

STATUTES OF THE No Hate Speech Network

CHAPTER I

NAME, CORE VALUES, AIMS, ACTIVITIES AND HEADQUARTERS

Article 1

No Hate Speech Network is established and constituted as a non-governmental organisation with full juridical personality and legal working capacity.

In performing its activities, the *No Hate Speech Network* may use its registered full or abbreviated title which is: *NSHN*.

NHSN is registered in upon decision by the board. It will develop its activities at the local, national and international levels.

Article 2

NHSN is established for an indefinite period of time.

Article 3

Core values and mission

The *NHSN* aims to prevent and counter hate speech by mobilising and connecting individuals and organisations to act in support of human rights and democracy online and offline. It empowers young people and relevant stakeholders to think critically, act against hate speech and provide support to people targeted. It works through human rights education, awareness-raising, advocacy actions and any other means necessary in accordance with the core values and mission.

The *NHSN* respects the definitions and values adopted in the internal acts, rules of procedures, and organizational glossary. For specific terms not defined within the internal documents, it works in line with the standards set from International intergovernmental organisations such as the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations, OSCE etc.

NHSN is an independent entity supported through donor funding to realize its core mission and vision. However, it shall do so in a way that always ensures that it never deviates from its primary purpose and in a way that never compromises its integrity, independence and impartiality.

Article 4

Objectives

The movement has the following specific objectives:

1. Support and promote Human Rights Education and awareness raising activities for actions to counter and prevent hate speech and the risks it poses to democracy and the well-being of young people.
2. Develop and disseminate tools and mechanisms for preventing, countering and reporting hate speech and intolerance, especially online.
3. Mobilize local, national and international partners to prevent and counter all forms of hate speech and intolerance online and offline.
4. Promote media literacy and digital citizenship and support young people's participation in Internet governance.
5. Collect and promote good practices in the area of human rights education and youth activism that were developed in the framework of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign.

6. Advocate for specific actions and legal changes at the local, national and international level aiming at countering hate speech and intolerance online and offline and supporting those affected.
7. Develop and promote actions expressing solidarity and support to people affected by hate speech and hate crimes.

Article 5

For the fulfilment of these aims, the NHSN will carry out activities in the areas of:

- Online and offline campaigning
- Human Rights Education
- Capacity building of stakeholders to address hate speech
- Networking and partnership building to prevent and counter hate speech
- Research on hate speech related topics
- Participation in policy processes connected with combating hate speech
- Youth empowerment and promotion of active youth participation
- Anti-discrimination activities
- Any other activity in accordance with its aim and values

CHAPTER II MEMBERSHIP

Article 6

The members of the NHSN are:

- a) Civil society organisations
- b) Youth lead organisations and/or organisations working with and for young people
- c) Individual members

All types of members should have experience and/or commitment to work on the topic, contribute to the network, its mission, objectives and should respect the principles and values of the network. Organisations under a) and b) cannot be politically affiliated.

The NHSN may grant observer status to organisations they find relevant to their work.

Article 7

All members pay an annual membership fee as defined by the General Assembly of the NHSN upon a proposal by the board.

In the event of non-payment of the membership fee, your voting rights are suspended, unless a fee waiver has been granted.

The Board can decide to waive the membership fee to members who do not have the financial capacity to afford to pay the membership fee. The members who request a waiver of their membership fee should submit this request to the Board in writing.

Article 8

Any individual or civil society organisation with a genuine interest in the promotion and development of the NHSN aims and values may become a member of the NHSN by approval of the Board.

The membership of acceding individuals or civil society organisations is ratified by the General Assembly. Upon confirmation, the acceding member shall make the payment of the

annual membership fee. The membership becomes effective upon the payment of the membership fee.

Article 9

Membership shall cease for the following reasons:

1. By voluntary resignation, when communicated in writing to the Board
2. By non-compliance with the members' economic duties, when a member fails to pay two consecutive annual membership fees.
3. By non-compliance with the members' duties listed under Article 11.

All such cases should be treated on a case by case basis.

3. Upon the decision of the General Assembly following the proposal of the Board after removal for good cause in accordance with the established procedures.

4. Upon the decision of the General Assembly following the proposal of the Board after removal for failure to abide by NHSN statutory goals and principles as outlined in this statute.

A member whose membership has been revoked in accordance with section 3. or 4. above shall have the right to make written representations in his defence to the General Assembly.

Article 10

The members shall have the following rights:

- To apply/be nominated for any of the NHSN activities related to its aims;
- To enjoy all the advantages and benefits that might derive from the NHSN.
- To participate in the General Assembly with voice and vote.
- To vote at the General Assembly by proxy in accordance with internal regulations, rules and procedures.
- To be electors and eligible members to the Board.
- To receive information regarding the agreements adopted by the organs of the NHSN.
- To make suggestions to the members of the Board or in order to improve the accomplishment of NHSN aims.
- To undertake initiatives and actions within the NHSN

Article 11

The members shall have the following duties:

- To abide by the present Statutes as well as the valid agreements of the General Assembly and the Board.
- To pay the annual membership fees.

CHAPTER III THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 12

The General Assembly is the supreme organ that governs the NHSN and will be composed of all its members.

Article 13

The General Assembly shall hold ordinary and extraordinary meetings. Ordinary meetings will be held once a year. Ordinary meeting will be held online if the financial situation does not allow for an offline general assembly

Extraordinary meetings will be held when the circumstances recommend so, as determined necessary by the Chairperson of the Board, upon agreement of the Board or when proposed by one-third of the totality of its members.

Article 14

The General Assembly meetings will be announced in a written document indicating the location, day and time of the meeting as well as the agenda. There shall be a deadline of at least 12 weeks between the announcement and the designated day of the General Assembly meeting at its first call.

Article 15

The General Assembly, sitting in both ordinary and extraordinary sessions, will be constituted on the first call only when at least half of its members with a right to vote are present.

Each member gets one vote, regardless if they are individuals or organisations.

The General Assembly agreements will be adopted by a *simple majority* of its present or represented members if the number of positive votes is higher than the negative votes. Blank votes or abstentions will not be included in the counting.

A *qualified majority* of votes of at least two-thirds of the present members shall be required in order to:

- Accept amendments to the NHSN statutes
- Dispose of or alienate any property part of the NHSN general resources.
- Agree on the strategy and action plan;
- Decide on and approve of the dissolution of the NHSN. Motion to dissolve the NHSN shall be communicated to the membership at least 30 days prior to the General Assembly meeting.

Article 16

The following are the functions of the General Assembly in ordinary sessions:

- Appointment of the members of the Board
- Amending the statutes
- Dissolution of the NHSN
- Acceptance and Dismissal of members upon proposal by the Board
- Establishment of working groups and follow-up on their work
- Acceptance of policy papers proposed by the board
- Acceptance of strategic and action plans proposed by the Board
- Approval of financial report for the previous financial year
- Approval of budget for the next financial year
- Approval of the strategy and action plan
- Approval of the annual report by the Board for the period since the last General Assembly
- Determination of the member's fees upon the proposal of the Board
- Any other competence that is not exclusive of the Extraordinary Assembly
- The general assembly any necessary internal regulations, rules and procedures
- Select a Chairperson who is the legal representative of the organisation. If the Chair withdraws, the Vice-Chair will take their place.

CHAPTER IV THE BOARD

Article 17

NHSN will be coordinated (and managed, in the absence of a secretariat) by a Board composed of 7 elected and 2 co-opted people who will perform such duties without salary or other benefits, however, they can claim reasonable expenses. The General Assembly adopts financial rules and procedures that define these expenses.

The Board selects a Treasurer who approves the final accounts.

The Board shall be elected by the General Assembly every second year. The members of the Board can be re-elected for the next period of 2 years under the condition that they can carry their function only in 2 consecutive periods.

When electing the board, the General Assembly should make sure that gender and geographical balance are encouraged and respected and members of the board are elected without any discrimination on any ground.

The General Assembly can revoke any person sitting on the Board for reasonable cause and in accordance with established procedures.

The person against whom revocation is sought shall have the right to request an oral hearing and a written statement.

The Board can co-opt 2 young people who applied but were not elected as board members on the last board elections. The co-opted members should be invited in order to secure better diversity of experiences, gender, geographical areas, working with / or representing groups who are victims or targets of hate speech and work with different members.

Article 18

Any member of the Board whose mandate has expired will temporarily continue in his/her position until formal acceptance by the successor. This period should not be longer than 6 months.

Article 19

The Board will meet as many times as determined by its Chairperson or by initiative or petition of a simple majority of its members within 60 days after the petition has been delivered. It will be constituted when attended by a majority of its members and for their agreements to be valid they should be taken by a majority of votes within 60 days after the petition has been delivered.

The Board should meet at least twice a year, either online or offline.

Article 20

The primary role of the Board is to manage the work of the NHSN (until the secretariat is established) as well as represent the political positions and proposals of the NHSN. The board has a fiduciary duty and must at all times act in the best interest of the NHSN, setting aside any personal benefits or matters that could give rise to a conflict of interest.

To be able to fulfil its work, the Board can establish a secretariat lead by a Secretary-General and approve a secretariat, should the financial resources allow for it.

The following are the functions of the Board:

- Reporting to the general assembly;
- To propose strategy and action plans to the General Assembly,
- To monitor the implementation of strategic and action plans,
- To monitor the activities of the secretariat (if applicable),
- Manage conflicts and disputes;

- Electing the board treasurer;
- Appointing the Secretary-General and other secretariat staff members, when applicable;
- Dismissing the Secretary-General;
- Proposes the annual budget to the General Assembly for the next financial year
- Approves changes in the adopted annual budget
- To take disciplinary measures in consultation with the General Assembly;
- To approve the interim and final reports on the activities of the Secretary-General;
- To coordinate the working groups of the NHSN;
- To support the creation of policy papers outlining the political directions of the NHSN.
- To propose policy papers to the General Assembly
- To co-opt board members if vacancies arise since the last General Assembly. The mandate of vacancies filled will run until the next General Assembly.
- Selects a Vice-Chair from the Board. The Vice-Chair acts as deputy to the Chair.

Article 21

The functions of the Chairperson shall be the following:

- To represent legally to the Association before all types of public or private agencies unless these tasks are appointed to the Secretary-General;
- To call, chair and end the meetings and deliberations of both the General Assembly and the Board;
- In case of a tie, the chair has a casting vote.

Article 22

The Secretary-General shall be in charge of the administrative aspects of the NHSN. They will issue certificates, maintain the financial records and the members' files as well as keep the documentation. They will prepare official minutes of all meetings of the General Assembly. They shall be in charge of the presentation of the Annual Accountancy and shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the NHSN legal documentary duties. They can attend the Board meeting upon the official invitation from the Board.

Article 23

The Board establishes NHSN working groups upon their own decision or that of the General Assembly. The functions of the working groups shall be to work on the specific areas, which support the NHSN with the mission.

The Working group works on the basis of the internal regulations, rules and procedures.

The Working group is accountable to the Board and reports back to the General Assembly. The working group appoints a coordinator which has the right to attend board meetings and has no voting rights.

For the establishment of a working group you need at least 3 members.

Article 24

The NHSN shall have a permanent working group composed of representatives of the National Campaign Committees (NCCs) where such exist. This working group shall meet minimum once per year. The aim of this working group is to secure coordination between the different NCCs. It shall produce proposals both for activities and policy papers which shall be presented to the General Assembly of the NHSN.

The working group will be dissolved when its membership is reduced to less than three NCCs.

CHAPTER V

Secretariat

Article 25

The Secretariat is comprised of a Secretary-General (who is appointed by the Board) and other staff and is in charge of the execution of the strategic directions and action plans of the NHSN. Individuals in the executive organ shall have no decision-making power over the board.

Article 26

The Secretariat is led by the Secretary-General, who is appointed by the board and the functions of which are:

- To execute the strategic and the action plans of the organisation
- To report to the board;
- To support the work of the working groups;
- To initiate and manage projects
- To produce an annual activity and financial report
- To recruit staff;
- To maintain a list of members and manage the payment of the membership fee.

Article 27

In case when the NHSN cannot appoint a Secretary-General, the role and tasks of the Secretary-General are done by the Board.

CHAPTER VI

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

Article 28

An office of the NHSN may be established in any country, state, territory or region with the consent of the General Assembly. In order to be recognised as such, the office shall:

- demonstrate its ability to develop and maintain the NHSN core values and aims;
- submit its Statute to the General Assembly for approval and register as an office with the Board on the decision of the General Assembly.

NHSN offices shall act in accordance with the core values and methods of the NHSN, as well as its working rules and guidelines.

Any dispute as to whether an office should be or remain affiliated to the NHSN shall be decided by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER VII

DISSOLUTION

Article 29

NHSN shall be dissolved voluntarily by the Extraordinary General Assembly when agreed by a majority of 2/3 (two thirds) of its members and after having been called upon for that purpose.

Article 30

In case of dissolution, once all the debts have been cancelled a liquidation commission will be appointed by the active members after general internal voting. The commission should decide on the destination of liquid remnants.

CHAPTER VIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 31

The economic resources predicted to be assigned to the development of the goals and activities of NHSN shall be the following:

- Membership fees
- Aid and subsidies, donations or inheritances that could be legally received through members or third parties
- Grants
- Fees for services rendered
- Any other legal resources.

CHAPTER IX ADDITIONAL REGULATION

Article 32

In those circumstances not foreseen by these Statutes the French Law and complementary regulations regulating the Right to Association will be applied.

CHAPTER X AMENDMENTS OF STATUTE

Article 33

The Statute may be amended by the General Assembly by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast.

Amendments may be submitted by the Board or by any member at least amendments 4 weeks before the upcoming General Assembly. Proposed amendments shall be communicated by the Board to all members of the General Assembly at least 2 weeks before the General Assembly takes place.