

Coptic Solidarity ©

Established in Virginia as a public charity organization under section 501 (C)(3) of the IRS Code.

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SUMMARY CHARTER

While the suffering of Copts in Egypt is mounting every day, it is undeniable that the current state of “Coptic activism” leaves a lot to be desired. A new start has been judged by many to be vital. A conference held in Montreal (June 2006) pointed to this direction. Finally, a conference held in Virginia (March 2009) set the wheel moving. A Steering Committee, selected in Virginia, labored to establish a new entity according to the general lines shown below. A “Founding Conference” is planned in early 2010 to launch this new entity.

You are invited to take part in Coptic Solidarity.

Overall Mission:

Help the Copts in Egypt to be empowered and attain full and inalienable citizenship rights and equality, under secular constitution and laws; drawn in accordance with current international standards set by Human Rights conventions and treaties.

Building on past efforts of Coptic activism, with special attention to:

- Assemble ‘mainstream’ Coptic activists;
- Tap the enormous pool of talents of Coptic professionals;
- Adopt institutional, organized, persistent and professional work methodology.

Guiding Principles and Objectives

- We firmly stand for a united Egypt where all citizens live side by side in equality and peace. Resolving the ‘Coptic Issue’ is an objective that in itself simultaneously helps, and demonstrates, the success in modernizing Egypt, by promoting the values of freedom, secularism, rule of just law, pluralism and democracy for the benefit of all Egyptians;
- We adhere to peaceful, civil and political means; and to the principles of Human Rights as expressed in relevant international documents;
- We do not patronize Copts living inside the homeland, nor act as custodians over the cause.
- The Coptic issue is a political one that has to do with civil rights, and is not a religious battle of any sort. We do not interfere in religious, doctrinal or hierarchical matters.

Activities

- Promote political awareness and Human Rights campaigns (including researches and surveys, case assistance to persecuted and discriminated-against individuals and groups, etc);
- Conduct routine contacts with international and local organisms and forums;
- Keep reliable records of key events and incidents;
- Media & Research;
- Educational projects (including scholarships), to help Copts regain their historical zeal to learn and excel; and their role in establishing high-quality educational institutions;
- Social and cultural activities.

Organizational Guidelines

- Integrity, transparency and credibility.
- Emphasize roles of women and youth..
- Democracy is the foundation on which the organizational structure must be built. Debating is a healthy sign of vitality but, to be effective, it should remain focused.
- We are not in conflict with associations related to Coptic activism, and welcome cooperation with all who share principles and objectives set out in the By-Laws

Organizational Structure

- The General Assembly elects the President and members of an Executive Committee (EC). Members of the EC receive no compensation.
- The mandate of the EC membership is for a term of two years. It cannot be held for more than two consecutive terms. The position of President cannot be held for two consecutive periods.
- May have office(s) and employ remunerated staff as needed.

Membership

- The Founding Members are those involved in establishing the organization.
- Subsequently, the door will be open for membership. A member must have an excellent, unblemished reputation, be willing to serve the Coptic Cause, and accept the By-Laws.
- Further guidelines to help nominate EC Members:
 - + Enjoying the respect, appreciation, and recognition of the community; i.e. recognized as a valued, leading figure (Archon) by the community;
 - + Non-controversial, without prior political or intellectual stands denying the Copts' demands, or their right to claim these demands;
 - + Ability to work as part of a team, with a sense of duty and self-denial;

- Professionally accomplished, self-fulfilled individual; with leadership abilities, proven in a public domain or in a professional field.

Finances

- The primary source of financing is through members' contributions.

Membership Fees are:

- "Founding Member" (\$1000+); "Active Member" (\$200); "Student" (\$50); "Associate Member - with limited voting power" (\$50); "Friend" (\$1000 +); "Benefactor" (\$5,000); "Principal" (\$10,000)

- Affiliate Organization: \$1000+;

- Appropriate donations accepted from individuals or organizations; grants and fund-raising sought.

- Established auditing practices shall be adopted to ensure that impeccable financial procedures are followed at all times.

Founding Conference

- On June 19-20, 2010, the Founding Members held the first conference of the organization, where a president and a ten-member Executive Committee were elected for two years.

- New members who join until the end of 2010 could still have the privilege of being considered 'Founding,' if they are willing to make the corresponding contribution.