

Charter of the Human Rights Section of the International Studies Association (HR-ISA)

Passed on March 24, 2006 at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, CA, USA; as amended March 18, 2011 at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, on March 18, 2016 at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association in Atlanta, GA, USA, on April 5, 2018 at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association in San Francisco, CA, USA, on March 28, 2019 at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association in Toronto, ON, Canada, and on April 12, 2021 at the virtual annual business meeting of the Section following the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association.

Article 1. Name

This organization shall be known as the Human Rights Section of the International Studies Association (HR-ISA).

Article II. Affiliation

HR-ISA is one of the sections of the International Studies Association and, as such, subscribes to its purposes and supports its activities.

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of HR-ISA is to encourage multidisciplinary scholarship and teaching in the area of human rights. This includes those in the disciplines of political science, law, history, philosophy, economics, sociology, anthropology, and other related fields. It will foster discussion and other interaction between members of the ISA as well as those outside of the ISA with view toward enhancing academic research, policy development and teaching in the broad and varied area of human rights and related issues.

Article IV. Relationships

HR-ISA will establish relationships, and engage in cooperative ventures, with a variety of related organizations around the world, which support the purpose of HR-ISA, including academic and policy organizations, journals, publishers and other entities as appropriate.

Article V. Membership

HR-ISA membership is open to all ISA members, subject to payment of yearly section dues. HR-ISA members will be entitled to attend the annual business meeting, vote on amendments to this Charter and other motions at the business meeting, run for section office, and receive section communications, as well as other privileges that may be established by the Section or its Executive Committee.

Article VI. Officers

The elected officers shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, the Community and Membership Engagement Officer and four Members-At-Large. Appointed officers include the Program Chair(s) and the Elections Officer. Each elected officer shall serve a term of two years. Elected and appointed officers, plus the Chair-Elect, and Past Chair comprise the Executive Committee (ExComm) of the Section. Only elected officers will have a vote on the Executive Committee.

The Chair shall be elected one year before s/he takes office and will serve as **Chair-Elect** for that year. The outgoing Chair shall hold the position of Past Chair for one year to assist the new Chair. The Chair-Elect will serve as a Program Co-Chair during the year he/she serves as Chair-Elect alongside another member of the section, chosen by the Chair and in conjunction with the Chair-Elect.

The **Members-At-Large** positions will be staggered, such that in any year, two Members-At-Large will be elected and in the following year two other Members-At-Large will be elected.

The Chair, in conjunction with the Chair-Elect, shall appoint a **Program Co-Chair**, who may be a member of the Executive Committee or be another member of the Section, to serve with the Chair-Elect as Program Co-Chairs.

The Chair shall appoint an Elections Officer who is not filling any other position on the ExComm. The Elections Officer will not be eligible to run for elected office during his/her tenure.

Article VII. Vacancies

Should the Chair resign or be unable to serve, the Vice-Chair will assume the duties of the Chair until a new Chair is chosen in the next election. Should the Vice-Chair resign or be unable to serve, the Secretary will assume the duties of the Vice-Chair until a new Vice-Chair is chosen in the next election.

For any other vacancies, the Chair shall appoint Acting Officers for those positions that cannot be filled or become vacant until such positions can be filled in the next election.

Article VIII. Officer Responsibilities

Elected Officers

The Chair is responsible for directing and coordinating the activities of the section with the support of the elected and appointed members of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall act as a liaison with the ISA and other organizations. The Chair shall appoint officers as outlined in Articles VI and VII.

The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for coordinating the Section Awards process as outlined in the Section's Awards procedures. The Vice-Chair shall also act as one of the Section Program Co-Chairs for the Annual Convention.

The Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at the annual business meeting, distributing information to members, and overseeing, by themselves or in conjunction with other members of the Executive Committee, the Section's ISA web page.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for liaising with ISA on all matters with respect to the budget, section income, and expenses. S/he will initiate payment requests, which shall be approved by the Chair. S/he is also responsible for making all arrangements with ISA for the Section's Reception at the Annual Meeting, including securing co-sponsorship from other ISA sections, publishers, and any other co-sponsors.

The Community and Membership Engagement Officer shall serve as the Lead Editor of H-Net and maintain the membership's social media presence.

The Members-At-Large shall assist the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary as necessary, and shall make

themselves available to Chair or serve on the four Awards Committees.

Appointed Officers

The Program Co-Chairs shall be responsible for organizing Section panels for the Annual Meeting. The Vice-Chair and Chair-Elect (in years when there is a Chair-Elect) shall act as Section Program Co-Chairs.

The Elections Officer will conduct officer elections for the coming year. S/he is responsible for making calls for nominations, compiling and distributing statements of interest from nominees to accompany the ballot, collecting and counting the ballots, and reporting the results to the Executive Committee in advance of the Annual Section Business Meeting.

Article IX. Nominations and Elections

Elections shall be conducted by the Election Officer. Any Section member may be nominated, or may nominate themselves, for open positions. Such nominations should be submitted to the Election Officer by December 15 of each year. Elections shall be conducted by electronic ballot, which shall be distributed to the membership by January 15. The deadline for returning ballots shall be February 15 or one week before the start of the Annual Meeting (whichever is earlier in any given year). If not all positions are filled by the electronic election, vacant positions will be filled at the annual business meeting. All positions will be filled by simple plurality.

Article X. Special Section Activities

Special Section activities will be determined by the Executive Committee of HR-ISA, in consultation with the Section membership where appropriate. These initiatives will be publicized via the section e-mail list, the ISA newsletter, and other appropriate outlets.

Article XI. Amendments

Amendments to this Charter may be proposed by the Chair or by petition of five members of HR-ISA. Amendments will be voted on at the annual business meeting and shall be ratified by a 2/3 majority of votes cast.