

Mission statement

NDH-**ALEF** believes in the Human value as absolute. Thus the ultimate "raison d'être" of any societal structure is to reflect this belief in attitudes and behaviours, NDH- **ALEF**'s mission is to trigger and contribute to a cumulative process of changing values and attitudes incompatible with the Universal values of Human rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

Strategic goals

In harmony with the mission statement, NDH- **ALEF**'s team set up the following strategic goals for the long term :

- **Become a reference institution** in the field of Human rights and related topics, not only to identify and denounce violations, but also to play the role of a think tank at the service of decision and law makers in Lebanon; to become a proponent of national policies in HR related matters.
- To **change the present popular perception** that HR issues are idealistic and elitist. Through NDH- **ALEF**' projects, the HR values will be brought to become part of the popular scale of values, applicable in every day's perceptions, attitudes and behaviours.
- **Share the experience** acquired in Lebanon at the regional level, after consolidating the Lebanese structure.

Policy of action

- NDH- **ALEF**'s policy is to operate on a **need & right basis**, trying always to conceive projects where other actors are not involved in order to **avoid duplication**.
- **Empowering the civil society** is a must in the framework of the cumulative process of change. Therefore, NDH-**ALEF** strives to interact with the other components of the civil society.
- **Impartiality** is the key to **credibility** which is the corner stone of **efficiency**. NDH-**ALEF** Strongly believes in the freedom of belief, conscience and religion. This of course applies to its volunteers and staff members. Moreover, NDH-**ALEF** encourages its members to be involved in political and civil activities and structures. However, NDH-**ALEF** requires that no judgemental approaches based on political or religious beliefs are made when handling Human rights issues.
- NDH- **ALEF** considers the **youth as the main agents of change** and a reservoir for volunteers for what they represent in terms of potential multiplying effect.

NDH- **ALEF** is committed to give a **special attention to the most vulnerable** groups (in terms of rights), especially if their vulnerability is the result of a social pressures or inequalities.

Officially registered in 2004, "**L'association Libanaise pour l'Éducation et la Formation** (Lebanese Association for education and training) **ALEF**" is a youth led; volunteer based non-governmental organization, which aims at the monitoring, protection and promotion of Human rights in Lebanon.

ALEF team (1997-2003) was active under the institutional name of the volunteer based French non-governmental organization "**Nouveaux droits de l'Homme** (New Human rights) – **NDH**". This was due to the legal constraints in the association law in Lebanon which prohibited youth from establishing NGOs and the arbitrary practices of the Ministry of Interior hindering the official registration of human rights NGOs in specific.

Since 1997, **ALEF** volunteer team has monitored very closely the Human Rights situation in Lebanon. This team, consisting of 15-20 members, worked on 3 major programs to respond to the emerging needs:

- 1- "**Researches and Publications**" which consists of editing and publishing Human rights monitoring reports, studies, and other publications on various Human rights related issues. The following reports were published to date:
 - Annual reports on monitoring Human rights practices in Lebanon (1997, 2001, and 2002)
 - An alternative report submitted, in partnership with the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian rights to the Human rights commission during its session on Lebanon (New York, 1997)
 - A report on the status of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, in partnership with the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian rights (1999)
 - A report on the legislative elections held in the year 2000
 - A report on the Human rights situation in the formerly occupied area in Southern Lebanon after the Israeli withdrawal (2001)
 - A report on censorship (media, books, arts...) in Lebanon (2002)
 - A comparative study on the newly adopted decree governing youth organizations in Lebanon (2003)

- 2- "**Education and Training**"
 - At University level, a Human rights course is being delivered in 3 faculties of 2 Universities (St Joseph University USJ and the Lebanese University)
 - Human rights education at school level through a network of HR clubs (3D clubs) established in 7 schools
 - Non formal education on Human rights by holding customized courses to interested groups (political, social, cultural, religious...etc.)
 - A training program on citizenship for Juvenile offenders detained in the central prison of Roumieh
 - A project thanks to which NDH- **ALEF** was charged by the Council of Europe to translate into the Arabic language "**COMPASS**" a training handbook on HR education published in 2002. The project was implemented in partnership with the Foundation for Human and Humanitarian rights.

- 3- "**Assistance and Intervention**" consisting of a legal counseling component and an individual intervention component along with networking and advocacy at various levels such as media, INGO, UN protection mechanisms, diplomats, governmental stakeholders, parliamentary relevant commissions...etc.

Partnerships *(past & present)*

1- Main institutional partners

- Foundation for Human and Humanitarian rights (Lebanon)
- Council of Europe (Strasbourg/Budapest)
- Save the Children – US (Lebanon's office)
- Human Strategies for Human rights (US based NGO)
- Friederich Ebert Foundation Germany (Lebanon's office)
- Pax Christi Netherlands (Jordan's office)

2- Other partnerships and activities

- Member of the COMPASS (training handbook on HR education) reference group formed by the Directorate of Youth- Council of Europe in 2001
- Active member of the Youth Advocacy Process launched by Save the Children-US in 2001
- Appointed in the Youth policy ad-hoc committee formed by the Minister of Youth and Sports in 2002
- Member of the Lebanese Coalition for the observation of the (legislative) elections in 2005
- Member of the Euromed Youth platform
- Article 12 – Scotland