
MINUTES OF DIGNITY BOARD MEETING 1 MARCH 2021

TEAMS – 3.00 to 6.00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Louise Holck, Christian Balslev-Olesen (CBO), Camilla Rathcke (from 3.20 p.m), Dea Seidenfaden, Tomas Martin, Karin Hansen, Nomfundo Mogapi, Manfred Nowak, Lotte Leicht, Emil Kiørboe, Marie Louise Nørredam

Rasmus Grue Christensen (RGC), Mette Grimstrup (MG)

NOT PARTICIPATING: Dorrit Rée Akselbo

1. Approval of agenda of Board meeting 1 March 2021

The agenda was approved.

2. Introduction and welcome to the new Board members

A warm welcome to the new Board members! Every Board member presented themselves and their background, and what they intend to bring to the Board in DIGNITY.

3. Status from the Chairperson

CBO related that there have been 2 meetings with new Board members since the last Board meeting and 2 Executive Committee meetings, mainly to prepare this Board meeting.

The sub-group following the implementation of the Strategy of the Rehabilitation Clinic has met and is following the negotiations about the contract with Region Hovedstaden.

4. Status from the CEO

RGC presented an introduction to DIGNITY, including an overview of the approved strategies for development of the organization, and presenting some of the overarching goals towards 2025: 1) Reaching further and empowering more people, 2) Achieving and demonstrating sustainable impact, and 3) Globalizing DIGNITY and enhancing legitimacy.

RGC then shortly presented some of the current projects in DIGNITY.

5. Presentation of HRW

Lotte Leicht made a presentation of the Human Rights Watch, from the humble start in 1978 as the Helsinki Watch, followed by Americas Watch, Asian Watch, African Watch, Middle East and North Africa Watch – finally gathered under the name of Human Rights Watch.

Today, HRW has added dedicated divisions focusing on the rights of women, children, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, migration, arms, tech etc. The basis for HRW research is international human rights law.

HRW is a global organization, with offices on every continent and in various countries around the world. HRW does not accept funding from states, governmental organizations or political parties, which makes fundraising an important and always developing art form in the organization. Research methods and tools evolve continuously – HRW now works with drones, satellite imagery radar analysis etc., and the security training is on quite a different level than in the beginning. The same goes for the training of interviewers, counseling afterwards and the recognizing of the risk of secondary traumatizing for the researchers.

HRW's advocacy strives to increase the prize of abuse, advance protection and respect of rights. And, where needed, to create new international standards and mechanisms. We work with coalitions to achieve these goals. An important tool is always to be open to go 'outside the box'. An example is Syria, where we engaged to ensure cross-border and cross-line humanitarian assistance to millions of Syrians – many of the IDPs in opposition-held territories - without the agreement of the Syrian government. Another example is the General Assembly Resolution that established the new accountability mechanism that was established by the UN General Assembly following years of stone-walling in the UN Security Council where Russia and China were vetoing a referral of the situation in Syria to the International Crime Court. The International, Independent, Impartial Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria is in essence the equivalent of a "prosecutor without a court" and is mandated to gather, analyze and prepare evidence of atrocity crimes with a view to assist criminal justice proceeding by courts.

Always remembering that all the work and all the efforts are about people. Not just numbers in depressing statistics, but people with their own dreams and hopes for the future.

6. Board documents

The Rules of Procedure are approved by the new members of the Board since Dec. 2020.

7. Evaluation of today's meeting

Cancelled due to lack of time

8. Feedback from the CEO development interview

Closed point at the meeting - RGC and MEGR did not participate.

Based upon feedback from the Chair- and Deputy Chairperson's CEO development interview with Rasmus Grue Christensen February 10, 2021, the Board approved the recommendations to extend Rasmus' present

contract with three years to 2027 and offered Rasmus a relevant competence development course, e.g. in international management sparring.

Meeting	Item	Subject	Decision	Responsible	Status
2021 BM ex	6	Board documents	New members of the Board approved of the Rules of Procedure.	Management	
2021 BM ex	8	Feedback from CEO interview	The Board approved to extend RGC's contract to 2027.		