

# Hello!

Thank you for your interest in forming a Rehumanize Chapter.

In order to truly transform our world we must first transform our communities.

As a Rehumanize Chapter, you will have the opportunity to build a physical, committed, connected community, engage each other and your region in intentional activism and service, and rehumanize the culture through education and outreach.

Humans are fundamentally both rational and social creatures, who seek consistency, authenticity, community, and affirmation of human dignity. Recent trends of political and religious disaffiliation among young people as documented by Pew, Gallup, and other polls, points to an underlying desire for consistency and authenticity. And as social creatures who seek community and affirmation of human dignity, our answer must fundamentally come in junction with a community, a feeling of belonging, and lasting resources. The level to which our communities are human-centered depends on us. This is why your work will be vitally important.

The modern world is plagued both by violence and a sense of apathy about or acceptance of that violence. As activists and organizers it is critical that we unsettle this status quo. We must agitate the systems and institutions of injustice and confront those who uphold and defend them. Fundamentally, this work is that of “changing hearts and minds.” The most effective way to do this is regular, in person contact with both those who agree and disagree on these vital issues. In other words, if the problem is violence and dehumanization: the answer is connection, community, and *rehumanization*.

Our work is more than saying *no* to violence. In your community, you will be saying *yes* to human connection, *yes* to the needs of the vulnerable, *yes* to life. But that is not an abstract *yes*. Saying *yes* to the value of each individual human being fills the dehumanizing void created by a culture of death. Being a Rehumanize chapter will provide you the network, resources, and programatics to help build a culture of life in your region, making your ideals and commitment to ending all instances of violence against human beings concrete.

Within the structure of your Rehumanize Chapter, you have the foundation to create what has always been at the root of successful societal transformation: culture and community. You will be supported and offered opportunities to train and learn from our core team. As an affiliate of national 501(c)(3), you also have the ability to incorporate and function as a non-profit, which means your outreach and service can be backed financially through tax-deductible fundraising. Your chapter will have the practical support to educate, connect, and restore that which a culture of violence deforms: the sense of the deep value and dignity of each individual person.

This is a program based on the Consistent Life Ethic, and we are excited and proud to see you and your fellow chapter groups be able to address with holistic consistency every instance of violence in our world today. From abortion to war, capital punishment to euthanasia, no act of aggressive violence against a human being is acceptable. As an official chapter, you have the opportunity to hit the scene of social, political, *individual* transformation with an enthusiastic *both/and* approach. We are a radically inclusive secular, non-sectarian, non-partisan crew of pro-human individuals, and as a Rehumanize Chapter group, you have the opportunity to join us.

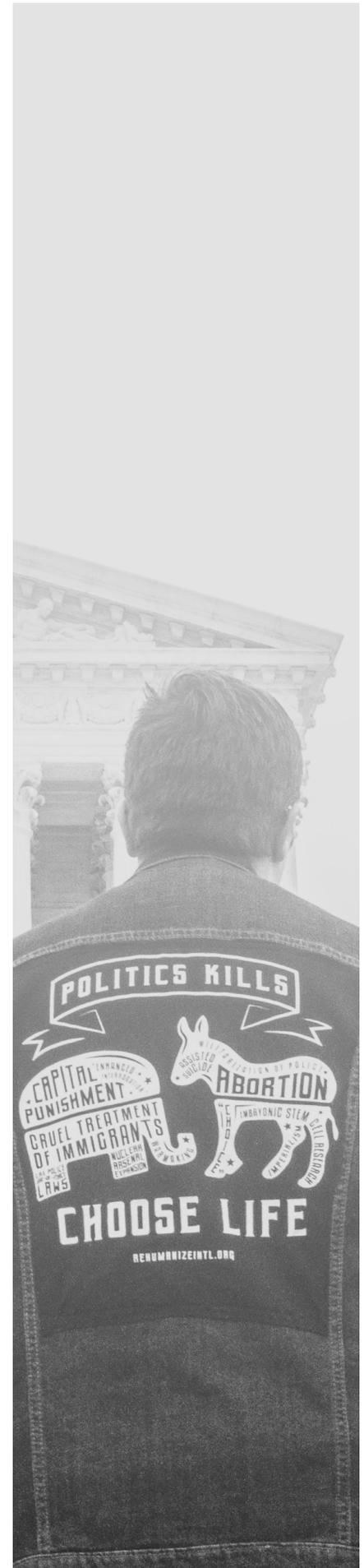
An enthusiastic welcome to you! As a Rehumanize Chapter, you will have the foundation to do something incalculably impactful: rehumanizing individuals discounted in our culture, revealing the dignity and humanity of each life — from conception to natural death.

We're looking forward to supporting you every step of the way as you build an intentional, human-centered world — starting in your community.

For Life,

## Herb Geraghty

Director of Outreach, Rehumanize International  
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## WHAT IS REHUMANIZATION?

Summed up in the *neolog* “sonder,” rehumanization means restoring the dignity of full humanity to our fellow human beings. To “transfer our own understanding of how difficult and beautiful and awful and awesome it is to be human” to every single human being. Practically speaking, this understanding is what forms the basis for a consistent and passionate activism, seeking to abolish the violent acts of *abortion, unjust war, capital punishment, assisted suicide, police brutality, euthanasia, torture, abuse, etc.*

## WHAT IS A CHAPTER?

A Rehumanize Chapter is an official legally-affiliated group with the purpose of ending aggressive forms of violence against humanity, and forming a human-centered culture within their own community. This culture of life is developed and created positively by filling the voids of disconnection which allow violence of action and ideas to dehumanize our fellow human beings. Affiliates engage in rehumanizing actions in the form of activism, service, and educational, re-creative, creative events, and interactions as a group.

As legal affiliates, they are able to operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, fundraise for outreach and community engagement, and use unique Rehumanize International supplied and created materials, and designations.

## WHAT WILL THE CHAPTER LOOK LIKE?

At Rehumanize International, we want to give you the freedom to create a chapter that best fits your region’s needs and capacity.

Local Consistent Life Ethic activism can often look very different depending on where you live. If you live a couple hundred

miles from an abortion clinic, for example, your group likely won’t be doing a whole lot of sidewalk advocacy. One of your first activities as a group will be to complete an assessment of your region to determine what institutions of violence and inequity exist and what resources are available to combat them.

In addition, what your group looks like will largely depend on you! We value autonomy when it comes to structure and style. Here at HQ, we want to help empower and assist you in any way you need — not control or micromanage you.

If the founding members decide that a traditional executive board style of leadership works for your group, we are willing to help facilitate elections for President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary positions. If you value a more nonhierarchical or horizontal organizing strategy — that’s great too!

As with many things, you will get back what you are willing to put in.



We recommend meeting in person at least twice a month for either social or mission-based events but ultimately, what you do is up to you!

# WHAT WILL MY CHAPTER DO?

*Service:* When we serve we see the *human* in someone else, and put their lives in a place of equality to our own.

Some examples:

- Sidewalk advocacy outside an abortion clinic
- Host a fundraiser or items drive for a local service non-profit (think: pregnancy center, domestic violence shelter, immigrant & refugee resource center)
- Write letters to incarcerated people, including those on death row
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or food bank or set up a free box in the public square
- Visit with residents at a nursing home or maternity home
- Organize a blood drive
- Help elderly or disabled community members with yard work or chores
- Create and distribute portable first-aid and toiletry kits for people experiencing homelessness

*Activism:* When we organize and demonstrate *against* dehumanizing injustice, against violent acts and laws, and against societal or cultural violence or practice, we are defending our fellow human beings, re-humanizing them by our presence, putting our lives in the gap between practice and reality — the practice of violence objectifying another human being, the reality that that human being is indescribably value.

Some examples:

- Attend the National March for Life (or your local/state march!)
- Organize an anti-war rally in your city
- Campaign to local institutions (think: banks, universities) to divest from the military industrial complex, the abortion industry, or private prisons
- Speak to your elected officials about the life issues
- Host speakers and teach-ins on life issues
- Hang up flyers or wheatpaste



*Art:* Art is one very effective way to *sonder*, for when we create, experience, or share art we are looking at the world from another’s perspective, and with unavoidable practical empathy, feeling and experiencing that another “has hopes, dreams, fears, ambitions, love and remorse, a future and a past.”

Some examples:

- Host a poster making night or art build for an upcoming rally
- Get together to work on submissions for *Create | Encounter*
- Use sidewalk chalk to take your art to the streets
- Hold a knitting/crafting night to create hats and blankets to donate to people in need

*Street Sesh:* The public square is commonly full of dehumanizing messages — if not overt, then covert in the quiet desperation of lives ignored. We set up a table, bring literature, and get ready to have open, meaningful conversations. The goal is 1) rehumanize through interaction and 2) get as much Consistent Life Ethic material to as many people as possible. Rehumanize International can send you all the materials you need or you can create your own!

## WHAT YOU CAN’T DO AS A CHAPTER

There is a lot you can do as a chapter to build a culture of life in your region; however, there are some things you need to avoid.

- Obviously, you cannot commit any acts of violence to advance your cause.
- Your chapter cannot endorse any candidates for public office.
- Your chapter cannot support causes contrary or unrelated to the mission of Rehumanize International.
- You can support specific legislation but you cannot devote more than 10% of your efforts to this type of activity.
- We ask that you do not break any laws during your activism. However, we recognize that there are instances where certain acts of civil disobedience can be acceptable...ask first.

Note: being a leader or member of a Rehumanize Chapter does not preclude you from doing things like electioneering or working on unrelated issues in your personal life. You just cannot do these things in your official capacity as a chapter.

If you are unsure if a planned action or event is allowed, contact the Rehumanize HQ and ask us: [herb@rehumanizeintl.org](mailto:herb@rehumanizeintl.org)

# GETTING STARTED

So you're ready to form a chapter! We will need a couple things from you first.

First, you need to get together to fill out a needs and resources assessment. This will both help your group understand and prioritize the work you will be doing and give the Rehumanize HQ the information we need to best serve you.



## REGIONAL INTRO ASSESSMENT

Take the time to research and write down the answers to some of these questions to assess your regions needs:

*Does our state still issue the death penalty?* Yes | No

*Does our city have an operating abortion clinic?* Yes | No

*Is there an immigrant detention facility near us?* Yes | No

*Is military recruitment allowed in our local schools?* Yes | No

*Is assisted suicide legal here? Is there an effort to make it legal?* Yes | No

*To what extent is our local police force able to be held accountable for abuse?*

*Do we live in or near our state's capital?* Yes | No

*This is what we see as some pressing needs of our fellow community members:*

In addition, research what organizations and institutions already exist locally that you may want to partner with or promote in the future. Consider:

- Pro-life pregnancy centers
- Prison letter-writing groups
- Racial justice organizations
- Homeless shelters
- Immigrant legal resources
- Disability self-advocacy groups
- Peace or human rights organizations

Also take this time to think about what motivates the individual members of your group. What issues are you most passionate about? What kind of activism and service do you enjoy doing? What made you want to help start this chapter in the first place?

Once you've completed this step, compile all your gathered information and send an email to [herb@rehumanizeintl.org](mailto:herb@rehumanizeintl.org) with the subject line REHUMANIZE [REGION] INTRO ASSESSMENT.

Second, people must be willing to step up to fill the two roles that are required in order to incorporate:

**Communications Person:** Responsible for maintaining all internal and external communications within the chapter.

- Maintain the email list.
- Run the chapter's internal communication (we recommend having a Signal group chat, Facebook group, Slack channel, Google Group or something similar).
- Be the point person for media contacts. We offer media training in case you are interviewed as a representative of the group while attending an activism or outreach event.

**HQ Liaison:** Responsible for keeping in contact with the Rehumanize International team.

- Send brief monthly updates about group membership, activities, needs, concerns, or anything else that needs to be addressed.
- Request literature, visits, speakers, etc. from HQ.

Depending on the structure of your group, these roles can either be filled by executive board members (such as President, VP, Chairperson, etc.) or by two volunteers.

Next, you're ready to sign onto the Chapter Constitution and officially affiliate with Rehumanize International!

**REHUMANIZE [REGION/CITY] CONSTITUTION**

I. Rehumanize [REGION/CITY] is a legal affiliate of Rehumanize International (“RI”), and as such, has limited independent organizational status. The affiliate will function in partnership with and under the supervision of RI under the group exemption model. II. Affiliate’s mission and purpose is to found, develop, and foster a human-centered community, and by action, education, and discourse (based upon the Consistent Life Ethic) to end dehumanizing violence. III. To end aggressive violence against human beings through community, action, discourse and education. To positively create a culture in which violence against all humans, both born and preborn, is unthinkable. To create a world in which violence against any class or individual human being popularly or legally dehumanized, is unthinkable. IV. The chapter shall, with the support of RI staff, plan activism and outreach events within the chapter’s region. V. This constitution may be amended solely by an official request submitted to the Rehumanize International Director of Outreach. VI. The chapter will use RI name, logos, and resources only for official events and activities of the chapter. VII. If the above principles are violated by the Chapter group, Rehumanize International reserves the right to disaffiliate and thereby revoke 501(c)(3) status and use of the Rehumanize Chapter name.

*All Chapter events & community outreach/service are open to the general & greater community. Any person residing in the region in which the Chapter is based, may attend, participate, and be counted as a full-member of the Rehumanize Chapter group.*

**FUNDS**

I. Before chapter groups are incorporated with their local state, individual members may use their own funds to perform chapter events. No funds raised under the 501(c)(3) status may be deposited into individual member accounts. Prior to incorporation, chapter groups may fundraise through RI corporate with the designation/memo “REHUMANIZE [REGION]”. II. Treasurer or equivalent person shall submit receipts, or receipts and outreach/service plan to the Director of Outreach to access funds raised through corporate and designated for said regional Rehumanize Chapter, along with the affiliate expense report. III. Chapter groups shall, once incorporated, use a local banking institution and create a small business non-profit account that may be used to deposit and hold any funds raised under the 501(c)(3) status.

*By signing this document, I agree:*

*1. To serve as leader of the Rehumanize [REGION/CITY] Chapter of Rehumanize International; 2. That serving as an organizer is a role in which my actions may have greater than personal impact, and reflect upon Rehumanize International as a whole; 3. Not to use the Rehumanize name, logo(s), materials, funds, and other property for any personal or outside purpose aside from the mission of ending aggressive violence against humanity, as stated in the CLE-based Rehumanize International mission statement; 4. Not to endorse or oppose a particular candidate within the political process as an official representative of Rehumanize Int’l, or this Chapter thereof; 5. To serve with humility, and work with intentionality, to promote human dignity, to live according to principles of non-violence, and in that capacity to speak and present professionally & courteously at all times; and 6. To work with the goal of making the violence of abortion, unjust war, euthanasia, etc. unthinkable, and to rehumanize through purposeful action & relationship on the basis of the Consistent Ethic of Life.*

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Communications Person’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

2. HQ Liasion’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

3. XXXXX Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

4. XXXXX Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\*exact titles to be amended based on needs/wants of the group