Global trends and their potential impact on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

Political Power: Rise of Populism

Parties and leaders from outside the political mainstream have upset established political hierarchies in places such as the United States of America, United Kingdom, Peru, and the Philippines.

The vote share of populist parties has been increasing for some time in a large number of countries.

In Europe, right-wing populist parties are also trending.

Their success has been interpreted mostly as a response to the recent migration crisis.

The vote share of populist parties has been increasing for some time in a large number of countries.

It is difficult to summarize causes across local contexts, but recent research by political analysts provides some insights into the underlying drivers of these movements:

Against “the establishment”
This reflects a long-simmering public discontent with rising inequalities and growing distrust in the political system.

Many supporters of populist movements are also not “hard ideologues”.
Most appear to value politicians’ style and performance over political consistency and evidence.

A divided electorate
A worrying trend is in the widening socio-economic divide and a resulting decrease in the readiness to communicate between groups of the electorate.

Their voting behavior is also interpreted as a backlash against a wider shift towards more liberal values in their societies.

Most ardent supporters of populist candidates:

- Male rural voters
- Less educated

Some reasons why:
- Often hurt by technological change.
- Vulnerable to economic volatility.
- Aggressive reaction against a system that they perceive to be rigged against them.

INSIGHT QUESTIONS

What impact does the Trump presidency have on the operations of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement?

When public debate is framed by short term agendas and easy political vilification, what impact does this have on affected populations that the Movement supports?

What impact does Brexit have on the operations of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement?

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