



## THE HOUSE OF WHISTLEBLOWERS

### A unique cso initiative to protect, support and advocate for whistleblowers

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#### Objectives and values

Established on November 21, 2018, the House of Whistleblowers is a civil society organization set up upon the initiative of 17 existing civil society organizations and trade unions<sup>1</sup> committed to working together to help individual whistleblowers on a daily basis, and advocate for the improvement of their legal protections.

The House of Whistleblowers believes in the values of transparency, freedom of expression and ethics as means of achieving government and corporate accountability, improving transparency on issues related to general interest, and building an open and pluralistic democracy. In order to achieve these goals, the House of Whistleblowers believes in the need to facilitate the report and disclosure of information of general interest. This requires a robust protection for whistleblowers. From Irene Frachon to Edward Snowden and Antoine Deltour, experience has shown that whistleblowers, acting in the name of public interest and ethics, are often victims of reprisals aiming at silencing them, thus placing them in situations of absolute precariousness and vulnerability.

#### MISSIONS

The house of whistleblowers provides the following services :

##### **1. A legal, psychological, financial and social support of whistleblowers**

When the legislation is often very complex and difficult to understand, whistleblowers are often unaware of the steps to take to blow the whistle in a secure way. The House of Whistleblowers therefore works with a team of lawyers to help people gain access and understand the relevant legislation and the protections they can enjoy. In addition to legal support, the House offers psychological support to whistleblowers. As whistleblowers are often isolated and vulnerable, psychological help may be needed so they can cope with the pressure they may face and support their reintegration in the professional sphere. Finally, with regard to financial support, the house will organize fundraising campaigns to assist them in their efforts.

##### **2. Advocacy for better protection of whistleblowers**

The various legal provisions and public policies aimed at protecting whistleblowers are recent

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<sup>1</sup> Anticor, ATTAC, Bloom, CFTD Cadres, CRIIGEN, GISTI, Greenpeace France, Nothing2hide, Pacte civique, PPLAAF, Réseau environnement santé, Sciences citoyennes, Sherpa, Solidaires, Syndicat national des journalistes, Transparency international France, Ugict CGT



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for some of them and need to be effective and adjusted. As whistleblowers often face retaliation and overwhelming pressure, the House of Whistleblowers will carry on advocacy activities in order to make sure the law is applied and change it if necessary by mobilizing public opinion, in order to make whistleblower protection laws more effective.

### 3. Training and awareness-raising

One of the obstacles faced by whistleblowers is the lack of training of staff (Public administrations, Trade-Unions, NGOs, companies) especially the ethics officers, whose task is to advise whistleblowers and/or investigate disclosures. For WB to be better supported and advised, the House of **Whistleblowers** will offer legal training to public and private institutions. The House will also provide training to citizens interested in whistleblower protection issues.

## GOVERNANCE

The strategic orientations of the Maison des Lanceurs d'Alerte are decided by four bodies:

- A [College of Founders](#) bringing together the founding members in charge of the general strategy of the association and who will decide upon the greater evolutions, subject to approval by the General Assembly;
- A [Board of Directors](#), the main governing body of the association, consisting of less than two-thirds of founding members and not more than one third of members elected jointly by the General Assembly;
- A « Bureau » (smaller representation of the Board), including at least one co-chair, a co-chair, a secretary general, and a treasurer, responsible for day-to-day management and emergencies;
- A General Assembly gathering the members of the association and responsible in particular to vote its strategic directions.

## PARTNERS

The house of whistleblowers joined the Whistleblowing International Network (WIN), an international structure that brings together organizations from various countries working on Whistleblower protection. It also works closely with the Platform for the Protection of Whistleblowers in Africa (PPLAAF) created in 2017, and The Signals Network.

## CONTACT

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