

## **Recommendations for the Development of a Country/Regional Association for Steiner Waldorf Education**

During its session of May 30, 2025, the International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education – the *Hague Circle* (HC) – adopted this document *Recommendations for the Development of a Country/Regional Association for Steiner Waldorf Education* as guiding recommendations for new and existing associations.

A Waldorf or Steiner association is a non-profit organisation which brings together Waldorf Educational Centres from all over the country. Depending on the development of Waldorf Education in the different countries, there might be a single association for Waldorf Kindergartens, Schools and Teacher Training Centres, other countries may have separate organisations.

The task of the association is to give human, pedagogical, and organisational support. This support is based on relationship and dialogue, and depending on the location and circumstances may include activities such as the creation of centers or associations, the work with legal institutions, especially the Ministries of Education or similar bodies, offering pathways and/or effective practices on the resolution of conflicts within the association, all PR work, webpages, other media actions, and conferences or other professional development. The task of the association is to set the criteria for membership and to honor international trademark guidelines. Details for setting criteria for membership are drawn from [Essential Characteristics of Waldorf Pedagogy](#), and associations can augment them so they are aligned with their own specific cultural circumstances. Details of the care and use of the Waldorf and Steiner trademark, and the possibility of the association being granted sub-licensing, is documented in *International Licensing Regulations for Associations and Institutions within the Scope of the Trademarks "Waldorf" and "Rudolf Steiner"* (ILW).

Membership in the association enables mutual collaboration between the associated members, strengthens the foundations and the identity of Waldorf education in their own country, gives new impulses for the future, and supports its members in various pedagogical, legal, or organisational aspects. This includes joint agreements to which

## **Recommendations for the Development of a Country/Regional Association for Steiner Waldorf Education**

the member organisations commit themselves. One of the main responsibilities is the care for mutually accessible training possibilities for teachers and educators.

The association does not interfere in the life of the schools or kindergartens in regards to internal decision making, however schools or kindergartens must meet association criteria in order to remain members in good standing. Each school has its own board of community members (e.g. teachers and/or parents) as a governing body, responsible for finances or other aspects and for the long-reaching goals of the institution. The daily pedagogical organisation is the responsibility of the college of teachers (or equivalent body), and each teacher is responsible for the collaboration with other colleagues and the general pedagogical activities of the school.

### *Organisation of the Association*

Each school or kindergarten which is a full member of the country association is represented by one or more delegates elected by the school. The delegate(s) may be determined by the college of teachers or another leadership body within the school. Associations are strongly encouraged to require that at least one of the delegates is pedagogical. The role of the delegates supports legitimacy of the Association. A Board is elected and appointed to conduct the activity of the association and is legally authorised to act on behalf of the Association. It informs and consults the general assembly about the work undertaken or to be undertaken and proposes to the general assembly the most important issues affecting the association as a whole.

If there is a member of the Hague Circle, IASWECE, ECSWE, or similar organisations, from the country, then the association is encouraged to have a place for this individual in the organization of the association. This will allow the flow of information and the awareness of the general development of the worldwide perspectives on education.

## **Recommendations for the Development of a Country/Regional Association for Steiner Waldorf Education**

For the creation of the worldwide list of Waldorf Centres, the board of the association reports to the Hague Circle and to IASWECE annually on newly recognized centres and, where applicable, those which no longer exist or whose membership has been withdrawn due to non-compliance with the conditions or requirements.

For more information in relation to Early Childhood Associations, see also the following document: *Essentials Characteristics for Waldorf Early Childhood Education*. In German: *Wesentliche Merkmale der Steiner-/Waldorfpädagogik für die ersten sieben Lebensjahre*.