

International Council of Human Duties

The Trieste Declaration  
of  
Human Duties

A Code of Ethics of Shared Responsibilities

University of Trieste  
Italy

## Introduction



rucial problems concerning humankind at the dawn of the 21st century urge the adoption of a different way of thinking and a different value system.

The change must be as revolutionary as that which emerged after the Middle Ages. The new way of thinking must be centered on humans as an integral part of our planet, whose actions affect all living things. It is our plan to present and discuss these ideas through conferences, workshops and lectures, and in particular to support women's networks and other organizations, active in the spirit of this Declaration. Furthermore, we will seek the participation of the younger generations, which represent our greatest hope for improving the quality of life on earth.

## Preamble



hereas the Declaration of Human Rights represents one of the great advances of the twentieth century, it fails to address Human Duties and Responsibilities as necessary counterparts of these Rights. Recognition of and respect for human rights demand the acceptance of specific duties, in order to assure an adequate quality of life for all people and the persistence of a sustainable environment for future generations. We, founding members of the International Council of Human Duties, consider a binding responsibility for ourselves, not only as human beings, but especially as scientists and educators, to carefully and explicitly carry out these duties to the best of our ability, even if their enactment may run counter to established policies generated by traditional sources of power and influence. We herewith invite all people concerned with these issues to join us in our efforts, as expressed in the following twelve points.

# The Trieste Declaration of Human Duties

## A Code of Ethics of Shared Responsibilities

### IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING TO:

- 1 respect human dignity as well as ethnic, cultural and religious diversity.
- 2 work against racial injustice and all discrimination of women, and the abuse and exploitation of children.
- 3 work for improvement in the quality of life of aged and disabled persons.
- 4 respect human life and condemn the sale of human beings or parts of the living human body.
- 5 support efforts to improve the life of people suffering from hunger, misery, disease or unemployment.
- 6 promote effective voluntary family planning in order to regulate world population growth.
- 7 support actions for an equitable distribution of world resources.
- 8 avoid energy waste and work for reduction of the use of fossil fuels. Promote the use of inexhaustible energy sources, representing a minimum of environmental and health risks.
- 9 protect nature from pollution and abuse, promote conservation of natural resources and the restoration of degraded environments.
- 10 respect and preserve the genetic diversity of living organisms and promote constant scrutiny of the application of genetic technologies.
- 11 promote improvement of urban and rural regions and support endeavours to eliminate the causes of environmental destruction and impoverishment which can lead to massive migrations of people and overpopulation in urban areas.
- 12 work for maintenance of world peace, condemn war, terrorism and all other hostile activities by calling for decreased military spending in all countries and restriction of the proliferation and dissemination of arms, in particular, weapons of mass destruction.

# The International Council of Human Duties

## By-Laws

### I DENOMINATION AND DOMICILE

The International Council of Human Duties, hereinafter called ICHD, is an international non-governmental and non-profit making organization. The legal domicile of ICHD is in Trieste, Italy. ICHD shall act as a World Federation of individuals and organizations which adhere to the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties.

### II OBJECTIVES

The objectives of ICHD shall be:

To promote international understanding of the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties and to foster throughout the world the application of these concepts.

To enter into relations with the United Nations, its agencies and with national Governments for the implementation of the goals of ICHD, and to co-operate with non-governmental international, national and regional bodies whose aims are consonant with those of ICHD.

To encourage the adoption by the United Nations of a "Universal Declaration of Human Duties" with comparable stature to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

To promote the establishment of a "Human Duties Day".

To stimulate, design, co-ordinate and participate in the implementation of international programmes related to the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties.

To provide for and assist in the education and the dissemination of information relating to the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties.

To arrange, promote and sponsor World Congresses of the ICHD and such other meetings as may be useful or desirable for the advancement of the purposes of ICHD.

To encourage the formation of national associations for the dissemination of information of the concepts of ICHD.

To actively uphold the principle of the universality of the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties.

ICHD shall not engage in any actions of political nature.

### III MEMBERSHIP

ICHD shall be composed of two categories of members:

Individual members

International, national and regional organizations and agencies

#### Individual Members

Any individual anywhere in the world who is devoted to the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties and supports the goals of ICHD is eligible for election as Member of ICHD. Application for membership should be submitted in writing to the Secretary General.

#### Member Organizations

International, national or regional organizations and agencies with an active interest in the objectives of the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties are eligible for membership. Application for membership should be sent to the Secretary General and be accompanied by the statutes of the organization.

### IV ADMINISTRATION

The work of ICHD shall be conducted by:

The Executive Board

The Advisory Committee

#### The Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of:

Four Officers: the President, the Vice President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer, elected by the Advisory Committee for a period of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members elected by the Advisory Committee from its own membership for a period of four years. They shall not be eligible for re-election.

The Executive Board shall be the governing body of ICHD and shall be empowered to take all steps necessary to fulfill its functions.

The Executive Board shall actively engage in the launching of a global campaign to heighten public awareness of the concepts of the Trieste Declaration of Human Duties and shall raise funds for this purpose.

The Executive Board shall meet at least once a year.

### **The Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee shall consist of 25 members elected by the entire membership of ICHD, by postal ballot.

The terms of the members elected shall be four years and they shall be eligible for re-election. The President and the Secretary General shall ex-officio be members of the Advisory Committee. Nominations of Committee Members may be submitted by each individual member of ICHD in writing to the Nominating Committee.

The Advisory Committee shall meet at least once every second year. It shall outline the general policies of ICHD and co-operate with the Executive Board in the implementation of the goals of ICHD. The quorum for a meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be one-third of its members.

The Advisory Committee shall elect its Chairman among its members.

### **The Nominating Committee**

The Advisory Committee shall elect a Nominating Committee consisting of five members one of whom shall be designated by the Advisory Board to serve as Chairman. Members of the Committee shall serve for four years. They shall not be eligible for re-election. The Nominating Committee shall propose a slate of candidates of the Advisory Committee and shall be responsible for the nomination of candidates for the Executive Board. At least two candidates shall be nominated for each vacancy.

### **Duties of Officers**

#### **President**

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Council. The President shall preside at meetings of the Executive Board and shall act as spokesman of ICHD.

#### **Secretary General**

The Secretary General shall be responsible for managing the secretariat of the Council and for executing the policies and decisions of the Executive Board and the Advisory Committee. The Secretary General shall work in close co-operation with the President.

#### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements of funds belonging to ICHD. The Treasurer shall render to the Executive Board and to the Council at their regular meetings an account of the financial conditions of ICHD.

### **V FINANCES**

The President and the Secretary General are empowered in the name of ICHD to accept grants or donations for carrying out the activities of ICHD.

The fiscal year of ICHD shall commence on the first day of January and end on the 31 of the following December. An audit of the finances shall be conducted annually at the end of the fiscal year. The Executive Board shall appoint an auditor authorized to act as a public accountant.

### **VI - AMENDMENTS**

Amendments of the By-Laws may be proposed by any member of the Executive Board or Advisory Committee. The proposed amendment should be sent to all members of the Executive Board and the Advisory Committee no less than thirty days prior to the time it shall be submitted to a vote. Amendments shall go into effect following their adoption by a two-thirds majority of the Advisory Committee.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ICHD**

*I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ICHD*

TITLE .....

FAMILY NAME ..... FIRST NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... COUNTRY .....

ZIP/POSTAL CODE ..... TEL ..... FAX .....

E-MAIL .....

-----

*VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION*

*I WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROPAGATION OF THE CONCEPTS OF THE DECLARATION*

WITH AN AMOUNT OF .....

( ) AMERICAN EXPRESS ( ) VISA ( ) MASTER-CARD

CARD No .....

NAME OF CARD HOLDER .....

( ) CHEQUE/EUROCHEQUE PAYABLE TO ICHD

( ) BANK TRANSFER TO CASSA RISPARMIO TRIESTE-ITALY C.C. No .....  
AGENCY 23 - VIA FABIO SEVERO 152 - 34127 TRIESTE

*IN CASE OF BANK TRANSFER, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS WITH THE REMITTANCE.*

SIGNATURE ..... DATE .....

*TO BE SENT TO: THE SECRETARIAT OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF HUMAN DUTIES*

*UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE - PIAZZALE EUROPA, 1 - 34127 TRIESTE - ITALY*

## FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF HUMAN DUTIES

Prof. Louis Albou	(France)	Prof. Iba Kone	(Kenya)
Dr. Enrico Alleva	(Italy)	Prof. P.G. Kostyuk	(Ukraine)
Prof. I Antoniou	(Belgium)	Prof. Ie Hyok Kwon	(Korea)
Sir Michael Atiyah	(United Kingdom)	* Prof. Rita Levi Montalcini	(Italy)
Prof. André Berger	(Belgium)	Mr Han Been Lee	(Korea)
Prof. Paul Blau	(Austria)	Prof. Sang Soo Lee	(Korea)
Prof. Giacomo Borruso	(Italy)	Prof. André Lichnerowicz	(France)
Dr. Noel J. Brown	(USA)	Prof. Eleonora Masini	(Italy)
Prof. Luca Cavalli Sforza	(USA)	Dame Anne McLaren	(United Kingdom)
Prof. Jean-Pierre Changeux	(France)	Prof. Mambillikalathil G. K. Menon	(India)
Prof. George Coyne	(USA)	* Prof. Franco Modigliani	(USA)
Prof. Emer Colleran	(Ireland)	Sir Gustav Nossal	(Australia)
Prof. Benedetto de Bernard	(Italy)	Prof. Michio Okamoto	(Japan)
Prof. Giampaolo de Ferra	(Italy)	Prof. David Ottoson	(Sweden)
Prof. Gianfranco Dioguardi	(Italy)	Prof. Nestor Perl	(Argentina)
* Prof. Manfred Eigen	(Germany)	* Prof. Ilya Prigogine	(Belgium)
Dr. Arturo Falaschi	(Italy)	Prof. Peter Raven	(USA)
Dr. Gabriele Gatti	(Rep. of San Marino)	Prof. Haward Ris	(USA)
Prof. François Gros	(France)	* Prof. Carlo Rubbia	(Italy)
Dr. André Hamende	(Italy)	Prof. Giorgio Salvini	(Italy)
Prof. G. Herméren	(Sweden)	Prof. Michael Sela	(Israel)
* Prof. David Hubel	(USA)	Prof. Eric Shooter	(USA)
* Prof. Robert Huber	(Germany)	Prof. Michel Sintzoff	(Belgium)
* Prof. François Jacob	(France)	* Prof. Roger Sperry	(USA)
Prof. Joshua Jortner	(Israel)	Prof. Hartwig Spitzer	(Germany)
Prof. Sergei Kapitza	(Russia)	Prof. Theodore Voneida	(USA)
Prof. Alex Keynan	(Israel)	Prof. Patrick Wall	(United Kingdom)
* Sir John Kendrew	(United Kingdom)	Prof. Victor Weisskopf	(USA)
		* Prof. Thomas Weller	(USA)

\* NOBEL LAUREATE

### LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES SUPPORTING THE TRIESTE DECLARATION OF HUMAN DUTIES

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei  
 The African Academy of Sciences  
 International Centre for Genetic  
 Engineering and Biotechnology - ICGEB  
 The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities  
 Third World Academy of Sciences - TWAS  
 United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP  
 The Union of Concerned Scientists  
 The United Nations University

**The International Council of Human Duties**  
**ICHD**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President	Rita Levi Montalcini (Italy)
Vice President	David Ottoson (Sweden)
Secretary General	Benedetto de Bernard (Italy)
Treasurer	Theodore J. Voneida (USA)

Noel J. Brown	(USA)
Jean-Pierre Changeux	(France)
Emer Colleran	(Ireland)
Michael Sela	(Israel)
Victor Weisskopf	(USA)

**SECRETARIAT:**

Carla Savastano  
Università degli Studi di Trieste  
Piazzale Europa 1- 34127 Trieste Italy  
TEL 39-40-6763002  
FAX 39-40-571071 Telex 460865 UNIVTS