



**Association of Global Humanists & Ethics**  
**(AGHE اے جی ایچ ای)**  
**Pakistan**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AGHE 2007**

**Date:** June 17, 2007    **Time:** 0930 am to 0215 pm    **Venue:** Mir's Lodges Gilgit NAs

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants:**

Twenty two out of thirty members from different parts of the Northern Areas of Pakistan participated in the general body (GB) meeting of AGHE. All the members of association were sent notice of GB meeting via by hand letters, telephonic messages and through the locally published daily and weekly newspapers.

**Agenda:**

Welcome by the Chair	0930 to 0945
Annual Progress Report 2006	0945 to 1030
Review & Amendments in the Rules & Bylaws of AGHE	1030 to 1130
Tea Break	1130 to 1145
Election of Regional Executive Body and Others	1145 to 0100
Approval of Budget & projects 2007-08	0100 to 0130
Speech by ZA Khan "Role of Civil Society Organizations & Future Scenarios"	0130 to 0145
Vote of thanks	0145 to 0150
Lunch	0150 to 0215

**Proceedings**

**SESSION-I** (Annual Progress Report and Review & Amendments in the Rules & Bylaws of AGHE)

**Welcome and sharing of the Annual Progress Report by the President of AGHE**

- The journal body meeting of the association started with the introductory words by a female member named Miss Samina Zahoor who shared the objectives of holding the annual general body meeting as well as agenda of the meeting. She invited Mr. Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah, president of AGHE to preside over the meeting and share the progress of NGO for the year of 2006.
- Mr. Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah thanked all the participants and requested to Mr. Zafar Ali Khan (ZA Khan) to chair the meeting on the behalf of him (president). Mr. Z A Khan the founder member of AGHE accepted his request and presided over the whole meeting's sessions.

- While sharing the progress of AGHE for the year 2006, MR. Hussain president of AGHE said that in spite of all financial and other constraints, we have achieved all targets set for the year 2006. He said that we have not only ach .....Continue from page 1 gets but we also take some need based initiatives keeping in view the requests of other partner NGOs or the needs of the area. While sharing the results of AGHE's initiatives, projects and activities, Mr. Hussain told the meeting participants that by developing the NGO's website, we (AGHE) set a new trend for all the small non-governmental organizations to get exposure at national and international level. He said that the Northern Areas of Pakistan is one of the remotest areas of the country with few ICT facilities so we got benefits from online volunteers' support in the fields of IT, education, and proposal writing etc. He also recognized the work and services of online volunteering (OV) service of UNV and thanked to all the online volunteers who contributed to AGHE activities and projects through the OV Service of UNV.

Whereas, sharing the other results of AGHE's initiatives, he said that the establishment of First Women Aman Jirga (FWAJ) in the Northern Areas of Pakistan is also result of the tiring efforts of AGHE's volunteers especially of women members who worked dedicatedly for the noble cause of peace in the region and mobilized the women at grassroots' level to come out and speak up against the religious extremism, intolerance and sectarian violence. He argued that organizing the peace building seminar for women by the AGHE proved the mile stone for establishment of FWAJ.

Celebration of the Children's Month, was a flagship project of our organization as Mr. Hussain remarked this whilst highlighting AGHE's achievements for the year 2006. He said that the Child Friendly Centre's Project team really done a tremendous job. He further shared with the participants that we are preparing a manuscript on the children rights' to present in the Northern Areas Legislative Council (NALC) for legislation process and protection of children rights in the Northern Areas of Pakistan. He also said that the speaker and majority of the members of NALC including advisor for education and social welfare departments ensured us (AGHE) to make all the necessary legislations regarding the protection of children rights and to eliminate child labour from the region. All these new developments are the result of AGHE's advocacy programme and lobbying for protection of the children rights.

As talking about the protection and promotion of women rights in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, Mr. Hussain said that our organization is more focusing on women and children's rights as these are the most vulnerable groups exist in the area. He further explained that three projects of AGHE which titled as "Women & Family Assistance" project at district Ghizer, "Women Development Centre" at Basin Gilgit and "Child Friendly Centre for out School Girls" Konodass are running and some other projects in the field of educational support, health and legal assistance are in the pipe line and at the planning phase.

Awarding and recognizing the volunteers of AGHE and initiating the Karakoram Volunteer Movement are some other main successes of AGHE in the year 2006 as Mr. Hussain asserted. He updated the members that the organization's website was developed by an online volunteer who was IT specialist from USA, which enabled AGHE to widely disseminate information about its projects and activities, and thus

laid the basis for the organization to network with NGOs worldwide and attract other volunteers. Another online volunteer and community development specialist who was also from USA developed a project proposal and a funding plan for the establishment of the child friendly centre that provided educational and leisure opportunities for children engaged in child labour at Gilgit City. He acknowledged that these online volunteers and complemented the work of national and local volunteers who supported the organization. He said that as all of us know better that in 2006, AGHE organized an award ceremony to recognize the vital contributions of our volunteers – one of the online volunteers was honored as “Volunteer of the Year 2006”.

He concluded his speech by saying that the local, national and international NGOs’ networks are acknowledging our work and appreciating our job which has made or making the difference. He said that it is interesting point to be noted that AGHE always led to float, initiate and implement the new and need based ideas in the Northern Areas of Pakistan which never have been floated, initiated or implemented in the true sense or spirit. At the end he appealed to all the members of AGHE to show their professional commitment towards love for humanity, struggle for protection of basic human rights and achieving the aims and objectives of the Association of Global Humanists & Ethics (AGHE).

#### *Review & Amendments in the Rules & Bylaws of AGHE*

After the speech of Mr. Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah, the chairman as per agenda of the meeting allowed to present a draft manuscript of new rules and bylaws of for reviewing and getting approval from the general body of AGHE. It was announced that general secretary of AGHE, Mr. Musa Baig was assigned this task to present new rules and bylaws before the GB but he had to left for Islamabad due to an urgent peace of work after attending the very earlier part of this GB meeting. So, the chairman, asked to the president of AGHE, Mr. Hussain to present the draft manuscript of rules and bylaws of AGHE.

While presenting and sharing the manuscript of rules and bylaws of AGHE, Mr. Hussain suggested that it would be better to work in groups and read each and every portion of the manuscript. But majority of the members, while disagreeing with Mr. Hussain’s suggested that the new proposed rules and bylaws of AGHE must be read and explained in louder voice to save the time. So, Mr. Hussain explained the new proposed rules and bylaws of AGHE thoroughly after reading and explaining each and every chapter of the bylaws. After this activity the participants of the meeting were given time to ask questions for further clarifications and their satisfaction.

During the questions answers session, the participants arose so many questions and debated on various articles, sub articles and showed their concerns on some overall aspects of the new presented rules and bylaws of AGHE. They also suggested some new additions and amendments in the rules and bylaws of AGHE which were finally included in the approved rules and bylaws of AGHE.

While explaining the newly presented rules and bylaws of AGHE, president of AGHE said that actually the executive body of AGHE after discussion with many lawyers, bylaws experts and AGHE’s founder members realized that there are some

ambiguities, flaws and legal limitations in the previous approved bylaws of AGHE that is why we have had to review the bylaws of AGHE so that our bylaws might meet the standards of national and international level NGOs. He further explained the reasons behind reviewing the bylaws that as we have planned to established our central office at Islamabad and have also plan to extend the AGHE's activities in other parts of Pakistan in near future therefore we required to make some necessary amendments in the organizational structure, membership policy and categories and in the matters of property, finance and accounts.

After a warm discussion, critical analyses, putting some very important suggestions, and making all the necessary amendments, finally the members who were present in the meeting approved the new rules and bylaws of AGHE with majority of their votes. At the end of 1<sup>st</sup> session before the tea break, Mr. Ijaz Hussain once again ensured all the members that there has not been made any change in the basic aims and objectives of AGHE which were being determined in 2005 when the association was established.

Another announcement before the tea break was made regarding the election of regional executive body of AGHE Northern Areas of Pakistan. All the members were asked to nominate their favourite candidate/s for the various positions of regional executive body of the NAs' region. They were also allowed for lobbying and convincing for their candidate/s during the interval of tea break.

SESSION-II Election of Regional Executive Body NAs, other decisions and approval of budget & projects 2007-08

### *Election of Regional Executive Body (REB) and Others*

After the tea break, an election committee was formed which comprised of three members of the general body, Mr. Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah (president), Raja Karamatullah (vice-president) and Mr. Z.A. Khan (founder member of AGHE). All the members of election committee as per rules and bylaws of AGHE were not entitled to cost their vote for the election of regional executive body. The chairman once again reminded all the participants to nominate their candidate for different positions of the office bearers of REB of AGHE-NAs. The participants were once again allocated fifteen minutes for thinking and lobbying. The procedure for election was decaled as costing vote by showing hand.

After the fifteen minutes, the chairman asked the participants to nominate their candidate for the positions of REB-AGHE-NAs. So, two candidates were nominated for the position of president however after that one of the nominees voluntarily declared his withdrawal in favour of Mr. Shuakat Akber Khan (SA Khan) of district Ghizer and therefore Mr. SA Khan was declared as unopposed president of the regional executive body of AGHE Northern Areas (NAs) of Pakistan.

The participants of general body meeting of AGHE also nominated their candidates for the positions of general secretary, finance secretary, joint secretary, and secretary publicity and there was no competition for these positions. Therefore, the house elected Mrs. Zaba Nisa as vice president, Mr. Abdul karim of district Gilgit as general

secretary, Mr. Arif Mehmood from Hunza as finance secretary, Mr. Gulzar Ali from Baltistan as joint secretary and Mr. Irshad Ahmad from District Diamer as secretary publicity unanimously. Anyhow, there was tough competition between a male candidate and a female candidate for the position of coordinator as there was clear cut division between the opinions of members thus the election committee decided to hold voting through show of hands procedure. As a result of voting, Mrs. Ra,ana Almas was elected for position of the coordinator of REB-AGHE-NAs as she obtained fourteen votes. In this way the procedure of election of the regional executive body NAs was completed. The new elected members of REB took oath for the term of next three years. Mr. ZA khan took oath from the newly elected members.

### Other Decisions

The general body of AGHE took some other important decisions during the annual meeting 2007. The most important decision was made in relation to formation of supervisory executive bodies at central and districts' level. So, two members from each districts, Gilgit, Ghizer, Ghancha and Diamer were selected for the positions of president and general secretary. A list of names with designations of the members of District Executive Bodies (DEBs) is attached. (**See annex A**). It was also decided that supervisory DEBs shall work for coming six months and during that tenure, the related District Executive Body (DEB) shall effort to increase numbers of its memberships and then after the six months there shall be a meeting of district general bodies (DGBs) which shall elect the full-fledged DEBs for three years.

The general body of AGHE also decided to form a supervisory central executive body for the period of one year. Six names from different provinces and areas of Pakistan were announced for the Central Executive Body (CEB) which were finalized and declared as member of CEB for one year. The list of names with designations of members of CEB is also attached. (**See annex B**). In addition, it was decided that the CEB shall be responsible for increasing memberships at country level as well as it was decided to establish central office of AGHE at Islamabad within forthcoming fiscal year 2008-09.

### Approval of budget & projects for 2007-2008

After the election and oath ceremony of regional executive body of AGHE Northern Areas and formation of supervisory executive bodies at central and district level, the newly elected president of REB-NAs, Mr. Shoukat Akber Khan, presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008 to seek approval from the general body. He also presented the project and activities for the year 2007-2008 to seek approval from the general body. The main projects and activities proposed for the year were "Women And Family Assistance" project at district Ghizer, establishment of "Women Development Centres" at various districts of NAs, Prisoners Welfare & Education" project at central jail Gilgit and organizing a conference on the subject of elimination of violence against women. The general after discussion on various aspects of the budget and projects for the year 2007-2008, approved all the proposed and running projects and budget.

After the budget session, founder member of AGHE, writer of a book and well renowned scholar and educationalist, Zafar Ali Khan, delivered a speech under the theme “Role of Civil Society Organizations & Future Scenarios”. He highlighted the role of NGOs in the fast changing human society. He speculated that only those civil society organizations will flourish who are working for betterment of whole mankind and their manifesto is above than all the prejudices like region, religion, ethnic, cost and creed system etc. He appreciated the role of AGHE for taking so particle initiative towards betterment of human values, rights and setting new trends and ideas in the civil society organizations at the Northern Areas’ level. After his presidential address and speech, Mrs. Zaib-U-Nisa, the vice president of REB-AGHE-NAs presented vote of thanks and towards the end at 2:15 pm, the chairman announced the formal closing of the annual general body meeting of AGHE for the year 2007.

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The Minutes Recorded By  
Abdul Karim  
General Secretary, AGHE NAs

Reviewed & Approved By  
Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah  
President of AGHE Pakistan

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