

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE GUIDELINES FOR
PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES
[CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

(Casa Alianza)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CASA ALIANZA

This document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Summit Process to provide information on the Casa Alianza.

It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by this civil society organization (CSO) pursuant to the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.

1. Background:

Casa Alianza, which has its regional office in San Jose, Costa Rica, was founded in Guatemala in 1981, expanded to Honduras and Mexico in 1986, and to Nicaragua in 1998.

Casa Alianza is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and protection of street children in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua. It is the Latin American branch of Covenant House, which has had its headquarters in New York since 1972.

It submitted its application on April 11, 2003.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment:

Name: Casa Alianza / Covenant House Latin America

Address: Apartado 1734-2050
San Pedro, Costa Rica

Telephone: (506) 253-5439

Fax: (506) 224-5689

Web site: www.casa-alianza.org

E-mail: bruce@casa-alianza.org

Regional Director for Latin America: Bruce Harris

Date established: 1981

3. Primary areas of activity of the CSO and their relationship to OAS activities:

Casa Alianza encourages respect for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the American Convention on Human Rights, promoting recognition and understanding of all rights and carrying out activities to prevent violations of the rights of boys and girls, especially street children.

To this end, Casa Alianza's primary areas of activity are to:

- Give food, clothing, and shelter to children, and youth who are homeless or at high risk.
- Offer education, vocational guidance, drug abuse treatment, drug prevention campaigns, legal services, recreation, medical services, counseling, single mother programs, shelter programs, family reintegration programs, assistance to find long-term housing, etc.
- Contribute to the prevention and eradication of trafficking in children and youth.
- Defend rights of children, especially those in difficult circumstances, and submit their cases to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
- Contribute to the elimination of summary and illegal executions of children and youth.
- Provide assistance to child migrants

4. CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS:

Casa Alianza believes it can contribute to OAS activities in the following areas:

- Research, documentation, and presentation of reports on violations of children's rights.
- Promotion of long-term awareness of issues involving children's rights through the organization of educational and conscious-raising programs.
- Advocate for and on behalf of children and youth to improve living conditions of families and children.
- Support the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN).

5. OAS work areas to which the CSO can provide support:

Casa Alianza offers to strengthen its cooperation with the OAS because it feels that by so doing it can contribute to improving the living conditions of children and youth in the hemisphere. It therefore pledges cooperation in the following areas, among others:

- Continue presenting cases of violations of children's human rights to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
- Continue supporting the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN).
- Respond, whenever possible, to specific requests for information or support for carrying out activities originating in the OAS.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO:

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Annual report for 2002
- Financial statement for 2002