



YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
NISMA E TË RINJVE PËR TË DREJTAT E NJERIUT
INICIJATIVA MLADIH ZA LJUDSKA PRAVA

This statute will govern the non-governmental and independent organization “Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Kosovo; Nisma e të Rinjve për të Drejtat e Njeriut -Kosovë; Inicijativa mladih za ljudska prava - Kosovo” established pursuant to Law Nr. 03/L-134 On Freedom of Association in Non-governmental Organizations in the Republic of Kosovo.

STATUTE

of the

YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - KOSOVO

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The non governmental organisation "Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo" (from hereon referred to as: Initiative) is a non-governmental humanitarian, and independent organisation whose mission is to promote universal human rights among citizens of South-Eastern Europe.

Article 2

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights Kosovo Statute shall govern the main objectives of its activity, election of governing bodies, principles of operation, internal organization, and competencies held by its governing bodies, as well as other issues of relevance for Initiative's operation

Article 3

The Initiative will be a legal and mission inheritor of the non-governmental organization “Youth Initiative for Human Rights; Inicijativa mladih za ljudska prava; Nisma e të Rinjve për të Drejtat e Njeriut” registered at the Ministry for Public Services of the Government of Kosovo on November 24th, 2004 (registration number 5300445-8).

Article 4

Initiative shall have the following objectives and tasks:

- Advocacy and promotion of Human Rights
- Dissemination of truth among citizens about the recent confrontational past and change in the social value system
- Support, encouragement and enhancement of youth capacities for participation in political and social life
- Encouragement of the media to inform the public objectively about the recent confrontational past and promote civil society values

Article 5

The full name of the organisation shall be "Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Kosovo; Nisma e të Rinjve për të Drejtat e Njeriut - Kosovë; Inicijativa mladih za ljudska prava - Kosovo”.

The abbreviated name shall be "YIHR KS".

Article 6

Initiative shall be based in Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo, Perandori Dioklecian 14 Street. Initiative may likewise implement its activities in other states.

Article 7

Initiative shall have its seal.

Initiative’s seal shall be round, with the inscription along the edge “Youth Initiative for Human Rights”.

The centre of the seal shall read “Kosovo”.

Article 8

Initiative shall have its logo.

Initiative's full name shall be written in Latin script in the English, Albanian and Serbian languages.

The Initiative's logo shall be approved in a special decision rendered by the Initiative's Governing Board.

Article 9

The Initiative shall have the capacity of a legal entity.

Executive Director or an individual authorized by them shall represent Initiative and act on its behalf.

Article 10

Initiative shall perform its activities solely to charitable, scientific or educational purposes, in compliance with the law.

No good or property owned by Initiative may be used to private ends or for the purposes of a profitable organization, except in instances stipulated in Article 12 of this Statute.

The above restriction shall not pertain to payment for goods or services necessary for implementation of Initiative's activities.

Natural persons or groups of natural persons may neither have any share in ownership of Initiative nor in the goods of its making.

Article 11

Initiative may not take part in campaigns of political parties or candidates for public functions, either directly or indirectly.

Initiative shall not be engaged in amendment or enactment of new laws, nor shall it lobby for legislative changes.

Article 12

Initiative shall implement its objectives through participation in organizing public events, seminars and conferences, in keeping with the law.

In scope of its activities, Initiative shall cooperate with the media, associations of citizens and related organizations and institutions in the country, the region and abroad.

Article 13

Activities of the Initiative will include:

- Education and capacity building for young people – Initiative intends to create links by creating an interactive network between young people from Kosovo and Serbia in order to overpass the consequences of the troubled past and ethnic tensions that are still visible. This plan also includes education and leadership capacity building for young people and minorities – the programme includes training and education of young leaders, as well as from minorities, and also the opinion research on their views for the future of Kosova.
- Dealing with the past and regional cooperation – By promoting principles of accountability, amenability and justice, Initiative will be involved in building a safer and more democratic society. One of the key issues where Initiative will extend its efforts will be dealing with the past. Activities will include public debates, press conferences, workshops, written reports and media monitoring.

- Promoting human rights – Initiative also intends to work on monitoring and protecting victims of human rights violation.
- Other ad hoc programmes

Article 14

Operation of the Initiative shall be transparent.

Transparency of the Initiative's work shall be ensured through publication of the Initiative's Annual Progress Report on its website, organization of press conferences and as otherwise deemed appropriate.

ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP OF THE INITIATIVE

Article 15

Each individual can become an Assembly Member of the Initiative based on equal conditions foreseen by this Statute.

Decision for membership and its termination is taken by the Governing Board.

Governing Board on its first meeting after the decision on proposition requests the registration on the “Member’s Book”.

Approving decision for membership is announced during the next meeting of the Assembly. The Assembly can reject the membership, thus confirming that the certain individual was not a member of the Initiative.

The criteria that the person has to meet in order to become a candidate member for the Assembly of the Initiative are:

- to be an adult,
- to accept mission, vision and goals of the Initiative,
- to share same values with the Initiative,
- to agree with Initiative’s Statute.

Article 16

The rights of the Initiative’s Assembly members are:

- to elect and be elected for Initiative’s bodies in accordance with this Statute,
- to propose members for Governing Board,
- to get informed on Initiative’s activities,
- to participate on organization’s operation,
- to get protection if their basic membership rights are violated at the Assembly or during their involvement in Initiative’s activities,
- to practice other rights according to this Statute and other general provisions of the Initiative

Article 17

Responsibilities of the Initiative’s Assembly Members are:

- to respect the Statute and other general or particular provisions of the Initiative,
- be involved in fulfilling the goals and mission of the Initiative,
- to protect the interest, to preserve and improve the image of the Initiative,
- to participate on meetings of the bodies where they are members.

Article 18

Membership at the Initiative's Assembly can end by resignation or exclusion.

If a member wants to withdraw from the Assembly of the Initiative, he/she has to notify the secretary of the organization in written.

The decision on exclusion is taken and justified by the Governing Board.

The decision on exclusion from the membership of Initiative's Assembly must be approved by the Assembly during its next meeting.

The Assembly can overrule the decision taken by the Governing Board for the exclusion from membership. In this case it is considered that the membership has continually existed.

Criteria for exclusion from membership of Initiative's Assembly are:

- not complying with the Statute and other general and specific provisions of the Initiative,
- non-compliant conduct with interests and image of the Initiative,
- absence on meetings of the Initiative's governing bodies, of which he/she is a member.

INITIATIVE'S GOVERNING BODIES

Article 19

The Initiative will have these governing bodies:

1. Assembly
2. Governing Board
3. Director

MANDATE OF ELECTIVE BODIES

Article 20

Initiative's elective bodies, Governing Board and Director shall have a two-year term in office. They may be re-elected upon expiration of their term

Article 21

The Founder can be elected in other bodies within the Initiative, in accordance with the described procedure

ASSEMBLY

Article 22

The Assembly of the Initiative is organization's highest body

The Assembly consists of members of the Initiative enrolled on the "Book of Members".

The Assembly of the Initiative shall meet at least twice a year.

Date, agenda, decision proposals and materials for regular meetings on which the Assembly has to take decisions will be prepared by the President of Governing Board.

Meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Assembly who is elected at the beginning of each meeting by a proposal from the President of the Governing Board.

If the Assembly cannot gather within a certain time, and for acceptable reasons, other Initiative's bodies shall continue their work until the Assembly is gathered.

Article 23

The Assembly has its work rules.

Each member of the Assembly may require reviewing the agenda which will be decided by the Assembly.

Extraordinary meetings of the Assembly may be convened at the request of the Governing Board or by one third (1/3) of Assembly members.

Extraordinary meetings are set by the Secretary of the organization within 20 days from the request. The agenda for the extraordinary meeting is set by the members that called the meeting. The Secretary prepares the material for the meeting according to the proposal of the members who called the extraordinary meeting.

Assembly decisions are taken by majority vote, unless the Statute provides otherwise.

Individuals designated as "Friends of the Initiative", who are not Assembly members may be invited to observe the Assembly meeting (their presence is not counted in quorum and voting).

Article 24

Assembly of the Initiative:

- approves the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly,
- approves the Statute and its amendments as proposed by the Governing Board,
- sets goals and directions of the Initiative,
- approves strategic plan of the Initiative as proposed by the Governing Board,
- appoints and dismisses members of the Governing Board,
- reviews and approves work report of the Governing Board from the last meeting of the Assembly, and approves financial report of the previous working year of the Initiative,
- approves or annuls decisions of the Governing Board regarding admission or exclusion of members from Initiative's Assembly,
- appoints the Director according to the proposal from Governing Board,
- approves cooperation with networks and coalitions of the Initiative according to the proposal from the Governing Board,
- approves decisions on changing the objectives of the Initiative and its dissolution, by absolute majority of two thirds;
- approves decision on distribution of remaining assets of the Initiative, by absolute majority of two thirds;

Article 25

The founders will propose three members of the first Governing Board.

The Governing Board shall convene no less than four times a year.

Governing Board sessions shall be convened and chaired by the Governing Board chairperson.

Governing Board sessions may likewise be convened by three Governing Board members.

Governing Board sessions shall be attended by the Director.

Governing Board sessions may likewise be attended by other individuals, as invited by the Governing Board, whose attendance is of relevance for the Governing Board's work.

The Governing Board may pass decisions if two-thirds (2/3) of its members are present.

Article 26

Membership of the Governing Board shall cease by:

- resigning from membership,
- being relieved of duty,
- demise of a member

Resignation from membership shall be submitted to the Steering Committee Chairperson in writing.

A Governing Board member may initiate the procedure of relieving a Governing Board member of duty.

Elaborated motion to relieve a Governing Board member of duty shall be submitted to the Governing Board Chairperson in writing. Governing Board Chairperson is obliged to request that the member whose discharge procedure is underway submit a response in writing.

A Governing Board member shall be relieved of duty should two-thirds of the Assembly membership vote in favour of it.

The Assembly is required to appoint a new Governing Board member no later than 90 days as of the date of the Governing Board membership termination.

Should membership of the Governing Board be terminated for no less than three Governing Board members simultaneously or within a short time span, the Assembly is required to appoint new members within 15 days.

Decisions rendered by the Governing Board shall be valid if a session is attended by majority of its total membership.

Governing Board decisions shall be enacted by simple majority, barring instances specifically envisaged in the Statute, which shall require absolute two-thirds majority.

Article 27

The Governing Board shall:

- create the Initiative's global policy, pursuant to its objectives,
- adopt modifications and amendments to the Statute and other general acts of the organisation,
- provide binding interpretation of the Statute and other general acts of the organisation,
- select the Governing Board Chairperson from its ranks,
- propose Initiative's Director,
- supervise the Director's performance and verify his/her decisions,

- enact rule books and other acts related to the organization's work,
- approve a procedure for election of the Director,
- decide on creating other structures of the organization,
- decide on strategic cooperation with local and international organizations,
- approve annual work plan,
- pursuant to the Director's proposal, review and endorse annual financial plan,
- pursuant to the Director's proposal, review and endorse Initiative's semi-annual program plans,
- pursuant to the Director's proposal, review and endorse systematization of jobs at Initiative, as well as any change therein,
- review and endorse reports on the Director's performance between two Governing Board sessions
- enact its Operational Manual pursuant to the proposal put forth by the Governing Board Chairperson
- elect and relive of duty the secretary of the organisation
- render decisions regarding other issues as prescribed by the Statute of the organisation,
- pursuant to a proposal put forth by any Steering Committee member, may award special certificates of merit to individuals who have greatly contributed to Initiative's work and development.

Article 28

The Governing Board shall elect the secretary of the organisation pursuant to a proposal put forth by the Governing Board chairperson. The secretary shall be appointed for a two-year term.

The organisation secretary shall have the following duties:

- to set emergency sessions of the Assembly and the Governing Board in accordance with the provisions of this Statute,
- to keep minutes during Assembly and Governing Board sessions,
- to prepare documentation for the Assembly and Governing Board sessions,
- takes care for the technical organization of the sessions of Assembly and Governing Board,
- ensures about maintaining the "List of Members" of the Initiative's Assembly,
- to promulgate decisions rendered by the Assembly and Governing Board and make them available to all relevant persons.

If the Secretary for whatever reasons quits his/her job, it automatically ends his/her mandate as a Secretary. In this case the Board of Directors, by the proposal from the Chairman is obliged to replace the Secretary within 30 days.

DIRECTOR

Article 29

The Director shall:

- fully manage Initiative's operation and activities,
- take care that Governing Board decisions have been put into effect,
- take decisions necessary for Initiative's regular operation,
- represent and act on behalf of Initiative,
- manage Initiative's assets in accordance with the law, the Statute, financial plan and Governing Board decisions,
- recruit staff and associates in compliance with systematization of jobs,
- propose the organization's strategic plan to the Governing Board,

- submit to the Governing Board reports on his/her performance, financial and program, plans in keeping with the procedure stipulated in **Article 20** of this Statute,
- hold meetings with donors and engage in fundraising activities for the organization,
- cooperate with other organizations and institutions,
- establish Initiative s bodies such as: committees, sub-committees, working groups, commissions,
- perform all other assignments necessary for smooth operation of Initiative.

Article 30

A member of the Governing Board or of another body operating within the Initiative may not vote, i.e. decide, regarding issues in which they, relative or emotional partner, have a material interest, or regarding their discharge or assessment of their performance and conduct.

Rules on the conflict of interest shall be further regulated by the Governing Board's Rules of Procedure.

MODE OF OPERATION AND ORGANIZATION OF INITIATIVE

Article 31

Initiative shall be organized under the program principle.

Initiative's programs shall be defined by the Director.

Article 32

For execution of those tasks necessary for Initiative's operation which require expertise, it shall be possible to recruit individuals who are not a part of Initiative.

Recruitment shall be conducted in compliance with the law.

The Director shall decide on recruitment pursuant to systematization of jobs approved by the Governing Board.

FINANCING OF INITIATIVE

Article 33

The Initiative's assets shall be comprised of the resources generated through gifts, legacies, lease, interest yields and other passive income, income generated through commercial activity, as well as other resources and income generated in keeping with the law.

Article 34

Initiative's financial operations shall be conducted in keeping with positive regulations, pursuant to the financial plan approved by the Governing Board.

PROPRIETARY LIABILITY

Article 35

For obligations assumed in legal transactions the organisation shall be liable with all its assets.

The organisation's losses shall be covered from the organisation's resources.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Article 36

Documents and data whose disclosure to an unauthorized individual would damage the Initiative's reputation and interests shall be deemed confidential.

The Governing Board shall render a special decision prescribing the acts and data deemed confidential.

The Director, Governing Board members, Assembly members, and staff invested with special competences and responsibilities and technical and administrative staff shall be subject to the confidentiality clause.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE OF ORGANISATION

Article 37

Modifications and amendments to the Statute of organisation shall be endorsed by the Assembly, by two-thirds majority of the number of members present.

DISSOLUTION

Article 38

The organisation shall dissolve when terms prescribed by the law and this Statute be met.

A decision to dissolve the Initiative shall be endorsed by the Assembly, by absolute two-thirds majority.

Should the Initiative be dissolved, the Initiative's remaining assets shall be awarded to another non-governmental, non-profit organization or a public institution with identical or similar statutory objectives.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 39

The Statute enters into effect as at the date of enactment.

Founders:

Raba Gjoshi

Shpend Qamili

Besart Lumi

Prishtinë, 05.04.2011