## International Political Science Association

## Research Committee on Human Rights

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**BYLAWS**

### **Mission**

1. The Human Rights Research Committee (RC) is a section of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) that pursues the following objectives:

1. develop research on human rights by political scientists and contributors from other disciplines;
2. encourage international and interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration to promote research on human rights;
3. organise and maintain personal contacts among political scientists who work on human rights;
4. disseminate information and publish scholarly research; and
5. provide a framework for cooperation between individuals and organisations concerned with teaching and research on human rights.

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### **Membership**

2. Membership is open to political scientists who are members of national associations affiliated to IPSA, and to individual members of IPSA.

3. The Executive Board of the committee may require the members

a) to pay a small fee to assist in defraying running costs, under the condition that it is made public on the RC website, on the IPSA website or otherwise.

b) the chair of the committee may approach the executive board with the request to review inactive members of the executive board. The inactive member can be removed from the board by 2/3 of the votes by the executive board.

### **Organization and Offices**

4. Ultimate responsibility for the RC rests with its members. The officers act for the Section’s members on a day-to-day basis.

* + - 1. Executive Board. The affairs of the RC shall be directed by an elected board consisting of no fewer than seven and no more than twelve members. The board shall be elected every two years and shall include at least two new members at each election. No officer may remain on as an officer in *the same substantive* capacity for more than four years, and no officer may continue serving on the board for more than a total of eight consecutive years.
			2. Officers. The board membership is consisted of Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary, and four members at large. Each officer is elected for a two-year term.
1. Chair and Chair-elect serve for a maximum of two years in each capacity. The last chair of the board continues to serve on the board as an ex-officio for another two years.
2. The Chair is the primary contact point for the IPSA and serves as the convenor of the research committee, unless the board designates another officer as convenor.
3. The Secretary and other officers can be re-elected to their post or to another post for another two years. They assist the Chair in fulfilling the mission of the RC.
4. **If, for any reason, the elected chair should tender his/her resignation, then the Chair-elect shall assume the responsibilities and appoint an interim Chair-elect to serve until the next scheduled elections. If both the Chair and Chair-elect vacate their posts, then an interim chair is named by the IPSA Executive Council at its next regular meeting, after consultation with the outgoing RC officers. The interim chair is then required to appoint a reconstituted board, which would be responsible for administering the affairs of the RC until its next regular biennial election.**
5. If the position of Chair-elect or another office becomes vacant, the Chair may appoint “interim” officers to fill vacancies until regular elections are held at the next IPSA meeting. The term served as an interim officer does not count toward the person’s years served on the Executive Board.
6. Any member of the Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.
	* + 1. Advisory Board. All former chairs are automatically appointed to the Advisory Board at the end of their term and serve for life, unless they decide to discontinue by submitting their resignation to the Executive Board. Chair and other members of the Executive Board consult the members of the Advisory Board as they deem necessary.

### **Business Meetings and Elections**

5. The business meeting of the RC takes place in conjunction with each biennial meeting of IPSA.

6. Elections of officers take place at each business meeting.

7. At least three months before each election, the Executive Board notifies the members of the RC that it will take place and encourages them to serve as candidates.

8. Any member of the RC may be a candidate for an office or on the Executive Board. A member may nominate herself/himself at any time before an election takes place, but preferably two months before the elections by submitting a note of interest and a short biography to the Secretary. The Executive Board may solicit and nominate additional candidates as necessary.

9. To be elected to an office, the candidate must receive the largest number of votes cast for that office.

10. Immediately after the elections, the Secretary publicly announces the winners and the vote totals for all candidates.

### **Amendments**

11. Any member of the RC may propose an amendment of the bylaws.

12. The Secretary informs members about proposed amendments.

13. After their discussion, amendments are voted on during the business meetings. To be valid, an amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting.