

World Society of Victimology, founded 1979

Registered with the Court's Corporation Register in Münster, Westfalia, Germany,

Document # 3040/1992 of WSV Notar Dr. Claus in 41065 Mönchengladbach, Kaiserstraße 22 , FRG;
(corresponding to Court Document 2709/1994)

§ 1 Name, Office and Legal Form

1. The Society takes the name World Society of Victimology e. V.
2. The Society is listed as a legally competent organization in the register of the office of the court in Münster, Westfalia, Germany.
3. The office of the Society is Münster. Office relocations can be made by the Executive Committee.

The primary determinant in location should be its accessibility to the largest number of Executive Committee members.

4. The business year will be the calendar year.
5. The business language will be in English.

§ 2 Purpose and Task of the Society

1. The Society exclusively and directly follows the common and scientific aims according to the chapters on tax privilege aims of the German Tax Law.

2. Purpose of the Society

- a) To advance victimological research and practices in the entire world.
- b) To encourage interdisciplinary and comparative work and research in this field; and, to advance cooperation of international, national, regional and local agencies and work groups who are concerned with the problems of victims in the entire world. The purpose of the Basic Statute of Incorporation is realized especially:
 - c) by providing an International Symposium for Victimology ordinarily every three years that will serve as a forum for international scholars, practitioners, and students,
 - d) periodic seminars, work shops and institutes;
 - e) a variety of publications;
 - f) cooperation between victimologists throughout the world so as to initiate and maintain an active exchange of ideas.

3. The World Society of Victimology may give or take financial supports, scholarships, or grants.

§ 3 Unselfishness

1. The Society is active in altruistic endeavors.
2. In the first place it does not pursue profitable purposes. It may not give benefits which are unknown to the purpose of the corporation, not favors which are not equitable.
3. Resources of the Society may only be used in accordance with the Basic Statute of Incorporation: The members may not receive dividends nor other profits from Society sources. By dissolving the Society or by abolition of its purpose, the capital of the Society will go to the International Red Cross whose main office is in Geneva and who will use the capital directly and only for charitable purposes.

§ 4 Members

1. Membership in the World Society of Victimology may be persons and organizations who are devoted to the study of Victimology and the improvement of the plight of victims. This may include scientists, students, organizations, victim helpers, volunteers, lay persons and others.

2. The membership of individual persons is acquired according to the following options:

The member can become an active personal member, a student member, an honorary member, or a life-time member.

Further regulations will be decided by the Executive Committees.

Collective memberships can be generated from local, regional, national, or international victimologically involved organizations or institutions which are dedicated to the improvement of the plight of victims, research, education and the provision of services for victims.

§ 5 Membership

1. The membership is developed through admission in the Society upon written application. The admission is accepted by the President.

2. No qualified applicant may be refused membership due to ethnic origin, creed, political orientation, sex, or religion.

3. Membership ends

- a) upon written resignation of the member effective at the end of the business year,
- b) upon death,
- c) automatically upon nonpayment of dues for three consecutive years,
- d) when the organization as a collective membership is dissolved,

4. Membership dues can be increased only upon the Executive Committee's decision. The Executive committee specifies the increase in advance.

5. The rights of membership including the right to vote may be exercised only on payment of dues.

§ 6 The Bodies of the Membership

1. The highest body is the General Membership. It consists of all members of WSV.
2. In its place stands the Assembly (Membership Meeting) which is made up of all the members in good standing" who assemble and express their will be at the call of the President.
3. The Executive Committee is the leading authority of the Society and carries out all decisions under the mandate of the General Membership.
4. The Organizing Committee is a working group available to the current host of a symposium. The host of a symposium is always the chair of this committee. He or she selects the committee members.
5. The International Advisory Board to a particular symposium is made up of persons who have distinguished themselves by contribution to the field of Victimology. This group of persons will be selected by the Executive Committee. The size and composition of this board will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

§ 7 The Membership Assembly

1. The Assembly (Membership Meeting) occurs during each Symposia. It is normally called together every three years; this began with the first founding meeting in Münster in 1979.
2. The Membership Meetings are normally called by written notice, for example through notice of a symposium where the place, the time and the agenda of the membership meeting is given. Notifications will be made at least three months before the meeting date (the postal stamp will serve as proof). The notice may be made through the World Society of Victimology International Newsletter.
3. The Membership Meeting represents the highest body of the World Society of Victimology and makes decisions about the three year's report of the president. It decides over the general direction of work of the Society and gives directives to the Executive Committee.
4. At Membership Meetings decisions may be made without regard to the number of attending members. Decisions may be made by a majority of members present and voting.
5. Membership Meetings must be called by the Secretary General when 45% of the members give written notice which states the purpose and the need of a meeting.
6. The results of Membership Meetings must be stated in a protocol and signed by the Secretary General.

§ 8 The General Membership

1. The expression of will by the General Membership may be made through mail balloting. The decision to go to a mail ballot has to be given to the members in writing, when possible through the WSV-Newsletter. The items to be voted on will be included in ballot form in the announcement. If the Basic Charter of Incorporation is to be changed and if elections to the Executive Committee must be made, such decisions are made only via mail ballot.
2. The General Membership is able to make decisions without regard to the number of returning votes. For changes in the Basic Charter of Incorporation a majority of 2/3 of the received votes are needed, in all other cases the simple majority of the returned ballots is sufficient.
3. The results of the mail ballots may be announced either in the WSVNewsletter or other valid forms.

§ 7 chapter 6 applies.

§ 9 The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is the governing body of the Society. It shall be composed of members of the Society and shall consist of 15 persons (12 elected, 3 coopted - see § 9 chapter 8).
2. The Executive Committee should be composed so that a wide geographical base of representation is achieved.
3. The Executive Committee is legally represented by the President and the Secretary General (§ 26 BGB).
4. After each election, the Executive Committee will meet and elect Executive Committee Members to the following offices:
 - a) President
 - b) 4 Vice Presidents
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Secretary General
5. 1/2 of the elected Executive Committee members are elected on a rotating basis. Each member remains on the Executive Committee for six years.
6. Re-election is possible.
7. If a person is reelected to the Executive Committee, he or she may be reelected to an office if it is deemed in the best interests of the Society.
8. The Executive Committee shall appoint up to three members of the Society as coopted members. These members have the right to participate in the deliberations but no voting right. Decisions are to be made by the majority of the elected members present and voting.
9. A Quorum is half of the elected members.

§ 10 Office Holders

1. The President represents the Society in all contacts with all other organizations. He or she chairs each meeting of the Executive Committee and of the General Assembly. He or she appoints persons to serve on various committees. He or she nominates the editors of the World Society of Victimology Newsletter on the decision of the Executive Committee.
2. In the event of absence, a Vice President acts on behalf of the President.
3. The Treasurer is in charge of the Society's financial activities, and annually reports to the Executive Committee and to the members on the status of administrative expenses, and also recommends improvements in financial matters.
4. The Secretary General is the principal administrator of the Society. He or she takes the minutes (protocol) at the General Assembly and at the Executive Committee Meetings, for which he or she signs. He or she carries out the decisions of the Executive Committee, as far as they permit. He or she supervises the written mail ballots. In the absence of the Secretary General another member of the Executive Committee may serve as a temporary substitute (with the exception of the President).

§ 11 Committees

1. The President can name special committees when he or she sees the need of it. The President will appoint the members and the chairpersons of these committees on the decision of the Executive Committee.
2. The World Society of Victimology has the following standing committees:
 - a) the Executive Committee, which is elected by the Membership
 - b) the Organizing Committee, which is selected by the host of each symposium.
 - c) the Membership Committee.

§ 12 The International Symposia

The World Society of Victimology promotes and carries out the series of International Symposia of Victimology which are ordinarily held every three years and which are numbered continuously, starting with the First International Symposium on Victimology in Jerusalem, the Second International Symposium on Victimology was in 1976 in Boston, and the Third International Symposium on Victimology was 1979 in Münster (where the World Society of Victimology was established).

The location of the Symposia will be decided upon by the Executive Committee with recommendations from the members.

§ 13 Awards

1. The Society distributes

a) The Hans von Hentig Award.

This award is the highest award our Society can give and is presented in remembrance of the famous pioneer of Victimology, Hans von Hentig. It is ordinarily presented every 3 years to a person, who has made a significant contribution in the field of Victimology. Each member of the Society may nominate a candidate to the President. Before each Symposium convenes, the Executive Committee decides who will receive the award.

b) Certificates of Appreciation.

This Award will be given to deserving individuals to recognize major accomplishments and/or special events significant to the field of Victimology. This Award will be decided upon by the Executive Committee and signed by the President and the Secretary General. This Award may be presented as often as deemed appropriate. Nominations for this Award must be made in writing to the President and may only be from a member in good standing of the Society.

2. The Society recognizes Approved Honorary Members:

The Approved Honorary Membership is awarded to an individual, to honor his or her progress and also significant accomplishment in the victimological field. The Honorary Membership is decided by the Executive Committee and is awarded by the President or Secretary General. The Honorary Membership can be given as the Executive Committee finds the need for it. Nominations for this award must be given in written form from one member of the Society to the President.

§ 14 Publications

1. Newsletter

The World Society of Victimology may publish the World Society of Victimology Newsletter in English. The editor(s) of the WSVNewsletter are nominated by the President, decided upon by the Executive Committee, and are announced by the President. The Newsletter serves as a medium to exchange information and ideas from victimologists throughout the world. It further serves to inform the members about the Society, and for those specific purposes already mentioned in this Basic Statute of Incorporation.

2. Journal

The World Society of Victimology may publish a Journal. This may be done in the form of a yearbook which presents meaningful contributions for Victimology. This Journal will have an editorial board that is fixed by the Executive Committee. In the Executive Committee determines the Editor(s) -in-chief. The Journal will appear in English.

3. Other publications

The Society may publish a Directory of Victimology, stating the names, addresses and areas of victimological interests for people throughout the world. The World Society of Victimology may aid and carry out the development of a Bibliography of Victimological Literature. The Society may aid, carry out, and publish other publications as it finds appropriate to its goals.

§ 15 Procedures

1. In conducting business the World Society of Victimology follows acknowledged procedures, which are suitable for use in international affairs for example the "Robert's Rules of Order".

2. The proceedings and the standing orders of each meeting and each committee shall be determined by the chair with the support of its members. The Society was founded in Münster, Westfalia, Germany, September 8, 1991. This Basic Statute of Incorporation was accepted and approved at a meeting in Tokyo, Japan, in 1982 and changed and amended by consequent mail ballots.