

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

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-660/13
29 January 2013
Original: Spanish

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

[El Refugio de la Niñez]

ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST BY *EL REFUGIO DE LA NIÑEZ* TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs/Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *El Refugio de la Niñez* (*Refuge for Children*).

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." This document includes a summary and a list of documentation presented by *El Refugio de la Niñez* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

El Refugio de la Niñez is a nonprofit organization established on March 30, 2009 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, to defend human rights and fight against trafficking in and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

El Refugio de la Niñez provides psychosocial care to sexual violence, exploitation, and human trafficking victims and their family members; organizes programs to support and strengthen family ties; engages in advocacy activities; and provides victims with legal services to restore their human rights.

In 2011, *El Refugio de la Niñez* provided comprehensive care to 108 child and adolescent victims at two shelters (*Lazos de Amor* and *Amor sin Fronteras*) to recover and eventually return them to their families or countries. Those shelters offer educational programs, counseling, and healthcare, as well as a variety of recreational and spiritual activities designed to afford them opportunity to express themselves, build self-esteem, and learn values and [good] manners. The shelters also provide training in baking and sewing as a means of helping them reintegrate into society.

Under its programs to create a safer and more stable family atmosphere, *El Refugio de la Niñez* has a Parenting School program, which seeks to develop on a monthly basis topics of interest related to all forms of violence. In 2011, there were also 379 home visits as part of its social research, visits to connect teens with their families, and follow-up visits to girls and adolescents who have graduated from the program. It also provides adolescents and mothers with family and self-help group therapy.

El Refugio de la Niñez provides legal aid to victims of sexual violence and monitors criminal proceedings and prosecution of perpetrators. In 2011, it collaborated with Guatemala's justice system in 49 trials for sexual violence crimes and 59 for exploitation and human trafficking crimes.

El Refugio de la Niñez engages in advocacy activities to raise awareness and train authorities and officials of Guatemala's justice system, civil society organizations, and international organizations on the issue of sexual violence, exploitation, and human trafficking, with a view to strengthening the legal framework and protecting the human rights of children and adolescents. It is

part of the Social Movement for the Rights of Children and Youth (MOSDENAJ) and participates on the Inter-Institutional Commission against Human Trafficking. It was also represented at the Third Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held October 15-16, 2012 in Guatemala.

El Refugio de la Niñez carries out its activities through projects funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Kinderhilfe, ActionAid, and Plan International.

El Refugio de la Niñez submitted its application to the OAS on September 29, 2012.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of Organization: El Refugio de la Niñez

Address: 3^a Avenida 3-27, zona 1
Guatemala City
Guatemala, C.A., 01001

Telephones: (502) 2253-7976 / 2230-3316

E-mail address: ninez@refugiodelaninez.org.gt

Website: www.refugiodelaninez.org.gt

Executive Director: Leonel Dubon Bendfelt

Date established: March 30, 2009

3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

El Refugio de la Niñez is engaged in defending the human rights of children and adolescents. The main areas of activity and contributions of the CSO that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Promotion of human rights and access to justice for child and adolescent victims of sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking through the provision of legal advice and monitoring in criminal trials of perpetrators;
- Promoting human and social development for girls and women through educational, psychological, and family therapy and professional training to facilitate social integration and self-help; and
- Influencing public policies through the dissemination of articles and press releases reporting acts of sexual violence and exploitation; awareness campaigns for governmental authorities and civil society organizations; and participation in national and international meetings on those topics.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

El Refugio de la Niñez proposes to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Providing the Permanent Council's Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) with information on the human trafficking situation in Central America and recommendations to address it, at Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) and at Meetings of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons;
- Contributing to the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women;
- Providing the Department of Public Security (DPS) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) with information, and sharing with it best practices on successful policies on combating trafficking in persons; and
- Assisting the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) with implementation of its 2011-2015 Work Plan, particularly as related to its programs to combat child and adolescent violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and illicit trafficking in and smuggling of children and adolescents.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General, dated September 29, 2012
- Articles of incorporation
- Statutes
- Mission statement
- Activities report for 2011
- 2011 Financial Statements (signed by Elfego Robles, Accountant; and Leonel Dubon, Executive Director)