



The International Anti-Bullfighting Network Principles (April 2024)

As a member organization of the International Anti-Bullfighting Network (RIA) you commit to the Network Principles agreed by its members.

What is the International Anti-Bullfighting Network?

The International Anti-Bullfighting Network (hereinafter, the Network) is a global network for the abolition of bullfighting in all its forms and manifestations. It is a platform for cooperation, articulation, support and communication between the members of the Network.

It stimulates and facilitates cooperation, constructive and positive dialogue and the exchange of experiences, strategies and tactics for the work of its members and collective work towards the end of bullfighting in the different countries where bullfighting exists and worldwide.

The term "bullfighting" means "any activity (including "festivals"), in which bulls/cows are stressed, exhausted, injured and/or killed for sport, entertainment or celebration."

Objectives of the Network

The objectives of the Network are:

- Facilitate communication and cooperation between members of the Network;
- Form a unified front that works jointly for the abolition of bullfighting;
- Organize joint campaigns, as well as cooperate and support the campaigns that the members of the Network organize in each country against bullfighting.

Criteria to be a member of the Network

Non-profit organizations that actively work against bullfighting can be members of the Network. These organizations are represented by one or more people.

Only people representing organizations that agree with all principles, the Code of Commitment and the following statements and do not act to contradict them can belong to the Network.

1. The Network is strictly anti-bullfighting. Bullfighting will be the only topic that can be talked about when using the Network, and the only topic on which the Network can campaign;
2. the members of the Network actively work against bullfighting. The representatives of each country control or confirm whether an organization is active on the topic of bullfighting;
3. the members of the Network maintain a totally abolitionist position on bullfighting;
4. Network members must consider information exchanged within the Network confidential to ensure that it does not inadvertently end up in the hands of anyone outside the Network.

Coalitions of non-profit organizations can be members of the Network. In this case, all members of the coalition must declare that they adhere to the regulations and principles of the Network. The coalition must communicate once a year to the secretariat of the Network which organizations are (still) part of their coalition. Coalitions do not have the right to vote, their members have this right if they are also individual members of the Network.

Political parties cannot be members of the Network.

Becoming a member

Organizations can submit an application to become a member directed at the secretary of the Network (CAS International). The secretary checks whether the criteria to become a member are met. It also checks whether the representative and other member organizations from the same country have any objections to the requested membership. If the criteria are met and there are no objections, the organization can become a member.

The Network secretary maintains a database with an overview and contact details of all member organizations and their representatives. The data is

verified annually and updated if necessary.

If a member acts against the principles and the Code of Commitment, the organization may be expelled from the Network by the Coordination Team after a decision from a Guarantee Committee.

Founders and organization of the Network

The Network was founded in 2007 in Lisbon by ANIMAL and co-founders CAS International and The League Against Cruel Sports.

The secretary and administration of the Network is in charge of CAS International.

The direction of the network will be the responsibility of the Coordination Team, composed of CAS International/the secretary, ANIMAL and a representative from each country where bullfighting still exists.

The representative of each country will be elected by the Network member organizations in that country through democratic elections every three years. Decisions within the Coordination Team will be made by simple majority, with each participating member having an equal vote.

The Coordination Team will not include more than two representatives from the same organization simultaneously. This measure aims to ensure equitable representation of diverse points of view in the decision-making process.

Term of mandate

The mandate of the representatives in the Coordination Team will be three years, renewable through democratic elections. The duration of representation may be adjusted as determined by the Network at future general meetings.

Network Spokespersons

The spokespersons for the Network in each country will be the elected representatives for the members in that country or another person designated by the representative. CAS International will act as permanent spokesperson, unless otherwise decided at a general meeting of the network.

Coherence and Consensus

The messages and positions of the spokespersons must be aligned with the decisions agreed upon by the Coordination Team and the fundamental principles of the network. Lack of alignment may be discussed and corrected internally to maintain the integrity and coherence of the network.

Any significant modification to this structure will require majority approval at a

general meeting of the network.

Guarantee Committee

For cases in which there is a complaint or evidence of harmful conduct that is not in line with the Principles and/or the Code of Commitment and the internal resolution of a conflict is not possible or effective, a Guarantee Committee will be established at the initiative of the Coordination Team. The Guarantee Committee is made up of an impartial member from each country in which bullfighting still exists. The impartial member is democratically elected by consensus among the members of the network in that country.

This committee will act as a neutral mediator and seek fair and equitable solutions. The Guarantees Committee will carry out an impartial and objective evaluation to determine the validity of the accusations.

Intervention Procedure:

The parties involved in the conflict may present their case to the Guarantee Committee, providing the pertinent information and presenting their arguments. The Committee will conduct an impartial review and issue recommendations for resolution of the conflict.

Acceptance of Decisions:

The decisions of the Guarantee Committee will be binding and all parties involved are expected to accept and comply with them.

Confidentiality:

All communications and deliberations of the Guarantee Committee will be treated with confidentiality. Unauthorized disclosure of information related to conflict resolution will be subject to sanctions as agreed by the network.

Disciplinary actions:

If the Guarantee Committee determines that a member has carried out harmful actions, it may impose disciplinary measures proportional to the seriousness of the conduct. These measures may include expulsion or temporary suspension of the offending member from the network.

Notice and Fair Process:

The member subject to disciplinary action will be notified in a timely manner and provided the opportunity to present his or her defence.

Majority Decision:

The decision to impose disciplinary measures will require the support of the majority of the Guarantee Committee. The expulsion of a member will be considered a last resort, applied only when other forms of resolution have proven insufficient.

Transparency:

For each summit, the Guarantee Committee will prepare an executive summary of the resolutions, highlighting decisions made without revealing sensitive or identifiable information. This summary may include the type of case reviewed, general conclusions and actions taken, without going into details that compromise confidentiality.

Periodic revision:

The effectiveness of the Guarantee Committee will be evaluated every two years by the members of the network, and adjustments may be made to its composition or procedures to improve its effectiveness in conflict resolution.

What the Network does and does not

The Network is not a registered organization with its own statutes. It has no headquarters or staff. But it does have representatives. The Network is a coalition, and as such it campaigns jointly with members and supports national campaigns of members. The network can appear as an organization but always naming the organizations that act in that action. For example, a national network in Colombia, an action promoted by the Network, with the coordination of Colombian organizations.

The Network may have working groups in which different members work on a specific topic or activity. Working groups may be initiated by members and led by one of the member organizations. Working groups are established in consultation with the Coordination Team.

Any member organization can initiate and carry out cooperation and communication with each other at any time. The network secretariat (CAS International) can act as a facilitator to, for example, contact other organizations. The Network reserves the right to carry out campaigns in which its members actively participate. Although these campaigns may carry the distinctive logo of the Network, authorship is required to be duly recognized. In this sense, each campaign must include not only the Network logo, but also the clear identification of the individual members who have contributed and participated in the initiative. For example, if a letter is sent on behalf of the network, it must include a list of the organizations that sign it and not just sign it as a network, or a link to a web page where the participants of the Network are listed in that campaign. We put the

Network logo at the top on a letter and the logos of the individual organizations below. This approach reflects our commitment to transparency and equitable valuation of individual contributions in all Network activities."

The Coordination Team can invite organizations to become members of the Network, approve memberships requested by organizations and ask (after being discussed by the Guarantee Committee) organizations to leave the Network in case an organization does not work in accordance with the Principles and/or Code of Commitment. It can also ask an organization to elect another person from the organization to represent it in the Network.

Annual summit and other meetings

The secretary of the Network will organize the annual summit of the Network with the help of one or more member organizations. Preferably, the summit will be organized one year in Europe and the other in Latin America. Furthermore, the summit will preferably be organized in a hybrid manner.

Member organizations may initiate and organize additional meetings (such as national summits) apart from the summit where the Network logo is present, provided that they have prior explicit permission from the Coordination Team to do so. From the Network we encourage the organization of national meetings/summits to talk about strategies in that country.

Communication between members

Communication between members is carried out:

- During the annual face-to-face summit
- Through Telegram groups
- By email
- By working groups

Only email will be used for formal communication.

If you need an action from a person or organization, the RIA group on Telegram is not suitable. Contact the person or organization directly.

Informal communication can be done through email and/or Telegram groups. Two languages are preferred: English and Spanish.

The Principles and Code of Commitment are valid for all communication.

Decision making and voting

1. Decisions are made by simple majority (more votes in favour than against).
2. Organizations that have been members for at least 6 months can vote by email or through (online) voting systems during the summits.
3. Each member organization has one vote, communicated by the representative of that organization and known by the secretary (CAS International) of the Network.
4. If an organization is active in several countries and has more daughter organizations, voting will be done in this way: 1 vote for an organization (for example if organization X is active in 4 countries, organization X has 1 vote).
5. Coalitions can be part of the Network, but they do not have the right to vote. Only individual organizations can vote.
6. In the event that an organization is unable to vote at a given time, it may authorize another organization and a person from that organization to vote. Authorization must be processed by sending an email to the secretary of the Network with the organization/person authorized in cc.

14 principles of the Network

The Network operates in accordance with the following principles, agreed and respected by members.

1. UNIVERSALITY

The anti-bullfighting movement is international and covers any bullfighting activity in any country in the world. The Network recognizes this by considering that all countries and styles of bullfighting are important and abolition will not be achieved if any type of bullfighting continues to exist in any country.

2. UNITY

Unity within the Network and the focus on the points we all have in common is an essential value of the Network. Together we are stronger. Members can work together or on their own and can work in different ways and following different strategies. An important point to keep in mind is that different working and campaigning styles should support and not contradict each other. Therefore, it is important to discuss strategies together. If there are conflicts, they should be resolved through positive dialogue. The coordinating team can facilitate this.

3. INDEPENDENCE

Each group that is part of the Network has its own identity and ideology. The Network must promote it. All members of the Network must be free to carry out their anti-bullfighting activities in the way they prefer, but can be asked to leave the Network if such activities contradict the Principles of the Network or the Code of Commitment.

4. ABOLITIONISM

The ultimate goal of the Network is the abolition of all types of bullfighting, not simply the reform of the bullfighting industry to reduce animal suffering. This does not mean that continuous, gradual reforms cannot be pursued without pause as a tactical method of abolishing bullfighting, but it does mean that versions of regulation or reform of bullfighting should not be promoted as alternatives to abolition as the ultimate goal.

5. NON-BUREAUCRATIC

The Network is made up of small, large and umbrella organizations, often working together at different levels. The larger and more complex the group and relationships, the greater the tendency to waste resources on purely bureaucratic activities. The Network does not want to add more bureaucracy and, with its potential for complexity, should strive to minimize unnecessary bureaucracy (paperwork, meetings, records, personnel, statements, etc.). This does not mean that formalities are not followed if necessary.

6. RESPECT

The Network is made up of a wide variety of organizations and passionate people who often find themselves in the middle of arguments and discussions. The Network should not be used as a platform to criticize any of its members or as an arena for personal or professional disputes and grievances. Such criticisms and disputes may be valid, but they should be resolved outside the Network. When communicating within the Network, care should be taken to understand the sensitivity of others and all members should always respect each other. Even in case of total disagreement, this must be expressed delicately so as not to offend anyone.

No member or members of the Network may carry out actions with the intention of harming other members. This includes, but is not limited to, the dissemination of confidential information, slander, insults, or any activity that hinders the work performance of other members.

7. NON-VIOLENCE

Bullfighting is fueled and maintained by violence, so the anti-bullfighting movement must oppose violence. The Network must always promote non-violent methods to achieve any anti-bullfighting objective. The Network believes that the total and permanent abolition of bullfighting will never be achieved through violence, nor if the movement is perceived from the outside as violent. This does not mean avoiding all "aggressive" campaign methods or "direct action" activities, as long as the line between "aggressiveness" and "violence" is not crossed and the activities are within the legal framework.

8. TOLERANCE

Although the anti-bullfighting movement may be united in its abolitionist goals, the animal protection movement in general (or other social or political movements) is often divided in both goals and methods. When using the Network, its members must put aside any differences regarding any non-bullfighting issue and tolerate different opinions and positions on such issues. As long as people work for the abolition of bullfighting, their positions on issues such as religion, vegetarianism, veganism, political affiliation, euthanasia, environmentalism, animal rights, animal welfare, etc. should be tolerated.

9. RECOGNITION

The Network is aware that the anti-bullfighting movement is made up of people who work hard and often without pay, and believes that their work and efforts should be duly recognized. Efforts should be made to properly cite and credit everyone's work.

No organization within the Network should claim authorship of an initiative conceived by another entity. If referring to said initiative, the organization must provide due attribution and recognition to the original entity. Likewise, the Network does not take responsibility for the authorship or achievement of an initiative developed by one or more of its members. In all instances, the Network will make clear and publicly recognize the original authors of said initiative, respecting their contribution and intellectual property.

Each organization is committed to using the Network's initiatives in an ethical and respectful manner. This implies transparently reporting on the

origin of said initiatives, avoiding any attempt to claim authorship or act as a spokesperson for it without having been designated to do so, and ensuring that it is clearly recognized that the initiative belongs to the Network as a whole.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

The bullfighting sector would be very interested in knowing what is discussed within the Network, so special care must be taken to avoid any involuntary "leaks", or transmission of information to people outside the Network that could end up harming the Network, its members or its objectives. This is especially important with respect to members' private and personal information. All information shared within the Network, from the simplest to the most important, cannot be shared outside the Network without prior consent and permission.

11. EQUALITY

The Network recognizes equal and respectful treatment of all its members, regardless of whether their work and contributions are different. As long as the principles of the Network are followed, all members have the same rights and duties within the Network.

12. ANIMAL-FRIENDLY CAMPAIGNS

Members of the Network must never forget that the suffering and exploitation of animals are at the heart of the bullfighting issue. Although the forms and methods of anti-bullfighting campaigns can vary greatly and each group should be free to use whatever campaign they see fit, the welfare of any animal should not be "sacrificed" in any way to achieve anti-bullfighting objectives. This means that the use of live animals in campaigns should be avoided.

13. CONSISTENCY

The Network or its members should not associate with organizations or companies known to support bullfighting in any way. Care must be taken to check the relationships that each group may have and their direct and indirect connections with the bullfighting industry.

14. GOOD FAITH

In the exercise of its functions, the Network will presume loyal, faithful, honest and upright behavior of its members. One of the essential elements of this principle implies that the motivations for action of the

members of the Network are towards its objective and not to harm or attack someone. On the other hand, it also applies not only to the information that is shared, but also to possible conflicts that arise, where the voice of a member with a long history or recognition in the Network cannot be assumed to be valid over the testimonies of the other members.