



Bylaws

1. Basic Principles

§ 1 Name and Purpose

The Competence Center for Human Rights (UZHR) is a scientific network with the goal of fostering and coordinating research, teachings and knowledge transfer in the field of human rights.

The UZHR shall connect the existing knowledge in the human rights field, make it accessible for practitioners as well as create and use synergies for inter- and trans-disciplinary development. It pursues the following objectives:

- a) Promotion of the inter-disciplinary and inter-faculty cooperation to further develop existing knowledge
- b) Creating and operating a knowledge transfer platform for business (companies) and society (politicians).

The UZHR may perform services in connection with the creation and management of a Swiss Center for Human Rights.

§ 2 Association

The University of Zurich sponsors the UZHR. The goal is to obtain the support of other universities as funding bodies.

The UZHR is assigned to the Law Faculty for administrative purposes.

2. Membership

§ 3 Members

The membership is open to all academics (junior faculty, private lecturers and professors) of Swiss universities as well as associated institutes of the University of Zurich that are actively pursuing research in the field of human rights or deal with human rights questions in their teachings and have a track record that reflects their level of expertise in the area of human rights.

Academics of the University of Zurich will be accepted as regular members, academics from other Swiss universities as well as associated institutes of the University of Zurich will be associated members. At most a third of the members may be associated members.

The application for membership must be submitted in writing to the Steering Committee. The Plenary Assembly decides on the membership applications.

§ 4 Rights and Obligations of the Members

All members have the following rights and obligations:

- a) Participation in research based events of the UZHR (e.g. symposia);
- b) Description and yearly update on the activities of the Center through the UZHR website;
- c) The affiliation of the authors to the UZHR shall be mentioned in publications released in connection with UZHR projects;
- d) Participation with right to vote in the Plenary Assembly ;
- e) Bring in applications to the Plenary Assembly or the Steering Committee.

3. Organisation

§ 5 Bodies

The bodies of the UZHR are the Plenary Assembly, the Steering Committee and the administrative office.

§ 6 Plenary Assembly

a) Structure

The Plenary Assembly is composed of all members.

b) Tasks

The Plenary Assembly is the highest body of the UZHR. In particular it shall deal with the following tasks:

- a) Enacting the bylaws that will have to be approved by the University's management;
- b) Approval of the strategic objectives of the UZHR developed by the Steering Committee;
- c) Election of the members of the Steering Committee and the Advisory Committee;
- d) Decision on the admission of new members;
- e) Submit requests for partnerships with companies to the University's management (cooperation agreements with companies);
- f) Determination of budget and approval of the financial statements and annual report (Academic Report) submitted to the University's management;
- g) Decision on continuation or dissolution of the UZHR.

If the Plenary Assembly decides on the continuation of the UZHR, it will submit an application for a renewed admission as competence center to the University's management through the Law Faculty at the latest six months before the expiry of the admission.

c) Assemblies and Resolutions

The Plenary Assembly meets at least once a year. It will also be convened, if a quarter of the members request it.

The Plenary Assembly has a quorum, if at least a third of the members are present. It decides by simple majority. Resolutions by way of circulation are possible. They require the approval of the majority of the members.

The president of the Steering Committee conducts the Plenary Assembly. In the event of a vote being tied, he or she has the casting vote.

§ 7 Steering Committee

a) Structure

The Steering Committee is composed of four to six regular members of the UZHR who are also members of a faculty of the University of Zurich. They will be elected for the duration of three years. Re-election is possible.

The members of the Steering Committee select a president as well as a deputy from their midst for the duration of three years. Re-election is possible.

The directors of associated institutes of the University of Zurich that are associated members of the UZHR may be elected to the Steering Committee as observers in an advisory capacity.

b) Tasks

The Steering Committee is the operative management body of the UZHR. It is responsible for all transactions that have not been delegated to another organ. In particular it is responsible for the following tasks:

- a) Development and implementation of the strategic goals of the UZHR;
- b) Advancement of the inter-faculty and inter-disciplinary cooperation within the University of Zurich;
- c) Promote the cooperation with other universities, research centers, private human rights initiatives and student organisations in the field of human rights;
- d) General operational management of the UZHR;
- e) Financial management of the UZHR, in particular
 - a. Preparing the yearly budget;
 - b. Guaranteeing the funding, especially by acquiring external funds;
 - c. Decisions on the use of joint (external) funds;
 - d. Financial-budgetary control;
- f) Election of the president and his/her deputy as well as recruitment of the executive secretary;
- g) External representation of the UZHR.

The Steering Committee presents transactions of far-reaching importance to the Plenary Assembly for resolution.

c) Meetings and resolutions

The Steering Committee meets at least twice every semester.

It has a quorum when at least half of the members are present. Resolutions shall be passed unanimously whenever possible. However, decisions can also be passed by simple majority.

The executive secretary takes care of the actuarial services and participates in the meetings of the Steering Committee in an advisory capacity.

§ 8 Administrative Office

The administrative office acts as the central contact and coordination office of the UZHR. It is managed by the executive secretary who shall report to the Steering Committee.

The administrative office assists the Steering Committee in the performance of its duties. In particular it is responsible for:

- a) the administration;
- b) the preparation of the meetings of the Steering Committee and the Plenary Assembly;
- c) the operation of the knowledge transfer platform;
- d) the development and coordination of training courses;
- e) the organisation of symposia;

§ 9 Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is composed of personalities that are actively engaged in finding solutions to human rights issues in politics, business or civil society.

The Advisory Committee assists the Steering Committee with the implementation of its goals.

c) Finances

§ 10 Funding

The scientific output is delivered by the UZHR's members who fund any correlated expenses with their own financial resources. The administrative office is financed through the start-up funding of the University's management as well as external funds. Other tasks are financed through additional funds from third parties.

The financial administration must conform to the general guidelines of the University.

d) Final Provision

§ 11 Entry into force

The Bylaws enter into force with their approval by the University's management on 02.03.2009.