

## STATUTE OF ARTICLE 19

### 1. OBJECT

The object of **ARTICLE 19** shall be to promote and protect throughout the world Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.”

### 2. METHODS

**ARTICLE 19** shall:

- a. Establish and maintain an international Centre on Censorship to seek, receive and impart information related to and in furtherance of the object of **ARTICLE 19**.
- b. Establish a network of correspondents and members throughout the world to provide and exchange information on the implementation and violation of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related provisions of other international instruments, as well as national law and practices.
- c. Conduct research into the implementation and violation of the rights and freedoms of article 19 and to make the results of such research and studies available to concerned official and non-official bodies and the public at large.
- d. Publish and disseminate information related to the object.
- e. Seek and provide expert advice and commission expert studies on legal and other aspects of article 19 rights.
- f. Prepare reports to encourage the implementation of international and national instruments on the rights and freedoms embodied in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- g. Consult and cooperate with other bodies working for the freedom of information.
- h. Monitor ways in which governments restrict the rights protected by article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant instruments, taking into account the permissible limitations allowed by international law.
- i. Campaign to reduce to a minimum constraints imposed by governments on freedom of opinion and expression and freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

- j. Campaign against laws, practices and devices which appear to be in violation of the freedom of opinion and the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers; and to assist individuals and groups at risk as a result of such violations.
- k. Provide legal, financial and technical assistance, including training, for those wishing to further the object of **Article 19**.
- l. Focus attention on self-censorship by journalists, proprietors and others involved in communicating information.
- m. Provide services to those wishing to benefit from the resources, information or facilities of the international Centre on Censorship.
- n. Further the object of **Article 19** in any other way.

3.

### Structure

- a. An International Board of not less than five and not more than 15 members will be appointed by the founders of **Article 19**. The International Board will appoint its own officers and shall be responsible for the direction and policy of the organisation.
- b. International Board members shall serve for a limited period only. Standing Orders and Rules of Procedures will be drawn up for the nomination and replacement of International Board members and other related matters. In appointing and replacing International Board members due attention will be paid to the need for multi-cultural and broad geographic and other backgrounds and experiences.
- c. The International Board shall be responsible for the appointment of the Director of **Article 19**.
- d. The International Board will meet regularly as required for the fulfilment of its functions.
- e. An International Advisory Council may be appointed by the International Board. The membership of the International Advisory Council will reflect as far as possible a cross-section of cultures, languages, experience and skills in the arts, journalism, information, communications and law.
- f. Members of the International Advisory Council shall be kept informed of the activities of **Article 19** and shall advise the International Board on issues related to the object of **Article 19** from their own experience and specialisation.

- g. Subject to the directions and policy decisions of the International Board, the day to day administration and programmes of the organisation shall be the responsibility of the Director who will be assisted by the Head of Centre and other staff.
- h. The Director will be responsible for staff appointments within the terms and conditions agreed by the International Board.
- i. In making staff appointments, the need for a broad representation of cultures, languages, experience and communications skills will be taken into account.
- j. The Director shall draw up each year an annual report of the activities of the organisation, which shall be submitted to the International Board and to the members of the International Advisory Council.

#### 4. Status

**ARTICLE 19** is an unincorporated association according to English law and shall incorporate in England two companies limited by guarantee under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct the charitable and non-charitable activities of the organisation.

#### 5. Finance

- a. **ARTICLE 19** may receive funds from any lawful source and may hold and apply such funds in furtherance of the object. In particular it may receive income from grants, donations, loans, sales of publications, the provision of services, or from activities which make a profit.
- b. A qualified and independent auditor appointed by the International Board shall annually audit the accounts of **Article 19**. The accounts will be made public.

#### 6. Legal Representation

The Director, or a nominee approved by the International Board, may represent the organisation in any legal proceedings.

#### 7. Amendments

- a. Subject to the provisions of this Section, this Statute may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the International Board, taken at a properly constituted meeting of the Board, provided that a majority of the Board Members is present.

- b. Proposals for an amendment to the Statute may be submitted by the Director or by at least two members of the International Board. Any draft proposal for an amendment to the Statute must be submitted to the International Board not later than the sixty days before the meeting at which the vote is to take place.
- c. Following the submission of a proposed amendment to the Statute, its text shall be sent to the Director and to all members of the International Board.

WILLIAM SHAWCROSS  
CHAIRMAN

BEN HOOBERMAN  
TREASURER

ARYEH NEIER  
VICE CHAIRMAN

In the presence of:

KEVIN BOYLE  
DIRECTOR

Date: 1st November 1986.