

Statutes of the “Graz Human Rights Award” of the City of Graz

§ 1 "Graz Human Rights Award"

(1) At the suggestion of Mayor Nagl and on account of the commitment to human rights of Mr. Alfred Stingl, former mayor of the City of Graz from 1985 to 2003 and honorary citizen of the City of Graz, the City of Graz founds a human rights award which bears the name of the “Graz Human Rights Award”. Besides recognizing the award winners, the "Graz Human Rights Award" ought to permanently anchor the pursuit of more justice as well as the realisation of human rights in the eyes of the public as well as the active role that cities and local communities play in this.

(2) € 7,000 twice a year is earmarked in the budget of the City of Graz for the award and it will essentially be awarded twice a year. The award can be shared.

§ 2 Award Winners

(1) The award can be awarded for achievements in Austria and in Europe. The focus ought to be on achievements that have given incentive to tolerance, dialogue and reconciliation at the local level in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(2) The award can be awarded to individuals, groups of individuals or legal entities. The “Graz Human Rights Award” cannot be awarded to the same award winner more than once.

§ 3 Management

The management is seen to be by the “Peace Centre Graz” on behalf of the City of Graz. The Peace Centre Graz takes part in the joint sessions of the jury and the advisory council as well as in the decision-making sessions of the jury (see § 5 paragraph 6) and offers advice and information.

§ 4 Nominations

(1) Everyone is entitled to make a nomination for the awarding of the award. Self-nominations are not permitted.

(2) Nominations are to be sent in writing to the office of the “Graz Human Rights Award” in the Peace Centre Graz (Friedensbüro Graz, Keesgasse 6, 8010 Graz).

§ 5 Decision by Jury

(1) The award is awarded by the City Senate of the City of Graz on the basis of the clear and unambiguous nomination of a jury set up for this purpose.

(2) This jury is put together as follows:

1. The mayor of the City of Graz or a representative named by her/him as chairperson.
2. A representative from each of the parties in the City Parliament (“Gemeinderat”).
3. A member named by the Ecumenical Forum of Christian Churches in Styria.
4. A member named by Amnesty International, Styria.
5. A member named by the League of Human Rights.
6. Mr. Alfred Stingl

(3) An alternate is to be designated for each member except Mr. Alfred Stingl.

The chairperson is represented by her/his representative.

(4) The jury members are designated for an indefinite period.

(5) The jury is to be convened by the chairperson for at least one deliberative session per year together with the advisory council.

(6) Moreover, the jury is to be convened by the chairperson for at least one session every two years to decide on the awarding of the award. The majority of votes decide. If the vote is tied, then the award is shared.

§ 6 Advisory Council

(1) An advisory council is set up to advise the jury.

(2) This advisory council is put together as follows:

1. A member, who is named by ETC Graz (European Training Center for Human Rights and Democracy).
2. A member, who is named by the Institute of International Law of the University of Graz.

3. A member, who is named by the UNESCO Chair for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue of the University of Graz.
4. A member, who is named by the president of the Higher Regional Court of Graz.
5. A representative of the Women's Council of the City of Graz.
6. A representative of the Department of Integration of the City of Graz.
7. A representative of the Province of Styria.

(3) An alternate is to be designated for each member.

(4) The members of the advisory council are designated for an indefinite period.

§ 7 Awarding of the Award

The awarding of the award takes place in connection with the day on which the City of Graz was declared a City of Human Rights (Feb. 8) or the Human Rights Day (Dec. 10) as part of a ceremony organised by the City of Graz.

§ 8 Coming into Effect

This charter comes into effect on the day after it is published in the official gazette ("Amtsblatt") of the City of Graz.