



Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich (HRÖ)

(Hindu Religion Organization in Austria)

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What Is HRÖ?

HRÖ – Hinduistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich (HRÖ) is a state-registered Religious denominational community in Austria; an official umbrella body responsible for all matters related to *Hinduism* in Austria.

Objectives of HRÖ

1. HRÖ achieved the *state-registered religious denominational community* status in the year 1998, due to which all Hindus living in Austria are free to practice their faith and establish their own places of worship. The next and final stage in the recognition ladder is to achieve the status of *legally recognized religious society*. Achieving this status will bring many benefits, like having Hinduism also as a religious subject in state schools, getting tax-exempt for all donations made to religious bodies (mandirs, maths, ashrams etc) etc.
2. Highlight and convey the core beliefs, teachings, and doctrines of Hinduism so that the believers can benefit from them in every walk of life in contemporary society.
3. Engage with the local Hindu communities throughout Austria.
4. Participate in social service projects and charitable activities.
5. Conduct discourses on private and public forums and teach Hinduism in public and private schools as and when appropriate approvals are received.
6. With the financial contributions from the community, as well as the aid from various government bodies received as per the law, disseminate the teachings of Hinduism for greater benefits of human society.
7. Develop educational programs for Pandits (clergy), leaders, and members. Provide theological training, ethical guidance, and care resources.
8. Promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue between Hindus and members of other religious bodies. Foster goodwill and understanding between followers of all faiths.
9. Develop a robust and transparent organizational and financial structure, so that the continuous functioning of the governing body or the council can be ascertained for time to come.



10. Secure suitable places to accommodate large audience to promote Hinduism and Hinduism related events.
11. Represent Hindus residing in Austria on all public channels, be it broadcast media, print media, or any internet-based social media platform.
12. Promotion of the study of the Indian languages, especially Sanskrit.
13. Adherence to the culture of Hinduism by promotion of the traditional arts, music, dance etc.
14. Import and sale of spiritual and cultural articles like religious books, pictures, puja articles etc.
15. Foundation of libraries and promotion of the translation of holy scriptures into English and German.

Services Provided by HRÖ

Being the official umbrella organization for all activities related to Hinduism in Austria, HRÖ provides the following services:

1. Receive, review, and give approvals to *affiliation requests* received from any Hinduism practitioner or a group wanting to form a new religious organization like establishing a new non-profit association (verein) to perform Hinduism related activities or establish a new temple etc.
2. On request, issue religion certificates to members of HRÖ. This is sometimes asked for admissions in schools or in offices to take special leave on Hindu festival days etc.
3. Assist Hindus in their religious practices by sharing info about pandits etc.
4. Assist Hindus living in Austria on all activities related to religion.

Support HRÖ

For HRÖ to achieve the status of *legally recognized religious society*, it needs 0.2% of the population of Austria (~18000) as its members. So, if you are a believer of Hinduism and want Hinduism to achieve this status, please become a member of HRÖ. Please register on our website www.hroe.at or send us an email to office@hroe.at to express your interest. You can also volunteer in various activities of HRÖ, write blogs that are posted on the website or help prepare material for Hinduism classes.

Contact us if you have any questions or want to give feedback.