

STATEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CODE OF ETHICS IN RELATION TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Board of **Teač Dařsa** is currently in the process of drawing up a Code of Ethics which will act as a guide in the conduct of our internal and external relationships. The Code will assist the Board in arriving at ethically grounded decisions, particularly in matters of conflicting opinion, and will form the basis for a long-term policy in relation to commercial sponsorship and private philanthropy.

Teač Dařsa recognises and respects the differing roles, responsibilities, interests and priorities of national and local government, state institutions, non-governmental organisations, private and public corporations and private individuals, in relation to the arts. We believe that there is inherent value in respectful, wide-ranging engagement with all sectors and individuals. We acknowledge that private philanthropy and commercial sponsorship are necessarily often critically important to the arts and to the livelihoods of artists. We also recognise that such support will sometimes raise questions with an ethical dimension.

Our Code will explicitly require us to avoid any association with persons or companies engaged, directly or indirectly, in activities that are inimical to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), in particular persons or companies that are involved or complicit in international human rights violations. The UNDHR demands recognition that ‘the inherent dignity of and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world’.

The current situation in Gaza gives rise to immediate and grave concern. Both the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Courts (ICC) have formed the view that there is a prima facie case for saying that War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity have been committed by the State of Israel and certain senior individuals in the Israeli leadership. The Irish government has now formally joined the South Africa led case at the ICJ and has voiced strong support for the independent role of the ICC.

A comparison with apartheid South Africa is relevant in the sense that state actions may be regarded as so egregious that relationships of all kinds – cultural, economic, sporting – are called into question.

In our Strategy Statement, we state our belief that creativity, values and living are intertwined. The dancers we work with, come from all parts of the world, from diverse ethnicities and cultures. We have formed deep relationships with people who do not enjoy the ‘freedom, justice and peace’ that are fundamental rights of all. We are acutely aware of our responsibilities as artists and as human beings.

Conclusion

For all of these reasons, we believe that we have an obligation to re-examine all of our external relationships so as to ensure that our values are reflected in our associations, and to arrive speedily at a robust and purposeful policy regarding direct and indirect commercial sponsorship and private philanthropy.