

RED CROSS
NORDIC



*Making education
a force to
unite people,
nations and cultures
for peace and a
sustainable future.*



UWC Red Cross Nordic

Red Cross Nordic is a unique college within the UWC movement with its Nordic heritage, humanitarian understanding and environmental vision. Founded in 1995 and sponsored by the Nordic governments and the Norwegian Red Cross, the College is rightly proud of its short history.

UWC Red Cross Nordic was opened by Her Majesty Queen Sonja in 1995 as the ninth of today's 17 existing Colleges. Supported by Nordic governments and the Red Cross, the College focuses on the promotion of its three pillars: Nordic Values, Humanitarian Issues and Environmental Concerns.

It is located in western Norway and hosts over 200 students from 98 countries, aged 16-19, selected on merit and potential - irrespective of race, religion and background. The programme is for two years and follows the International Baccalaureate.

It shares facilities with the Red Cross Haugland Rehabilitation Centre, working closely together with a shared belief in the resourcefulness of the individual.

The College's objective is to help students become active, involved and educated citizens whose attitudes towards intercultural understanding and service will be a powerful catalyst for change.



Our Partnership with the Norwegian Red Cross

The Red Cross is an international humanitarian relief agency, with Red Cross or Red Crescent societies in 187 countries. The basic principle of the organization is the protection of human life and rights in order to work towards worldwide peace.

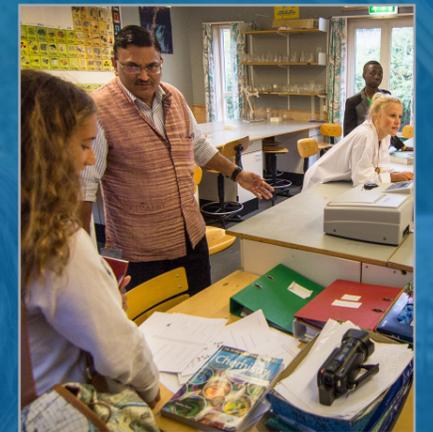
The Norwegian Red Cross, as well Sogn og Fjordane Red Cross, were among the founders of UWC Red Cross Nordic in 1995. The co-operation agreement between the College and the Red Cross was last renewed in 2017.

“This place is simply remarkable. The whole world is present in this little fjord bay. It warms me to see the engagement of the students and to witness how the focus is on finding the resources in persons and aiming at making them participants in the different arenas of life.”

Sven Mollekleiv, President of the Norwegian Red Cross

“I am glad that our work in setting up a Nordic UWC here in Fjaler succeeded. You can feel the warmth once you come to campus, and the College is everything we hoped it would be.”

HM Queen Sonja, Patron of UWC Red Cross Nordic

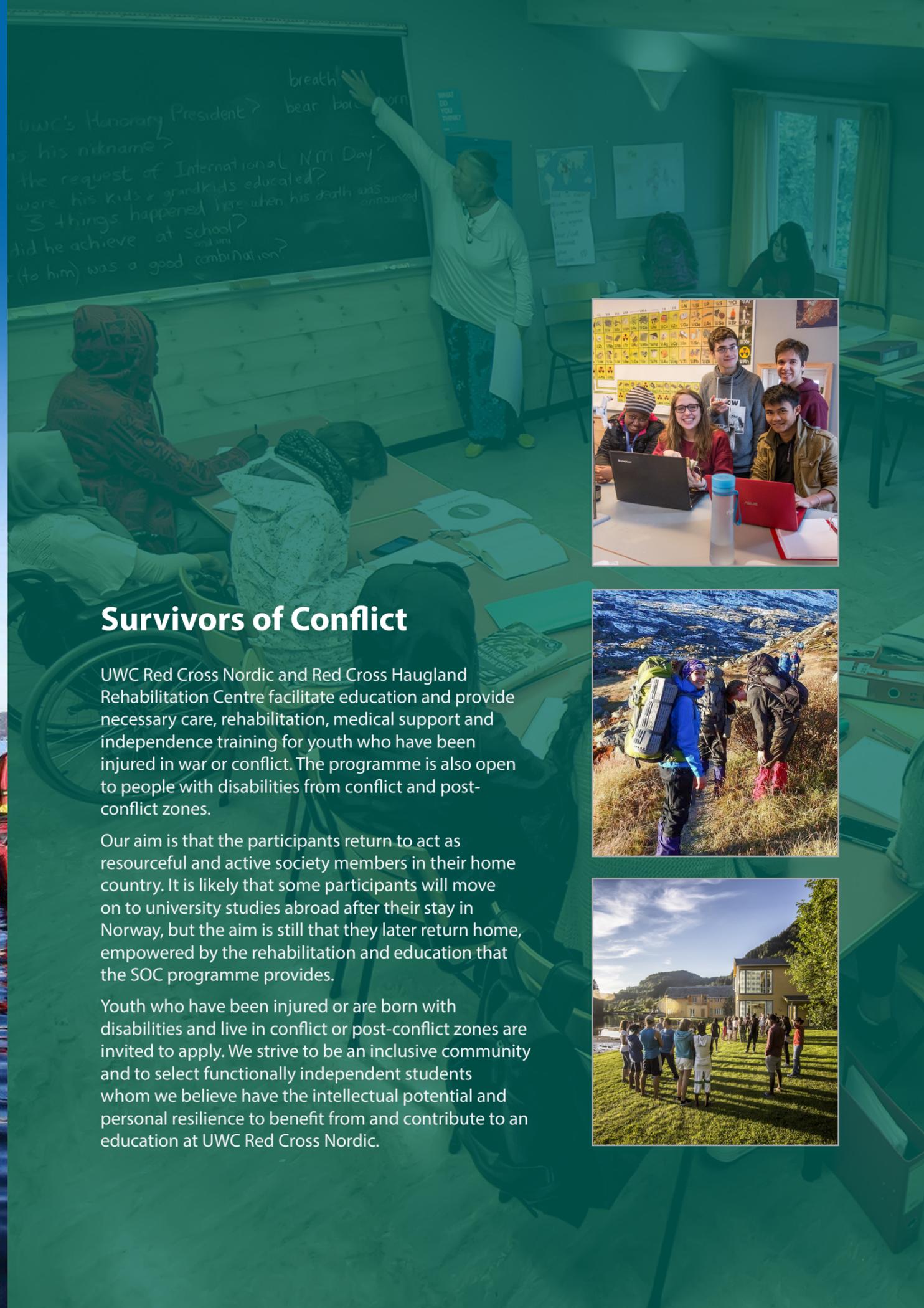


Friluftsliv

At UWC Red Cross Nordic we encourage students to experience and explore the nordic concept of friluftsliv (literally; “open/free air life”), a way of thinking of oneself as part of – and embedded within – our natural surroundings, experiencing ourselves as profoundly connected with the web of life. This more inclusive and eco-centred way of thinking of our ecological sense of identification (as developed by the Norwegian philosopher Arne Næss) transcends our humanness, encouraging an awareness and enhanced appreciation of connections between personal, social, cultural and spiritual dimensions and our natural surroundings. Such critical reflections, in turn, enable a critical awareness and appraisal of one’s core values, and may promote a sense of identification of oneself as part of the “more-than-human” world.

The physical situation of RCN – rural, beside a fjord and surrounded by forests and hills, is conducive to enabling community members to reflect on how we, embedded within our social contexts, experience and make sense of these connections to natural phenomena. While educational programmes enabling this process can include outdoor activities (e.g., sitting quietly on the island reflecting on the surrounding beauty, hiking, kayaking, climbing), they should not be confused with the ambitions associated with sport. Friluftsliv activities promote awareness of the value of experiences in a natural setting that are “simple in means and rich in ends”. Appreciating, for example, a warm drink whilst sheltering under a tree during a hike in cold, wet conditions.

It is important that friluftsliv is at the heart of the UWC Red Cross Nordic experience. We encourage students to connect with the landscape beyond the campus as both part of our commitment to our Environmental Pillar and to developing each individual student during their time at the UWC Red Cross Nordic.

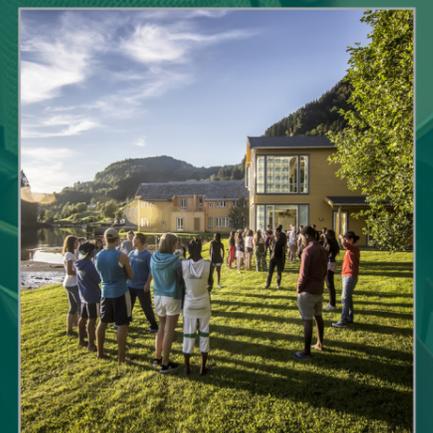


Survivors of Conflict

UWC Red Cross Nordic and Red Cross Haugland Rehabilitation Centre facilitate education and provide necessary care, rehabilitation, medical support and independence training for youth who have been injured in war or conflict. The programme is also open to people with disabilities from conflict and post-conflict zones.

Our aim is that the participants return to act as resourceful and active society members in their home country. It is likely that some participants will move on to university studies abroad after their stay in Norway, but the aim is still that they later return home, empowered by the rehabilitation and education that the SOC programme provides.

Youth who have been injured or are born with disabilities and live in conflict or post-conflict zones are invited to apply. We strive to be an inclusive community and to select functionally independent students whom we believe have the intellectual potential and personal resilience to benefit from and contribute to an education at UWC Red Cross Nordic.



Foundation Year Programme

Deliberate diversity is the key to UWC education and is a guiding principle for selection to RCN. We strongly believe that bringing together young persons from different backgrounds – cultural, political and social – for a shared educational experience is mutually beneficial to all, given that we create arenas where all take part on the same terms. Our aim for the students is that they shall learn and grow in all fields during their time here - be it in the residential, academic or extra-academic areas.

Every year some students arrive at UWC RCN linguistically and academically unprepared to manage the demands of the two year IB Diploma Programme. These students are identified early by the Academic Support Team and invited to attend the UWC RCN 3-week Summer Course (in advance of the start of the academic year), which gives them exposure to and lessons in English, helps orient them to their new environment, provides them with a supportive network of friends and introduces them to UWC values, expectations and activities.

The Foundation Year is a tailor-made course focused on English language development, study skills, and foundation in Maths and Science – alongside a holistic approach as expressed in the UWC Educational Model through extra-curricular challenges and our residential programme, emphasizing trust and a sense of belonging. The participants will take our UWC Red Cross Nordic Foundation Diploma – and this will be awarded at the end of the course. The main aims are to build confidence, nurture participation in our deliberately diverse student community, and prepare students for the demands of the two year IB Diploma or course certificates. Each student will be given a tailor-made timetable and individual tuition with more appropriate challenges, organised / supervised by the Learning Support Team.



Foundation Year Programme: Hari's Story

Hari Bahadur Tamang says he was born twice. As soon as he was born, he faced challenges. From a small village in Chitwan in southern Nepal, he had 11 siblings, and his parents were poor, and could not look after all the children properly, so all of them were sent out to work at a very young age. Hari went to work as a dishwasher in a hotel 10 hours from his village. He was 7 years old. One day a bus he was traveling on was caught by a bomb blast, and 53 people lost their lives. Hari was one of the 71 people who survived.

After this traumatic experience Hari's perspectives changed. He was lucky to be alive, and he knew it. He appreciated life and was fortunate to gain supporters – individuals and organisations who provided him with a small amount of financial relief and work opportunities in homes and on a farm. He went to school again, but when his mother passed away in 2007, he returned home to look after his father. Eventually, thanks to the support of a sponsor, Hari applied for a UWC scholarship, and with the assistance of the Nepalese National Committee he was accepted to the Survivors of Conflict programme at RCN – a programme which the College runs in tandem with the Red Cross and the Rehabilitation Centre on our campus.

The Foundation Year Programme is making a huge difference in his life, he explains. He is getting familiar with the IB Programme, the UWC movement, the Red Cross and the RCN community. He is becoming more confident and feels he is receiving a great deal of moral support. He is building his foundation to tackle not only the IB, but also other challenges. With smaller class sizes and a special focus on developing both basic and academic English, he feels well supported and motivated. His language skills are going from strength to strength, and his days have become much easier.



"My life has been challenging, but these challenges have taught me to never give up, to have hope, ask for help, grab opportunities and work harder."

Hari (centre) with fellow students



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[UWC Red Cross Nordic youtube channel](#)
[Facebook](#)

News Articles:

- [Financial Times - Profile of the College](#)
- [Refugee simulation with the Red Cross](#)
- [International Winter Sports event for disabled athletes](#)
- [Global Concerns - The Nordic Region](#)
- [On top of Norway's highest mountain with the Red Cross](#)



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