

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

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

*[Letra S, Sida, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana, A.C (Letra S)]*

## ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS FOR REGISTRATION BY *LETRA S, SIDA, CULTURA Y VIDA COTIDIANA, A.C* TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Relations with Civil Society Section, Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization (CSO) *LETRA S, SIDA, CULTURA Y VIDA COTIDIANA, A.C (Letra S)* [*Letra S, AIDS, Culture, and Daily Life, A.C (Letra S)*]

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES.759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," and includes a summary and a list of the documentation submitted by *LETRA S, SIDA, CULTURA Y VIDA COTIDIANA, A.C (Letra S)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### 1. **Background**

*LETRA S, SIDA, CULTURA Y VIDA COTIDIANA, A.C (Letra S)* is a nonprofit organization established on October 25, 1995, in Mexico City, Mexico, to promote a society that is respectful of diverse sexual and gender identities and of sexual and reproductive rights. It works to disseminate information on protection of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and intersexual (LGBTI) people.

*Letra S* focuses on the threefold issues of sexuality, health, and society, in particular, matters pertaining to sexual diversity, gender, HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and sexual and reproductive rights.

*Letra S* works in the following areas:

- Human rights: through the creation of forums that provide specialized legal advice and guidance for people living with AIDS and HIV;
- Communication: through the production and publication of digital content on issues pertaining to sexuality and health, disseminated mainly through the NotieSe news agency, as well as the design of books, guides, manuals, and pamphlets to raise awareness of and disseminate justice mechanisms for the LGBTI community;
- Documentation and research: through the Annual Report on Homophobic Hate Crimes, which contains an annual review of national print and digital media, surveys and opinion polls conducted, and press analysis on violations of rights.

*Letra S* creates spaces where LGBTI people and their families can come together and grow, such as "You Can Count on Me, Gay, Lesbian and Trans Youth Group." It also participates in large-scale campaigns against the stigmatization of and discrimination against people living with HIV, a case in point being the photographic exhibition "Una Mirada Positiva" ("A Positive View").

*Letra S* funds its activities with resources from public institutions at the federal level, such as the National Center for AIDS and HIV Prevention and Control (CENSIDA), and at the state level, such as DF Public Health Services; as well as international organizations, the Ford Foundation, the Levi Strauss Foundation, and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

*Letra S* submitted its application for registration with the OAS on August 19, 2016.

**2. Name, address and date of establishment of the organization**

Name of the organization: Letra S, Sida, Cultura y Vida Cotidiana, A.C (*Letra S*)

Address: Canarias No. 45  
Col. San Simón Ticumac  
03660, Mexico City, Mexico

Telephone number: 5532- 2751

E-mail: [dirección@letraese.org.mx](mailto:dirección@letraese.org.mx)

Web page: <http://www.letraese.org.mx/>

General Director: Alejandro Brito Lemus

Date of establishment: October 25, 1995

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

*LETRA S, SIDA, CULTURA Y VIDA COTIDIANA, A.C* – *Letra S* works to promote respect for human rights, in particular sexual and reproductive rights, as well as for diverse sexual and gender identities. The primary areas of activity and contributions of *Letra S* that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Promoting sexual and reproductive rights through the dissemination of information on gender, health, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- Developing solutions to problems identified by communities living with HIV and AIDS through legal assistance and support in the area of human rights;
- Drafting periodic reports and practical guidelines on access to and justice in regard to sexual rights, as well as raising awareness among the general public and authorities about the vulnerability of LGBTI people;
- Facilitating participation by civil society groups in the OAS General Assembly, as well as in the Summits of the Americas and other forums organized by the OAS.

#### **4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS**

*LETRA S, SIDA, CULTURA Y VIDA COTIDIANA, A.C* offers to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Supporting the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), especially its Declaration on Violence against Women, Girls and Adolescents and their Sexual and Reproductive Rights, in order to guarantee sexual and reproductive health care without discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation, as well as overseeing the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of *Belém do Pará*);
- Promoting the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially those related to the promotion of democracy and the protection of human rights in the region, through digital journalism and social media;
- Collaborating with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), particularly its Rapporteurship on the Rights of LGBTI persons, by making visible cases of discrimination and violation of rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression;
- Supporting the efforts of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), by following up on resolution AG/RES. 2802 (XLIII-O/13) on “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of People Vulnerable to, Living with, or Affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas;”
- Collaborating with the Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS in its efforts to disseminate and promote the human rights of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities;
- Participating in hemispheric debates and activities of the OAS with civil society and sending recommendations to OAS member states to serve as input for the OAS General Assembly, the Summit of the Americas, Permanent Council committees, and sessions of the IACHR.

#### **5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary-General dated August 19, 2016
- Letter addressed to the Director of the Department of International Affairs of the OAS dated August 19, 2016
- Articles of incorporation
- By-laws
- Institutional mission statement and vision
- Annual reports for 2014, 2015, 2016
- Financial statements for 2014 and 2015
- Financing sources for 2016