



Swedish Doctors for for Human Rights

Human Rights For All

BYLAWS of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR)

1. *Organization description, aims*

1.1 Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization engaged in the research and reporting on the effects of torture, war atrocities or health-related war crimes, and human rights transgressions on civilian populations or on individuals.

Additionally, we oppose governmental and/or institutional assaults on the human rights of individuals who have denounced war crimes or exposed serious infringements to the civil liberties of the population.

1.2. SWEDHR is formed by a group of Swedish professors, PhDs, medical doctors and university researchers in the medical sciences and health-related disciplines. This participation is purely voluntary and made on a private basis.

1.3. *Disclaimer.* SWEDHR is not sponsored neither seeks fully nor partially financing by governmental institutions, corporations or private entities. SWEDHR statements represent solely the members of this organization, not all Swedish doctors or any other institution or professional/academic association that the participants in SWEDHR are associated with.

SWEDHR follows both the United Nations doctrine on Human Rights and ethical norms according to the World Medical Association's Ethical Declaration of Helsinki.

2. Organization structure

2.1. Membership.

2.1.1. Eligible as full member of the organization *Swedish Doctors for Human Rights* are any professor, associate professor (docent), med dr, fil dr, PhD, researcher, adjunct, MD, med licentiate or equivalent, registered research student (doktorand), all categories assessed being within the medical sciences, health-related sciences or associated disciplines as assessed by the organization's board.

2.1.2. Membership is obtained by formally confirming agreement with the principles and aims enunciated in the organization's Manifest. Membership is accepted in individual basis by the SWEDHR's board.

2.1.3. Members can chose themselves if they wish to be public members of the organization, or if they would prefer that their names should not be publicized. All the levels at the organization shall respect this decision.

2.1.4 Any member can publicize on his/her membership at SWEDHR. However, for private integrity purposes, the organization will not keep a published list of its members. SWEDHR's administrator will keep internally only one list of the members, and which will be kept solely with the purpose of material-distribution and convocation to the Assembly from the part of the board.

2.1.5. All contributions or participation at SWEDHR by its members is voluntary, and its extension or scope to be done in free will basis.

2.1.6. In the main, full members are expected to contribute with research reports, media articles, or materials to be published in the bulletin of the organization, SWEDHR's Research & Report. This contribution can be made individually or in team form.

2.1.7. Members are kindly expected to voluntarily help in the distribution of the materials published by the organization, although there is no obligation for doing this.

2.1.8. Fulll members are expected to send own initiatives to the board, if so they wish, and to participate in deliberations at the yearly assembly.

2.1.9. Membership ends by voluntary decision and by simply communicating to the organization's administrator. In qualified cases, membership can be revoked by decision of the board if the public stance of the member in question would have clearly infringed the organization's principles as defined by the SWEDHR's Manifest or Bylaws.

2.1.10. Eligible as *associate member* of SWEDHR is any person not comprised in the categorization as in 2.1.1. above. The only task SWEDHR expects from its

supportive members is a voluntarily help in the distribution of the materials published by the organization. All items at 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, and 2.1.5 above are applicable to the category of associate member.

2.2. The Assembly.

2.2.1. Composition. All full members registered at the organization compose the assembly.

2.2.2. Convoking. The assembly is convoked in yearly basis by the organization's board. The Chairman of the organization can also convoke it in view of extraordinary events.

2.2.3. At the yearly assembly, all items put forward for discussion should be voted, and preferably approved after consensus. Otherwise the items should be subject to voting. The assembly is chaired by the chairman and/or vice-chairman.

2.2.4. Modification of items contemplated in the foundation Manifest can be changed only if two thirds of the voting so approves it.

2.2.5. The posts of chairman and vice chairman shall be elected/ratified in yearly basis by the assembly, at the yearly meeting.

2.2.6. The assembly's discussion and voting can be performed by decision of the board by any available form, i.e. venue, video or electronic.

2.2.7. The organization's administrator shall keep protocol of the assembly participants, discussed items and resolutions.

2.3. The Board.

2.3.1. Composition. Ten members compose the organization's board. The Assembly elects the members of the board, and they are active for two years in their posts. The members of the board can be re-elected.

2.3.2. Leading functions. The chairman leads the work at the board, and in replacement, the vice-chairman. In replacement of the vice-chairman, the member of the board at the Executive team.

2.3.3. Tasks. The board is to ultimately decide on all matters pertinent to the implementation of the aims and main activities of the organization, as defined in the Foundation Manifest.

An important task of the board is to decide which human rights items are to be initiated or terminated in the activities of SWEDHR.

2.3.4. Delegations. The board may delegate to any of its members, individually or in team-form, the practical implementation of determined tasks, such as editing,

publications, and the like.

2.3.5 The board approves both incorporations of active members to the organization, and decides on eventual cases of membership-cancellation.

2.3.6. The board approves the affiliation or cooperation of SWEDHR with international human rights organizations, and/or the ending of such commitments.

2.4 The Executive team

2.4.1. The executive team is composed by the chairman, the vice chairman (both elected by the Assembly) and one member of the board (elected by the board). All three members of the executive team are to be elected/confirmed in yearly basis.

2.4.2. The chairman is responsible that all activities at the organization are complied according to SWEDHR's Manifest and the organization's bylaws.

2.4.3. The chairman is responsible that all activities at the organization are complied according to the Swedish law.

2.4.4. The chairman is responsible that all human-right items under activity, or proposed for future action, are according to the United Nation multiple provisions on human rights.

2.4.5. The chairman is responsible that all medical and health-related issues treated by the organization in both its investigative and reporting endeavours, follow the ethical rules of the International Medical Association and the Helsinki protocols.

2.4.6. The chairman is responsible for the written presentation to the Assembly of the yearly activities at the organization.

2.4.7. The chairman represents SWEDHR upon other organizations, institutions or authorities, as well as media, in issues officially pertinent to he organization.

2.4.8. On the cause of the chairman's absence or impediment, the vice- chairman acts in replacement of the chairman in all items from 2.4.2. to 2.4.7. above.

2.4.9. The vice-chairman may act on 2.4.7. also by expressly delegation by the chairman.

2.4.10. The member of the board at the executive team is equated for all purposes as second vice-chairman.

3. *Decision-making*

3.1. Democratic principle. All decisions at the different levels of the organization are to be taken by consensus alternatively democratic vote. Propositions obtaining majority are tenable as resolution.

3.2. The ultimate body of decisions is the Assembly (See above, 2.2.), followed by the board (See above, 2.3)

3.3. The executive team is to implement decisions at the board.

3.4. All posts at *Swedish Doctors for Human Rights* are filled, respectively vacated by vote of the respective bodies (See “Organization structure” above).

3. *On SWEDHR official publications*

4.1. Any member of the organization is to be respected on his/her right to express as private person any political or ideological opinion in any media he/she wishes, and as long no association with Swedish Doctors for Human Rights shall for that aim be used – expressly or implied.

4.2. In articles submitted to the media and which are authored by any of the SWEDHR colleagues, or by any free constellation of author-colleagues, it can be added in conjunction to the authors’ signature, “member of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights” [*medlem i Swedish Doctors for Human Rights*] – provided that the article-text has a reference to any SWEDHR’s human rights endeavour. These articles do not need to be reviewed by the board, or by the chairman, or by the SWEDHR editorial committee.

4.3. Articles signed as “members of the Swedish Doctors for Human Rights board” [*styrelseledamöter i Swedish Doctors for Human Rights*] are to correspond to official policies of the organization: These texts are to be reviewed by the board of directors, or its delegates (i.e. the editorial committee). In cases of urgency shall be reviewed by the chairman of the board of directors.

4.4. Articles authored in single representation of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights: These texts are to be signed only by the chairman of the organization, or by delegates of this function when approved by the board.”

4.5. All texts published in the SWEDHR Research & Reports bulletin have to be approved by the editorial committee. Three members compose the editorial

committee: two members delegated by the Board of Directors, and a third member being the SWEDHR chairman.

4.6. Swedish Doctors for Human Rights is “formed with the participation of Swedish professors, PhDs, medical doctors and university researchers in the medical sciences and health-related disciplines” (organization’s Manifest).

The texts authored in the name of this organization by its senior members – i.e. members of the board or chapter-heads – shall strive towards original and fact-based research, or alternatively a high-quality commented review of fact-based literature on issues of human rights pertinent to SWEDHR’s specific area. Opinion-articles signed by SWEDHR board members are to consist in serious contributions to the explanation and/or possible solution of the examined phenomena.

5. On SWEDHR official representations

5.1. The official representation of the organization Swedish Doctors for Human Rights is a task of the organization’s chairman. This includes the responsibility of juridical responsibility in regards to public activities of the organization. This representation can be delegated with the board of directors’ approval, as regulated in art 2.4.8. of the present bylaws.

5.2. Members of the organization inclusive members of the board are not authorized to initiate official contacts without the previous knowledge and consent of the board of directors.

5.3. If any member of the board would initiate or be recipient of unofficial contacts in regards to activities at SWEDHR, the board member in question has the obligation to inform to his/her counterpart that such preliminary contacts can only be tenable as informal or exploratory; hence such a contacts do not bound whatsoever any commitment from the organization.

5.4. An infringement of the clause 5.2. above by a member of SWEDHR will lead to the annulation of any agreement made with counterparts under the misrepresented contact. Provided this behaviour it is repeated after warning by the board, it shall be equated with impersonating the official representation of the board of directors; and thus a causal for removal from the organization.

5.5. Official representation of the organization means in these contexts, but not solely, the following tasks: contact with government and local authorities, id with other international or local organizations, id with media pursuing direct contact with the organization, id with academic or professional colleagues on behalf of networking and endeavours of the like.
