



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

World Humanitarian Day 2026

Message of Hon. Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

The commemoration of the World Humanitarian Day, every year on 19 August, reminds us of the enduring importance of humanity and solidarity in a world confronted by increasing humanitarian challenges. It is an opportunity to honour the courage of those who dedicate their lives to helping others and to reaffirm our collective commitment to protecting human dignity.

The theme for the World Humanitarian Day this year is **#ActForHumanity**, focusing on legal obligations, accountability and the systemic failures that allow violence against humanitarians to persist. A specific focus of this year's campaign is on the misuse of drones and other emerging technologies and the growing risks they pose to civilians and aid workers

At a time when humanitarian crises continue to affect millions around the world, the protection of civilians and humanitarian personnel must be upheld, and International Humanitarian Law must be respected at all times. Those who dedicate their lives to helping others in times of crisis must be allowed to carry out their work safely and with dignity.

As a Small Island Developing State, Mauritius remains particularly exposed to climate-related hazards. Building resilience to cyclones, torrential rains, flooding and other emergencies reflects preparedness, but also reinforces our commitment to protecting lives and human dignity.

On this occasion, I extend my sincere appreciation to all front-line workers, humanitarian workers, first responders, emergency personnel and volunteers who assist others in times of need. Their courage, compassion and sense of duty embody the very essence of humanitarian action.

To commemorate the World Humanitarian Day this year, flyers worked out by the Human Rights Division of my Ministry in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be made available to the general public, and to secondary and tertiary levels students with a view to inform them of the basics and principles of International Humanitarian Law and instruments to which Mauritius is party to.

Videos by the ICRC explaining the principles of IHL, the conduct of armed conflict to reduce human suffering and protection of human dignity will also be made available on the website and social media tools of the Human Rights Division and can be accessed on the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwpzzAefx9M>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESwfxu_1Ko0

Humanitarianism begins with recognising human dignity and turning compassion into meaningful action.

On this World Humanitarian Day, let us all stand together, act with humanity and leave no one behind.

Hon. Dhananjay Ramful

**Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional
Integration and International Trade
19 August 2026**