



Dr Massimo Barra

Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Internationally renowned for his innovative work on drug use, Dr Barra was one of the first medical doctors in Italy to work with drug users and since 1974 he has been involved with the Social Diseases Centre in Rome. In 1976 he founded the therapeutic community Villa Maraini Foundation, which he has directed now for more than 30 years.

Dr Massimo Barra is the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and has been President of the Italian Red Cross since December 2005.

A Red Cross volunteer since the age of 8, Massimo Barra later held the position of National Chairman of Italian Red Cross Relief Volunteers in Italy for 21 years and participated in all of the country's major relief operations. Head of Madonna del Tufo hospital since 1986 and President of the European Red Cross Network on Aids, from 1998 to 2003, Dr Barra was elected Board Member of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2003. His written work includes numerous publications and articles on the Red Cross, substance abuse, first aid and HIV and AIDS.

During his long career in the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement, Massimo Barra has been the recipient of many honours and awards, including Cavalier of the Republic of Italy (1983), Commendatore of the Republic of Italy (2005) and the Italian Red Cross Gold Medal for his commitment to the Red Cross Movement and for founding "Villa Maraini" drug treatment Centre.

Dr. Barra has represented the Italian Red Cross and the International Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement in hundreds of circumstances and missions in Italy and abroad, travelling to more than 105 Countries on behalf of the Movement.