RHA
ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY of ARTS
Acadamh Ibeirneach Ríoga na nEalaíon

Statement of Vigilance and Human Rights Commitment

Approved by Council on 16th April 2026.
For ratification at the Annual General Assembly, 14th October 2026.

Statement of Vigilance and Human Rights Commitment

The RHA, as an arts organisation, is committed to dignity, creativity and the common humanity of all people. It reaffirms its unwavering respect for the fundamental rights articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the broader body of international human rights law. We recognise the binding and foundational nature of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and we affirm our vigilance in upholding the protections they guarantee.

We further affirm our strong commitment to the legal norms embodied in the Geneva Conventions (and their Additional Protocols) for the protection of civilians, prisoners of war, wounded and sick in armed conflict. We recognise that the Geneva Conventions constitute the cornerstone of international humanitarian law and that respect for them is essential for any conflict-affected society.

Additionally, we affirm our regard for the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the Genocide Convention) as the supreme pledge by the international community never to descend again into the annihilation of a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. We hold it as our moral duty to remain alert to signs of genocidal intent and to support the rule of law in preventing and punishing such crimes.

In this context, we place on record our high regard for the judgments and rulings of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). We believe

these institutions—though imperfect—offer vital mechanisms for accountability, truth-seeking, reparation and the prevention of future atrocities. We support their role as vehicles of international justice, recognising that art and culture too have a part in bearing witness, fostering memory, and promoting reconciliation.

As an arts organisation, we commit to:

1. Ensuring that our programming, partnerships and commissioning policies reflect our respect for human dignity, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability.

2. Supporting practitioners, artists and communities affected by conflict, displacement, persecution and genocide in ways that foreground their agency, memory, creativity and voices.

3. Collaborating with human rights, humanitarian and legal-accountability organisations to raise awareness of the laws of war, the Genocide Convention and the Geneva Conventions, and to highlight the connections between cultural expression, memory and justice.

4. Ensuring that any collaborations or funding sources we engage with are screened against involvement in practices that may contribute to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide—recognising that complicity can also lie in indirect support, funding or legitimisation of such practices.

5. Promoting in our public communications the principle of "never again"—that genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity must not be tolerated—and using our platform to foster reflection, education and action.

We invite our supporters, funders, partners and audiences to join us in this endeavour, so that the arts may serve both as a haven for the generation of meaning and as an unassailable clarion for justice.

Signed on behalf of RHA, 14th October 2026

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