

The SafeMUSE Charter

- 1) **SafeMUSE** - Safe Music Havens Initiative is a non-profit project under the auspices of the Musicians' Union of Norway (MFO) with the aim of developing an independent international organization of member cities and regions that offer safe havens for persecuted artists within the field of music, i.e. anyone in any country active in the performance and/or composition of music and/or music lyrics and/or the preservation and/or transmission of traditional music in any form over any media and/or in public performance.
- 2) **SafeMUSE** builds on and supports the universal principles of human rights as they apply to the rights of musicians and their music as expressed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, advancing freedom of expression, defending democratic values and promoting international solidarity in the field of music. Article 19 of the Human Rights Declaration is foundational to SafeMUSE and affiliated cities/regions and their guest artists:
Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
- 3) **Any persecuted artist** within the field of music can apply to become a SafeMUSE guest artist within the SafeMUSE framework developed in close cooperation with FREEMUSE – the World Forum on Music and Censorship. The applicant is either:
 - a) At risk as a direct consequence of his/her musical activity – whether in danger of being killed, abducted, physically attacked or “disappeared”.
 - b) Sentenced to (or at risk of being sentenced to) a prison term by the authorities in her/his country as a direct consequence of his/her musical activity.
 - c) Unable to express her/him self freely through his/her music for fear of persecution due to actual or probable actions of the government or non-government entities of the country where he/she resides.
- 4) **Any city or/and region** can apply to become affiliated with SafeMUSE. The SafeMUSE affiliated cities/regions provide protection for persecuted musicians by inviting, hosting and integrating them into their local communities and relevant artistic environments, thus providing appropriate professional artistic opportunities and possibilities for the artist.
- 5) **SafeMUSE and the SafeMUSE affiliated cities/regions and their guest artists** connect in a global network of solidarity, creativity and mutual interaction.
- 6) **SafeMUSE and the SafeMUSE affiliated cities/regions and their guest artists** will, after an agreed pilot period, reorganise as an independent international organisation of member cities/regions and their guest artists.