

Norwegian Peoples Aid, Norway

Mr. Raymond Johansen

Organisation Profile

Norwegian People's Aid is a politically independent membership-based organisation working in Norway and in more than 30 countries around the world. Founded in 1939 as the labor movement's humanitarian solidarity organisation, NPA aims to improve people's living conditions and to create a democratic, just and safe society. NPA's international work covers three core areas: Mine Action and disarmament, Development and Humanitarian relief aid.

Being a membership-based organization nationally, and an organization that works primarily with partner-organisations in our development and humanitarian work. NPA is actively trying to influence decisionmakers to move more power to local and national civil society organizations that have legitimacy and trust in their local communities.

Our partnership policy puts partners agenda in the front seat, and we strive to have equal partnerships that enable frank and open conversation about priorities and strategies. NPA adopts a principled approach to humanitarian action, while recognising that many of our partners have played a political role in their society prior to a crisis. NPA holds that the principles of humanity and impartiality are fundamental, ethical obligations which define the objective of humanitarian action; while the principles of neutrality and independence have to be negotiated and contextualized in every response we are involved. No humanitarian organization or institution is entirely neutral and independent.

Humanitarian crisis frequently occurs in countries in political crisis, countries with weak control systems and in many instances in countries that are under international sanctions or monitored due to their vulnerability to money laundering. NPA is actively engaged in the efforts to broaden and apply humanitarian exemptions in these contexts to aid humanitarian access and space also for local and national responders. On the same topic, we engage with banks, the Norwegian delegation to the FATF, and donors to contribute to a better understanding of how sanctions and anti-terror legislation hampers humanitarian response.

Nominee Information

Mr. Raymond Johansen



Video presentation



Gender: Male

Job title: Secretary General

Mr. Raymond Johansen is the Secretary General of NPA as of January 2024. He comes from the position as mayor of Oslo for the last 8 years and was before that the party Secretary for the Norwegian Labour Party. He served as state secretary for the Foreign Minister for two periods under the Stoltenberg-governments during the period 2000- 2015. He has also worked in the Norwegian Directorate for Development Assistance (Norad)

He therefore has a vast experience from conflict-settings, humanitarian and development portfolios, in addition to local politics where the interaction with civil society organisations and local institutions is key. We believe this combined experience can be useful for ICVAs board as it seeks to be globally distributed and locally rooted. Johansen has a deep understanding of the importance of local actors in response to crisis, and Norwegian Peoples Aid also aims to shed light on the potential, but also the challenges of a more locally led approach and civil society actors active participation in a humanitarian response.

Johansen will be an active participant of the ICVA-Board, supporting ICVA's efforts to play a key role in setting the agenda and being in the forefront of the humanitarian policy discussion, both in Geneva and globally. Our partner network will contribute to having first hand information from smaller and larger humanitarian crisis, giving the necessary context specific information that enables a frank and on-point conversation. His experience from the political scene will help frame the conversation in a way that also makes it relevant for the broader geopolitical questions of our time.

Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for

- **Chair – No**