

Code of Conduct for Legal Observers - European Legal Observer

Version 1.1 - October 23, 2023

1. Purpose of Role: Within the framework of the European Legal Observer, legal observers are present to neutrally monitor, document, and report on police conduct and interactions with the public during events in Europe. They do not participate in protests or events they are observing.

2. Neutrality: Legal observers must remain neutral at all times and should not express personal opinions, participate in chants, marches, or other forms of activism during their role as an observer.

3. Lawfulness: Legal observers affiliated with the European Legal Observer must not break any laws in the course of their duties. This includes local, national, and European regulations. Specific prohibitions include, but are not limited to:

- No public urination.
- Do not bring, consume, or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Do not bring any form of weapons.
- Do not destroy property.

4. Visibility: Legal observers should wear identifiable clothing (e.g., vests, caps) clearly marking them as neutral observers. This assists both participants and law enforcement in recognizing their role.

5. Non-Interference: Observers should not intervene or interfere with any event, including police activity. Their role is solely to observe and document, not to participate or mediate.

6. Documentation: Legal observers should accurately document incidents, including times, locations, actions, badge numbers, and any other relevant details. If permissible, photography or video recording can be used for documentation.

7. Confidentiality: Observers must respect the privacy and confidentiality of individuals they observe. Names and identifiable features should be kept confidential unless explicit permission is obtained.

8. Training: Legal observers under the European Legal Observer organization should undergo proper training to ensure they understand their role, rights, and responsibilities. They should be familiar with European and local laws, regulations, and best practices for observation.

9. Safety First: Observers should prioritize their safety and well-being. If a situation becomes dangerous, they should remove themselves from the scene. In addition:

- Always work in pairs to ensure mutual safety and accountability.

- Use secure methods of communication. Consider using encrypted messaging apps such as "Signal" or "Telegram".
- Encrypt your phone to protect sensitive data and maintain confidentiality.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and the environment to ensure your well-being during prolonged observation.
- Turn off biometric unlock features such as TouchID or Facial recognition for added security.
- Always comply with lawful orders from police. While your role is to observe, it is essential to prioritize safety and avoid unnecessary conflicts.

10. Professionalism: Legal observers should conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times. This includes interactions with event participants, law enforcement, and the public.

11. Reporting: Observers should report their findings to the coordinating body of the European Legal Observer in a timely manner.

12. Accountability: Legal observers affiliated with the European Legal Observer are individually accountable for their actions and should operate with transparency and integrity. Observers are not to provide legal advice, serve as a lawyer for any third party, or promise any form of legal assistance, either now or in the future. The European Legal Observer is not responsible for any actions taken by any legal observer. Each legal observer is solely responsible for their own actions and behavior. The European Legal Observer does not assume liability for any legal observer.
