

DIGNITY TOWARDS 2030

Who we are

DIGNITY's mission is to be a leading actor in the global fight against torture. Together with our partners, we develop, promote, and apply research-based knowledge to prevent torture and violence, rehabilitate survivors, and promote justice and accountability. This is how we help protect human dignity around the world.

We deliver on our mandate in several engagements in a global and hybrid programme, including:

- A knowledge centre for applied research on effective prevention, rehabilitation, and documentation.
- A specialized rehabilitation clinic for traumatized refugees, including torture survivors, in Denmark.
- International development partnerships with civil society organizations, human rights institutions, and public authorities in more than 20 countries in the Global South.
- Human rights documentation, advocacy, and promotion of justice and accountability around the world.

DIGNITY is a learning organization, where direct interventions, international development programmes, advocacy, and research support and reinforce each other. Our research creates a solid knowledge and evidence base for our interventions and capacity development with partners and strengthens our advocacy to enhance human rights compliance and international norm-setting. The results of our advocacy then feed into our programme work on the ground and translate into practice.

Founded in 1982, DIGNITY has approximately app. 150 staff members at its Copenhagen headquarters and around the world, including doctors, lawyers, psychologists, physiotherapists, social workers, anthropologists, public health experts, and development specialists. Our annual turnover is approximately app. EUR 30 million with major contributions from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish health authorities, several other European governments, the European Union, the US government, and international foundations.

DIGNITY is a WHO collaborating center and has consultative status with ECOSOC. Selected staff are members of international treaty bodies within the United Nations and Council of Europe as well as members of the National Preventive Mechanism of Denmark.

How we work I

To **prevent torture** and other inhuman or degrading treatment, we develop, adapt, and implement research-based prevention tools and mechanisms throughout the world, including preventive monitoring of places of detention and reform initiatives within the police and prisons in accordance with international human rights standards. At the same time, we combat the 'growth conditions' of torture by strengthening the protection of vulnerable groups and promoting human rights norms.

Together with our partners we promote and contribute to the following changes:

- International, regional, and national norms and legislation to prohibit, prevent, and combat torture are adopted, promoted, and implemented,
- Reform initiatives within the security and criminal justice sector are carried out to strengthen the protection against torture,
- Independent monitoring mechanisms build the necessary capacity and skills to undertake effective preventive monitoring of places of detention,
- Prevention of torture and other inhuman treatment is carried out in extra-custodial settings, where authorities neglect their human rights obligations to protect citizens from such abuse, including sexual and other gender-based violence,
- New approaches to support civic engagement and bottom-up protective measures are developed and implemented in situations with rising authoritarianism, shrinking civic space, and overdependence on incarceration and punitiveness,
- Initiatives to foster peaceful communities and prevent violence that may breed, legitimize, and normalize torture are developed and implemented.

How we work II

To **rehabilitate torture survivors** and other traumatized survivors, we develop and promote research-based and contextualized rehabilitation services for survivors throughout the world. We work to ensure that relevant authorities have the political will and capacity to assume the responsibility of ensuring timely access to quality rehabilitation for all traumatized survivors. Moreover, we work to raise awareness of trauma in the communities so that trauma is recognized and identified - and survivors are effectively referred to competent rehabilitation services.

Together with our partners we promote and contribute to the following changes:

- International, regional, and national norms and standards recognizing the right of rehabilitation and redress for survivors of torture and the duty of authorities to provide rehabilitation are adopted, promoted, and implemented,
- Relevant health authorities and/or non-governmental actors provide professional and sustainable treatment and counselling services for all traumatized survivors,
- Knowledge and understanding of trauma are widespread among healthcare professionals and other stakeholders who should identify trauma and refer victims to specialized treatment,
- Targeted inclusion efforts for torture survivors and their families, notably in relation to education, labor market, and advocacy, are carried out in close collaboration with survivor networks.

How we work III

To **pursue justice for survivors and accountability for perpetrators** of torture, we help collect information and evidence of serious human rights violations and crimes under international law around the world. At the same time, we support and advocate for justice and accountability endeavors before relevant national, regional, and international bodies.

Together with our partners we promote and contribute to the following changes:

- Human rights organizations and other relevant actors have the necessary knowledge and technical skills to document torture and other serious human rights violations in accordance with applicable international human rights and criminal justice standards,
- Documentation is carried out in a survivor-centered, gender-sensitive, and trauma-informed manner,
- Vulnerable survivors of torture receive holistic and locally embedded support addressing their short- and long-term needs, including psychological, medical, and legal support,
- Information and evidence of torture and other international crimes are collected, preserved, and analyzed in a safe and accessible manner,
- National, regional, and international norms and standards on justice and accountability for serious international crimes are promoted and implemented,
- Perpetrators are held accountable before relevant national and international bodies, including courts and tribunals, and possibly in other, more community-based settings and processes.

Where we are *heading* |

DIGNITY's key engagements in the above-mentioned areas are guided by four overall strategic ambitions towards 2030

1. EMPOWERING MORE PEOPLE

DIGNITY's purpose is to eradicate torture. Growing our impact is, therefore, paramount. In the coming years, we want to make our expertise relevant and accessible to more partners and beneficiaries. We will empower more traumatized survivors and people at risk around the world.

This will require more long-term funding, increased internal effectiveness, and more systematic implementation of research-based models and methods across our prevention, rehabilitation, and accountability work. In Denmark, we will strengthen our partnership with the health authorities and find new ways to help more traumatized refugees, including torture survivors, in cooperation with municipalities and other actors. Internationally, we will develop more comprehensive and integrated country programmes and pursue new engagements where we can make a positive difference for even more people, including vulnerable children, youth, women, sexual minorities, and migrants. In all national or international activities we will always work on combatting torture, but not necessarily only on torture.

Often, our activities will, in addition to focusing on torture and torture global fight against torture.

2. PUTTING SURVIVORS FIRST

Survivors are at the heart of DIGNITY. In the coming years, we want to further strengthen a holistic and survivor-centered approach across our engagements. Whether in our Danish rehabilitation clinic or in international accountability endeavors, we want to ensure that the rights, dignity, and leadership of survivors and other people at risk always define our work.

We will develop and streamline internal guidelines, mechanisms, and new pilot projects on survivor-centered approaches in our programmes while ensuring that the most vulnerable survivors continue to be the primary beneficiaries of our work.

We will also build stronger referral systems and closer cooperation with new partners to allow beneficiaries more holistic, trauma-informed, and intersectional support.

Accordingly, we also want to contribute to promoting new international norms and best practices in this area in the coming years.

Where we are *heading II*

3. MAINTAINING AGILITY

In past years, DIGNITY has proven to be a responsive organization capable of making our expertise available in crises, armed conflict, and other emergencies around the world, which in turn has increased the size of the organization. In an increasingly volatile and unpredictable world, we want to maintain and further develop our ability to respond to new challenges and opportunities based on our specific mandate, expertise, and partnership approach. Organizational agility is a key ambition in the coming years. We should be able to react swiftly to new human rights emergencies, as well as changing political realities, new technological developments, and climate crises.

This requires an enhanced capacity to analyze trends and developments, further refinement of our risk management systems, more agile internal innovation processes, and an ability to use our mandate and expertise in new contexts and partnerships.

4. ENHANCING GLOBAL REACH

We are proud of our heritage and key activities in Denmark, and we strongly believe in the importance and synergies in promoting human rights in both the Global South and the Global North. However, in the coming years, we want to further internationalize and decentralize DIGNITY's operations.

We will strengthen our outreach in key countries around the world, promote local leadership, further develop our international communications and advocacy, engage in more international joint ventures, and increase the diversity and coherence of our workplace, including establishing partner-supporting country offices around the world.