

DIGNITY TOWARDS 2025



WHO WE ARE

DIGNITY is a leading international human rights and development organization devoted to the fight against torture. We work to ensure that no one is subjected to torture and survivors access trauma rehabilitation services required for recovery.

We deliver on our mandate in several engagements in a global programme on prevention and rehabilitation, including:

1. A specialized rehabilitation clinic for traumatized refugees in Denmark
2. International development partnerships with civil society organizations and public authorities in more than 20 developing countries
3. Human rights documentation, advocacy, and campaigning around the world
4. A knowledge center for applied research on effective prevention and rehabilitation

DIGNITY is a learning organization, where interventions, international development programmes, advocacy, and research support and reinforce each other. Our research creates a solid knowledge and evidence base for our interventions and capacity development with partners, which again informs and strengthens our advocacy work to enhance human rights compliance in the Global South and international norm-setting.

The results of our advocacy then again are brought back into our programme work on the ground and translates into practice.

Founded in 1982, DIGNITY has around 150 staffers at its Copenhagen headquarters and around the world, including doctors, lawyers, psychologists, physiotherapists, social workers, researchers, and development specialists. Our annual turnover is around 20 million EUR with major contributions from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish health authorities, several other European governments, the European Union, and international foundations. DIGNITY is a WHO collaborating centre and has consultative status with ECOSOC. Selected staff are members of international treaty bodies within the United Nations and Council of Europe.

HOW WE WORK

To **prevent** torture, we develop, adapt, and implement research-based prevention tools and mechanisms throughout the world, including preventive monitoring of places of detention, reforms of police methods in accordance with international human rights standards, and documentation of torture for purposes of reparation and accountability. At the same time, we combat growth conditions of torture by strengthening the protection of vulnerable groups, reducing other forms of violence, and promoting human rights norms.

Together with our partners we promote and contribute to the following changes:

- Adoption, promotion, and implementation of international, regional, and national norms and legislation that prohibits and prevents torture
- Reforms of the criminal justice sector, preventing use of torture in legal proceedings and providing necessary protection for people deprived of their liberty
- Reforms of police and security authorities that exercise their mandate in accordance with relevant human rights standards
- Prevention of torture and other inhuman treatment in extra-custodial settings, including systematic sexual and other gender-based violence, where authorities neglect their human rights obligations to protect citizens from such abuse
- Prevention of other forms of violence, including violence in poor urban settings, that breed and may often legitimize or normalize torture
- Systematic documentation of torture and other serious human rights violations to promote justice and accountability

HOW WE WORK

To **rehabilitate** torture survivors, we develop and promote research-based treatment programmes for survivors throughout the world. We work to ensure that relevant authorities have the political will and capacity to assume the responsibility of making rehabilitation accessible to all victims of torture.

Moreover, we work to raise awareness of the impacts of torture and violence in the communities, so that trauma is recognized and identified - and survivors are effectively referred to competent rehabilitation services.

Together with our partners we promote and contribute to the following changes:

- Adoption, promotion and implementation of international, regional, and national norms and standards recognizing the right of rehabilitation and redress for survivors of torture and the duty of authorities to provide rehabilitation
- Relevant health authorities and/or non-governmental actors provide professional and sustainable treatment and counseling services for all traumatized victims
- Widespread knowledge on trauma and absence of stigma among healthcare professionals and other stakeholders who should identify trauma and refer victims to treatment
- Targeted inclusion efforts for traumatized victims and their families, notably in relation to education, labor market, and advocacy, and in close collaboration with survivor networks

WHERE ARE WE HEADING

In DIGNITY we have adopted six new strategies with specific goals and targets for our key engagements towards 2025. Across these important sub-strategies three overarching strategic ambitions emerge:

1. Reaching further and empowering more people

DIGNITY's purpose goal is to eradicate torture. Growth in number of beneficiaries is therefore paramount. We will empower more traumatized survivors and people exposed to the risk of torture and violence around the world. This will require more funding, increased internal effectiveness, and more systematic implementation of research-based models and manuals across our rehabilitation and prevention work. In Denmark we will strengthen our partnership with the health authorities and find new ways to help more traumatized refugees in cooperation with municipalities and other actors. Internationally, we will develop more comprehensive and integrated country programmes and pursue new engagements, where we can make a positive difference for even more people, including vulnerable youth, women, sexual minorities, and migrants.

2. Achieving and demonstrating sustainable impact

DIGNITY's key strength is our commitment to research-based interventions and advocacy. However, we can go further. In the coming years we will ensure that all our activities are systematically monitored and evaluated. Across the organization – from the rehabilitation clinic to international programmes and advocacy – we will mainstream a strong evaluation and learning culture and make impact measurement an integrated part of all activities. In Denmark, our rehabilitation work will be further systematized, evidence-based, and anchored in clinical databases. Internationally, we will implement and streamline Outcome Harvesting across all programmes. This will enhance our knowledge of actual results from our engagements, help improve our strategic prioritization of resources across the organization, and strengthen our ability to develop and share best practices with partners around the world.

3. Globalizing DIGNITY and enhancing our legitimacy

Although founded and anchored in Denmark, DIGNITY is an organization with strong international outlook and based upon a network of committed partners. In the coming years we will transform into a truly global organization. We will increase the diversity of our workplace and board, enhance our international communications, increase transfers to partners in developing countries, offer more specialized partnerships and services to transition countries, and engage in more international joint ventures with other human rights partners, including in human rights documentation and accountability mechanisms. In 2025, DIGNITY will be the leading global actor in research-based prevention of torture and violence and rehabilitation of traumatized victims.

WHAT IS OUR 'END GAME'?

Our ultimate goal is to help eradicate torture and drive ourselves out of business. Obviously, we can only succeed by cooperating closely with numerous competent partners around the world. DIGNITY can make significant contributions to the long-term eradication of torture by several means:

First, we must continuously expand our current programme and activity portfolio to help prevent torture in more settings and rehabilitate more survivors.

Second, we must continue to develop research-based models and manuals, which can be applied - and locally adapted - by partners around the world.

Third, we must ensure continuous adoption and implementation of new legislation and norms by governments, including effective torture prevention, and acceptance of public responsibility to deliver (or finance) actual services, including trauma-treatment for torture survivors.

This is how DIGNITY, together with like-minded actors around the world, can eventually win the fight against torture.