

# **AKTIONSGEMEINSCHAFT SOLIDARISCHE WELT'S CHARTER (ACTION FOR WORLD SOLIDARITY)**

## **PREAMBLE**

Our work is guided by the idea of a world of solidarity in which the gap dividing wealth and poverty, north and south, mighty ones and others deprived of their rights would be closed.

The need to reduce unfairness in this world, particularly hunger, poverty and oppression, led to the foundation of the ASW in 1957.

We are placing respect for all human rights at core of our work, with special focus on economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the empowerment of deprived groups.

We are convinced that world's issues call for solutions at all local, regional and global levels.

We, for our part, focus on local and regional intervention. We support individuals while they are implementing their own ideas. We do not send experts or helpers, because we know for sure that know-how and skills are to be found there already.

It is crucial for transformations to occur here in the northern world to allow a global development that would be positive. Therefore we are committing to an informative and sensitization process in order to gain influence in Germany.

This is our contribution to global solidarity.

This charter shall guide our behavior regarding and in exchange with our partners in the south, our supporters, the wide public and all of those actively engaged in the ASW.

## **OUR PARTNERS AND PROJECTS**

We support people with ideas. We understand this as collaborating with partners developing their actions by their own means. We are financing numerous small organizations and help those serving sustainable solutions with their skills. Our partners are individuals, self-organized in initiatives, NGOs and networks to improve their living conditions.

We seek to collaborate with our partners as equals. Meanwhile, we remain aware of our position as fund owners, which is why internal and self-determination from our partners at every step of one's project's implementation constitutes one of our core expectations.

We support organizations committed to increasing human right's application, with special attention to women's empowerment and environmental protection. We focus on some regions we got to know fairly well after more than 50 years activity, among them, India, Brazil and southern and western Africa.

We want to stand as a reliable interlocutor for our partners. In this sense, we give them accountable and fair support. We like to encourage new initiatives, leaning towards the goal that they will, in the long run, grow out of our support.

Each and every society develops its own ways in initiating change. We see ourselves as participants in a global society and therefore we wish to learn from our partners.

## **FINANCING OUR WORK**

Allowing and supporting our work are private donators working with us on building a world based on solidarity. This secures a high flexibility and independence level for us. Funds are managed with liability and transparency in accordance with the present charter.

We reply to our donors need for information. We inform them in a clear, liable and realistic way. We wish for them to be allowed appreciation and sustainable support from our partners organization and that they can share a mere positive experience with others.

Our goal is to encourage donation and give our donors a taste for solidarity and action.

We also may engage funds coming from tertiary organizations in those cases where they serve our partners fully and comply with this charter's requirements.

Money we are entrusted with is managed with regards to ethical and sustainability concerns until it is spent to finance one our partner's project. This also applies to funds in the Foundation for World Solidarity.

## **OUR COMMUNICATION**

With the public, we share the problems and realities our partners are dealing with. We assign ourselves the mission to report for our partners and try and let them communicate directly.

Not only do we inform about the projects we are supporting, but we also report on the political and social contexts our partners are working in.

To sustain dialog with our partners, supporters and the public is of great importance for us.

Seeking to fulfill this goal, we communicate with the media, publish documents and articles on our website and in our quarterly newspaper „Solidarische Welt“ –World of Solidarity- and exchange through newsletters, exhibitions and conferences.

Our communication is ruled by transparency and fidelity to facts; reporting on our activity is our duty. We make space for themes rarely raised to the german public's attention. We try and make complex topics regardless of their complexity. Our partners' work must effectively encourage people to also commit to a fairer world.

## OUR CULTURE

We are working together in a respectful, open and equalitarian way. A lack of hierarchy and an emphasis on teamwork means we take all important decisions together.

Our working culture gives space for independent responsibility for everyone within an organization that we create together, and for personal development and political engagement of each co worker in compatibility with their private life.

This way we can reach a high level of satisfaction and commitment, along with optimal results regarding the missions we assigned to ourselves.

We see equal value in each co workers contribution: in this sense, all our permanent staff have the right to equal wages at a comparatively low level, according to the spirit of a fair global redistribution. Administrative council membership and honorary tasks are not financially rewarded.

We work as economically as possible. While purchasing materials and choosing our service partners, we try and pay attention to the conditions of production and to give priority to regional productions.

We want to secure and improve our work's quality. Qualification and life-long-learning of our co workers is an important thing to us.

We understand dialog and open reflection as unavoidable. Frequent reports of our partners and colleagues are part of this process, as well as meetings oversee with involved individuals.



Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt e.V.