Honorary Consuls' Charter

Part of the honorary consul's job is to represent the dispatching country towards the Israeli public. We, the directorate of the Honorary Consular Corps of Israel (the "Corps Directorate") believe that this obligates honorary consul staff in Israel to behave in a fair, moral and worthy manner. Therefore, we see fit to present this Honorary Consuls' Charter, and thus lay out basic rules of conduct for the Honorary Consuls in Israel. We believe that behavior and conduct in accordance with the rules shall enhance the Honorary Consul's esteem in the eyes of the public, the media, the State of Israel and its institutions. It will also assist in promoting the interests of the dispatching countries, towards deepening the political, economic, commercial, scientific and cultural relations, between the dispatching countries and Israel.

This Charter is designed to guide the honorary consuls operating within the State of Israel. It is based, inter alia, on that which is written in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, and the rules determined by the Board of Directors of the World Federation of Consuls (FICAC).

For the purpose of these rules, the "Dispatching Country" shall be defined as the country that issued the letter of authorization for the honorary consul's service as representative in Israel; correspondingly, the "Receiving Country" for this purpose is the State of Israel.

Article 1:

The honorary consul shall fulfill his position in accordance with the rules laid out in the Vienna Convention and behave, inter alia, with responsibility, fairness, justice, equality and integrity, and refrain from any type of discrimination.

Article 2:

The honorary consul shall obey the laws of the State of Israel. In any case of contradiction between this Honorary Consuls' Charter and the law, the consul shall act in compliance with the law.

Article 3:

When fulfilling his duty (and subject to the laws of the Receiving Country), the honorary consul may fly the flag of the Dispatching Country on his motor vehicles as well as on the honorary consulate.

Article 4:

The honorary consul shall honor the laws and regulatory rules of the Receiving Country, including traffic laws and municipal laws, and cooperate with law enforcement.

Article 5:

The honorary consul shall honor international law, human rights and the provisions of the protocol of the Receiving Country's ministry of foreign affairs.

Article 6:

The honorary consul shall set a personal example, maintain a worthy standard of behavior at all times and, when fulfilling his position, treat any party coming into contact with him with fairness,

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respect and courtesy. The honorary consul shall make sure not to abuse the official resources of his position.

Article 7:

The honorary consul shall refrain from any acts that would constitute harm to the State of Israel or the Dispatching Country, their institutions and their symbols. The honorary consul shall practice fair publication and refrain from any misrepresentations connected with himself, the Receiving Country and the Dispatching Country.

Article 8:

The honorary consul shall be available and respond to relevant inquiries and provide a quick, efficient and worthy response.

Article 9:

The honorary consul shall maintain privacy and take all necessary measures in order to keep confidential the information that comes his way in his capacity as consul. He shall be forbidden to divulge any classified information, except to those authorized by law to receive it.

The honorary consul shall keep documents and archives used by the honorary consul in his capacity as honorary consul separate from other documents, that are irrelevant to the consular service.

Article 10:

The honorary consul shall not use information that comes his way, directly or indirectly, in his capacity as consul, to promote his matters or the matters of any other person illegally.

Article 11:

The honorary consul shall not have a personal interest in the course of his duties, shall not act to his personal advantage and not be in conflict of interest between fulfilling his position and his personal affairs. The honorary consul shall put his consular obligations above his own personal interest, and give notification in any case of conflict of interest as stated to the Dispatching Country and the Corps Directorate.

Article 12:

The honorary consul shall not charge any fees or payments in exchange for consular actions, other than those permitted and authorized by the Dispatching Country.

Article 13:

The honorary consul shall maintain collegial behavior and relations with his colleagues bearing the title Honorary Consul, and assist them in fulfilling their positions, as long as this does not involve any harm to the interests of the Dispatching Country or the State of Israel, and preclude any action liable to harm them and their consular work.

Article 14:

This Charter is intended to add to and clarify the provisions stated in the nonprofit articles of incorporation, the nonprofit law and its regulations, and is subject to them.