession



with a Common Seal which may be changed or varied by it at its pleasure PROVIDED that the Society hereby incorporated may with the approval of a specially convened meeting of the Society and with the approval of Our Governor-General from time to time hereafter change its name but no change in its name so made shall affect any of its rights or obligations or render defective any legal proceedings instituted by or against it and any legal proceedings may be continued or commenced by or against it by its new name that might have been continued or commenced by or against it by its former name.

AND WE do hereby further grant and ordain that the Society hereby incorporated shall have and may exercise all or any of the powers hereby mentioned and shall be entitled to the benefit of and be subject to the provisions hereinafter contained and such provisions shall have effect accordingly.

1. In this Charter unless the context otherwise requires:—  
“Governor-General” means Governor-General in and over Our Island of Ceylon.

“Geneva Convention” means the International Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armies in the Field signed at Geneva on the Twenty-seventh day of July 1929 and includes any convention or other arrangement amending or in substitution for the said Convention to which Our Island of Ceylon is for the time being a party.

“The Society” shall mean the Ceylon Red Cross Society incorporated by this Our Charter.

“The unincorporated Society” shall mean the unincorporated body known at the date of this Our Charter as the “Ceylon Red Cross Society”.

“The Rules” shall mean the Rules of the Society for the time being in force under or by virtue of this Our Charter.

“The Patrons” “The President” “The Vice-Presidents” “The Chairman of the Council” “The Vice-Chairman of the Council” and “The Council” shall mean respectively the Patrons of the Society, the President of the Society, the Vice-Presidents of the Society, the Chairman of the Council, the Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Council for the time being in accordance with this Our Charter or the Rules.

“The Council” shall mean the Council for the time being appointed by the Society in accordance with the Rules or such number of the members of such Council as under the Rules shall for the time being be entitled to act for such Council.

Words importing the singular number shall include plural number or *vice versa* and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine and words importing persons shall include bodies Corporate.

(2.) The Society shall have all such powers as are necessary or convenient for carrying out the objects of the Society and without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall have power:—

- (1) To acquire take over and accept by way of gift all the lands stocks funds securities and assets of every description now belonging to or held on trust for the unincorporated Society subject to the trusts (if any) affecting the same including all donations and subscriptions and other assets in Ceylon previously held by the said Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society and to undertake execute and perform any trust or conditions affecting any such assets and to defray and provide for any debts or liabilities to which the same shall at the moment of such acquisition be applicable and to give to any trustees in whom any such lands stocks funds securities or assets may now be vested a valid receipt discharge and indemnity for and in respect of any such lands stocks funds securities or assets which are handed over to the Society as aforesaid.
- (2) To undertake execute and perform any trusts or conditions affecting property of any description deemed likely to be useful for any of the purposes of the Society.
- (3) To purchase take on lease or hire or otherwise acquire and hold any lands buildings easements or hereditaments of any tenure or any other real or personal immovable or movable property and to construct provide maintain repair and alter any buildings works



ships stores plant and things which may from time to time be deemed requisite whether within Our said Island or elsewhere for any of the purposes of the Society.

- (4) To accumulate sell transfer improve manage develop exchange let sub-let mortgage dispose of or otherwise deal with or turn to account all or any property or rights of the Society.
- (5) To establish and disestablish Territorial Divisions and to delegate to them such powers and duties as it shall think fit and to enrol members and associates according to the Rules in all parts of Our Island of Ceylon to organize 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.
- (6) (a) For any of the purposes of the Society to receive and accept contributions donations endowments and gifts of money lands hereditaments stocks funds shares securities and any other assets whatever and either subject or not subject to any special trusts or conditions and to borrow or raise money with or without security and  
 (b) to receive take charge of distribute and administer any establishments ships stores plant articles things or funds which may be made over delivered to or entrusted to it for the purposes of the Society provided that such charge distribution and administration of establishments ships stores plant articles things or funds to the benefit of which sick or wounded belligerents may be admitted are carried out in time of war under the direct supervision and control and with the consent of Our Minister of State for Defence and External Affairs of Our Island of Ceylon or such other Minister of State or authority

as is thereto authorised by Our Governor-General and (c) in particular and without prejudice to the scope or effect of the preceding provisions of this paragraph to accept and take by way of gift and absorb upon any terms the undertaking and assets of any association or body whether incorporated or not carrying on work similar to any work for the time being carried on by the Society and to undertake any of the liabilities of any such other Association or body.

- (7) To supply hospitals and ambulances vehicles clothing comforts and the like for any of the purposes of the Society.
- (8) To act as a National Red Cross Voluntary Aid Society subject to the provisions of the Geneva Convention or any similar conventions or arrangements in any country or countries whether within our Island of Ceylon or elsewhere in or near which any war may be in progress or may be anticipated and whether or not any of Our Forces shall be or shall be expected to be engaged therein and to apply for and accept from any belligerent Power for itself its property and personnel all such privileges permission and immunities and to observe all such conditions and generally to do all such acts and things as may be useful necessary or incidental thereto.
- (9) To enrol men and women who are qualified by having obtained certificates in First Aid and Home Nursing into Voluntary Aid Detachments and to co-operate with the Order of St. John or other approved Ambulance Associations in the formation or units of trained men and women.
- (10) To maintain Red Cross Hospitals and to promote Blood Transfusion Services Emergency Services Civil Welfare Services and such other peace time and war time organisations and activities as are in conformity with the primary objects of the Society and are approved by the Council.



- (11) To make and carry out any arrangement for joint working or co-operation with any other association or body whether incorporated or not carrying on work similar to any work for the time being carried on by the Society.
- (12) To join or assist any International Red Cross Association or Organisation.
- (13) To organise examinations and to issue certificates in respect of such examinations.
- (14) To invest all moneys and funds of the Society which are not immediately required to be expended for the purposes thereof and which the Society may think proper to be invested in such investments as may be authorized with respect thereto by or by the powers contained in the instrument (if any) of gift of such moneys or funds or of the moneys or property from which the same shall have arisen or by the powers contained in any writing or writings under the hand or signed on behalf of the donor within six months after the gift or so far as such instrument writing or writings do not extend in investments authorised by the law for the time being in force in the Island of Ceylon for the investment of trust funds or to deposit the same with any Bank provided that the Society shall not invest money in or retain any securities in respect whereof any liability exists except securities taken over from the unincorporated Society but save as in this proviso mentioned nothing in this Our Charter shall prevent the Society from the full exercise of any discretion or authority given by the donor in the choice of investments and whether the same may be of wasting speculative or reversionary nature or otherwise. All investments may be varied or transposed from time to time into or for other investments authorised according to the provisions of this paragraph with respect to the original investments or the proceeds thereof. Moneys of the society awaiting investments may be

advanced on the security of stocks funds or securities the purchase of which would be authorised by the law for the time being in force in Our Island of Ceylon for the investment of trust funds.

- (15) To appoint and to remunerate and to dismiss such officers and servants as it deems necessary for carrying on the work of the Society and to fix the duties and powers and the terms and conditions of employment of such Officers and servants.
- (16) To appoint and remunerate such auditors or to make such arrangements for the auditing of its accounts as it deems desirable.
- (17) To appoint and remunerate such Solicitors and Counsel as it deems desirable to act as legal advisers to the Society.
- (18) To make awards of certificates badges and medals or other forms of distinction for Red Cross Service.
- (19) To grant continue and pay such salaries pensions gratuities or other sums in recognition of service (whether rendered before or after the granting of this Our Charter) as may from time to time be sanctioned by the Council.
- (20) To apply for and exercise any powers obtained under any supplemental Charter or the law of any part of Our Island of Ceylon which may be deemed expedient for any of the purposes of the Society.
- (21) 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 said powers.

PROVIDED always that in all matters falling within the scope of the Geneva Convention the Society shall observe and comply with the provisions of such Convention and in all matters falling within the principles laid down by the International Red Cross Conferences the Society shall act in conformity with such principles.



3. There shall be Patrons of the Society. We do hereby reserve to Ourselves and to Her Majesty the Queen to be the Patrons.

The management and control of the Society shall be vested in the Council which shall be the governing body thereof and subject to the Rules may exercise on behalf of the Society all or any of the powers vested in the Society. The first Council shall consist of those persons who were members of the Council of the said Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society or of the unincorporated Society immediately before the granting of this Our Charter and the same shall hold office until the first Annual General Meeting of the Society and thereafter the Council shall be constituted in the manner prescribed by the Rules.

4. There shall be a Council appointed in the manner prescribed by the Rules which shall have such powers and duties as shall be prescribed by the Rules.

5. A Division of the Society may be constituted in such districts of Our Island of Ceylon as the Council may determine; until otherwise determined by the Council the existing Divisions of the unincorporated Society shall be Divisions of the Society for their respective existing territories. The Divisions of the Society shall exercise such powers and perform such functions and duties as shall be prescribed by the Council.

6. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held once in every year and the Council shall lay before such Annual General Meeting such accounts and make such reports as may from time to time be prescribed by the Rules.

7. The accounts to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be audited by the Auditor General of Our Island of Ceylon or by a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ceylon or of such other recognised Association of Accountants as the Council shall from time to time approve.

8. The organisation of the Society shall be undertaken and its affairs managed and regulated in accordance with Rules in terms of the said draft Rules or with such other Rules as may from the time being be in force under or by virtue of the succeeding provisions of this clause. Any of the Rules may from time to time be altered added to or repealed and any new Rules may from time to time be made by the Society upon Resolution passed by a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Society present in person of which Resolution at least seven days written notice of motion, has been given provided that no new Rules and no alteration of or addition to any of the Rules shall have any force or effect if it be repugnant to any of the provisions of this Our Charter, Geneva Convention or to the law.

9. It shall be lawful for Us, Our Heirs and Successors by Supplemental Charter to add to, amend or repeal the provisions of this Our Charter or any of them, provided that a resolution to accept and approve such Supplemental Charter shall have been passed by the Votes of a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Society present in person at a General Meeting of the Society specially called for the purpose on at least seven days notice in writing.

10. And We do hereby further declare that when the Society shall cease to be a Society for the purposes aforesaid and the affairs thereof shall have been completely wound up and its debts and obligations fully discharged this Our Charter shall be absolutely void.

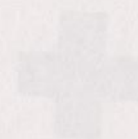
11. And We do for Ourselves Our Heirs and Successors grant and declare that this Our Charter or the enrolment thereof shall be in all things valid and effectual in law according to the true intent and meaning of the same and shall be recognised as valid and effectual by all Our Courts and Judges in Our said Island and by all other officers persons and bodies politic and corporate whom it doth concern and that the same shall be construed in the most favourable and beneficial sense and for the best advantage of the Society as well in all Our Several Courts of Justice as elsewhere notwithstanding any non-recital or mis-recital uncertainty or imperfection in this Charter.

( 12 )

IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these Our Letters  
to be made Patent Witness Ourselves at Westminster the  
Twenty-seventh day of November in the fifteenth year of  
Our Reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

NAPIER.



The Ceylon Red Cross Society

THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

THE HONORABLE THE PRIME MINISTER

THE HON. THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SIR JOHN LALAN

SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY

2, N. ROAD, COLombo

IN WITNESS WHEREOF

SIR JOHN LALAN