



THE FREEMUSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021
Freemuse
Jagtvej 223, 3th floor
2100 København Ø
DENMARK

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Honourable General Assembly,

Convening of the General Assembly in Violation of the Freemuse Charter

We, the two Freemuse members, Anders Hovind (Safemuse Chair) and Jan Lothe Eriksen (Safemuse General Manager) hereby forward the following Urgent Motion for the Freemuse's General Assembly Meeting 11. December 2021 for assessment and processing by the General Assembly, with reference to the Freemuse Charter § 4.2 j):

URGENT MOTION:

The General Assembly Meeting of Freemuse, convened at the 11 December 2021, acknowledges with regret that the present members of the organization's Executive Committee have violated the following provisions of the organization's charter:

§ 3.3 by

- *a lack of control over the former Executive Director's financial and administrative dispositions, and thereby have*
- *jeopardized the organization's reputation and standing,*
- *seriously endanger the organization's financial funding base,*
- *allowing a decimation of the organization's overall competence by approving a personnel policy that has led to an extreme turnover of staff;*

§ 4.2 by

- *convening a General Assembly in violation of the organization's charter by:*
- *announcing only online General Assembly and no physical option;*
- *violating the time schedules prescribed for the call for the Assembly and the election process;*
- *illegitimate censoring of legally proposed motions, not making them available for the members/ e.g. General Assembly for assessment and processing,*
- *Illegitimate editing of legally forwarded motions, and not making the original motions available for the members/ e.g. General Assembly for assessment and processing,*
- *rejecting legally nominated and confirmed candidates for the Executive Committee and not promote these in standing for election.*

In view of these serious breaches by the Executive Committee of the Freemuse Charter, this General Assembly Meeting cannot be accepted as lawfully convened. In this extraordinary situation, the following is adopted by this meeting:

Safemuse - Safe Havens for Artists

Web: www.safemuse.org | www.lidio.no | www.musicfreedomday.no | www.safeseries.no | www.frikunst.org
E-mail: post@safemuse.org | Tel.: (+47) 928 24 115 | Org.number.: 913 078 802 | Bank account: 9041 24 45243
Address: c/o Sentralen, Pb. 183 Sentrum, 0102 Oslo, NORWAY

This meeting elects a new Interim Board consisting of three [3] members that does not contain members from the existing Executive Committee. This Interim Board is instructed to prepare and convene a new General Meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, § 4.2, no later than the end of May 2022.

The General Meeting is superb in electing members for this Interim Board.

The following representatives are elected:

- *
- *
- *

Oslo 7 December 2021



Anders Hovind
Chair
Safemuse



Jan Lothe Eriksen
General manager
Safemuse



Freemuse
 Mr Srinak Pijpat and
 The Executive Committee
 Jagtvej 223, 3th floor
 2100 København Ø
 DENMARK

Sent as e-mail to: freemuse@freemuse.org

Your ref.:

Our ref.: 20210610-AH-Je-qbt

Date: 10 May 2021

Freemuse – development and profile

Freemuse is, in our view, by far the most important non-governmental organization in the world, within the sector working with artistic freedom and freedom of expression for artists. Freemuse has been a spearhead, trendsetter and inspirator in the sector, and a decisive factor in improving the situation of many individual artists.

Safemuse now turns to you, and writes as friend and partner because we are concerned about the direction Freemuse has taken, and we are afraid that the long-term build-up of expertise in your staff, and the general position of the organization will erode. The work that Freemuse does must be continued and further developed for the benefit of artists around the globe.

The initiative in 2011 to establish Safemuse - Safe Havens for Artists was sparked by the global documentation-work done by Freemuse. The following formal forming of Safemuse in 2013, as a solidarity and collegially act from professional artists' environments in Norway towards persecuted artists around the world, happened after close dialogue and cooperation with Freemuse. The idea behind Safemuse was to develop an organization complimenting Freemuse's documentation and advocacy work, and offer safe placements, giving persecuted artists the possibility to work and develop artistically in safe surroundings with artistic freedom.

Since the beginning Freemuse has been one of our closest professional partners, and we have completed a number of successful residencies and projects based on the selection of artists recommended by Freemuse. Through thorough assessments of residence candidates' individual cases and backgrounds, made in close contact and cooperation with Freemuse's professional and artistically competent staff, we have ensured that the residencies and projects we have offered guest artists, has been of high quality.

To successfully tailor Safemuse's residencies and projects, and prepare the residency periods in the best possible way, we don't only depend on a thorough understanding of the human rights issues and background, in the case of the individual artist, we also need to be informed in a qualified way of the artist's artistic activity, genre and artistic direction, professional level and ambitions.

This has been the distinct quality of our work, in contrast to a number of other actors in this area, to take the artist and the artistic work, development opportunities and professional ambitions seriously, and not only work with the human rights perspective in mind. Until lately we have conducted this work in close cooperation with Freemuse, but the development of the organization these last years has made us worried about the willingness to sustain and develop the professional competence within Freemuse, including the understanding of the artistic issues and perspectives in our common work.

Safemuse - Safe Havens for Artists

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Our concerns

We were extremely worried when the first general assembly, after the change of director, terminated the positions of every member of the previous Executive Committee. From our point of view this could not have been motivated by poor leadership by the previous board, or other professional conditions. To us this testifies to a fundamental distrust of the work that has been done in building and developing Freemuse.

In recent years, we have also witnessed a worrying turnover within the Freemuse administration, with a constant change of staff. These conditions must make it impossible to create a good organizational culture building competence and trust, and developing credibility and securing continuity in the cooperation with partners. This leads us (and probably other partners) to constantly having to explain basic information to new staff at Freemuse and it makes our collaboration inefficient, and at times both difficult and demanding.

Shifts and replacements within the board and administration of an organization is healthy and important, but such a large turnover of employees indicates a poor working environment with poor trust and security. Throwing over board the entire Executive Committee at once testifies to a lack of understanding for the need to facilitate continuity and ensure competence building in a complex and broad area of work.

Safemuse has already expressed our great concern directly to the Executive Director when it comes to the weak artistic competence within the present Executive Committee and the administration. We are aware that the organization is about to prepare a new general assembly later this year.

On this background, we urge Freemuse's Executive Committee to take the necessary steps to secure the organization's future, and to restore trust in the organization, for the good of the cause we are all passionate about: artistic freedom and artist's well-being and safety all over the world.

Best regards
Safemuse – Safe Havens for Artists


Anders Hovind
Chair


Jan Lothe Eriksen
General manager