

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES
HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP/
SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
27th MAY 2019 16:30-19:30

Subdirección General de Archivos de la Comunidad de Madrid

c/ Ramírez de Prado, 3 (91 720 89 83), Madrid, 16:30-19:30

1. Present:

Antonio González Quintana (Chair); Blanca Bazaco Palacios; Deborah Jenkins; David Sutton

Present by Skype: Gustavo Castaner-Marquardt, Roman Lescano, Mariana Nazar

2. Apologies

Jens Boel, Perrine Canavaggio, Trudy Peterson

3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting and was agreed. The Chair proposed an additional item, on ICA's position on the inclusion of archives subject to disputes onto the Memory of the World Register. Should the Section seek clarification on the ICA's official position? It was AGREED that this issue would be considered under the Work Programme item.

It was also agreed that the item on the Section's communication strategy should be taken first, to enable Roman to participate in the discussion by Skype.

4. Communications strategy -- website and social media – key priorities

There followed a wide ranging discussion, focussing on:

a) The SHR pages on the ICA website

It was AGREED that Deb would ask the Secretariat whether the provisional section could start developing its page within the ICA website in the course of the summer.

The following headings were AGREED as subheadings within the SHR pages:

- LATEST NEWS
- WORK PROGRAMME (Projects and events)
- PUBLICATIONS (Professional Resources)
- NEWSLETTER (from 2010)
- GOVERNANCE (Constitution, minutes of meetings, annual reports)
- STEERING COMMITTEE (List of members of committee and any sub committees)
- DIRECTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ARCHIVES
- SHR PARTNERS

- SHR ARCHIVES (To include the work and publications of the Human Rights Working Group)
- LOGO

It was further AGREED that Roman would be the main contact point for all alterations to the SHR pages, once agreement from the Secretariat had been obtained. It was noted that the migration could be difficult. The ICA website was about to migrate to a new platform, so SHR would need to check the relevant dates. As it was intended to run the pages in three languages, English, French and Spanish, effectively three migrations were necessary.

b) Social media

It was AGREED that, in due course, the Section should aim to run both a Facebook account and a Twitter feed. The complexities involved in running the pages in the three languages were discussed.

c) The ICA SHR logo

It was AGREED that Deb would write to Marianne in the ICA Secretariat about creating a logo for the Section. Roman offered to create the Spanish version logo once the English and French ones have been prepared.

d) An SHR blog

While having an SHR blog was considered desirable, it was AGREED that this would be discussed in greater detail further down the line.

e) The connection between the ICA-SHR pages and the ALA Human Rights section

Mariana suggested that there should be a link between the ICA SHR pages and the ALA Human Rights Section page.

f) The Newsletter

There followed a discussion about making more of the Newsletter. Roman suggested adding a search facility over the text of all back copies of the Newsletter. It was AGREED that this should be discussed with Trudy. As it was likely that Trudy would be attending the meeting of the Human Rights council in Geneva around the 26/27th September when the Safe Havens Group were meeting, it was AGREED that David would discuss options with her in Geneva

g) The Human Rights Archives Directory

The content of the 2012 Report which contained a directory of Human Rights Archives across the world was discussed. It was AGREED that the listing should be made available on the ICA SHR pages. Antonio would send a link to the directory to Roman

h) The co-option of IT specialist/webmaster on to SHR Executive Committee

It was AGREED that Roman should be formally co-opted onto the ICA SHR sectional executive committee as its IT specialist/webmaster. Roman agreed to the co-option.

5. Report back on ICA EB meeting in Abu Dhabi, establishing the provisional section on Human Rights

Gustavo and David reported back on the ICA EB held in Abu Dhabi earlier in the Spring, when the conversion of the Human Rights Working Group into an ICA section was discussed both at the ICA EB and at the meeting of Section Chairs. The proposed conversion of the Human Rights Working Group into an ICA section was well received by both the EB and the Section Chairs. The EB agreed that ICA SHR should be established as a provisional section straightaway, with the possibility of converting it to a full section at the meeting in Adelaide,

subject to the submission of a draft constitution for the section. Gustavo emphasised the need for prompt action between now and the Autumn. 'We must seize on this timing'. It was AGREED that Deb would circulate the a draft of the constitution to members of the section immediately, requesting comments by 15th June and that after that date, the draft should be sent to the President, Chair of PCOM and Secretary General for any preliminary comments they might wish to make. The objective is to submit the constitution to the Adelaide EB and General Assembly.

In the course of the discussion, Antonio reported that he had received a message of congratulations from the Secretariat on his election as chair of the provisional section. He also reported that one of the Spanish Professional Associations had agreed to support his costs for Adelaide.

6. Membership drive – priorities

The membership of the provisional section stood at 35. The committee discussed various ways of increasing the membership. The following actions were AGREED:

- Asking the Secretariat about advertising the existence of the provisional section among existing ICA members
- Creating a list of potential partners at organisational level. Antonio offered to start the list.

Antonio had received an enquiry from Peru about issuing certificates which proved affiliation to the section. It was AGREED that this could be done, and Antonio undertook to prepare the certificate.

7. Programme sub-committee -- priorities for the work programme

The current work programme included the following pieces of work:

- Book on Archives and Human Rights. (Perrine and Jens)
- Safe Havens (Trudy)
- Publication of the Commentaries on the Universal Declaration. Antonio reported that he had had a conversation with Trudy about identifying different sources of funding for this publication. He believed that it would be possible to obtain some funding from various Professional Associations. It was AGREED that Antonio would prepare a letter to Normand Charbonneau (ICA PCOM) and Anthea Seles (ICA Secretariat), to find out whether they would approve the publication of the text under the ICA logo/imprint.
- There followed a discussion on the Memory of World project, because of concern about the exclusion from the MoW register of archives about which there were disputes. It was AGREED that Jussi's advice would be sought as a first step.
- Various initiatives in respect of Businesses and Human Rights were taking place, and it was important to knit these activities into a more organised project. Antonio offered to take the lead on this. This was AGREED.
- The publication of the *Guidelines for the reproduction of archives – 'Sample memorandum of understanding: Agreement to Reproduce Archives and Other Historical Material'* was discussed. Deb undertook to raise this with Expert Group on Shared Heritage

8. Seminars with other sections, other ICA entities and partners

A number of seminars, to be run jointly with other ICA entities and partners were discussed and approved:

- Mariana reported on an initiative by the Ecuador National Archive, to be held in November 2019. This was AGREED in principle, and an explanatory email was expected from Mariana soon
- The possibility of a joint seminar with ICA SPO section on Sports and Human Rights, to be held in 2022, was discussed enthusiastically. (It might include Apartheid in Sport, the

boycott of the Moscow games, the Dennis Brutus archive at Brunel University in the UK). It was AGREED that Antonio would get in touch with Fina Sola to finalise the proposal.

- It was AGREED that David would write to Caroline Brown to see whether a joint seminar with ICA SUV might be arranged
- The relationship between ICA SHR and ICA SBA was discussed. It was AGREED that a meeting might be set up in Adelaide to discuss various joint activities, including the statement prepared by HRWG in 2017 on 'Archives, Business and Human Rights'
- The relationship between ICA SHR and the ICA expert group on Shared Heritage was discussed. It was AGREED that a meeting might be set up in Adelaide to discuss possible joint action

9. Preparations for the Adelaide meeting

In addition to submitting the sectional constitution for approval, the following actions were agreed:

- As at least 6 members of the SHR executive Committee would be in Adelaide, a meeting of the SHR Executive Committee would be arranged. Deb to book a room for this meeting
- *Promotion of section in Pacific region of ICA* – It was AGREED that Deb would endeavour to set up a meeting with PARBICA representatives
- Antonio to be invited to attend the Section Chairs' meeting as well as the EB.

10. Financial arrangements for the Section

The financial arrangements for the Section were discussed. At the moment the provisional section did not have a Treasurer or a bank account. It was AGREED to consider this issue after the formal establishment of the Section.

11. Any other business

Two issues were noted:

- The lease of the building in which the Guatemala Police Archives were stored was about to end, and there were some concerns about the future of this archive. It was AGREED that Antonio would draft a statement on behalf of the Section
- There would be a meeting of The Safe Havens project Group and Swisspeace in Geneva on 26th and 27th September