

# **Policy on Rights Based Approach**

## **The IOGT-NTO Movement Sweden**

### **Purpose and Scope of this Policy**

The vision for the international work of the IOGT-NTO Movement is “a democratic world characterized by solidarity and equality where alcohol and other drugs do not prevent human welfare, freedom and security”. Our approach to development is supporting and strengthening civil society organisations’ work to claim rights.

This policy defines our commitment to a rights based approach in our international work and provides the basis for our cooperation with partners. It further outlines how international rights standards correspond with our vision and ongoing development work and clarifies our role and plan for monitoring and compliance. Children’s rights are especially addressed. Many of our partner organisations have children and youth as their target group, and a reduction in problems related to alcohol and other drugs creates a safer environment for everyone, not least for children and youth. Women’s rights and equality are equally important. They are included here but especially addressed in our gender policy. This policy reinforces the gender policy. Gender equality cannot be achieved outside of a human rights framework, just as human rights cannot be realised if inequality still exists.

#### ***A Rights Perspective***

All individuals are equally entitled to their human rights without discrimination. We base our commitment on the human rights established by the UN, from the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights 1948 and other human rights conventions adopted<sup>1</sup>. These rights are universal, interdependent and indivisible; they apply to everyone everywhere, and they are all equally important and mutually reinforcing. They are rights of individuals and legal obligations for States.

Human rights represent the minimum entitlements and freedoms that should be respected by States. The IOGT-NTO Movement incorporates national or regional legislation in addition to these where relevant.

#### ***A Rights Based Approach***

Our commitment to a rights-based approach builds on the understanding that, it is not just the ‘right’ thing to do; the fulfilment of human rights is also essential to combating issues of poverty and injustice.

Central in this approach is empowering individuals and communities to understand and claim their rights and building the capacity of states to fulfil their obligations as duty bearers.

Civil society has an important role in this. We cooperate with and strengthen the local civil society in order to bring about the appropriate change.

#### ***Fundamental principles***

The fundamental principles which shall underpins our work are:

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<sup>1</sup> Main human rights declarations and treaties:  
1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)  
1965 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)  
1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)  
1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)  
1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)  
1984 Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)  
1986 Declaration on the Right to Development  
1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)  
2000 Millennium Declaration  
2003 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families  
2005/6 Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons

*Non-discrimination* – Every individual is entitled to a life free from discrimination. All people are to be treated equally – which in practice often means that the interests of marginalised and discriminated groups are to be given priority.

*Participation* – Everyone must be able to make their voice heard. It's crucial to strengthen participation in democratic processes, including participation in decisions concerning development projects.

*Openness and transparency* – One basic condition for active participation is the right to free and independent information. Openness and transparency makes it possible to hold decision makers accountable.

*Accountability* – A rights perspective increases accountability as duty-bearers are accountable for ensuring and protecting rights. Civil society is crucial, to hold decision makers accountable, for example.

Gender equality and women's rights, along with children's rights, the rights of people with disabilities and the rights of people who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) are core aspects of the rights perspective.

## **Alcohol and Rights**

People's rights are affected in many ways by the use of alcohol. For example:

### ***Equality***

- While alcohol is not a root cause of gender inequality, it can reinforce the power hierarchies that already exist in a masculine system of norms.
- The alcohol industry and culture reinforces unequal power relationships by merging violent and dominant male roles.
- Drunkenness and aggression are often part of the masculine identity – an identity that is spread and reinforced by alcohol advertisements.
- Drunkenness is closely related to intimate partner violence and sexual violence

### ***Democratic participation and civil and political rights***

- Abuse and dependency risk passivizing people, impeding their participation in democratic processes and enjoyment of their political and civil rights.
- The right to information is tampered with by manipulative tactics of the alcohol industry

### ***Social and economic rights incl. health***

- Alcohol imposes an enormous financial burden on societies that already lack the resources to cater for the needs of their citizens.
- People living in poverty who abuse alcohol are more likely to become trapped in debt and suffer social exclusion.
- Alcohol consumption is one of the main risk factors behind early death and poor health. It increases the risk of contracting HIV through exaggerated risk-taking and compromised immunity, and of NCDs such as cancer and heart disease. It also leads to early death through accidents.

### ***Child Rights Perspective***

Human rights apply to all age groups, but since children and youth under the age of 18 need special care and protection, a special Convention for the Rights of the Child was adopted 1989. The Convention sees the child as an individual and as a member of a family and

community, with rights appropriate to his or her age and stage of development. The Convention consists of 54 articles and is guided by four fundamental principles:

*Survival rights* – The rights to resources, skills and contributions necessary for the survival of the child; as adequate food, shelter, primary health care and clean water.

*Child development* – The rights to full development of the child; as formal education, leisure and recreation.

*Child protection* – The rights to protection from all forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty, including the right to special protection in times of war and protection from abuse in the criminal justice system.

*Child participation* – The right to express opinions and be heard, the right to information and freedom of association.

### ***Alcohol and Children's rights***

The rights of children are in different ways undermined by problems linked to alcohol, for example:

- Children are put at danger through alcohol related birth defects, violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of harms by their parents.
- Parental alcohol abuse is one of the main causes of child homelessness.
- Alcohol, or the prioritization of alcohol by parents, threatens children's rights to nutrition, health, education, family, social, cultural, and spiritual well-being.
- Alcohol use by children themselves is harmful and affect their mental, social and physical development in many ways.
- Children are vulnerable to the alcohol industry's massive direct and indirect marketing of alcohol targeting young people.

The rights of children and youth connected to the protection from alcohol are not only linked to several articles in the Convention of the Rights of the Child, but also highlighted in the guiding principles of the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful use of Alcohol. For example: *Children, teenagers and adults who choose not to drink alcohol beverages have the right to be supported in their non-drinking behavior and protected from pressures to drink.*

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The IOGT-NTO movements' role is supporting and strengthening civil society organisations' work to ensure rights:

- **Empowering** individuals and communities to understand and claim their rights. **Rights holders** must be able to access information, organize and participate, advocate for policy change and obtain redress;
- **Strengthening the capacity** of the State at all levels (local, regional/federal and national) as **duty bearers**<sup>2</sup>: to respect, protect and fulfil human rights

The IOGT-NTO Movement overall **goal** for development cooperation shall further advance the realization of rights as laid down in national and international human rights legislation.

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<sup>2</sup> *Rights obligations can also attach to private individuals, international organizations and other non-State Actors. Parents, for example, have explicit obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, however, the State remains the primary duty-bearer under international law.*

All IOGT-NTO Movement staff shall work to ensure that rights standards and principles are integrated into all stages of programme and project **processes**, including:

- Promoting **local ownership** by partner organisations: a close cooperation between the IOGT-NTO Movement's regional offices and partners – with the aim of strengthening their voice and impact on society – is crucial.
- **Participation of target groups**; supporting partner organisations to include women, men, boys and girls in planning, monitoring and implementation.
- In collaboration with partner organisations, **analyze and address**:
  - Structures (that discriminate people from accessing rights)
  - Attitudes (e.g. gender inequality, alcohol norms)
  - Behavior (as above)
  - The skills, abilities, resources, responsibilities, authority and motivation needed by those affected to claim their rights and those obliged to fulfil the rights
- Partnerships with organizations that especially target children shall be guided by a **child rights perspective**, including choices of target groups and activities. Safeguarding children is a priority, making sure that staff, operations and programmes do no harm and never abuses or exploit children physically, mentally or sexually. Promoting children's participation in project design and implementation is also of high importance.
- Integrating **advocacy** as far as possible in partner projects: supporting initiatives and assist partners in developing tools for dialogue and engagement with duty-bearers.

The IOGT-NTO Movement's management, including regional representatives, is also responsible for ensuring that staff and staff of partner organisations are adequately trained. Finally, rights based methods should be promoted among partners and the head office should ensure that IOGT-NTO Movement material and tools are rights based.

### **Monitoring and compliance**

A large part of monitoring our compliance with this policy will be through the IOGT-NTO Movement's regular monitoring. It is the responsibility of the Head of Office, Program Managers at head office and Regional Representatives to ensure that policy, programme planning and implementation are rights based. In addition, each year, the IOGT-NTO Movement will specifically report their adherence to the following:

1. Policies, strategies and programme planning, including result matrices and funding applications, are based on an **solid analysis** of power inequalities and rights (incl. structures, attitudes, behavior).
2. Guidance **material and tools**, including on RBM are inclusive of a rights based approach.
3. All on-going partner **project implementation** includes community based or participatory approaches and advocacy towards duty bearers. This will also indicate civil society's role in strengthening democracy.
4. Adequate **human and financial resources** has been allocated for rights based work
5. Adequate **training** of office staff and partner staff has been conducted (child rights especially)

**Adopted by the board 2018-03-20**