

STATUTES OF THE
PLATFORM OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS IN MALTA
(PHROM)

Article 1

NAME

The name of the Organisation shall be '*Platform of Human Rights Organisations in Malta*', hereinafter 'PHROM' or 'the Organisation'.

Article 2

ADDRESS

The official address of the Organisation is 149, Old Mint Street, Valletta VLT 1513, Malta.

Article 3

MISSION STATEMENT

1. PHROM's mission shall be to provide a *national forum* for human rights organisations in Malta to develop, promote and advocate for the values of human dignity and equality more effectively.
2. PHROM is grounded in the values cited in the *United Nations Declaration of Human Rights*. PHROM believes that effective human rights recognition and enjoyment by all persons in Malta strengthens and empowers the whole of Maltese society. PHROM holds that the multitude of human rights can only be fully realised if they are endorsed as interrelated and interdependent, embracing all *civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights*.
3. PHROM understands that *active citizenship* and *civic participation* based on the democratic principles of inclusivity and mutual understanding are central to national, regional and international efforts at *combating inequalities and human rights violations and improving community empowerment*.

Article 4

OBJECTIVES

In order for it to fulfil its Mission Statement, PHROM shall have the following objectives:

- a. To establish one common, strong human rights voice uniting human rights organisations from various sectors;
- b. To encourage and facilitate discussions, research and activities on horizontal themes and shared concerns;
- c. To engage in advocacy efforts to ensure an increased awareness, understanding and commitment to human rights in all sectors, including the private sector;
- d. To provide support to human rights organisations for the sake of more effective action through, *inter alia*, liaison with other national, regional and international human rights organisations, capacity-building activities and partnership projects which unify diverse populations;
- e. To formulate prompt and inspiring rights-based statements, reactions and interventions on issues of national importance;
- f. To do all that which is ancillary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objectives.

Article 5

GENERAL POLICY

1. PHROM shall be autonomous, voluntary and not for profit. The accounts of the Organisation shall be reviewed and published on a yearly basis, in accordance with relevant national legislation.
2. Provided that its autonomy is not affected, the Organisation may collaborate with other entities on a national, regional or international basis in order to further its aims.
3. The Organisation shall not have any political or trade union affiliation, and it shall not indulge in party politics.

Article 6

ORGANS

PHROM's organs shall be the Executive Committee, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Secretariat.

Article 7

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the overall management of PHROM and shall ensure that its Mission Statement is fulfilled, through the formulation, implementation and review of annual or multiannual action plans. It shall present PHROM's Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the AGM for these to be approved.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of Members of the Organisation, who shall be elected every two (2) years during the relevant AGM, with the Executive Committee having not fewer than three (3) but not more than seven (7) Members at any one time. Executive Committee Members are eligible for re-election following the said two-year term.
3. Each Member Organisation shall be represented on the Executive Committee by one (1) person from the Member Organisation, having one (1) vote. Members shall strive to appoint persons capable of truly representing their Organisations, although the chosen representatives may change between Executive Committee meetings.
4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times each year. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority voting, with the Chairperson having a casting vote in case of a tie.
5. A quorum shall be defined as seventy-five per cent (75%) of Executive Committee Members.
6. In the event of the resignation or termination from post of an Executive Committee Member, the Executive Committee may co-opt another Member or Members to take his or her place. Any Member so appointed shall retain office only until the next Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election. Co-opted Members shall not have voting rights on the Executive Committee.
7. Any Member not in attendance at three (3) consecutive Executive Committee meetings without a valid reason shall be automatically removed from the Executive Committee.

8. The Executive Committee shall regulate its own operations, including its appointment of a Chairperson during its first meeting. Legal representation of the Organisation shall vest in the Chairperson.
9. The Executive Committee may also elect from among its members a Deputy Chairperson. The Deputy Chairperson shall preside on the Executive Committee with full powers in the absence of the Chairperson.
10. The Chairperson shall preside at all Executive Committee meetings and Annual General Meetings. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall undertake such functions in respect of the Organisation as the Executive Committee may determine from time to time.
11. Provided that, in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Deputy, a quorum is available, the Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a substitute/s to conduct the meetings.
12. No remuneration (except the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, if any) shall be paid to any Member of the Executive Committee in respect of his or her office, save for the Member also acting as the Secretariat, in which case remuneration may be due exclusively for the provision of such services.
13. The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to sub-committees consisting of such Members of the Executive Committee or of such other persons as it thinks fit, and any sub-committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers so delegated, conform to any regulations imposed on it by the Executive Committee.
14. The office of an Executive Committee Member shall be vacated:
 - a. If the Member ceases to be a PHROM member;
 - b. If the Member fails to attend three (3) consecutive Executive Committee meetings without a valid reason, in accordance with Article 7.7 above;
 - c. If, by notice in writing to the Executive Committee, the Member resigns his or her office;
 - d. If the Member is removed from office by a resolution duly passed pursuant to the following Article.

15. PHROM may by a resolution taken at an AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting, adopted by seventy-five per cent (75%) of voting Members present, remove any Member of the Executive Committee before the expiration of the period of office if the Member is deemed to be guilty of repetitive disruption of meetings, hindering PHROM's functions or acting in breach of PHROM's Mission Statement.

Article 8

THE SECRETARIAT

1. The Secretariat shall be responsible for PHROM's daily administration, financial management, and general secretarial duties. It shall be elected from among the Executive Committee Members.
2. The Secretariat shall also be responsible for the organisation of Executive Committee meetings, sub-committee meetings, AGMs and EGMs.

Article 9

MEMBERS

1. All voluntary organisations enrolled with the Malta Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations may submit a request to become a PHROM Member, as long as the request is made in accordance with relevant directions established and published by the Executive Committee, including, for example, on the use of an appropriate application form, accompanying documentation and membership fees.
2. The Executive Committee shall review membership requests and decide whether or not to accept an organisation as a Member. In its review, the Executive Committee shall assess the extent to which the applicant organisation is in fact a human rights organisation subscribing to PHROM's Mission Statement.
3. Any Member against whom allegations are brought in writing to the Executive Committee regarding activities contrary to PHROM's Mission Statement shall be asked to appear before the Executive Committee, and if, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, the allegations are proven, the Member shall be deprived of his or her membership. If the said

Member fails to appear before the Executive Committee without justification, the Member shall be deprived of membership.

4. PHROM membership shall be for one (1) year from the date of the Executive Committee's decision to accept an organisation as a Member.

Article 10

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. PHROM's activities shall be financed from various sources, including project funds, voluntary contributions, donations or grants by Members, benefactors, the State or any other institution, and from fundraising activities.
2. The funds of the Organisation shall be deposited in bank accounts at a reputable local bank in the name of the Organisation, the financial period commencing on 1st January and ending on 31st December of each year.
3. The signature of the Chairperson and one (1) other signature, from an Executive Board Member or Secretariat representative, shall suffice.

Article 11

GENERAL MEETINGS

1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held once every year. Notice of the day, time and venue of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to each Member at least fifteen (15) working days before the day.
2. Other meetings of the Organisation may be summoned by the Executive Committee and shall be so summoned immediately upon a request in writing signed by at least ten (10) per cent of the Members.
3. At any meeting of the Organisation, every Member shall be entitled to be present, and every Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote. In the case of a tie in voting, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
4. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat shall present the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Organisation to the Annual General Meeting.

5. The Annual General Meeting shall appoint a Secretary who shall record the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting, including but not limited to the Members present, the votes taken and any resolutions passed.
6. All business transacted at such meetings, and any minutes of any meeting, if purporting to be signed by the Chairperson and Secretary of the meeting, or by the Chairperson and Secretary of the next succeeding meeting, shall be sufficient evidence of the facts stated therein.
7. The quorum for the Annual or any Meeting shall be ten per cent (10%) of the Membership. In the absence of a quorum, the Meeting shall be held, with the same agenda, thirty minutes later, and all decisions taken shall be binding on the Organisation as a whole.
8. The auditors or reviewers of accounts shall be nominated and elected by the Members attending and having a right to vote at General Meetings. No auditor or reviewer of accounts who has held office on the Executive Committee in the previous twelve (12) months shall be eligible for nomination. No auditor or reviewer of accounts shall run for office on the Executive Committee in the twelve (12) months following a term as auditor or reviewer of accounts.

Article 12

AMENDMENT OF THESE STATUTES

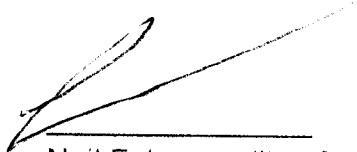
These Statutes may be revoked or amended by a vote of at least seventy-five per cent (75%) of all Members present at the AGM.

Article 13

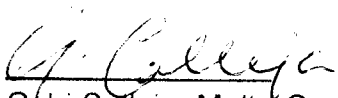
DISSOLUTION

1. If at any time the Organisation shall pass in an AGM or EGM by a majority comprising seventy-five per cent (75%) of all the registered Members a resolution of its intention to dissolve, the Executive Committee shall take immediate steps to settle any debts and dispose of the monies and property remaining as determined by the Meeting; and thereupon the Organisation shall for all purposes be dissolved.

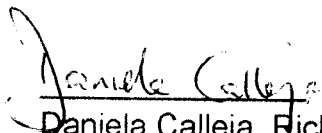
2. In the event of dissolution of PHROM, any remaining funds and/or property shall be donated to a voluntary not-for-profit organization or charitable institution chosen by the outgoing Executive Committee and having a vision or purpose that is similar in scope to that of PHROM.



Neil Falzon, aditus foundation



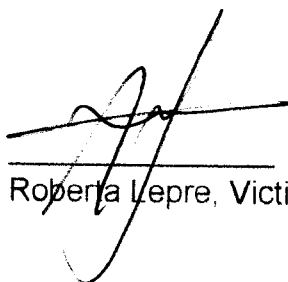
Gabi Calleja, Malta Gay Rights Movement



Daniela Calleja, Richmond Foundation



George Camilleri, Din l-Art Helwa



Roberta Lepre, Victims Support Malta

31st March 2014

Date