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LAW No. (33) FOR THE YEAR 1966
SOCIETIES AND SOCIAL BODIES LAW

NAME OF THE LAW & COMMENCEMENT OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS

ARTICLE 1 : *This law shall be called (The Societies & Social Bodies Law for the year 1966) . It shall come into force one month after its publication in the official gazette .*

EXPRESSIONS

ARTICLE 2*: *The following words and phrases mentioned in this law shall have the meanings assigned thereto unless the context denotes otherwise :*

The word (Minister) means the Minister of Social Development .

The word (Ministry) means the Ministry of Social Development .

The word (Director General) means the Director General of the Social Development .

The word (Governor) means the Administrative Officer .

The phrase (Charitable Society) means any body composed of seven persons or more whose main object is to organize its efforts for the purpose of offering and affording social services to the citizens without aiming from its activity or operation at gaining and obtaining ordinary profit and distributing it or procuring personal benefit or fulfilling any political objects . This definition does not include the political societies , associations or bodies which are established in accordance with a special law .

** The text of this law was amended in accordance with the law No. (9) for the year 1971 published in the official gazette No. (2285) issued on 1/3/1971 , page (292) .*

*** This text was amended in accordance with an amended law No. (26) for the year 1986 published in the official gazette No. (34.2) issued on 1/6/1986 .*

* The phrase (**Social body**) means every body composed of seven persons or more which affords social services whether those services were scientific , training or charitable . This definition includes the social centers provided that its object is serving the human society without acquiring the ordinary profit , distributing it , realizing any personal benefits or fulfilling any political objectives .

** The phrase (**Ordinary Society or Body**) means any body composed of seven persons or more whose object is to render and organize services to the citizens or to any group of them .

The charitable societies , sports , cultural and social clubs or scout organizations , the Minister of Interior shall exercise the powers and authorities vested in the Minister of Social Affairs in accordance with the original law as regards the ordinary societies and ordinary bodies .

The phrase (**Unified society , or , Unified Social Body**) means any society or social body composed by way of combining two charitable societies or two social bodies or more of the charitable societies or the social bodies registered in accordance with the provisions of this law .

The phrase (**Provisional Union of the Charitable societies**) means any charitable society established by way of combination of three charitable societies or more registered in accordance with the provisions of this law within one province provided that the charitable societies combined to the union in their legal personality and the basic object of the union is coordinating the voluntary work among the charitable societies combined to it for strengthening , activating and developing the social awareness for the purpose of establishing other charitable societies in the province .

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The phrase (**General Union of the Charitable societies**) means the national body which represents the group of the provincial unions in the Kingdom whose basic aim is coordination of efforts of the provincial unions associated with its membership , promotion of the level of the social service in the Kingdom , and contribution to the social planning on the national level .

The phrase (**Specific Union**) means any three charitable societies or social bodies or more of the local charitable societies or social bodies which form among themselves a specific or qualitative union provided that the services which they offer are similar to each other and that the basic aim from the qualitative union is coordination of the efforts , unification of the services and development of the social awareness .

The phrase (**Articles of Association**) means bylaws of the charitable society , social body or the union ; and the phrase (**Foreign Society**) means any social body or charitable society whose head office is outside the Kingdom's borders or more than half of members of its administrative body are non Jordanians .

The phrase (**Social Service**) means for the purposes of this law any service or activity offered voluntarily and willingly leads to improving cultural , educational , health , physical , spiritual , social or technical levels of the citizens in the society .

RELIGIOUS BODIES & CONGREGATIONS

ARTICLE 3 * :

a-Notwithstanding the provisions of this law , the matters and powers relating to the sport , social and cultural clubs as well as the societies and the ethical and technical leagues , actors group and the societies of the mere cultural character .

b- Professional bodies and the bodies specialized in the different sections of science .

* The text of this law was amended in accordance with the provisional law No. (9) for the year 1978 published in the official gazette No. (2785) issued on 16/5/1978 , page (1380) .

JURISTIC PERSONALITY

ARTICLE 4 : After registration of the charitable society or the social body in accordance with provisions of this law , it acquires a legal recognized juristic personality entitling it the right to sue and prosecute and to carry out any other work permitted by its articles of association .

FORMATION OF THE CHARITABLE SOCIETIES AND SOCIAL BODIES

ARTICLE 5 : No charitable societies or social bodies may be formed except by a permission in writing from the Minister in accordance with the provisions of this law .

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES , SOCIAL BODIES OR UNIONS

ARTICLE 6 : 1- Every charitable society , social body or union must submit an application to the Minister for its registration accompanied by its articles of association which must include the following particulars :

- a- name of the charitable society or the social body or the union and address of its head office and branches .*
- b- Names of the founding members , their professions , ages and places of residence provided that the age of each one must not be less than 21 .*
- c- The principal objectives in a detailed and cleared manner for which it was formed and any other objectives the charitable society or the social body or union attempt to realize in accordance with the provisions of this law .*
- d- Conditions of membership , contributions of the members and manner of abolishing their membership .*
- e- Manner of electing the Board of Directors which shall undertake the works of the charitable society , social body or the union and control on their affairs and functions .*
- f- Manner of meeting of the General Assembly .*
- g- Manner of controlling and arranging the financing affairs of the charitable society, social body or the union.*
- h- Manner of solving or disbanding the charitable society , the social body or the union .*

- 1- Manner of dealing with funds of the charitable society , or the social body or the union upon its liquidation provided that this dealing will not go beyond objectives of the charitable society , social body or the union and that such funds shall be spent within limits of the Kingdom ; but if became impossible to achieve what has been provided for in the Articles of Association of the charitable society , social body or the union in this respect , the Minister shall decide the manner of dealing with those funds after seeking the opinion of the General Union of the Charitable Societies , the Provincial Union or the branch union of the social bodies (if any) .
- 2- The Minister may , before registration of the charitable society , social body or the union , seek the opinion of the Governor who is required to give his comments on same within a period of 30 days utmost .

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION :

ARTICLE 7*: 1- The application for registration of a charitable society , social body or union , shall be submitted addressed to the Minister on ten copies at Office of the Social Development in the district in which center of the charitable society , social body or union is located . Director of the Office must send the application to the General Director accompanied by his comments thereon within a period of utmost thirty days from the date of submission of the application to him provided that he must seek in this respect the opinion of the provincial union of the charitable societies or the qualitative union if any .

2- The Director General shall submit the application for registration to the Minister within fifteen days from the date of receiving it supported by his recommendations on it ; the Minister shall issue the decision which he sees proper in respect of the application within a period not exceeding three months from the date of sending it to him.

* The text of this law was amended in accordance with the provisional law No. (46) for the year 1976 published in the official gazette No. (2646) issued on 1/8/1976 , page (1858) .

THE UNIFIED SOCIETY OR THE UNIFIED SOCIAL BODY

ARTICLE 8: *Two charitable societies or two social bodies or more of the registered charitable societies or social bodies may be amalgamated and unified together subject to the following terms :*

a- That more than two thirds of members of the General Assembly of the charitable society or the social body who have the right of voting shall cast votes .

b- That the amalgamation shall not prejudice the right of any of the creditors of the amalgamated charitable societies or the social bodies .

UNION OF THE CHARITABLE SOCIETIES OR THE SOCIAL BODIES OR THE QUALITATIVE UNION

ARTICLE 9: *1- Three charitable societies , social bodies or more of the registered charitable societies or social bodies may form among themselves a provincial union or a qualitative union provided that the following be available:*

I- That the union shall not be achieved unless the majority of the members of the General Assembly of the charitable society or the social body wishing the union and who have the right to vote , suggested the same .

II- If more than half of the number of the charitable societies or the social bodies in any province have united in the form of a provincial union , the other societies or social bodies which are registered in the province as being joined to that union after receiving a notice in writing in this respect from the Minister , then each one of them shall be considered to be a member in the union and subject to the provisions of its articles of association.

- * 2- No charitable society , social body or union of the registered charitable societies or the social bodies or the unions may take part or join any society or body or club located outside the Kingdom except by a decision from the Council of Ministers upon the choice of the Minister and recommendation of the Director General and the General Union of the Charitable Societies .
- 3- No more than one provincial or qualitative union may be established for the charitable societies and social bodies registered in one province .

APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF SIXTH & SEVENTH ARTICLES

ARTICLE 10 : Provisions of Articles 5 & 7 hereof shall be applied to the unified charitable societies and unified social bodies and the different kinds of unions subject to the following :

1- The application for registration shall be signed by the unified charitable societies or the original social bodies or their secretaries ; the application must contain the following :

a- The name of each charitable society or social body or union and the name of the Union Charitable or Union Bodies or Unions in all kinds .

b- Number of members who have the right to vote in each charitable society or social body or union of the charitable societies or social bodies or the original union as a result of voting for each of them .

c- The arrangements which have been adopted in respect of the funds which were in their possession .

2- The Minister may register the unified charitable society or the unified social body or the different kinds of qualitative unions if he is satisfied that provisions of articles Six & Seven hereof have been observed .

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CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

ARTICLE 11 * : Every charitable society or social body or union shall be given a certificate of registration signed by the Minister and stamped by his seal together with an authenticated copy of the articles of association of the society , body or union and by publishing a notice in the official gazette gratis .

REGISTRATION

ARTICLE 12 : If after termination of a period of three months since receipt of the application by the Ministry without the applicants having received a notice about the result or a demand for additional particulars or due to the presence of legal insufficiencies in the application or the presented articles of association , then they shall have the right to start working as if the charitable society , social body or the union have been duly registered .

REGISTRATION OF THE CHARITABLE SOCIETIES , SOCIAL BODIES & THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF UNIONS

ARTICLE 13 ** : The Ministry shall for this purpose , keep a register for all the registered charitable societies , social bodies and unions in which they must record their names , centers of activity , objectives and any other information which the Minister consider necessary .

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THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF UNIONS

*ARTICLE 14 *:* The relation of the department with the charitable societies , social bodies and the different kinds of unions shall be based on cooperation and participation in securing the social services and promoting their level ; The Director General or any officer delegated by him may visit the place of any charitable society , social body or union and examine their register and papers to get sure they are carrying out their works according to the requirements of this law and proceeding in conformity with the determined objectives .

REGISTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

*ARTICLE 15** :* The board of Directors of any charitable society , social body or union must :

1- Keep its correspondence in the head office and the branches in well arranged files and registers containing in a regular manner the following data :

a- Articles of Association and names of members of the Board of Directors in every electoral session and the date of their election .

b- Names of all the members mentioning their identity , ages and date of joining .

c- Minutes of meetings of the General Assembly in a serial manner .

d- Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors in a serial manner .

e- Account of revenues and expenditures in a detailed manner .

f- Requisites and assets .

2- To inform the Director General through office of the social development in the area of its works about every change or amendment made in its position , articles of

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association or change in the board of administration wholly or partially subject to the following terms :

a- That the modification or alteration of the Article of Association shall not be effective except after approval in writing of the Minister and after seeking the opinion of the authorized union .

b- That the change of the board of directors wholly or partially shall not be effective except after approval of the Minister in writing and seeking the opinion of the governor or the provincial officer

3*- Every charitable society , social body or union must submit to the Minister through office of the social development in the area of its work an annual report on two copies showing in it its works and total of the amounts which it spent for attaining its objects , and sources of its resources and any other information which it is required to submit as per the form prepared by the department plus sending a copy of this report to the responsible union .

4** - The charitable society , social body or union must have a certificate from a chartered accountant who examines its accounts (including accounts of the branches once a year at least) . But the charitable society , social body or union whose budget does not exceed five hundred Dinars may request the director general to choose one of its officers to undertake examination of its accounts and to give the required certificate gratis ; The charitable society , social body or union must , however , in both cases , send to the director general two approved copies of this certificate and a copy to the concerned union within one month from the date of its issue .

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DISSOLUTION

- ARTICLE 16 * :** 1- The Minister upon option of the Director General and seeking opinion of the responsible union may order dissolution of any charitable society , social body or union if he is satisfied that it violated :
- a- Its article of association , or
 - b- Did not achieve the purposes provided for in its articles of association or if it suspended its works for a period of six months or it failed to carry out its works , or
 - c- Refused to allow the responsible person to attend its meetings , examine its place , registers or documents , or
 - d- Dealt with its funds in a way other than the way specified for it , or
 - e- Presented to the official competent authorities false accounts , or
 - f- Generally contravened any of the provisions of this law , or
 - g- If one third of members of the general assembly who have the right to vote have casted vote on that .
- 2- The Minister must notify in writing the society , social body or union whose registration is intended to be canceled in one month at least prior to the dissolution provided that the responsible union be informed about that .
- 3- The order for dissolution shall be sent to the charitable society , social body or union through the governor .
- 4- Upon receipt of the order of dissolution by the charitable society , social body or union it must suspend all its works from the date of receiving the order on it .

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ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTICLE 17 * : The chairman of the charitable society , social body or union shall notify the Director General about the date of meeting of the General Assembly for electing the Board of Directors of the society , body or union before fifteen days at least from that date . The Director General may attend the meeting or choose one officer or more to attend it to be certain that the election goes on in compliance with the Articles of Association . Any meeting held in a manner contrary to the provisions of this article shall be considered null and void .

APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTICLE 18 : The Minister may , by a prior decision , appoint a temporary Board of Directors to the charitable society , social body to ensure the duties or powers conferred to its Board of Directors in the Articles of Association to represent the responsible union in it that is in the two following cases :

a- If the number of members of the board of directors became insufficient for its meeting by a legal quorum by reason of resignation , death or failure to attend three consecutive meetings without legitimate excuse and it was not possible to complete the number in compliance with the provisions of the Articles of Association .

b- If the Board of Directors violated any of the provisions of this law or provisions of the Articles of Association relating to renewing the election of its members or to calling the General Assembly to meet or to acceptance of application of new members and payment of their subscriptions , and the Board of Directors did not remove the reasons of violation within one month from the date of the Minister's warning in writing; The temporary Board of Directors

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must call the General Assembly to meet within sixty days from the date of its formation and to submit to it a detailed report regarding the charitable society, social body or the union : The General Assembly shall elect in this sitting a new Board of Directors .

THE FOREIGN SOCIETIES & BODIES WHICH RENDER SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE KINGDOM

ARTICLE 19 * : *The Minister may , by recommendation of the Director General , authorize any foreign society to open a branch or more in the Kingdom to perform social services therein in accordance with the conditions and restrictions which he imposes and the fees which he fixes against the ungratis services which the branch renders or achieves provided that the application for authorization which the General Assembly submits shall , in this case , contain the particulars decided by the Minister including the following :*

- a- Name of the original society , its head office and centers of its branches .*
- b- Adress and names of members of the Board of Directors .*
- c- Detailed objectives of the original society .*
- d- Names of persons responsible for branch or branches of the society in the Kingdom and their nationalities .*
- e- Objectives of the branch or branches of the standing society or social bodies or intended to be established in the Kingdom and the projects relating thereto .*
- f- Manner of dealing with the funds and property relating to branch or branches of the society or the body in the Kingdom upon its withdrawal, dissolution*

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or liquidation in the Kingdom , provided that such dealing does not go beyond the purposes of those who contributed or paid the money for its realization to be spent within the limits of this Kingdom ; Imposed on those responsible for the branch or branches of the society or body .

1- To inform the Minister about any alteration made in the former particulars of this Article within one month from the date of alteration .

2- To take the approval in writing of the Minister or any alteration made to paragraph (e) of this Article . The alteration shall not be considered to be operative before obtaining this approval .

3- The Minister with approval of the Council of Ministers shall have the right to refuse to allow any foreign body or society to work in the Kingdom and to impose on it any conditions which he sees proper or to modify the previous conditions or to cancel its license .

4- The Minister or any officer delegated by him for this purpose may enter to the place of any foreign social body and to examine its registers to be certain that its funds are spent for the objectives dedicated for it and generally to be sure that it is complying with the requirements of this law and it is in conformity with the determined objectives .

5- The board of Directors of branch of the society or body or any other branches thereto in the Kingdom must:

a- To keep its correspondence in an organized manner and to keep registers for recording :

I- Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors .

II- Accounts of its revenues and expenditure in detailed .

III- All of its assets .

b- It shall present to the Minister through office of the social development in the area of its works an annual report on two copies (as per the form prepared by the Ministry) showing its works , total of the amounts it spent for realizing its objectives , sources of its income and any other information

required by the Minister on the society or social body wishes to present to the Ministry .

c- It shall obtain a certificate from a chartered accountant who examines the accounts of the society or body or any of its branches once a year at least . The society must send to the Minister through the office of social development in the province an approved copy of this certificate within one months from the date of its issue .

6*- If the social service rendered by the foreign society or social body in the Kingdom is not a gratis service , or if its fees are more than ten percent of the repeated expenses , it must observe all contents of this Article and that the Minister of Education or the Minister of Health shall replace the Minister if the service is educational or health services according to the circumstances .

7- If the foreign society or social body who renders or intends to render services in the Kingdom has other purposes other than these services whether it is religious or cultural service or otherwise , the branch must obtain a license for work from the competent authorities for that objective before submitting an application for its registration in accordance with the provisions of this law.

RELIGIOUS BODIES & MONASTRIES FORMED IN THE KINGDOM

ARTICLE 20 ** : The religious bodies and monasteries formed in the Kingdom shall have the right to render social services aiming at the public benefit to the needies without seeking offering the material interest and distributing it or attacking the belief and without collecting one tenth of the reoeated expenses provided that :

1- The approval of the Minister is obtained for establishing those resources , administering them and

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placing them under control of the department so as to be subject to control for realizing that supervision and management of those services in a way to realize its objectives and the public welfare . The supervision shall be confined to the establishment or the organized social service , excluding the concerned the religious body or monastery .

2- Obtaining approval of the Minister on any modification made to those services , the modification shall not be operative except after obtaining this approval . The charitable works and social services mentioned in this Article include establishing a refuge educational institution gratis for the needies or a social center for the poor or distributing the aids in cash or in kind in a regular manner and affording the medical gratis or the regular medical care or the like gratis ; and for realization of the public welfare and the purposes of this control , the competent Minister shall have the powers granted to the Minister in relation to the kind of the educational or health service . Participation in their powers in relation to the first shall be by the Minister of Education and in relation to the second shall be by the Minister of Health . but if the social service which aims at the public welfare does not seek gaining but it does not give the needies gratis but it collects fees exceeding tenth of the repeated expenses , an authorization must be obtained in respect thereof from the concerned Minister . If any violation of the provisions of this Article , the concerned Minister shall draw attention of the religious body or the monastery to that in order to remedy the violation within a reasonable and sufficient period utmost one month . If the religious body or monastery did not perform the subject of the warning as mentioned above , the concerned Minister shall refer the matter to the Council of Ministers to decide what it sees proper .

ARDEL NOUR CORPORATION

OF TRANSLATION

Authorized By Foreign Embassies

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am conversant in the Arabic and English languages and that the above translation made by me is to the best of my knowledge and belief is correct translation of the document.

3*- The provisions mentioned in this Article only shall be observed in respect of the religious bodies or the monasteries referred to in the foregoing paragraph and not any other paragraph of this law .

ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 21 :

The Council of Ministers with the sanction of the King shall have the right to issue regulations for enforcing the objects of this law . All the regulations issued before enforcement of this law shall be considered effective as if issued thereunder until the issue of other regulations amending or replacing them .

REPEALS

ARTICLE 22 :

- a- The societies and social bodies law No. (7) for the year 1965 is hereby repealed .
- b- The charitable societies law No. (12) for the year 1956 is hereby repealed .
- c- The societies law for the year 1936 is hereby repealed .

PUNISHMENTS

ARTICLE 23 :

Every person who contravenes alone or together with any other person or persons any of the provisions of the foregoing Article shall be punished after conviction with a fine not exceeding fifty Dinars or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or with both punishments .

EXECUTION

ARTICLE 24 :

The Prime Minister and the Ministers of Justice , Interior , Social Development , Labour , Education and health are , according to each one's concerns , are in charge of executing the provisions of this law .

* The text of this law was amended in accordance with the provisional law No. (19) for the year 1978 published in the official gazette No. (2785) issued on 16/5/1987 , page (1280) .

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