



Statutes of the Association LiebevollICH e.V.

Preamble

The dignity of every human being is inviolable. It is independent of origin, nationality, gender, age, religion, worldview, language, culture, physical or mental abilities, as well as of a person's economic or social circumstances.

LiebevollICH e.V. is convinced that sustainable social change begins where people recognise and value their own dignity and take responsibility for themselves as well as for others.

The Association is committed to a society characterised by respect, compassion, solidarity, democracy, peace, tolerance and mutual appreciation. The Association regards education as the most effective way to convey these values in a lasting manner and to empower people to shape their lives in a self-determined, responsible and dignified way.

At the same time, the Association regards support for people living in poverty, hunger and existential hardship as an expression of human dignity put into practice. Every person shall be given the opportunity to lead a life in safety, health, education and social participation.

LiebevollICH e.V. pursues its objectives regionally, nationally and internationally. The Association operates independently of party politics, is religiously neutral and open with regard to worldviews. It cooperates with educational institutions, scientific institutions, companies, municipalities, non-profit organisations as well as national and international partners.

All of its activities are guided by the fundamental values of human dignity, freedom, responsibility, transparency, sustainability and peace.

§ 1 Name, Registered Office and Financial Year

- (1) The Association bears the name **LiebevollICH e.V.**
- (2) It shall be entered in the register of associations (Vereinsregister) and, upon registration, shall bear the suffix „e.V.“.
- (3) The registered office of the Association is Bergisch Gladbach, Germany.
- (4) The financial year is the calendar year.
- (5) The Association is entitled to establish offices, regional representations, project offices or other organisational units within Germany and abroad, insofar as these serve the realisation of the purposes set out in these Statutes.

§ 2 Non-Profit Status

- (1) The Association exclusively and directly pursues charitable (gemeinnützige) and benevolent (mildtätige) purposes within the meaning of the section “Tax-Privileged Purposes” („Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke“) of the German Fiscal Code (Abgabenordnung).
- (2) The Association acts selflessly. It does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.
- (3) The Association’s funds may be used exclusively for the purposes set out in these Statutes.
- (4) Members do not receive any benefits from the Association’s funds.
- (5) No person may be favoured by expenditures that are alien to the purpose of the Association or by disproportionately high remuneration.
- (6) Persons working in a voluntary capacity are entitled to reimbursement of their documented and reasonable expenses. In addition, activities may be remunerated within the framework of the statutory provisions.

§ 3 Guiding Principles

- (1) The Association places the dignity of every human being at the centre of its activities.
- (2) It promotes a culture of mutual appreciation, personal responsibility, solidarity and peaceful coexistence.
- (3) The Association is committed in particular to:
 - respect for human dignity,
 - democracy and the rule of law,
 - peace and non-violence,
 - respect and tolerance,
 - compassion and solidarity,
 - equal opportunities,
 - health promotion,
 - resilience and personal development,

- sustainability,
- intercultural dialogue,
- social participation,
- responsibility towards future generations.

(4) The Association resolutely opposes every form of discrimination, racism, antisemitism, extremism, misanthropy, exclusion and violence.

(5) The Association operates independently of party politics, is religiously neutral and open with regard to worldviews.

§ 4 Purpose of the Association

(1) The purpose of the Association is the promotion of

- education,
- public health and public healthcare,
- youth and adult education,
- assistance for persons in need within the meaning of the German Fiscal Code (Abgabenordnung),
- international understanding and outlook,
- tolerance in all areas of culture,
- the idea of understanding among peoples,
- civic engagement in favour of charitable and benevolent purposes.

(2) The Association furthermore pursues benevolent purposes by supporting people who are dependent on assistance due to their economic circumstances or particular personal life situations.

This includes in particular:

- measures to combat poverty and hunger,
- support in securing basic needs,
- promotion of access to education and vocational qualification,
- support for socially disadvantaged children, young people and families,
- promotion of healthcare provision,
- assistance in disaster and crisis regions,
- measures to improve living conditions,
- assistance towards social participation,
- projects to create sustainable future prospects.

(3) The Association pursues the goal of empowering people worldwide to

- recognise their own dignity,
- respect the dignity of other people,
- take responsibility for themselves and others,

- live democratic values,
- resolve conflicts peacefully,
- strengthen health and resilience,
- develop social engagement,
- actively help shape peace.

(4) The Association pursues its purposes regionally, nationally and internationally.

§ 5 Realisation of the Statutory Purposes

(1) The Association realises its statutory purposes in particular through the development, implementation, promotion and support of educational, health, social, prevention and aid projects in Germany and abroad.

(2) To realise its charitable purposes, the Association develops and organises in particular:

1. Educational programmes to promote human dignity, personal development, civic and democratic education, peace education, violence prevention, health promotion and social responsibility.
2. Teaching and learning materials for day-care centres, schools, universities, educational institutions as well as for adult education.
3. Lectures, seminars, workshops, congresses, specialist conferences, further training and qualification measures.
4. Digital educational offerings, e-learning platforms, podcasts, films, webinars, online academies and other digital information services.
5. Publications, in particular books, brochures, studies, scientific publications, teaching materials and audiovisual media.
6. Projects to promote mental and physical health and resilience, as well as the prevention of violence, exclusion and discrimination.
7. Programmes to promote understanding of democracy, social cohesion, tolerance, intercultural competence and peaceful conflict resolution.
8. Educational offerings to promote personal responsibility, health literacy and sustainable lifestyles.
9. Training, mentoring, certification and networking of Dignity Ambassadors (Würdebotschafterinnen und Würdebotschafter).
10. Scientific studies, evaluations and research projects on the effectiveness of the Association's work.

(3) The Association realises its benevolent purposes in particular through:

1. supporting people living in poverty and existential hardship,

2. measures to combat hunger and undersupply,
3. supporting children, young people and families in need as well as elderly and particularly vulnerable people,
4. promoting access to education, training and further education as well as vocational qualification,
5. supporting people with limited economic means,
6. implementing or supporting humanitarian aid projects in Germany and abroad,
7. providing in-kind, financial, educational and support services within the framework of tax law provisions,
8. projects for the sustainable improvement of the living conditions of disadvantaged people,
9. measures to promote social participation as well as a life in dignity and with future prospects,
10. projects for health promotion and prevention as well as – within the framework of legal possibilities – for improving basic medical care,
11. relief measures following natural disasters, armed conflicts or other humanitarian crises.

(4) In order to fulfil its statutory purposes, the Association may in particular:

1. plan, implement, promote or support national and international educational, health, social and aid projects,
2. cooperate with tax-privileged corporations, public institutions, educational institutions, scientific institutions, foundations, companies as well as national and international organisations,
3. solicit and accept donations, funding, public grants, inheritances, legacies and other legally permissible contributions and use them exclusively for the purposes set out in these Statutes,
4. establish and administer earmarked aid, education or funding funds, provided that their resources serve exclusively the charitable and benevolent purposes of these Statutes,
5. raise funds within the meaning of the German Fiscal Code (Abgabenordnung) and pass them on, in accordance with the statutory provisions, to other tax-privileged corporations or legal entities under public law for the realisation of tax-privileged purposes,
6. establish or operate offices, project offices, regional groups, educational centres, academies or comparable facilities in Germany and abroad, insofar as this serves the realisation of the purposes set out in these Statutes.

(5) All measures of the Association are carried out exclusively within the framework of the tax-privileged purposes of these Statutes and in observance of the principles of transparency, economic efficiency, sustainability and responsible use of funds.

§ 6 Membership

(1) Natural persons and legal entities who support the objectives and values of the Association may become members of the Association.

(2) The Association distinguishes between:

- a) full members
- b) supporting members
- c) honorary members
- d) youth members
- e) institutional members.

(3) Full members have voting rights as well as the right to vote and to stand for election.

(4) Supporting members support the Association non-materially or financially. They do not have voting rights.

(5) Youth members are members up to the completion of their 18th year of age. Details are governed by youth regulations (Jugendordnung).

(6) Honorary members are appointed by the General Assembly in recognition of special merits.

(7) The Board decides on admission following a written or electronic application.

(8) There is no entitlement to admission.

§ 7 Rights and Duties of Members

(1) Members undertake to promote the objectives of the Association to the best of their ability.

(2) They respect the dignity of every human being and contribute to respectful, non-discriminatory and appreciative interaction within the Association.

(3) Members have in particular the right to

- participate in events,
- submit motions,
- help shape working groups,
- receive information about the Association's work,
- participate in General Assemblies.

(4) Each member entitled to vote has one vote.

(5) Voting rights must be exercised in person.

(6) Members may become involved in project groups, regional groups, international projects or as Dignity Ambassadors (Würdebotschafterinnen und Würdebotschafter).

§ 8 Termination of Membership

(1) Membership ends by

- a) resignation,
- b) death,
- c) expulsion,
- d) dissolution of a legal entity.

(2) Resignation must be declared in writing to the Board, subject to a notice period of six weeks to the end of the calendar year.

(3) A member may be expelled if the member

- significantly violates these Statutes,
- seriously impairs the interests or the reputation of the Association,
- fails to pay the membership fee for more than twelve months despite two reminders,
- behaves in a manner detrimental to the Association.

(4) Before expulsion, the member must be given the opportunity to comment.

(5) The Board decides on the expulsion.

(6) An appeal against the decision may be lodged in writing within one month. The next General Assembly decides on the appeal with final effect.

§ 9 Membership Fees

(1) The Association collects membership fees in order to fulfil its tasks.

(2) The amount, due date and method of payment of membership fees are governed by a fee schedule (Beitragsordnung) adopted by the General Assembly.

(3) In justified individual cases, the Board may waive fees in whole or in part, defer them or refrain from collecting them, in particular for social reasons.

(4) The Association is entitled to accept donations, funding, public grants, foundation funds, sponsorship and other legally permissible contributions.

§ 10 Bodies of the Association

(1) The bodies of the Association are:

- a) the General Assembly,
- b) the Board.

(2) To provide expert support for its work, the Board may in particular form or appoint the following institutions and committees:

- scientific advisory board,
- ethics and values advisory board,
- expert advisory boards,
- regional groups,
- project groups,
- working groups,
- self-help groups,
- Dignity Ambassador networks,
- the LiebevollICH/ WürdevollMensch Academy,

- other working and expert groups.
- (3) These institutions have exclusively advisory or organisational functions, unless otherwise provided for in these Statutes.
- (4) Further details are regulated by the Board through regulations or guidelines.

§ 11 General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association.
- (2) It takes place at least once a year.
- (3) An extraordinary General Assembly must be convened if
- a) the interests of the Association so require,
 - b) the Board so resolves, or
 - c) at least ten per cent of the members entitled to vote request it in writing, stating the purpose.
- (4) The invitation is issued by the Board at least four weeks before the assembly in text form, stating the agenda.
- (5) The General Assembly may be held as a
- as a meeting in person,
 - as a virtual meeting,
 - as a hybrid meeting, or
 - within the framework of a legally permissible electronic voting procedure.
- (6) The General Assembly constitutes a quorum irrespective of the number of members entitled to vote who are present, provided that it has been duly convened.
- (7) Resolutions are adopted by a simple majority of the valid votes cast, unless otherwise provided by law or by these Statutes.
- (8) Amendments to these Statutes require a majority of three quarters of the valid votes cast.
- (9) Changes to the purpose of the Association likewise require a majority of three quarters of the valid votes cast.
- (10) The General Assembly decides in particular on
- the election and removal of the Board,
 - the election of the auditors (Kassenprüfer),
 - the discharge of the Board,
 - amendments to these Statutes,
 - the fee schedule (Beitragsordnung),
 - the approval of the annual financial statements,
 - the appointment of honorary members,
 - the dissolution of the Association.

(11) Minutes must be taken of every General Assembly and signed by the chair of the assembly and the person taking the minutes.

§ 12 Board

(1) The Board within the meaning of § 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB) consists of

- a) the Chairperson,
- b) two Deputy Chairpersons,
- c) the Treasurer.

(2) The General Assembly may additionally elect up to three further Board members for special areas of responsibility.

These belong to the extended Board but are not Board members within the meaning of § 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB).

(3) The Association is represented in and out of court jointly by two members of the Board authorised to represent it.

(4) The term of office is three years.

The Board remains in office until a new election is held.

Re-election is permissible.

(5) If a Board member leaves office prematurely, the Board may appoint an interim successor until the next General Assembly.

(6) The Board manages the affairs of the Association on its own responsibility in accordance with the law, these Statutes and the resolutions of the General Assembly.

(7) Its tasks include in particular:

- strategic development of the Association,
- implementation of the statutory purposes,
- financial and asset management,
- personnel responsibility,
- conclusion of cooperation agreements,
- appointment of advisory boards,
- establishment of regional groups and project groups,
- establishment of the LiebevollICH/ WürdevollMensch Academy,
- appointment of Dignity Ambassadors (Würdebotschafterinnen und Würdebotschafter),
- adoption of rules of procedure, financial, data protection and fee regulations,
- appointment of special representatives pursuant to § 30 of the German Civil Code (BGB), where necessary.

(8) The Board adopts its resolutions by a simple majority.

(9) Board meetings may be held in person, by telephone, by video conference or in any other electronic form.

(10) The Board may adopt its own rules of procedure.