



Document 12

Human Rights

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SCOUTS
Creating a Better World

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HUMAN RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

WOSM is an organization that stands up for, and believes that everyone should be allowed their basic human rights. This can be seen through the endorsement, by successive World Scout Conferences, of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In January 2011, at the 39th World Scout Conference in Brazil, a resolution titled "World Organization of the Scout Movement and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Reaching Out, Creating a Better World" was proposed. However, this Resolution was withdrawn before any vote was taken. The World Scout Conference did, nonetheless, adopt by acclamation a Declaration from the World Scout Committee on Scouting and Human Rights.

In the current triennium 2011-2014, the World Scout Committee decided to create a Human Rights Task Force (HRTF), to study the matter further and make substantial proposals to the World Scout Conference in Slovenia. The final report of the HRTF is included in this Conference Document, together with the draft Resolution for the World Scout Conference, proposed in the name of the World Scout Committee.

You will also find, in the Annex, a list of documents that the HRTF collected and considered during their work, which can be found on the scout.org website.

FINAL REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE

1. Background

This is the final report of the Human Rights Task Force (HRTF) which was established by the World Scout Committee (WSC) in March 2012. The report sets out the findings and recommendations of the task force pursuant to the main responsibilities assigned to it in its Terms of Reference.

The HRTF was comprised of Mario Diaz (Spain) as its Chairman, Faouzi Chaouch (Tunisia), Janaprieth Fernando (Sri Lanka), Jemima Nartey (Ghana), Doina Postica (Moldova), Roger Schrimp (USA) and Dan Wood (UK). Jim Sharp provided staff support.

The HRTF met twice in Geneva (April 2013 and February 2014) and also worked remotely between meetings. Members also attended Regional and World Scout events, including Regional Conferences in the Asia-Pacific, European and Interamerican Regions and the World Scout Education Congress in Hong Kong. The HRTF also had contacts with other committees and working groups within WOSM.

An interim report was provided to the WSC in September 2013 and presented by the Chairman who attended the WSC meeting. This included a full timeline of events leading up to the establishment of the task force. The HRTF also provided an advisory report on one particular issue to the Steering Committee of the WSC at its request, as well as a second and final report to the WSC in March 2014.

The "mission" given to the HRTF in its Terms of Reference was to study and analyse current Human Rights policies and to report to the WSC with recommendations based on its findings. The HRTF was not restricted in its review (the last of a series of specific responsibilities listed in the Terms of Reference stated, "at the discretion of the Task Force Chairperson or the World Scout Committee, investigate other avenues which are deemed appropriate for this Task Force") and the HRTF was mindful of the particular provenance of this work, recalling the difficulties that emerged at the last World Scout Conference on the topic of Scouting's approach to human rights and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. This issue has therefore been specifically addressed in this report.

The HRTF has focused on its work plan in the areas of Human Rights Education within Scouting, diversity and non-discrimination, supporting NSOs, attendance at the World Scout Education Congress and Regional events, communication with NSOs and WOSM Policy.

2. HRTF Findings

2.1 Human Rights Education (HRE)

Scouting is an educational Movement and the primary focus, therefore, of its work on Human Rights must be on Human Rights Education.

There is a wide range of available educational materials related to Human Rights which can be used or adapted to Scouting's non-formal educational method. Indeed, the Scout Method – including the Scout Promise and Law – lends itself to helping people to understand issues of Human Rights based on mutual respect and acceptance, rejection of discrimination, or other breaches of Human Rights.

The HRTF finds that more can be done to integrate Human Rights Education into the Youth Programme of NSOs through policies and guidelines, and to promote the use of good educational support materials to strengthen Human Rights Education.

The HRTF believes that more support should be given to adult leaders, through training and other opportunities, to deliver that Youth Programme content on Human Rights Education.

The flagship "Messengers of Peace" (MoP) project, with its broad definition of "peace", has great potential to encompass Human Rights Education as we understand it. We encourage those who have the possibility to propose specific projects for MoP funding or who support the MoP Network to consider new ways of promoting Human Rights Education through MoP.

The HRTF believes that WOSM, at World and Regional levels, should provide more support to NSOs in this area.

2.2 Supporting NSOs

Our contacts with NSOs, through Conferences, workshops and other opportunities, showed they valued the input being provided by the HRTF and welcomed the opportunity to explore Human Rights issues.

We believe that WOSM should continue to support NSOs in this way and, whenever and wherever possible, extend the range of that support. Facilitating the sharing of resources and experiences on Human Rights matters between NSOs should be encouraged.

The HRTF's discussions with NSOs also revealed that there is enormous potential to support NSOs in reaching out to offer Scouting to all segments of their society and thus better achieve the Mission of Scouting – and grow the Movement.

2.3 Communications/External Relations

"Human Rights" is, today, a subject of increasing interest in all countries of the world. Human Rights are news!

There is considerable evidence – even if anecdotal – that there is much work to be done on communicating Scouting's policies and practices on Human Rights, both internally and externally. WOSM's policies are, in some cases, unknown or misunderstood, leading to misrepresentation and the consequent risk to the reputation of the Movement.

Stronger links need to be built between those who are providing Human Rights Education to young people and those who are responsible for communications or who represent the Movement externally at local, national or international levels.

WOSM's policies on this subject need to be clearly communicated to NSOs and their members and to the outside world.

2.4 Scouting and non-Scouting policies on Human Rights

Since 1977, WOSM has formally accepted and supported Human Rights as defined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). WOSM has repeatedly reaffirmed its worldwide commitment to Scouting's values and the Movement's recognition of Human Rights which should apply without exception or discrimination.

It is evident, however, that more work needs to be done at all levels of the Movement to promote these norms and ensure that standards are met.

Consistent with this, we need to do more to disseminate, explain and promote existing Human Rights policies and to strengthen these where necessary.

2.5 Helping Scouting understand and respond to the developing Human Rights context

The understanding of Human Rights, and especially the definitions thereof, are evolving at an increasing pace.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the task force considered, among other things, the following:

- The UDHR, when adopted in 1948, comprised in article 2 the following sentence: "... race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status", as distinction or grounds for discrimination. The discrimination based on sex referred at that time to men and women. However, in recent years, the Secretary General and other officials of the United Nations have been promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people as part of the family of human rights. Thus, sexual orientation is increasingly accepted today as being included in the meaning of discrimination based on the grounds of sex.
- The UN Secretary General (December 2012) said: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. All human beings – not some, not most, but all... Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are entitled to the same rights as everyone else. They too are born free and equal".
- Charles Radcliffe (March 2013) of the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) pointed out: "It would be wrong to underestimate the importance of tradition, culture and religion in shaping society but they are not monolithic nor can they override individual freedoms as this would be contrary to the most basic human rights principles."

Having said that, we recognise that all NSOs have to operate within the legal context of their country. No matter how incompatible they may be with World Scouting's values and unequivocal support for the UDHR, the reality is that NSOs are clearly obliged to operate in a context in which national laws apply.

2.6 Implementing a single Human Rights Policy for Scouting and constitutional issues

Human Rights is a global issue. Scouting is a global Movement. And we live in a global village with instant worldwide communications capacity.

Given the diversity of the Movement, it is a challenge for World Scouting to achieve one single position on any issue. However, on an issue of such fundamental importance as Human Rights (as reflected in the "Universal Declaration" on Human Rights), we must strive to speak with one consistent voice, while at the same time respecting differing views that do not enter into the fundamentals. Compared to many other organizations or movements, the "Scout Family" provides us with a sound framework within which to try to build a strong consensus on this key issue.

3. HRTF Recommendations

3.1 We recommend that the World Scout Conference

- adopts the World Scout Committee Resolution on "Scouting and Human Rights"
- asks the World Scout Committee, through its Constitutions Committee, to consider how best to state our commitment to the UN Declaration of Human Rights in Chapter 1 of our WOSM Constitution and bring a proposal to a future World Scout Conference
- encourages the Secretary General and the World Scout Committee to demonstrate leadership in this field by proactively communicating WOSM's policy statements on Human Rights at all levels.

3.2 We recommend that the World Scout Committee

- reflects these recommendations in the Triennial Plan and the future Strategic Priorities
- ensures that any future review of the Youth Programme and the work on the Strategic Priorities address our commitment to promote Human Rights Education among children and young people as part of the Mission of Scouting; and invests in Human Rights seminars, workshops, training events and wider-reaching electronic methods, to support implementation of Human Rights Education at world level, as well as in all Regions and NSOs
- develops content and tools out of the information collected by the HRTF to be used in enhancing understanding and capability within the Movement

- takes the opportunity to identify and adopt best practices in conflict resolution in light of situations arising in World Scouting in recent years and be prepared to engage with Regions and NSOs when they face conflictual situations related to Human Rights, with a view to finding best possible solutions
- continues to provide opportunities for people to gather and exchange points of view on Human Rights at the World Scout Conference and in other less formal settings.

3.3 We recommend that the National Scout Organizations

- ensure that mechanisms are in place to avoid and prevent situations where an individual publicly takes positions which can damage Scouting's reputation because these are incompatible with our values and commitment to Human Rights
- use or adapt organizational assessment tools, such as the United Nation's "Global Compact", as a way to respond to the "Scouting and Human Rights" Resolution
- take note of the membership requirements set out in Art V.5(c) and Art VII.3(a) of the WOSM Constitution and ensure that no person who is willing to accept the Movement's purpose, principles and method is excluded from Scouting because of who they are.

PROPOSED CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

The following text is proposed by the World Scout Committee to be adopted by the World Scout Conference.

Scouting and Human Rights

The Conference

- recalling the difficulties that emerged at the last World Scout Conference on the topic of Scouting's approach to human rights and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, which led the World Scout Committee to set up a Human Rights Task Force in this triennium
- recognizing Scouting's acceptance of human rights as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and reaffirmed in subsequent UN conventions, treaties, covenants, declarations and resolutions, and in international law, which make clear that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms stated in the Declaration without distinction of any kind and that States have a duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems
- recalling World Scout Conference Resolutions 19/77 and 8/88 and the Declaration from the World Scout Committee to the 39th World Scout Conference (2011) titled "World Organization of the Scout Movement and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Reaching Out, Creating a Better World", which together with this resolution represent WOSM's policy statements on human rights
- affirming that human rights education is a key to changing attitudes and behaviour and to promoting respect for diversity in societies
- reaffirms that Scouting, as a Movement based on its principles of Duty to God, Duty to others and Duty to self expressed in the Scout Promise and Law, does not discriminate on any grounds of human rights
- reaffirms that the World Organization of the Scout Movement has a responsibility to promote Human Rights Education among children and young people as part of its Mission
- endorses the World Scout Committee's stated objective to do its best to ensure that all members in Scouting enjoy all rights and freedoms stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind
- endorses the World Scout Committee's report on progress on achieving its undertaking made to the 39th World Scout Conference to:
 - include work on Human Rights Education as a part of its guidelines on the Scout programme for all age groups
 - collect and distribute best practices from National Scout Organizations, providing inspiration and help in creating strategies for National Scout Organizations to focus work on diversity, civil and human rights, and reaching out to different segments in society in a national or local perspective

- provide National Scout Organizations with ongoing support in working with diversity, civil and human rights and reaching out to different segments in society
- adopts the principle that WOSM and National Scout Organizations respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses; and develop their own strategies and identify challenges that need to be addressed regarding human rights based on the Mission of Scouting and taking account of current legal, cultural and religious contexts.

ANNEX

Below you will find a list of documents, including the Final Report, which have been added to scout.org. These documents are meant to keep you informed on the Human Rights Task Force's process, thoughts, and interests.

The documents included are:

- . Final Report of the Human Rights Task Force
- . Statement from the World Scout Committee on Human Rights Issues March 2010
- . World Organization of the Scout Movement and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Reaching Out, Creating a Better World/Declaration from the World Scout Committee to the 39th World Scout Conference
- . Terms of Reference of the Human Rights Task Force March 2012
- . UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- . World Scout Committee Statement on Respect for Human Rights
- . Work Plan Created by Human Rights Task Force
- . Workshops on Human Rights Issues in Asia Pacific and Europe
- . Conclusions from the Workshop on Human Rights at the 25th Interamerican Scout Conference
- . Human Rights Task Force Interim Report
- . Draft Resolution for 40th World Scout Conference, Slovenia 2014