

KARUNA DEUTSCHLAND E.V.

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PREAMBLE

Karuna Deutschland e.V. is committed to improving the lives of people who belong to the poorest and most disadvantaged groups in society. Many people in the lower layers of society, especially in India and Nepal, continue to live in burdensome circumstances. All the stains of “untouchability” were officially abolished with the declaration of independence. In India, the Dalits in particular – they were formerly stigmatised as “untouchables” – are still suffering from social exclusion and violence. They still belong to the poorest of the poor in India and it is extremely difficult for them to have access to healthcare, education, housing and a humane livelihood. Dalit women and girls particularly suffer from ever-present violence and discrimination. Even when many of the Dalits have since turned to Buddhism and found a new spiritual home to support them after centuries of collective humiliation, their socio-economic situation remains just as precarious.

Hence *Karuna Deutschland e.V.* aims at helping particularly needy people to help themselves, by supporting them in their efforts to improve their lives in the above-named elementary areas.

§ 1 NAME, LOCATION AND BUSINESS YEAR

- 1) The association bears the name "*Karuna Deutschland e.V.*" It is registered in the register of associations.
- 2) The headquarters of the association is in Essen (Germany).
- 3) The business year is the calendar year.

§ 2 AIM OF THE ASSOCIATION

The association pursues exclusively and directly non-profit activities in accordance with the provisions of "Tax Privileged Purposes" of the German Tax Code. The aim of the association is to improve the lives of people in India, especially the members of the former untouchables. The disadvantaged people within this group are often women and children and this is the reason why they are at the centre of the Association's activities.

The statutory aims are realised especially by:

- 1) supporting projects to promote income-generating measures that will help disadvantaged persons to become economically independent, like for example sewing groups, savings clubs, self-help groups, etc..
- 2) supporting projects that help to improve the health of people in poorly served areas by providing them with information and advice.
- 3) supporting the provision of accommodation to enable children from rural areas and/or precarious family situations to attend secondary schools.
- 4) supporting childcare provision in slum areas to prepare children for a basic education.
- 5) implementing training to develop methodical and social competences, like computer training, team development, mediation, pedagogic advanced training, management training, etc.
- 6) implementing courses in self defence and theatre projects to raise self-confidence and self-responsibility.
- 7) cooperating with local social groups and non-profit making organisations.
- 8) cooperating with Buddhist groups and organisations.
- 9) implementing events in which Buddhist practices and ways of living are taught and deepened: meditation courses, meditation evenings and meditation days, devotions and religious festivities, study groups, talks etc.
- 10) providing religious instruction and help in accordance with Buddhist principles, for people in India who are undergoing a Buddhist training.
- 11) supporting community centres, especially meditation houses and Buddhist centres in India used as places of religious practice for Buddhists, and also as meeting places for non-Buddhists.
- 12) promoting solidarity and compassion through developmental educational work.

§ 3 USE OF FUNDS

The funds of the association, including any possible surpluses, shall only be used for statutory aims. The members receive no remuneration and, as members, also no other contributions from the funds of the association.

Earmarked donations, whether for project-related, social or Buddhist aims, shall be used for the named aim. Non-earmarked donations shall be used for social aims.

The association is a charitable organisation; it does not primarily pursue its own financial purposes.

No person may benefit from expenses not related to the aim of the association, or through inappropriately high allowances.

§ 4 MEMBERSHIP

- 1) The association has full members (with voting rights). Members of the association may be natural and legal persons, as well as associations of individuals.
- 2) The board decides on the application to become a full member. The application must be made in writing.
- 3) The members pay contributions according to a decision made by the general assembly.
- 4) Membership is non-transferable. It expires with death, resignation or expulsion.
- 5) A resignation comes into force when made in writing to the board of management.
- 6) A member may be expelled:
 - a) When he or she breaches the aims of the association, or when his/her behaviour damages or endangers the reputation, work or interests of the association;
 - b) When he/she is in arrears with the payment of membership fees for one year despite receiving a warning.
- 7) Providing two thirds of members with voting rights are present, the general assembly shall decide on the expulsion of a member, with immediate effect. The member shall have the opportunity to justify his/her behaviour in person at the general assembly.
- 8) If the decision to expel a member is not disputed or not disputed in time, it can no longer be claimed before a court that the expulsion was unlawful.

- 9) All membership claims lapse with the termination of membership. A return of fees, contributions in kind, or donations is precluded.

§ 5 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The board of management shall be elected by a simple majority of the general assembly for the period of 1 year. It shall remain in office for so long until it is replaced by a new board of management after election. The re-election of the board is possible. The board consists of the Chair, the Deputy-Chair and 2 to 5 board members.

A representative of Karuna Trust, London, UK, is entitled to be a board member (excluding Chair and Deputy Chair).

Two members of the board together are entitled to represent them both (four eyes principal).

The board of management is responsible for the daily business of the association and acts as a trustee for all members. It is also duty-bound to administrate the assets of the association and carry out decisions made by the association.

The board may establish its own rules of procedure.

The board may appoint a managing director.

§ 6 GENERAL MEETING

A general meeting shall be convened once a year, additionally on the request of one third of the members.

The invitation to the general meeting is to be made in writing by the Chair of the board giving 14 days notice, accompanied by the simultaneous sending of the agenda.

The general meeting has the following duties especially:

- 1) To elect the board of management
- 2) To accept the annual reports and financial reports of the board and discharge its liabilities.
- 3) To provide advice on project funding.
- 4) To adopt any resolution to amend the articles of the association, all other duties imposed on the general assembly by the board and any other statutory matters.
- 5) To adopt any resolution to dissolve the association.

The minutes of every meeting are to be made and signed by two members of the board of management.

§ 7 WORKING GROUPS

The board of management or the general meeting can set up working groups to deal with special duties.

§ 8 STATUTE CHANGES

Any change in the statute is only possible with a three quarters majority of the members present.

The board of management is itself empowered to make any changes in the statute, which are demanded by courts of law, financial and administrative bodies.

§ 9 DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

If the association is dissolved, on the expiry or dissolution of its previous purposes the association's assets shall be passed onto the tax-deductible body, the *Buddhistische Gemeinschaft Triratna, Essen* to be used for social and Buddhist aims in India.