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BY-LAWS of the Norwegian Humanist Association

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**By-laws of the Norwegian
Humanist Association**

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Article 1 Objective

The Humanist Association is an organization for people who base their lifestance on human values. The Association will work to develop humanism and contribute to ensuring that people may practise their humanist lifestance.

Article 2 Humanism

Humanism is a lifestance in which the understanding of reality and ethics is based on reason and experience, rational and critical thinking, feelings and human compassion. Humanism is devoid of religious conceptions.

In humanism, the independent and responsible human being is placed in the centre. The objective of humanism is therefore to offer every person an opportunity to develop independence, freedom and responsibility. The humanist approach includes a commitment to human rights as an expression of core values and ideals. Human rights are a good protection of human dignity and diversity.

Article 3 Activities

The Association will work:

- for a state professing a neutral lifestance, freedom to choose any lifestance and respect for human rights in a pluralistic society
- to ensure that everyone will be able to choose humanist ceremonies
- to develop humanist lifestance and welfare services
- to offer members a social and organisational framework for lifestance identity and a sense of community
- to spread knowledge of humanism and the organisation's activities

Article 4 Membership

Membership is open to all persons above the age of 15 who agree with Article 1-3. Registration and resignation must be in writing.

Members' children under the age of 15 may be registered as associate members.

The Association's Executive Committee may lay down further rules for membership.

Article 5 Organizational structure

The Association's organizational structure comprises the National Congress, the Executive Committee and the county and local associations.

The National Congress adopts joint statutes for the county associations and joint statutes for the local associations. The Executive Committee may exempt individual associations from these statutes.

Article 6 The National Congress

The National Congress is the supreme body of the Association and is held once a year.

An extraordinary Congress is held when requested by the Executive Committee or at least half of the county associations.

The National Congress is composed of the President of the Executive Committee and delegates elected by the county associations, 65 delegates in all. The number

of delegates from the county associations is distributed according to the number of members in the counties on 1 January, but in such a way that each county association is represented by at least 2 delegates.

The National Congress is held by 15 June. Proposals for business to be transacted must have reached the Executive Committee by the end of January. The various parts of the organization's structure and the Administration, represented by the Secretary General, are entitled to submit proposals to the National Congress.

The National Congress adopts its own rules of procedure and agenda.

The National Congress shall each year adopt the annual report and accounts and transact any other business mentioned in the notice of meeting.

Elections are held every other year to appoint the Executive Committee with its President, Vice-President and Treasurer, the Auditor(s), the election committee, the foundation committee etc, and to fix the membership fee.

The Association's action plan is adopted every fourth year.

Article 7 The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is made up of nine members, of whom eight members with three deputies are appointed by the National Congress, and one member with deputy is appointed by the employees.

The Executive Committee adopts its own rules of procedure and appoints working committees and other committees as needed. The Executive Committee appoints

the Secretary General and other personnel in the Administration and may delegate authority to the Secretary General.

The Executive Committee is responsible for the operation of the Association and for drawing up the Association's budget.

The Executive Committee determines the membership fee and arranges for the collection of the fees and all statutory grants.

Article 8 Amendments to the by-laws and dissolution

Amendments to the Association's by-laws may be adopted at the National Congress by a majority of 2/3 of the votes cast.

The same rule is applied in the event of the Association's dissolution. In case of dissolution, the Association's net assets shall be made available for a humanist purpose at the decision of the Executive Committee.

The National Congress also adopts the proposed amendments to the joint statutes for county and local associations, presented in this case document.



Norwegian Humanist  Association

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