



ICORN international cities of refuge network



ACCESS TO CULTURE
A fundamental right of all citizens

COMMITMENT STATEMENT ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network) MOTIVATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE ACCESS TO CULTURE PLATFORM

Most of ICORN's members are located within the EU (and Norway). As well as protecting writers and the free word, ICORN aims to promote the writers and their work, and to engage the local communities in intercultural exchange based on the presence of the guest writers and the activities in the network. Human rights, free speech, diversity and solidarity are core values to ICORN. As hosts for writers from around the world, the ICORN member cities use culture as a tool for integration and for understanding between insiders and outsiders within communities, countries and even continents. ICORN is already engaged in the European agenda for culture through the [Shahrazad](#) – stories for life project sponsored by the EU Culture Programme (2007-2013). It aims to provide Europe with new, more open and sustainable narratives about itself. ICORN see participating in the Platform as a continuation of this work, and welcome the new WG on Arts, Rights and Justice.