



***Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.***

COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus is an international pandemic, [affecting every inhabited continent](#) on the planet. When something of this magnitude happens, international nongovernmental organizations (NGO) offer assistance and help nations coordinate their response. NGOs are voluntary citizen groups that are organized on the local, state, national or international level, made up of governments and people from around the world, that work to perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions to solve an issue that crosses country borders. Working with these organizations is one way people can contribute to the [common good](#).



The International Committee of the Red Cross ([ICRC](#)) is an NGO that was founded to protect human life and health, to promote respect for all human beings, and to help people who suffer because of war or natural disasters. Individuals and governments support the International Red Cross by donating money, educating people, and volunteering. The International Red Cross is currently coordinating blood drives and plasma donations to assist with the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus pandemic.



The United Nations Children’s Fund ([UNICEF](#)) works in over 190 countries and territories to save children’s lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfill their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. UNICEF is building water and hygiene facilities, coordinating access to education programs, and delivering health supplies to help fight the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus pandemic.

**To Do and To Think:** [Research a NGO of your choice.](#)

How is the organization contributing to the common good of the community it serves?

**Learn MORE** about nongovernmental organizations. Free registration may be required.

- [International Organizations](#), from Civics360
- [Bureau of International Organization Affairs](#), from the U.S. State Department
- [List of International Organizations](#), from the U.S. Institute for Peace

