

HONORARY CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Honorary citizenship is a symbolic recognition that can be granted by a local authority, such as a municipality, to a person who has distinguished himself or herself for his or her particular commitment to cultural, social, philanthropic or human rights initiatives.

Although there are some differences, all municipalities regulate the procedure for awarding the honorary citizenship with specific municipal regulations, setting out: **a)** who is legitimized to take the initiative (the Mayor, a certain number of municipal Councilors, a municipality, a committee, or a certain number of citizens); **b)** the quorum required for the deliberation of the municipal council; **c)** the public and solemn ceremony of the award (usually the delivery of a parchment or a medal with the city's symbol); **d)** entry in a specific register.

Residents of a municipality who wish to propose honorary citizenship for a foreign citizen, must follow the procedures set out in the municipal regulations.

Here are the specific steps that citizens of a municipality can follow to apply for honorary citizenship for a foreign citizen:

1. Research information on the foreign citizen. It is important to gather information on the activities and merits of the citizen you intend to award. Making the community aware of the value of the person for whom one intends to apply for honorary citizenship is crucial. Before applying for citizenship, it is appropriate to disclose the ethical values of the person concerned through the realization and promotion of public events, such as conferences conducted by expert speakers who have thoroughly researched and understood the figure in question. This will help consolidate the attainment of honorary citizenship, highlighting to the local administration solid popular support for the request. In addition to these fundamental initiatives, the collection of signatures through a popular motion or petition will make the widespread support for the request for honorary citizenship even more evident.
2. For signature collection: draw up a written proposal in the form of a petition or popular motion, also involving one or more municipal councilors in drafting the text and presenting it to the municipal council. The proposal must contain the information required by municipal regulations, such as the biographical data of the citizen and/or foreigner, the reasons why he/she is considered to have rendered eminent services to the local community, the country, the international community, and accompanied by a concise biography.
3. Collecting signatures from residents. If the request is made by individual citizens, it is essential to collect the signatures of a specific number of residents, in accordance with the provisions of the municipal regulations and the total population. Once delivered, the signatures must be validated by a municipal councilor or a person authorized by the municipality.
4. Without resorting to collecting signatures, the proposal must include the information required by municipal regulations, such as the personal details of the citizen and/or foreigner, the reasons justifying recognition for distinguished services rendered to the local community, the country or the international community. The proposal must be accompanied by a short biography and forwarded to the municipal administration. It

is advisable to involve one or more municipal councilors to draft the text and present it to the municipal council. The proposal can be sent by post, e-mail or delivered by hand.

5. In both options (with signatures or without), once the request is received, the municipal administration carefully examines it and, if it considers that the necessary requirements are met, submits it to the Municipal Council. The latter, with an absolute or relative majority of its members (as established by the municipal regulation), proceeds with the vote and the related resolution concerning the acceptance, or rejection, of the proposal to confer honorary citizenship. It is crucial to involve as many municipal councilors as possible, so that they are well informed about the case and can vote in favor of the honorary citizenship proposal. The association of the proposal with a popular motion or petition is specifically aimed at enhancing the request with a significant collection of signatures, thus supporting a positive outcome during the vote in the municipal council.
6. After approval of the proposal, the municipal council meets to vote on honorary citizenship. If successful, the nominated person will be declared and proclaimed an honorary citizen of the municipality.
7. After this step, the Mayor and his staff will promptly coordinate the celebration of the conferment ceremony.

Honorary Citizenship is conferred by the **Mayor** during an official event, attended by the person concerned, a family member or a delegate. The ceremony takes place with the participation of the Municipal Council, specially convened, also in an extraordinary session.

In conclusion, it is important to bear in mind that specific steps may vary depending on the municipality and local laws. It is advisable to consult the local authorities or municipal regulations for detailed information on the application process for honorary citizenship.

Here is a complete map [mappa](#) of Italian cities that have actively promoted the granting of honorary citizenship to Julian Assange. The map includes cities that have already considered the motion and those where honorary citizenship has been officially conferred.