

Mandate

"It shall defend freedom of thought and expression in the field of historical research and teaching, and is opposed to the misuse of history and shall use every means at its disposal to ensure the ethical professional conduct of its members."

International Committee of Historical Sciences,
Constitution, Article 1 (1926, as amended in 1992 and 2005).

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Mandate

What does NCH do?

NCH (established on 13 October 1995) serves as a link between concerned historians and human rights organizations. It wants to be independent and universal. It deploys activities in three fields:

Action

NCH forwards to its participants urgent actions for persecuted and censored historians (and others who write about the past) issued by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Amnesty International, Article 19, Human Rights Watch, Index on Censorship, International PEN Writers in Prison Committee, the Network of Education and Academic Rights, and Scholars at Risk.

Information

NCH forwards to its participants news about the domain where history and human rights intersect, as reported by the international human rights organizations listed above and other sources. The fact that NCH presents this news does not imply that it shares the views and beliefs of the historians and others mentioned in it.

Research

NCH collects data on persecuted and censored historians—preferably by electronic mail—and forwards them to the appropriate human rights organizations listed above. NCH does not produce action-oriented information itself. It has no funding and no research capacity to do this.

Principles

<i>Universality</i>	NCH works for <i>bona fide</i> historians everywhere, regardless of where they live, in democratic or non-democratic countries...
<i>Impartiality</i>	...and regardless of who they are, mainstream historians or their opponents.
<i>Independence</i>	NCH receives no subsidies.
<i>Distance</i>	Presenting information does not imply that NCH shares the views of historians (or others) mentioned in it.

How does NCH work?

The Network is activated on an ad-hoc basis, i.e. each time an urgent action is issued by the human rights organizations mentioned above. Members of NCH are encouraged to take part in the actions in their professional capacity. It is warmly recommended that they inform colleagues and historical journals of cases and actions reported by NCH. A report is circulated once a year (the *Annual Report*).